

Temple Sinai  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
November 17, 2020

Present: Banner, Cutler, Hoffmann, Kipp, Kopans, Lowenthal, Marx, Patashnick, Ruben, Silverman, Watsky

Attending: Bloom, Rabbi Jonathan

Marx called the meeting to order at 6:38pm.

**Thank you's:** Marx thanked all for their hard work in keeping Temple Sinai running smoothly in the past month.

**Minutes:** Lowenthal/Ruben moved the amended minutes. Minutes were accepted by all but Kopans who abstained.

**D'Var:** Rabbi Jonathan's D'Var was a lesson on gratitude taken from the b'nei mitzvah class teaching.

**Standing Reports:** Reports are on file in the office. Highlights:

*Education Director:* Bloom reported that she is working with the confirmation student aides on an achimg'dolim [big brothers/sisters] to help with Hebrew instruction for younger students; the Global Jewish Diversity Curriculum Project began with learning about Ethiopian Jews; a few classes are meeting *outside*; thanks to a NENY Jewish Federation grant, we received some funding for in person religious school.

*Rabbis:* Rabbi Jonathan reported that Bread & Torah is meeting to plan for re-opening the bakery once a month with a limited selection.

*Avodah:* Ruben stated that this committee is meeting weekly to plan for a seamless sabbatical period.

*Nominating Committee:* Lowenthal brought the Board up to date on the work of this committee.

*Social Action Committee:* Hoffmann thanked all who helped to mail about 1400 post cards for the Georgia runoff election in a very short span of time.

*Christmas Dinner:* Banner reported that the Soup Kitchen Christmas dinner will proceed but will be take out not a sit down meal.

**Treasurer:** Watsky presented a financial update on Temple Sinai and the expected impact from the result of the corona virus epidemic. He expected the total impact could be a \$31,000 short

fall. Hoffmann and Wang are submitting a small grant to Federation to cover High Holy Days production and the school.

*Fundraising:* Patashnick has approached M & T Bank and may have secured a new donation.

*Annual Appeal:* It is off to a slow start but expected to pick up towards the end of the year. Kopans discussed ways to raise funds in this covid period: more on-line asks, more frequent asks. We discussed an on-line auction: start early, provide more unique items, give out awards, think about wider promotion of auction.

*Congregational Special Meeting:* Watsky discussed plans for the December 8<sup>th</sup> congregational zoom meeting. Novik is narrowing the list of projects and pursuing pricing of groups of projects. We will need to provide competitive bidding.

Respectfully submitted

Therese Lowenthal

Secretary

**Next meeting: December 15.**