

Jewish Federation of Rockland County

Board of Directors

March 21, 2016 7:30

Attendance

Andrea Weinberger, Chair, Roberta Aaronson, Gretta Berman, Stephen Cohn, Scott Coopersmith, Steve Gold, Lisa Green, Robert Grosser, Max Kaufman, Melinda Levin, Mike Satran, Carol Schiller, Bob Silverman, Harriet Spevack, Nat Wasserstein, Charna Weissman, Bonnie Werk, Alden Wolfe

Gary Siepser, CEO

D'var Torah

Board members shared their earliest or fondest memories of Purim.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of February 8, 2016 were approved as presented.

Campaign Update

The campaign report was distributed. In discussion, Andrea asked board members to support the women's philanthropy event by becoming sponsors. Bob urged members to contact everyone on their list which will help the pace. Generally, donors are receptive to Federation's message and giving increased gifts when asked.

The Passover mailing will focus on sharing the story of Passover with children and grand-children. It also is intended to raise the profile of legacy giving through the Federation Endowment Fund. Additionally, the finger puppet cards will be distributed to schools, shuls, Matzah in the Aisle and Paramount Country Club.

Andrea reported that Federation has received an anonymous challenge gift. The donor will match dollar for dollar directed gifts for social services in Israel up to \$12,500. This will result in a total of \$25,000 going to Israel.

Community Relations Update

Steve Gold reported on an incident at Tappan Zee High School. As part of a production of the show The Producers large Nazi style banners with swastikas were displayed in the auditorium. Superintendent Robert Pritchard, who had previously met with Andrea and Gary, directed the removal of the banners. In discussion, several members noted that Federation's handling of this and other similar events, has put Federation in a positive light in the community.

Community Weaving

Gary reported on his conversations with community leaders representing different congregations and agencies. There was broad consensus that Federation should bring community leadership (both lay and professional) together to facilitate better working relations, greater collaboration and through innovation, a shared vision of the community in 3, 5 and even 10 years. Gary suggested a series of sessions in late spring and fall of these leaders which would include a working seminar in Israel of about 4 or 5 days. (The seminar in Israel would be Federation's mission program in 2016-17 and take place in November or December.) Gary noted that the next step will be a meeting in May of agency and congregational leadership together to further test the ideas and build consensus.

In discussion these points were raised:

- Several congregations will have new rabbis and the timing of their arrival should be taken into account.
- Very good idea to have working sessions before going to Israel with the Israel trip a culmination.
- Very important for each institution and each individual to have "skin in the game" by financial participation.
- Including congregational leadership in this process is a very good idea and will help strengthen Federation's relationship with congregations as well as the congregations themselves.

Gary thanked the board for its support of this effort at community building and noted that there remains much more work to do with this project.

Finance Report

Mike distributed the finance report for the period ending February 29, 2016. He noted that while income was ahead of budget slightly and that expenses were under budget slightly, this is really a timing issue rather than any savings.

Nominations

Roberta asked members to consider and recommend to her individuals for possible nomination to the Board.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05.