**United Jewish Federation**

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**December 8, 2021**

**Attendees:** Ricky Arbron, Jessica Batkin, Joshua Esses, Robin Fischel, David Gordon, Nan Gordon, Caryn Halbrecht, Linda Hurwitz, Jill Kaplan, Rachel Klein, Susan Kostin, Dinah Miller-Marlowe, Arlene Rosen, Rhonda Schaffer-Maron, Michael Schlessinger, Tara Shapiro, Diane Sloyer, Ami Soifer, Beverly Stein, Sherry Steiner, Ellen Weber

David called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

**Approval of Minutes**

Susan Kostin submitted a corrected version of the by-laws change concerning co-presidents and first and second VP’s. The corrected text is to be included as part of an amended copy of the November minutes.

Susan moved that the Board approve the November minutes as written with the understanding that an amended version will be issued ahead of the January Board meeting. Ricky seconded the motion which passed with one abstention.

**Campaign Report** –Ellen Weber

Ellen reported on the current status of the campaign. She shared the attached worksheet which shows good progress to our 2021 goal. The 2021 pledge total is ahead of the same time last year.



With the remaining time until year-end, the following campaign activities will take place:

--Personalized letters will go to ~200 past donors who have not yet made their 2021 pledges

--Calls will be placed by a call center to 1500 lower-level donors and those who have never

given (other Federations have engaged this call center and have experienced success; cost

~$1000)

--A series of personalized e-mails

**Annual Meeting**—Ami Soifer

The Annual Meeting will take place at Congregation Agudath Shalom on December 15 at 7:30 pm. Archie Gottesman, co-founder of JewBelong, will be the keynote speaker. JewBelong is an organization focused on making Judaism warmer and more welcoming and is working to end the growing antisemitism in the U.S. Ami encouraged Board members to register and to attend in person if at all possible.

**Strategic Plan Update**—Beverly Stein

The general survey is complete, and data analysis is in progress. The information will inform the planning for focus groups and for the one-on-one interviews.

**Israel at Your Doorstep**—Diane Sloyer

UJF of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien, and other CT Federations will serve as hosts for representatives of Israel at Your Doorstep, a project of The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) in partnership with the Israel Ministry of Diaspora Affairs. Two Israeli community emissaries will visit our area and facilitate informal educational programs at various venues. The programs are meant to connect the community to Israel.

**JCRC**—Joshua Esses

Josh reported on area activities done in connection with the ongoing Shine a Light on Antisemitism initiative, the national effort to raise awareness about antisemitism. To support CT’s role in this endeavor, JFNA awarded a $45,000 micro-grant to the collective CT Federations, JCRC’s, ADL of CT and Jewish Federation Association of CT (JFACT). The grant was used to create a regional marketing campaign to call out antisemitism.

A Building Bridges with Books community read program will take place during January. The book selection is ***The Midnight Library*** which will be the topic of a panel discussion on January 11, 2022.

On January 19, the first of a 3-part program entitled ***Cultivating a Caring Soul*** will take place.

On International Holocaust Memorial Day, January 27, journalist and author Mel Laytner will speak about his new book, ***What They Didn’t Burn, Uncovering My Father’s Holocaust Secrets.***

**Hillel UConn Antisemitism Update**—Diane Sloyer

There have been issues concerning a rally organized by Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) at UConn Storrs. Hillel students have exercised their right to express disagreement with the views of SJP but have felt threatened in the process. UJF is offering support.

**Next Gen**—Diane Sloyer

The Next Gen Leadership initiative, led by Melanie Vorm together with a diverse executive committee, held a program launch at the Third Street Half Full Brewery. Ninety people attended. The next planned event is set for December 12.

**February Retreat**—David Gordon

There will be a Board retreat early in 2022. David asked board members if they preferred the retreat be held on a Sunday morning or as part of an extended Wednesday night Board meeting. The Board split evenly on this matter. The retreat will with be held either on Sunday, February 13 or on Wednesday, February 16.

**New Business**—David Gordon

David asked Board members to fill in and return the conflict-of-interest statement issued with the materials for the December Board meeting.

David adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene Rosen