

United Jewish Federation
April 19, 2023, 7:40pm
JCC Board Room
Board Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Michael Schlessinger, David Gordon, Diane Sloyer, CEO, Edith Samers, Linda Hurwitz, Rhonda Schaffer-Maroon, Greg Waldstreicher, Susan Kostin, Dinah Miller Marlowe, Alan Barr, Stacy Ferber, Jessica Brand, Fran Ginsburg, Adam Rafalowicz, Joshua Esses, Cathy Satz, Caryn Halbrecht, Ellen Weber, Robert Hoff, Bob Abrams, Kerrin Behrend

Absent:, Jill Kaplan, Robin Fischel, Rachel Klein, Ami Soifer, Chris Maroc,

Call to order: Michael called the meeting to order at 7:40PM (following an opening for the JCC art gallery featuring a selection of Israeli art)

Mike Shanbrom, UJF's Regional Security Director, Secure Community Network

Diane introduced Mike to the board. Mike is part of a 4 federation consortium to work with SCN. Through a national partnership with [Secure Community Network \(SCN\)](#), the Regional CT Security Initiative works to enhance the safety and security of Southern and Western Connecticut's Jewish communities.

Michael Shanbrom is a former acting special agent in charge for the FBI and Woodbridge police commissioner. He has brought community threat operations, including assessments and recommendations, to Stamford. He works proactively to protect our communities. Included in his efforts are a Community mass communications system, vulnerability and threat assessments, assessment of emergency operations plan, community training, stop the bleed training, and camp training. He works with colleges and coordinates local police relationships and security organizations. And in his work helps to obtain grants to implant security from state and government sources.

His accomplishments so far include: 285 consultations, over 400 threat assessments, 80 trainings with 3000 trained, Regional community security working groups. Thirty organizations received security grants this year.

Mike is the face of SCN for our communities. He talked a bit about some threats in our area. Anti-semitic incidents increased alarmingly by 100% from '21 to '22 and are not expected to decrease anytime soon.

The message to take away is 'Preparation saves lives'.

Live Secure- JFNA started LiveSecure to allow for Federations to apply for communal security grants for infrastructure to help institutions. Stop the bleed kits is an example. You raise \$1.00 and you get 0.50C. It's a 3-year grant. There was a robust discussion with good questions of how we work to secure our community while being open and welcoming. Rob encouraged everyone to go through the training!

Minutes of March 29th 2023- Linda Hurwitz

Linda stated that the minutes of March 29 were recirculated with a few corrections. Jessica Batkin's name was removed from the attendance since she resigned and the statement about the board

appointments was clarified. Linda moved that the current corrected set of minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Dinah and approved unanimously.

Presidents' Council , Rob Hoff

The Presidents' Council is a group of all the presidents (lay leadership) of the Jewish organizations in the area. (The initial invitations went to the organizations participating in Life & Legacy.) Rob's role is as a facilitator and he is passionate about this opportunity. Rob has a vision of what groups can be to pull together, with different missions and goals, to share ideas, best practices, challenges, etc. He hopes he can bring the community closer together and build relationships. Edith brought up an example that worked well in the past. Rob said we have to change the narrative and remind people what a great community this is and keep it all positive. Jessie asked if part of the Presidents council could be combining similar programs (e.g., holiday celebrations) for efficiency and to reduce calendar clutter. It would depend on the program. The first meeting of the new group will be held on May 11th.

Yom HaAtzmout, Dinah Miller-Marlowe

Dinah reviewed the busy weeks ahead for our celebration of Israel and our

Date	Event/Venue
Wednesday, April 19	Israeli Art Show/JCC Beyond the Dream: Finding a Place Within the Israeli Mosaic
Thursday, April 20	Israeli Dancing at Temple Beth El
Thursday, April 20	Teens Celebrate Israel@75
Friday April 21	Pre-Shabbat Tot Kabbalat Shabbat
Saturday, April 22	UJF Sponsored Israel@75 Cakes for Kiddush
Saturday, April 22	Next Gen Celebrates Israel@75
Sunday April 23	A Taste of Jerusalem: Baking Israeli Style Ruggelach/ Chabad of Stamford
Sunday April 23	Israeli Film and discussion with Breakfast: Wasserman the Rainman
Monday, April 24	Israeli Movie Streaming at home
Tuesday, April 25	Lunch & Learn: Israel @75 From a Torah Perspective/JCC
Tuesday, April 25	Yom HaZikaron Transition Ceremony/ CAS
Wednesday, April 26	Yom Ha'Atzmaut Festival/JCC

Dinah requested additional volunteers for the events. We have done well with sponsorship. A lot of organizations and some private donors are sponsoring all the events. Names are on the announcements. We received \$12,000 total in sponsor donations and will have about \$3000 more.

Grant update and timeline – Michael Schlessinger

The grant program is a work in progress. We were confronting issues this year because organizations were having difficulty in coming up with new programs every year. The model was changed to allow for enhancement of existing programs based on feedback. We are working with the JCC to include its grant request in the menu. We want to accelerate the process this year to be 6 to 8 weeks earlier than last year. Greg is working on the requirements we will expect from our grantees and those requirements will go out this year with the acceptances.

We talked about how the FRD (Financial Resource Development) will focus on raising money throughout the year. We can remind donors of using IRA distributions for increasing fundraising as the first quarter is down from previous years. Greg offered the idea that we pay one price for all events for the entire year with one upfront payment instead of small amounts here and there throughout the year. That worthy recommendation will be referred to the FRD committee.

Upcoming Event, War in Ukraine, 1 Year hosted by Gayle and Howard Rothman

It's been a year since the war in Ukraine began. The Jewish Agency is bringing three women, including a young Ukrainian mother who permanently emigrated from Odessa to Israel last February, to speak in Stamford. On May 8th at 7:30PM The Board, spouses, etc., are invited. This event is not a fundraiser. Come and enjoy and learn.

Federation Turning 50- Diane Sloyer

May 17th marks the beginning of UJF's Golden Jubilee Year. We are looking at Beth El as a venue for the Jubilee celebration on Thursday, September 7th. Chairs for the event are Tara and Richard Shapiro, Arlene and Carl Rosen, and one more TBD. Edith Samers and Sheila Romanowitz are being recognized for their years of transformational leadership. Members of the younger generation and past presidents will also be recognized. More to come!

New Business

The Women's Spring Dinner will be May 31st at the Nature Center. Lisa Barr, award winning author, is the guest speaker. If anyone has items for the auctions/raffles please let Diane know. Diane could also use baskets if anyone has extras around the house that you don't need.

Adjournment

Josh moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:25PM. Cathy seconded the motion that was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Hurwitz, Secretary

Next meetings: May 17, 7:30PM, June 14, 7:30PM