

Board Reports December 9, 2018

Full Board Meeting

Treasurer
Gina Jolly

Account Balances

- First Tennessee Checking Account balance (10/5/18): \$27,353.96
- Highland Capital balance (11/9/18): \$132,052.23 (monthly decrease -\$15.37)
(YTD -\$17.00)

Donations

Fund	Donations September 2018	Previous Balance	Expenditures	Balance
General Sisterhood Fund	\$348.00	586.00		\$934.00
Temple Grounds and Beautification	\$86.00	\$647.00		\$733.00
Service to the Blind	\$65.00	\$489.46		\$554.46
Beulah Voss Library Fund	\$40.00	\$9340.17		\$9380.17
Total	\$539.00	\$11,062.60		\$11,601.60

Membership Jennifer Ross

- See attached for detailed post-mortem on New Member Mingle from Liz Simonian

As of November 9, 2018:

Woman of Valor	9
Chesed	11
Kavod	26 (up 1)
Simcha	75 (up 2)
Sustaining	426 (up 5)
Clergy	8
New Temple Members	34 (up 2)
Total	589 (up 10) !!!

Renewal Overdue	89 (down 7)
Total Temple Female Members	1,673
Total Temple Families	1,428

Percentage of Temple female members who are also Sisterhood members	41.2%
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Corresponding

- Hattie Fogarty wrote a sweet note thanking WRJ for the Rikki's cookies received through the College Connection project.

President
Melissa Faber

- Rosh Chodesh was held Nov. 8. Eleven attended. The theme was Jewish fashion through the ages. December's meeting was cancelled due to Temple's scheduling of Broadway Nights & Chanukah Lights the same night.
- WRJ/Brotherhood Go to First Presbyterian Soup Kitchen, Nov. 11-our members joined with Brotherhood and a total of 23 helped serve food and assisted in the clothing store. We also delivered clothes donated by Plough Tower.
- The Chanukah Marketplace sale was held on Sunday, Nov. 18. We had excellent sales both during the Marketplace and in the weeks preceding Chanukah.
- ConnectTI Chanukah party-we budgeted \$1,000 to fund the latke party on Dec. 6, and we provided goodie bags (Rikki's chipsticks) with a note from Sisterhood.
- Crosstown Chanukah Wonderland open house-Sisterhood's bakers provided brownies and sugar cookies for this event on Dec. 7.
- Faith Club - post-mortem attached
- Judaica Shop - Sue Pfeffer
 - Note that Chanukah Marketplace took place in December in 2017, so we will not have an accurate comparison of the two years until January.
 - October 2017: \$3,714.85
 - October 2018: \$2,398.80
 - -\$1,316.05
 - -35%
 - November 2017: \$7,693.37
 - November 2018: \$17,066.39
 - \$9,373.02
 - +122%
 - August 1-November 30, 2017: \$18,055.72
 - August 1-November 30, 2018: \$23,975.21
 - \$5,919.49
 - +33%
- Holland bulbs - Judy Royal
 - All surplus sold! First time in memory that all surplus is gone.
 - Thank you to the 42 WRJ members who worked at the bulb store!
 - Many bulbs were donated to Temple Israel's ELC, grounds, as well as Plough Towers and Memphis Jewish Home

Vice Presidents

Waynette Besser

- Communication and Publicity Deadlines
 - For Jan. 1 evoice, need:
 - Rosh Chodesh, Jan. 8
 - Adult Shabbat, Jan. 11
 - WRJ Goes to the Movies, Jan. 21
 - Mid-month evoice will go out Jan. 14 or 17. Will include LOL pictures and some save the dates
- Mazel Tov Cards - Cathy Kessler - waiting on Jackie Evans to send updated bar/bat mitzvah list. Will combine with consecration to make one mailing.

Sarah Eckstein

- The Oct. 30 Movie Night was “A Star Is Born”. The next movie will be our “Sisterhood Goes to the Movies” event on Monday, Jan. 21, in which Sisterhood enjoys \$5 tickets and an exclusive viewing of a movie. If you’re interested in joining the movie club, email sisterhood@timemhis.org to sign up.
- Religious School: We prepared and served latkes to both the Religious School and High School Religious School on December 2.
- MIFA Cooking was held on November 7 at 5:30pm. There is no MIFA Cooking in the month of December. Join us next year for MIFA Cooking on January 2 at 5:30pm in the Temple kitchen.
- Small Fundraisers
 - See’s Candy orders were handed out on December 2. Those not picked up are in the office.
 - Sisterhood’s Dazzle day and night was Monday, Nov. 26, in which we received 15% of sales.
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Sondra Price

- Plough Towers Bingo was held on Wednesday, November 7, 6:00pm. Sondra, Cathy and Aaron Poulin attended. Aaron was the Bingo caller. It was a lot of fun for the residents.
- LOL with WRJ was held Thursday, November 30, with VIP reception at Laurie and Elkan Scheidt’s and main event at Temple.

Kathy Wexler

- Ladies Night Out, Nov. 13, 7 pm at Mosa Restaurant. Ten women enjoyed a Dutch-treat dinner. The owner, Michelle Levine, gave us two \$25 gift certificates to use at a later time.

Unfinished Business

- Addition memory for the Mac has been installed by Tamburrino.

New Member Mingle Post-Mortem

Thursday, Oct. 4, 2018, 7-9 pm

Liz Simonian, Event Chair

The Temple Israel Sisterhood “New Member Mingle” was held on October 4, 2018 at Margo Fogelman’s home from 7-9pm. (Her husband Mark is current President of Temple.) The purpose of this event was to (1) allow new members who joined in the last two years to learn about Sisterhood, (2) introduce these new members to volunteer opportunities in Sisterhood, and (3) provide a social event where new and old members could meet and connect.

The budget for this event was \$200. The total amount spent (or charged to Sisterhood) was way under budget at \$32. This was the amount spent on the gift for Margo from the Gift Shop which Nancy Kline picked out. All of the food and drinks were donated by Margo and me.

The planning was very easy because I had a dedicated team to work with. At the first brief meeting with Jennifer Ross and Melissa Faber, I learned that the venue was already chosen as Margo had already agreed to host the event. Jennifer called Margo that day to choose a date and everyone decided on October 4.

At this meeting we also discussed what food we would serve. I offered to bring chocolate chip cookies, French bread (made by my husband), fig jam (that I had made from our harvest), and Armenian string cheese (that we buy in bulk). These are all staple items that I normally keep in my house so I did not have to buy any of it specifically for this party. I had in mind that I would get other food donated by the Temple cooking crew or other volunteers. So I had not planned on spending much on food to begin with. The only thing I thought I would have to buy was wine and other drinks.

Next, we had a short meeting at Margo’s home to look at the space. Jennifer and Sherry Isaacson also attended. Margo volunteered to have the rest of the food catered at her expense by Robin Joyce: cheese and fruit platter, hummus, brownies, and monogrammed sugar cookies. She also said she had a lot of wine of hand and she would provide that as well.

I am most proud of how the invitation came together, completely by email. I was going out of the country for two weeks and assumed Waynette would handle it with

something generic like “Sisterhood New Member Event”. While in Prague, I got an email from Jennifer that said she thought we should have some kind of poem and use the words “Mix and Mingle”, but she said her mind was blank. Well, little did she know that all I needed to hear was the word “poem”, and my creative side perked up. I sat down in my Prague hotel, and five minutes later, I had written the start of our invitation. I sent it back to Jennifer, and she expanded with another stanza. She sent it back to me, and I wrote a third stanza. Then, Waynette and Melissa offered input and we made subtle changes. This was all done in about a day with me being on another continent. It was really incredible how we each inspired each other and fed off of each other’s ideas to come up with a really original invitation. Then, Waynette put the final touches on it with a fall themed design. This was truly a team effort.

I must say the planning for this party was completely stress free, however, if there was a stressor, it was deciding who to invite in addition to new members from the last 2 years. We had a long debate on whether to invite the whole board or just the executive board. Margo stated that she was willing to host the entire board. At one point she even offered to host the entire sisterhood, which we explained would be way too many people. We wanted this to be an intimate evening conducive to meeting one another.

We eventually decided on the following:

68 New Members, 21 Exec. Board, 19 Past Presidents, 8 Clergy, 5 Other
for a **total of 121**.

Responses: RSVP-43 Yes, 2 Maybe, 14 No. About 20 Yeses were new members. Waynette made pre-printed name tags. There were 11 NO Shows. There were 10 people who showed up that did not RSVP. Most of these were new members. We estimate the **number attended at 42**.

Unfortunately, we do not have an exact count because the No Show name tags were thrown away and we did not record who came without an RSVP. If I were to change anything for the future, I would make a list or sign in sheet to have a record of everyone who attended.

I would also suggest that we add on the name tags “Board member” or any other applicable title or position. We could put a star to designate new members or write out “New Member.”

Though 42 people does not sound like many, it really was standing room only in the kitchen/ hearth room. We tried to get the new members seated for the program, but about half the people were standing. I brought in some chairs from the dining room, but no one seemed to want to sit so I didn’t bring any more.

Speakers: Melissa Faber welcomed everyone and spoke generally about Sisterhood. Judy Royal - Bulbs. She also suggested that everyone go around and introduce themselves which got everyone involved. Sue Pfeffer - Gift Shop, Jane Eckstein - Cooking, Sarah Eckstein - Mother Bear

Waynette had prepared a list of volunteer activities that new members could check off their interests and return them at the end of the night. She also handed them a calendar of events for the year.

The food was arranged nicely and looked like a good assortment. There was wine and a large container of water with lemons and a container of lemonade. Robin Joyce had a server on duty to help pour wine, etc. The monogram cookies (with "Sisterhood" or "TI") were really impressive!

I was especially impressed with the number of enthusiastic young women who attended. Many seemed excited to meet one another, and the home atmosphere was conducive to this. Everyone really seemed to have a good time. My main committee joined me at the front door to welcome everyone. My goal was to meet everyone; however, I lost count of names after many came in together. There were so many new names and faces that I could not keep track. I do, however, think this is a good event to have on a yearly basis. Since we had two years' worth of new members, I might suggest that we include this past year's new members with the new members next year so they can overlap with the previous year. Perhaps the format of the event could change every other year.

I know we will not always have a showplace of a home (and I do think that was part of the attraction) along with catered food. But I'm sure we can find a welcoming home again and find members to step up and provide great food as well to keep the budget down.

I must admit that I took on this job as a favor to Melissa, but it turned out to be a fun and rewarding experience. Most of all, this was a pleasure to chair because of the dedication of my team, especially Jennifer, Waynette, Melissa, and Margo, who answered emails/texts in a timely manner to help make everything go as smooth as it possibly could. Everyone did their part to help make this event a huge success!

Faith Club Post-Mortem

Sunday, Oct. 21, 2018, 12-1:30 pm

Melissa Faber

The Faith Club met to have a dialogue with Shoham, our sister congregation in Israel. This is the third time we have had a video conference with the group. As they are an isolated outpost of Reform Judaism near Tel Aviv, it is very important to Rabbi Tzafaniah and her Sisterhood that we remain connected and supported. The theme of this meeting was “memories”, and the discussion was led by Wendy Lippin for Sheila Hahn. A very deep and meaningful discussion ensued between the two groups. Handouts contained the readings for both side’s discussion. A light lunch of soup, bread, salad and cookies was served. Six people attended in Memphis, and six in Israel as well.

Expenses:

Sheila	\$42
Melissa	\$32
Total	\$74

Challenges:

The wi-fi connection is very poor. We required assistance in Memphis to connect and re-connect, but we could never quite make out what the women in Israel were saying (except for Nancy Kline, who translated for us all!) Scott Giles has been notified to work with Shoham in advance of any future endeavors to ensure quality reception. This is the third time we’ve attempted to connect with them via the internet, and it has yet to be successful. It is possible that the problem is with the internet on their end.

Budget:

Because of the time difference between Memphis and Israel, the meetings must be held at noon, thus the need for refreshments. Suggestion: Charge a small amount, such as \$8, to cover the cost of the lunch or make it brown bag and provide cookies and drink.

Leadership:

Sheila had planned a “speed dating” event with members of other faiths for the next event, which is not yet scheduled. With Sheila’s departure, we need to find another leader for this program and get it scheduled.