



**WRJ TEMPLE ISRAEL SISTERHOOD
FULL BOARD MEETING
Sunday, December 09, 2018 –1st of Tevet 5779**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 12:03 p.m. AND ESTABLISHED A QUORUM
– Melissa Faber**

The following members were present: Waynette Besser, Deborah Bilsky, Sarah Eckstein, Melissa Faber, Jennifer Goldberg, Phyllis Gregory, Debbie Jackson, Gina Jolly, Cathy Kessler, Wendy Lippin, Missy Lurie, Phyllis Niegelberg, Stephanie Peterson, Cathy Poulin, Sondra Price, Rena Rose, Laurie Scheidt, Liz Simonian, and Kathy Wexler.

The following Board members were not present: Julie Boshwit, Rochelle Fenton, Lisa Frisch, Sheila Hahn, Nancy Kline, Teri Peacock, Sue Pfeffer, Jennifer Ross.

D'var Torah- All

Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav, vtzivanu laasok, b'divrei Torah.

Blessed are you, Adonai our G-d, Sovereign of the Universe, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to engage in words of Torah

Cathy Poulin followed with a reading *The Light of God* from *Covenant of the Generations* pg. 8 emphasizing the value and contribution that each member brings to the family of Sisterhood.

Good and Welfare

Deborah Bilsky noted that one of Sisterhood's greatest strengths is the willingness of its members to rally in support of any task that needs done. Debbie Jackson pointed to our reputation as a flagship, setting high standards for others among other Sisterhoods.

Minutes- Deborah Bilsky

The minutes from the October 17, 2018 Executive Committee meeting were digitally distributed and accepted without corrections.

Treasurer's Report –Gina Jolly

First Tennessee Checking \$ 27,353.96 as of 10/05/18
 Highland Capital \$132,052.23 as of 11/09/18

Donations

Fund	Sept 2018	Previous Balance	Expenditures	Balance
General Fund	\$348.00	\$586.00	0	\$934.00
TI Grounds/ Beautification	\$86.00	\$647.00	0	\$733.00
Service to Blind	\$65.00	\$489.46	0	\$554.46
Bulah Voss Library Fund	\$40.00	\$9,340.17	0	\$9,380.17
Total	\$539.00	\$11,062.60	0	\$11,601.60

Melissa Faber, Nancy Kline, and Gina Jolly met with Jed Miller, Sisterhood investment manager, to review the current investment portfolio. Jed provided an analysis of portfolio performance and investment rationale, confirming decisions are being made appropriately for Sisterhood’s needs, preferences, and on a risk adjusted basis. A full report is available.

Membership Secretary Report

Melissa Faber reported for Jennifer Ross that our 2018 membership campaign has concluded. As of 11/08/2018, current membership is 595. Many thanks to Judy Royal who sent hand written notes and made other personal contacts to encourage Sisterhood membership.

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 TI female membership	1,673
Total family membership	1,428
% of female members who are WRJ members	41.2%

Liz Simonian, New Member Mingle Chair, reported on the event held on October 4, 2018 at the home of Margo and Mark Fogelman from 7:00-9:00 p.m. This event was planned with the intent to provide an upbeat, casual social environment where new Sisterhood members could meet and connect with current WRJ board members and others new to Sisterhood as well. Invitations inscribed with a collaboratively written poem heralding “Mix & Mingle” were mailed to the 68 new members, current board members and clergy. In addition to a variety of wine choices, the 42+ in attendance were served a beautifully presented buffet of cheese & fruit platters, hummus, brownies, and TI monogrammed sugar cookies, catered by Robin Joyce and sponsored by the Fogelman family. After welcoming the new members, Melissa Faber provided a general overview of Sisterhood and then introduced a variety of WRJ Board members who offered thumbnail narratives of the wide scope of activities and programs that Sisterhood offers to its membership. New members were urged to match their own interests to the varied volunteer opportunities and other programming events planned. A calendar of events was also provided. The entire Board applauded Liz for shepherding this innovative and well-received new member welcome event. Additional recognition was given to Sherry Isaacman, Jennifer Ross, Waynette Besser, and Margo Fogelman whose diligence and attention to detail made this event a tour de force. \$200.00 was budgeted for this event, with \$32.00 allocated as a thank you gift for the Fogelmans in appreciation for both hosting and underwriting this gathering.

President’s Report

Melissa Faber reported

- The 10 members who attended the Southwest District Biennial in New Orleans from November 1-4, 2018 shared personal reflections on their experiences and ideas gleaned from, speakers, workshops, and fellow attendees. Most commonly noted was the appropriate use of technology, the value of “listening”, and the value of personal connection within the Sisterhood community. Melissa Faber shared that of particular significance was a moment of silence held at the exact moment that the mass shooting occurred the previous week at Tree of Life- Or L’Simcha Congregation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Eleven people were killed and seven were injured during Shabbat morning services. Speaking for all those who attended, Melissa expressed gratitude for the experience and a commitment to continue the mission of Sisterhood as a force for good.
- For **Teri Peacock** that Rosh Chodesh will be celebrated on Tuesday, January 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Adult Lounge. Attendees will play “Jewish Jeopardy”, a fun game show format, to welcome the month of Sh’vat. 11 members learned about Jewish fashion through the ages for November Rosh Chodesh. December’s Rosh Chodesh meeting was cancelled due to Temple’s scheduling of *Broadway Night’s & Chanukah Light* on the same evening.
- Adult Shabbat Dinner will be held on Friday, January 11, 2018 following services. Leigh McLean is planning the menu, and volunteers will be needed from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 10 to help prepare food and prior to the dinner on Friday night to reheat. A volunteer sign-up sheet was passed.
- *WRJ/ Brotherhood Go to First Presbyterian Soup Kitchen* was held on Sunday, November 1, 2018. 23 Brotherhood and Sisterhood members helped serve food and assisted in the clothing store. Clothing donated by Plough Towers residents were also delivered.
- Funding for **ConnectTI’s** Chanukah party held on Thursday, December 6 provided latkes and goodie bags of Rikki’s chipsticks with a holiday note from Sisterhood attached.

- Sisterhood volunteers baked sugar cookies and brownies for the Crosstown Chanukah Wonderland Open House held on Friday, December 7, 2018.
- Holland Bulb Sale is complete. Judy Royal reported that all surplus bulbs were sold for the first time in memory. Thank you to the 42 WRJ members who manned the bulb store at the MJCC, allowing for easy bulb pick up. All bulbs purchased to be donated to Temple Israel’s ELC, grounds, Plough Towers, and the Memphis Jewish Home were delivered. Many thanks to Judy Royal, Jane Eckstein, Sue Pfeffer, and Joyce Graflund for their amazing sales and delivery organization. Joyce has announced that she is stepping down as chair of this important fundraiser. As the driving force behind our most financially lucrative funding source besides the Judaica Shop, Joyce will be greatly missed. Laurie Scheidt suggested that WRJ develop an appropriate way to recognize her major contributions to Temple Israel and WRJ Sisterhood. It was agreed that suggestions would be solicited for this purpose.

Judaica Shop Report

Melissa Faber reported for Sue Pfeffer on sales from the Judaica Shop:

October 2017	\$3,714.85	
October 2018	\$2,398.80	
Gain/Loss	-\$1,316.05	-35%
November 2017	\$7,693.37	
November 2018	\$17,066.39	
Gain/Loss	\$9,373.02	+122%
Aug 1-November 30, 2018	\$18,055.72	
Aug 1-November 30, 2018	\$23,975.21	
Gain/Loss	\$5,919.49	+33%

The Chanukah Marketplace Sale was held on from 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. on Sunday, November, and featured menorahs, holiday decorations, Dinstuhl’s Judaica chocolates, children’s gifts, jewelry, and more. A thank you to Suzie Bender who coordinated set up and staffing as well as the dozens of members who volunteered as salespeople. Sales were strong, and the Judaica Shop had strong sales as well following the Marketplace. No final accounting has been made regarding sales numbers, but when the financial report is completed it will be presented to membership.

Staffing for the Judaica Shop continues to be an ongoing challenge. Nancy Kline reports that many shifts remain unstaffed with fewer volunteers than shifts. Additionally, scheduled volunteers frequently fail to show up or cancel without substitutes scheduled. Our staffing needs have become critical.

Vice Presidents’ Reports

Waynette Besser reported

- The next TI Communication & Publicity E-voice will be January 1, 2019. Information for Rosh Chodesh, Adult Shabbat and WRJ Goes to the Movies is needed for the WRJ website. A midmonth E-Voice will go out on either December 14th or 17th. Pictures

from the LOL with WRJ will be included as well as *Save the Dates* for future programming events.

- Cathy Kessler reported that the Mazel Tov Cards for Bar/Bat Mitzvah and Consecration honorees are being combined into one mailing. Donations received from this activity directly benefit/fund TI youth activities.
- City-wide Game Night will be held on January 24, 2019. Inquiries to the other synagogue have been made, but no firm plans are in place at this time. Jennifer Ross and Waynette Besser have suggested a “learn how to play” card game table in order to appeal to those who do not play Mah Jongg.

Sara Eckstein reported

- WRJ Goes to the Movies in October featured “A Star Is Born”. The next movie event is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Monday, January 21, 2019 at the Ridgeway Cinema Grill. Carol Hoxie is currently in discussions with Malco regarding which movie will be featured for January. Enjoy a \$5.00 movie and an exclusive viewing of a first run movie with friends. More information will be available on the Sisterhood website.
- WRJ prepared and served over 200 latkes to both the Religious School and High School Religious Studies on December 2, 2018. Thanks to Jane Eckstein who donated the applesauce for the latkes.
- MIFA Cooking was held on Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. No cooking will be done in December, beginning again on Wednesday, January 2, 5:30 in the Temple kitchen.
- Sales of See’s Candies and Spices was done online with a few orders still be to picked up from the Sisterhood office. Candy sales earned \$309.15 and spices earned \$60.00. Sisterhood’s **Dazzle** Day and Night sale featuring exclusive trunk shows was held on Monday, November 26, 2018 from 10:00 - 8:00 p.m. Dazzle provided “festive libations” and generously donated 15% of sales to WRJ. Netting \$650.00 profit. Total funds earned from these three passive fundraisers was \$1,019.15.

Sondra Price reported

- WRJ hosted Plough Tower’s Bingo event on Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. Cathy Poulin served as guest caller. As always, residents expressed their appreciation for a fun evening. There were left over prizes which will be saved for the next Bingo night. Residents have also requested candy as a special treat.
- Rena Rose reported on **LOL with WRJ** fundraiser held on Thursday, November 29, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. featuring comedian Amanda Goldstein Marks, co-producer of **The Brisket Belt Comedy Show**, and WRJ’s own Sheila Hahn. Rena was applauded by the Board for spearheading this unique, laugh-filled evening. Rena organized a host of volunteers who tackled every aspect of producing a multi-tiered fundraiser which included a pre-show VIP “Meet and Greet” with Amanda and Sheila, sponsored and hosted by Elkan and Laurie Scheidt, and followed by a stand-up comedy in a casual coffee house setting. Wine and dessert were provided for everyone at the Temple before the main event show. Rena expressed her appreciation for those who helped make this evening such a success. Melissa noted that one of Rena’s greatest achievements was in bringing so many fresh faces into Sisterhood’s volunteer army.

With over \$8,000.00 in ticket sales, our net profit was \$3,674.00. A special thank you was made to Sheila Hahn who opened the show with her hilarious take on being Jewish as a convert at Christmas.

- The annual Congregational Chanukah Dinner was held on Friday, December 7, 2018 at 7:30 following Shabbat services, and also celebrated the 2018 Consecration class. The dinner was jointly sponsored by WRJ-Sisterhood and Brotherhood. 225 lit menorahs, spun dreidels, and enjoyed a beef brisket dinner with sides, mac and cheese, chicken tenders, latkes and applesauce with donut holes for dessert. Thanks to Melissa Faber, Debbie Jackson, and Deborah Bilsky, and Scott Price for helping to set up tables. Congratulations to Sondra Price for making this family evening such a resounding success.
- Save the Date for the annual *Bingo & Baubles Tea* to be held on Sunday, January 27, 2019 from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Leigh Royal and her committee are putting finishing touches on the details for this popular event. Jonathan Frisch will again serve as MC and guest caller, adding his own special insights into this game of luck, which draws participants from across generational lines. Volunteers will be needed to help prepare/ set up food for this event from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 27.

Kathy Wexler reported

- Ladies Day/ Night Out was held on November 13, 2018 at Mosa Restaurant. 10 members enjoyed a Dutch treat dinner. The owner, Michelle Levine, donated two \$25.00 gift certificates for use at a different time. Discussions centered on moving the date for the January Night out because of the crowded Sisterhood calendar in January. Visiting the newly renovated Pink Palace was also suggested as a possible Ladies Day event. It was also suggested that this event could combine for with the Adult Shabbat Dinner for January.
- Faith Club Book Surfing was held on Sunday, October 21, 2018 from 12:00- 2:00 p.m. focusing on the theme *Memories*. Wendy Lippin led the group as each shared a personal reflection of loved ones and family with members of our sister congregation in Shoham, Israel. 6 members attended in Memphis, with a like number in Israel. A light lunch of soup, bread, salad, and cookies was served. Difficulties in Wi-Fi connectivity and quality made easy communication challenging, but each group spoke to the other with truth and honesty. With the departure of Sheila Hahn who chairs this group, we will need to find another leader for this group.

Corresponding Secretary

Laurie Scheidt reported for **Julie Boshwit** that the following thank you notes/ acknowledgements were received

- A thank you note from Hattie Fogarty for cookies sent through *College Connect*.
- A holiday card from Barbara and Ira Lipman and family.
- A holiday card from the Staff, Residents, and Board of Directors of Plough Towers.

New Business

Melissa Faber reported

- We are saying farewell to our member Sheila Hahn whose family will be relocating to New York in January. She has been a strong leader who has brought much to Sisterhood, and will be sorely missed. We wish her and her family much happiness in this new adventure. Her departure means that the Nominating Committee will be recruiting a replacement for Sheila as a Director. Please let Nancy Kline or Kathy Wexler know if you have anyone who might be a good fit.
- Temple has hired Melinda Lejman for the Communications position on a part time basis until a full-time replacement is found. Finding candidates for the Development position has been turned over to an outside agency. Rabbi Bess Wohler will serve as Rabbi - educator beginning July 1, 2019, and Rabbi Jeremy Simons will become assistant Rabbi on that same date.
- Wells Station School has requested donations of new coats for needy students. Coats for both genders, in sizes appropriate for elementary students, are being collected in a bin located in the foyer of the educational building. Phyllis Niegelberg provided an historical overview of Temple Israel's support of Wells Station.
- Allison Delugach will be planning a Sisterhood Shabbat service followed by lunch for all congregants on February 2, 2019. Following the lunch, the full Board will meet for Leadership training and planning. Volunteers will be needed to help prepare and set up lunch.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Sarah Eckstein moved that the meeting be adjourned and Sondra Price seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Full Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday January 16, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Bilsky
Recording Secretary