



**WRJ TEMPLE ISRAEL SISTERHOOD
FULL BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019 – SHEVAT 10, 5779**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER At 5:35 P.M. AND ESTABLISHED A QUORUM –
Melissa Faber**

The following members were present: Waynette Besser, Deborah Bilsky, Allison Delugach, Lisa Frisch, Melissa Faber, Rochelle Fenton, Jennifer Goldberg, Carol Hoxie, Debbie Jackson, Gina Jolly, Nancy Kline, Wendy Lippin, Missy Lurie, Phyllis Niegelberg, Stephanie Peterson, Cathy Poulin, Meryl Rosen, Jennifer Ross, and Laurie Scheidt.

The following Executive Board members were not present: Julie Boshwit, Jane Eckstein, Sarah Eckstein, Cathy Kessler, Sue Pfeffer, Sondra Price, Rena Rose, Judy Royal, and Kathy Wexler.

D'VAR TORAH – Cathy Poulin

*Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam,
asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav, v'tzivanu 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 read a passage from *Covenant of the Generations* page 9. This reading was reflective of Tu B'Shevat reminding us of the fertile ground which life presents to us in both literal and figurative ways, offering the season of beginnings.

Good and Welfare

Deborah Bilsky announced the birth of a granddaughter, Charlotte Sofia Olstein.

Minutes- Deborah Bilsky

The minutes from the December 9, 2018 Full Board meeting were distributed and accepted without corrections.

Treasurer's Report – Gina Jolly reported

First Tennessee Checking	\$ 24,846.71	as of 01/09/19
Highland Capital	\$131,409.62	as of 12/31/18

Donations

Fund	Nov 2018	Previous Balance	Expenditures	Balance
General Fund	\$60.00	\$934.00	0	\$994.00
TI Grounds/ Beautification	\$249.00	\$733.00	0	\$982.00
Service to Blind	\$36.00	\$554.46	0	\$590.46
Bulah Voss Library Fund	\$0	\$9,380.17	0	\$9,380.17
Total	\$345.00	\$11,601.63	0	\$11,946.63

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Jennifer Ross, Membership Secretary, reported that our current membership total exceeds 600 members as of 01/07/2019, meeting our membership goal. Gratitude was expressed to Waynette Besser who sent hand written notes to previous members who had not renewed as part of the membership committee's final outreach.

Woman of Valor	9
Chesed	11
Kavod	26
Simcha	76
Sustaining	429
Clergy	8
New Temple members	43 (up 9)
Total	602 (up 13)

Renewal Overdue	82 (down 7)
Total TI female membership (reported)	1,673
Total family membership	1,428
% of female members who are WRJ members*	41.2%

*as of 11/09/2018. Current numbers are still being compiled and reconciled with *Wild Apricot*.

Corresponding Secretary

Jennifer Goldberg reported for Julie Boshwit that the following thank you notes and acknowledgements were received:

- From Leigh Hendry, Executive Director of Plough Towers, a letter thanking Sisterhood for our continuing support of the resident bingo game and other programming which enhances the quality of life for its residents.
- From Bertha Landau, a thank you note for the meals delivered to her home.
- From Marisa Baggett, a thank you note for the holiday snacks provided to the teen group during Rosh Hashanah.

President's Report

Melissa Faber reported

- Adult Shabbat Dinner was held on Friday, January 11, 2019 following services. 30 people enjoyed a delicious dinner of baked chicken, cornbread dressing, salad, roasted winter vegetables, and dessert prepared by Chef Leigh McLean with the support of Sisterhood volunteers. The dinner was open to all adult Temple members at a charge of \$12.00 per person. It proved to be a comfortable evening with those attending lingering enjoying wine and casual conversation. Those who missed this Shabbat evening were encouraged to attend the next time it is planned.
- Sisterhood Shabbat and Leadership Planning Meeting will be held on, Saturday February 2, 2019, beginning with services at 10:00 a.m. followed by lunch and leadership development. In a service for us and by us, Sisterhood members will lead morning services and stay to share lunch, engage in activities designed to reveal and assess personal leadership attributes, as well as to discuss and revise our 2019-20 programming calendar. Allison Delugach, program chair, reported that 23 have responded thus far and urged everyone interested in attending to RSVP online. Laura Slavney is developing the lunch menu. There is no cost to members. Volunteers are needed to assist in lunch preparation on Friday, February, 2019 from 9-11:00 a.m. Bakers are also needed for bite sized desserts. Please register to help online.
- Rosh Chodesh for Shevat was held on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Temple meeting room. Eighteen members enjoyed a game of *Jewish Jeopardy* organized by Susan Hiller, with questions/answers contributed by Carla-Marie Meyers, Becca Tobias, Sue Margulis, and Melissa Faber. Categories ranged from famous folks to current events. Select foods listed in the Torah for Tu B'Shevat were served for refreshment.
- Rosh Chodesh for the month of Adar will be led by Janet Zale and meet in the Adult Longue at Temple on Tuesday, February 5 at 7:00 p.m. In the spirit of Purim, the topic will be Jewish Clowns. Please RSVP online to attend a light-hearted evening of humor and learning.
- Once again, WRJ-Temple Israel Sisterhood is sponsoring the congregational Purim celebration on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 from 6-8:00 p.m. Under the direction of Abbie Strauss and Marisa Baggett, this year eight Temple groups will present *The Greatest Megillah (The Greatest Showman)* in a series of single song vignettes that tell the *Book of Esther* with a circus theme. WRJ will be imagined and directed by Monique Jalenak. Please contact Monique if you can join our group performance.
- Jane Eckstein reported on the changes coming for the June Holland Bulb Sale. Joyce Graflund is stepping down as program chair, and Stephanie Peterson will be stepping into that role with help from the existing committee which remains intact. Our goal continues to be making the \$40,000.00 in gross sales which allows for us to benefit from the company discount. All orders will be done electronically, but 27 sales representatives will be needed to achieve our sales goal. Flyers will also continue to publicize the bulb sale. Discussion regarding how best to recognize Joyce Graflund's contributions to WRJ through the years included Temple donations, purchasing a bench for the rose garden, and putting signage in existing beds. Cost for each option will be explored, and presented at another meeting.

Judaica Shop Report

Nancy Kline reported for Sue Pfeffer on the sales figures from the Judaica Shop as of December 2018:

Year to Date (YTD)		
01/01/17 - 12/31/2017		\$ 61,922.83
01/01/17 - 12/31/2018		\$ 58,499.35 (down \$3,423.48)
December	2017	\$ 20,074.07
December	2018	\$ 6,501.50 (down \$13,572.57)
Nov.1- Dec. 31,	2017	\$27,770.44
Nov.1- Dec. 31,	2018	\$23, 508.70 (down \$4,262.74)

Nancy Kline presented the Board with a check for \$4,000 from Judaica Shop sales and Chanukah Market toward the \$12,000 commitment to Temple Israel by WRJ in support of congregational programming. Early holiday dates negatively impacted sales with totals showing declines for 2017-2018. Our greatest challenge continues to be completion from internet sales. Our sales goal remains at reaching \$60,000, with merchandising efforts focused on competitive pricing and providing unique pieces. In order to improve sales, a custom order option will be added for select inventory. In addition, plans are under way to offer candies developed by *Dinstuhl's* for sale in stock. Ads will also be placed in the *Jewish Scene* promoting Bar/Bat Mitzvah, wedding gifts in stock and/or available through custom order to boost sales. The ads that will appear in the *Jewish Scene* are those designed exclusively for the Judaica Shop by Laura Fenton, daughter of Rochelle Fenton. The Judaica Shop committee will continue to explore ideas to enhance/expand sales. Staffing is an ongoing challenge and volunteers are still needed for several time slots.

The deadline for placing our order for Mah Jongg cards for 2019 is January 31, 2109. If you are interested in placing an order, use the order form available in the Judaica Shop or download it from our website.

Vice President's Reports

Waynette Besser reported

- Communications and publicity deadlines have been met for all events/programs scheduled except details for the Sisterhood Shabbat (Feb. 2) and Spring Program (Mar. 3) A comprehensive spreadsheet has been developed to provide the necessary overview to the multitude of activities scheduled concurrently and sequentially.
- Cathy Kessler has reported that Mazel Tov cards have been sent out for this year's Bar and Bat Mitzvah and consecrations students. A list of b'nai mitzvah and consecration students has been added to our website, and a link to that page will be included in our next E-Voice.
- Game Night will be held on Thursday, January 24, 2019 from 7-9:00 p.m. in the lobby of the Educational Building. Snacks will be provided. Gather your friends and play Mah Jongg, bridge, or learn a new game. For those interested in expanding their card skills, "Hand and Foot", a canasta-like game, will have a *learn to play* table This event is free to members/\$5.00 for guests. Please RSVP online if you are interested in attending.

Sara Eckstein

- WRJ Goes to the Movies will be held on Monday, January 21, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Ridgeway Cinema Grill. Members and guests will see ***On The Basis of Sex***. Due to the overwhelming response to this movie, 2 theaters have been made available to Sisterhood. Currently 120 of the 150 available seats have been reserved. Please RSVP quickly if you are interested in seeing this movie with Sisterhood. Cost is \$5.00 cash or check only payable at the door. Ticket includes small drink and popcorn.
- Missy Lurie reported that plans for the Spring Program are still in the works and details will be provided when more specifics are in place.
- Sisterhood continues its meal preparation for seniors with MIFA who help the homebound, disabled, or critically ill. Join with other members who volunteer in the Temple kitchen on Wednesday, February 6 at 5:30 to prepare and package this meal. Please contact Jane Eckstein if you can help.

Sondra Price

- Bingo and Baubles, our fabulous Bingo event, will be held on Sunday, January 27, from 2-4:00 p.m. Enjoy afternoon tea with homemade sweet treats and a game of chance with your friends. Leigh Royal, chairperson, and her committee have planned a fun afternoon where you can make BINGO and win fabulous jewelry from the baubles prize table. Donations from the Judaica Shop, ***Dazzle, Leigh Royal, and DebraJill*** make this even extra special. Alex Evans will serve as our guest caller. Admission is \$10.00/ member \$15.00/ nonmember. Please RSVP to reserve a seat at the table.
- Plough Towers Bingo will be held on Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Prizes and snacks will be provided for those who attend. If you would like to help with this event, please contact Cathy Poulin.

Melissa Faber reported for Kathy Wexler

- Open Board Meeting date will be changed to Sunday, May 19, 2019 from the date originally listed on the program calendar. The rescheduled time will be announced once details have been finalized. Our final program of the fiscal year will feature Sisterhood member Sally Rosenberg who will lead a ***Make and Take*** experience where members can craft and embellish their own mezuzahs, working with metals, glass, and beads.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Sisterhood member Ann Wilson has been confined to a wheelchair since her recent fall. Ann has devoted countless hours to hands-on work at Manna House, a community non-profit that provides hospitality to the poor and homeless. Please continue to bring donations for Manna House to the WRJ office. We will make sure that any goods donated will be delivered. We also wish Ann a speedy recovery and will stay in touch with her during her convalescence.

NEW BUSINESS

- Nancy Kline announced that the Nominating Committee would be meeting at 7:00 p.m. following the Full Board Meeting to begin discussions regarding replacing Sheila Hahn, Director, who recently relocated. They gratefully solicit any suggestions/ feedback on their submissions.
- Temple Israel continues to seek a Communications Director.

- Nancy Kline recently mailed an additional 105 knitted bears to children in crisis in Africa. This brings our Mother Bear total to 2,300 bears shipped. One volunteer in the Mother Bear group has personally knitted 98 bears. In like manner, Phyllis Niegelberg knitted 152 winter caps for the children of Perea Preschool.

The next Executive Board meeting will be on Sunday, February 20 at 5:00 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Jennifer Ross moved that the meeting be adjourned and Nancy Kline seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Bilsky
Recording Secretary