

TBI Board Meeting February 13, 2014 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

In Attendance: Maram Epstein, Marsha Ginsberg, Scott, Bruce Kreitzberg, Nathan Phillips, Amy Steckel, Justine Lovinger, Craig Starr, Rabbi Boris, Alan Leiman, Mindy Schlossberg

Absent: Rabbi Yitz, Nina, Geraldine Moreno Black. Michael Griffel, Aura Solomon, Richard Shugar

Torah Study: Rabbi Boris led a discussion about the week's Torah portion involving the counting of community members. He brought up the idea that not only are we supposed to work together in a community, but also challenge each other to examine our beliefs. This idea is called "confrontational Judaism." We also sent healing thoughts to Talia Goldenberg and her family.

Public Forum: No one was present for Public Forum.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes for November and January were approved.

Motion to have TBI participate in Oregonians United for Marriage program: Irwin Norparstak has asked if we would be willing to display an 8 foot banner supporting gay marriage on 29th in front of the building. He is willing to pay for it. The banner will be displayed around the time of November elections. It is a campaign that other liberal religious organizations around town are participating in. Nathan recommended the Building Committee look over the installation plans. The Board approved a motion to display the banner.

There was also a discussion on transparency about decision making. There was a suggestion to make public a list of Board decisions, either in the newsletter or in the This Week at TBI email.

Finances, TBI NOW, Dues, MIA: Amy reported that the finance committee met last night and reviewed financials from Jan. 31. We have a net income of \$152,000, \$40,000 over what was budgeted. The committee will be looking at Talmud Torah revenues more closely over the next few months because there is a shortfall. It is unclear why this is, so the committee will take the next several months to monitor account activity to better understand cyclical variations. Overall, we are tracking well compared to projections.

Nathan reported that we have received \$724, 919 in pledges for TBI NOW. All but \$199,407 has been collected. A \$100,000 payment was made this week. He just received a \$50,000 pledge today. That means that we have only about \$200,000 to go.

Motion to re-fund TT Administrative support position: Mindy reported that there is a request from Talmud Torah to hire a part-time administrative position. In previous years, the Talmud Torah administrator has had an assistant, but there was an oversight when Gretchen was hired. The assistant would perform duties such as: answering phones, photocopying, preparing snack, etc. This will help Gretchen more efficiently attend to her major job duties. Amy reported that there is money in the Talmud Torah budget to fund this position. The Board approved the request.

Rabbi Report: See Rabbi Boris' attached report.

Marsha Ginsberg volunteered to take over the Wine Wall duties at the auction.

The Committee went into Executive Session.