

JEWISH FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, August 12, 1981

Temple Beth El

Present at the meeting were: Richard Aronson, Harvey Berman, Judith Elowitch, Jerome Goldberg, Susan Goldberg, Cecelia Levine, Administrator, Eleanor Merdek, Harvey Praver, Rabbi Asher Reichert, Clarice Shur, Jerry Slivka, Rochelle Slivka, Jane Zimmerman, Dr. Benjamin Zolov, and Dr. Robert Feingold, guest speaker.

The meeting was called to order at 8:08 P.M. by the president, Richard Aronson. The minutes were accepted as read.

First on the agenda was a guest speaker, Dr. Robert Feingold, who is presently the co-chairman of the UJA New England Regional Conference. Dr. Feingold explained that last year, for the first time, several regional conferences were held, rather than one national one. The purpose was to bring involved people from different communities together, share problems, and become well informed. We, as leaders, must set an example. This year, the regional conference will be on the weekend of October 16th. It will be held in Windsor Locks, Connecticut and the cost will be \$136.51 per person, based on double occupancy in a room. Friday night there will be an address by the national chairman, a shabbat service and meal. Saturday morning there will be services and workshops in the morning. Lunch, another address will follow with more workshops scheduled for the afternoon. Campaigning, meetings on various problems including the Middle East will be discussed. On Sunday, brunch is planned and another address by a prominent Holocaust survivor. The conference will end at 12:30 P.M. Dr. Feingold stated that we as Jews must know the answers to questions about the Middle East and that we have the responsibility to be capable to answer these questions. This retreat is a commitment in time and money, but it promises to be a rewarding weekend and money well spent. Jews will come together and show their solidarity and find out exactly what resources are available for the coming year. The participants in the conference will gain knowledge and come away with enthusiasm. Mrs. Levine stated that the budget has an allotment of \$5200 for subsidizing expenses for participants.

Mr. Aronson reported that a retreat will take place in Portland for the board members and presidents or representatives of recipient agencies. It will be on Sunday, October 25, at the Red Coach Grill from 9:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. He announced that the chairman of this event will be Robert Willis. During the day, we will be discussing what will happen in our Federation in the 80's. The two purposes of the retreat are education and input. The three areas of concern are structure, campaign and public relations. It will be a commitment from every board member to go to this retreat and participate in the dialogue. At the end of the day, it is hoped that some very specific conclusions will be reached. It was recommended that notification of the retreat be sent out to all board members and organizations as soon as possible and that it stress the responsibility of each person to attend.

Mrs. Levine reported on the campaign, stating that 43 cards are still not completed, representing \$22,444. Thus far, \$417,104 has been collected. We will reach our goal if all the pledges come in favorably.

Mr. Aronson said that Harold Woolf still needs help with cash collections. \$4,000 has been collected recently from past debts.

Mr. Aronson also commented that our community is 100% paid up in our UJA commitment through 1980, and that \$25,000 has been sent to them for our 1981 commitment.

Richard Aronson announced that as of August 1st, 1981, the new public relations person is Susan Most, who comes to us with her expertise in journalism. Her salary will be \$6.50 per hour, based on a 15 hour week, which goes along with the budgeted amount specified in our budget. She received a written agreement and has already begun seeking new ads which will help the paper stand on its own. Also announced was that August 21 is the deadline for the September publication of HaYom.

The Vaad met with the Executive Board to hear the current problems. The philosophy and goals of the Vaad were discussed. The results of the meeting will hopefully be rewarding and beneficial for the community.

On November 11 through the 15th, the General Assembly meets. This year it takes place in St. Louis. Funds are available for this conference. The cost per person is \$840.

Three delegates - Robert Willis, Paul Hirsch and Steve Shapiro - have been appointed by Richard Aronson to represent Portland at the Ziskind Fellowship Forum at Brandeis University on two specific weekends during the coming fall.

Jane Zimmerman came tonight to speak on "the alternative Hebrew School." She wishes that the Federation board subsidize the school for the coming year. She sees the school as a combination Hebrew School and Havorah, with all ages involved and having Bar Mitzvah as an integral part and not the end result of education. In the fall, the school will run two classes at the Temple. Each class will have no more than ten students. Presently, there are 17 children involved, representing 11 different families. Last year, there were 6 children in a tutoring situation. Mrs. Zimmerman sees this school as a family commitment and family involvement. Stated also was the fact that some of the children would not go to any Hebrew School if they were not involved with this family situation. Jane presented her budget which stated that collected tuition would be \$4100 and that she was asking that the Jewish Federation allot the school \$5,065. She stated that the children in grades 4, 5, and 6 would go 5 hours per week (2 hours during the week and three hours on Sunday) and grades 2 and 3 would go 3 hours per week on Sunday and that grade one would go 2 hours per week on Sunday. The tuition would reflect the different hours of attendance.

Rabbi Reichert would like to see the curriculum and Jane stated that the teachers were putting one together and it would be available for him.

Rita Willis MOVED: To approve the concept of the Family Hebrew School. Harvey Berman seconded the motion.

Discussion followed. Jane said that the difference between this school and the Portland Community Hebrew School was mainly that this school had families involved in all facets including billing, administration and projects. A question was asked by Jerry Goldberg: "Could this be part of the existing structure?" Comments made seemed to lean toward the idea that it would not be possible for the two schools to be under one structure, as Fredda Hamilton is under contract to do a specific job, and that the Family School wishes to have its own standards and requirements for family participation in order for a child to participate in this school.

Motion called. 7 people in favor of support and three abstained (Judy Elowitch, Jerry Slivka and Harvey Berman).

Jerry Goldberg commented that the Endowment Committee makes all decisions as to monies disbursed from the fund. The Federation board cannot dictate taking money from this fund to subsidize anything. Therefore, Robert Willis MOVED: That \$5,000 be granted from the Reserve Fund, specified in the Federation budget, for a ONE TIME GRANT, for this program. Rabbi Reichert seconded the motion. It was amended to have a committee set up, and during the course of the year to meet with the leaders of the school, having dialogue and evaluate the program periodically during the year with the number of times to be determined. Motion as amended passes 8-1 with 1 abstention (Jerry Slivka).

Rita Willis stated that since the Federation is subsidizing the program, that nobody can be turned away and that the program cannot be exclusive if parents agree to participate.

It was decided that Jane would make monthly reports to the Federation Board, as does the Hebrew School Board, to keep the Board up on its progress.

On Friday, August 21 at 8:00 A.M., a breakfast will be held at the Phoenix Room of the Canal Bank and the guest speaker will be Jack Burgess, the President's senior political advisor. The meeting will last one hour and calls will be made to all Board members to try and attend.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Elowitch, Secretary

JE/jwg