

To: The Greater Altoona Jewish Federation Board
From: Bill Wallen, Executive Director
Re: Minutes from the Board meeting of March 31, 2009

Those present were: Bill Wallen, Joel Hollander, David Binus, Neil Port, Mickey Port, Judi Sue Meisner, Jan Housman, Norma Sevel, Neil Rudel, Ronna Lasser and Michael Cohen.

The meeting began at 7:00pm after an excellent dinner catered by Paula and Dave Binus.

1. Welcome and comments: President Michael Cohen called the meeting to order and thanked Paula and Dave Binus for the fine dinner.
2. Minutes of meeting on December 9, 2008: There was a correction to page 4 – 10b that the Federation event in October was a picnic and wagon ride. There was no hay because of possible allergies. Since there wasn't a quorum present, the minutes couldn't be approved as corrected.
3. Financial reports: Bill Wallen reported the following:
 - a. Campaign 2009: A campaign letter was sent in February and responses so far are as follows:

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Total Pledged thru March 25, 2008 | \$65,380.00 |
| # Pledged | 53 |
| Amount Paid | \$18,180.01 |
| New Contributors | 3 |
| Amount | \$136.00 |
| Increased Pledges | 2 |
| Amount | \$44.00 |
| Decreased Pledges | 5 |
| Amount | \$5,320.00 |
| 2009 Andy Jubelirer Scholarship Fund | \$0.00 |
| Total in Fund | \$23,676.67 |

- b. Allocations for 2009: All annual allocation checks were sent in January.
4. Website update: Michael Cohen reported that the site has been active for about six weeks and is a "work in progress." To date we have had 215 different visitors and 900+ visits. "Word of mouth" is important in encouraging people to visit the site often, as it is updated weekly. Ideas for new items or links for the site should be sent to Michael or Bill.
Ronna Lasser volunteered to assist with the technical work in updating the website. There was a question about whether AAC's "Shofar" can be accessed through our website.

Michael said yes by clicking on “Our Community – Religious Centers, then AAC and then Shofar.”

There was also some discussion about how many people don’t have or use their computers and internet. The office will ask about this in the next census.

- 5. Program plans and updates:
 - a. Film Festival

| Attendance | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | Date | Dinner | Film |
| The Counterfeiters | 2/19/2009 | 55 | 98 |
| Out of Faith | 2/26/2009 | 62 | 120 |
| Refusenik | 3/5/2009 | 70 | 110 |
| A Mighty Heart | 3/12/2009 | 60 | 110 |

The festival remains one of our signature events and was a great success again this year. Thanks to Bonnie and Len Zimmerman and the committee. Suggestions for films for 2010 should be given to Len or Bill.

- b. Judy Meisel and the Holocaust programming for April 2009: Various appearances/programs are scheduled from April 17 through April 23 at high schools, colleges and churches.
There was discussion about how to ensure that schools maintain programming about the Holocaust and other genocides once Judy is no longer able to visit our area and current teachers and advocates retire. Suggestions included insuring that the Holocaust is an official part of the schools curriculum, utilizing the Holocaust center in Pittsburgh for resources, giving DVD’s and other resources to schools, continuing to support the Celebrate Diversity program and maintaining contacts in each school district.
 - c. Passover programs: Hazzan Horwitz and/or Bill are providing Seders and programs at St. Francis University, Presbyterian Home, Graystone Apartments and Huntingdon Catholic Church.
 - d. “Its Business” show: We have no word from Johnstown about a date.
 - e. Shirley Goldfarb exhibit and book review: Tentative date is now December 2009.
- 6. Transfer of liquor license for VFW: Joel Hollander reported that there won’t be a bar in that building. It has been sold to a developer who will renovate it into student apartments.
- 7. PJ Library Project:
This is an outreach to engage families in Jewish life by sending a FREE high quality Jewish book or CD each month directly to children between the ages of six months and eight years in participating communities.

It turns the special moments of parents reading and listening to music with their young children into Jewish moments. A parenting resource guide to educate and inspire the adults of the family is also included with each book and CD.

It is now in over 100 communities delivering books to more than 40,000 children a month.

The Executive committee approved our application for the program. We have now been approved by the library. The bulk of the cost is covered by the Grinspoon Foundation. Our obligation is \$40 per year for each child. We have a two year commitment. Every family will receive an invitation to participate and will need to return a postcard indicating their willingness. We will notify families in advance of their receiving a mailing.

There was a question about parents or grandparents contributing money to cover our cost for their child or grandchild. Bill will inquire about this.

8. Executive Director's Report: Bill's report is a part of the official minutes and is available upon request.
9. Other business: None
10. Good and welfare:
 - a. Morris Levine was hospitalized after a fall and will soon move to a nursing home facility in Northern New Jersey, close to his family. The Federation will send him a get well soon certificate. We also want to recognize in these minutes Morris' lifelong commitment and contributions to the Synagogue, the Jewish community and to Tyrone, his home for so many years. He certainly has been a role model for us all.
 - b. Condolences to Nancy Devorris and the Devorris and Cohen families on the passing of Nancy's mom "Nana Ruth" Scott on March 19. The family deeply appreciates all who have visited and expressed condolences.
 - c. Henry and Maxine Weinberg will be returning to Altoona April 4.
 - d. Thanks to Judi Sue Meisner for all of her work on Celebrate Diversity and Holocaust education. We need to lobby through PA Jewish Coalition for mandatory Holocaust education.
 - e. Jewish Community Night at the Curve: Neil Rudel suggested that we pool season tickets that are not used for certain games and have a Jewish Community Night. He will further explore the idea.

Meeting was adjourned.