

**Board of Directors Meeting
March 6, 2024
5:30 p.m.
AGENDA**

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| <p>I. Welcome and Call to Order</p> <p>a. Approval of January 17th Minutes*</p> <p>b. Breakouts Review</p> | <p>Scott Notowich</p> |
| <p>II. 2024 Campaign Update and Projection</p> | <p>Steve Libby</p> |
| <p>III. Impact</p> <p>a. Teen Engagement: Perspective Newsletter</p> <p>b. College Student Engagement</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">i. Rhodes Jewish Community Fellows</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">ii. Morris S. Fogelman Jewish Student Center</p> <p>c. Young Adult Engagement</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">i. Review of events and statistics</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">ii. Ben Gurion Society Event</p> | <p>Ethan Vanderwalde</p> <p>Samuel Cross</p> <p>Laura Linder</p> <p>Sarah Besser</p> <p>Jana Weiskopf</p> |
| <p>IV. Israel and Overseas</p> <p>a. Doron Almog Visit</p> <p>b. Shoham Visit</p> <p>c. Solidarity Mission</p> | <p>Jill Shanker</p> |
| <p>V. CEO Report</p> | <p>Laura Linder</p> |
| <p>VI. Adjournment</p> | <p>Scott Notowich</p> |

Upcoming Events

Young Adults Purim Party @ 8:00pm	March 16 (Wiseacre)
B'nai Tzedek Grant Reception @ 5:30pm	May 1 (JCC Gallery)
Yom HaShoah @ 4:00pm	May 5 (JCC Social Hall)
Executive Committee Meeting @ 5:30pm	May 29
Budget Review Virtual Meeting @ 12:00pm	May 30, May 31 and June 3
Final Federation Board Meeting @ 6:00pm	June 6 (JCC Board Room)
Annual Meeting @ 7:00pm	June 6 (JCC Social Hall)

Board of Directors Board Meeting

January 17, 2024 5:30 pm

MINUTES

On January 17, 2024, Memphis Jewish Federation held a Board Meeting to conduct its business via Zoom.

At 5:30 pm, Scott Notowich, Federation Chair, welcomed all to the meeting.

Memphis Jewish Federation Board of Trustees in Attendance

Cindy Finestone, Hal Fogelman, Jonathan Frisch, Jan Groveman, Michelle Katz, Molly Lane, Debbie Lazarov, Sarah Lewis, Steve Libby, Sheri Lipman, Alla Lubin, Jaclyn Marshall, Lisa Menuskin, Scott Notowich, Eileen Posner, Jimmy Ringel, Shelley Robbins, Jill Shanker, Rachel Siegel, Elissa Taub, Mary Trotz, Andie Uiberall, Keri Unowsky, and Jana Weiskopf.

Jewish Community Partners Staff in Attendance

Laura Kaplan, Judy Lansky, Laura Linder, Carrie Richardson, and Bluma Zuckerbrot-Finkelstein.

Guest in Attendance

Nadav Eylon, JAFI

Scott Notowich, MJF chair, called the meeting to order and called for approval of the November 1, 2023 and December 20, 2023, Board Minutes. Alla Lubin moved that the minutes be approved, and Molly Lane seconded the motion. The November 1, 2023 and December 20, 2023, Board Minutes were approved.

Mr. Notowich reviewed the addition of Israel Bonds to the Federation's Investment Policy Statement:

Israel Bonds

Israel Bonds are an allowable investment within the Assets under the supervision of the MJF and its Investment Committee. Investing in Israel Bonds should be considered a fixed income holding within the Asset Allocation Guidelines above. Israel Bonds generally offer competitive interest rates to other fixed income investments and serve as a symbolic connection with Israel and the people of Israel for Jews worldwide. The MJF investment in Israel Bonds should be limited to no more than 2% of total MJF Assets and limited to maturities under 5 years. A "laddered approach" with 1,2,3 or 5 year maturities should be considered, but not necessary. This will provide some interest rate diversification and maturity liquidity should MJF need the funds upon maturity of certain bonds. The Israel Bonds should be held in a separate account with Israel Bonds Direct (currently using Computershare as fiscal agent).

Cindy Finestone moved the amendment to be approved, and Keri Unowsky seconded the motion. Memphis Jewish Federation's Investment Policy Statement has been amended to include Israel Bonds.

Sarah Lewis, VC Community Impact, reviewed the proposed changes to the Community Grants for Synagogues/ Youth Groups criteria:

- Youth group funding is for programming directed at 6th-12th grade youth;
- Youth group has a teen board with a president & three members that help create programming;
- Requested funding is for youth group activities that take place outside of religious school and regular congregational youth programming.

Andie Uiberall moved that the grant criteria be amended, and Jan Groveman seconded the motion.

JAFI Presentation

Mr. Notowich introduced Nadav Eylon, JAFI Regional Director of the Western United States to present JAFI's efforts during this difficult time in Israel. The Jewish Agency's Fund for Victims of Terror has been providing immediate, critical financial aid to victims and their families. We have already disbursed hundreds of grants, arriving with checks within 24-48 hours, and anticipate distributing more, while also following up with long-term overall recovery and rehabilitative assistance.

Israel & Overseas

Jill Shanker, VC Israel & Overseas, reviewed the Lemsky Endowment Fund special motion:

Memphis Jewish Federation brought 180 members of our community to the national mall on November 14th for a transformational, immersive, Israel experience. The total expense of the rally fly-in was \$144,072. Revenue was \$107,650 (Young Leadership Grant, Alan Cohn Gift, Anonymous gift, Hillel International reimbursements for college students, and Participant revenue), leaving an outstanding balance of \$36,422.

Given that the rally embodied the mission of the Lemsky Committee to connect Memphians to Israel, the request is to help offset the deficit by granting to Federation \$18, 211 (50% of the outstanding balance).

Motion:

To grant \$18,211 to support the expenses associated with the November 14, 2023 Memphis Jewish Federation community fly-in to the Washington, DC March for Israel.

Jill Shanker moved to approve the Lemsky Endowment Fund special motion and Lisa Menuskin seconded the motion. The Lemsky Endowment Fund will grant the Federation requested funds for the DC March for Israel.

Ms. Shanker introduced a video from Jessica Lewis who received a Lemsky grant to go on Birthright. Ms. Shanker announced the upcoming Memphis Israel Solidarity Mission Trip beginning February 26 through February 29 and shared the trip flyer and registration link.

Financial Update

Laura Kaplan, JCP VP of Finance and HR reported that there were no updates to the financial dashboards of the Federation that were reviewed in December 2023 board meeting.

Breakout Sessions

Bluma Zuckerbrot-Finkelstein, JCP Chief Impact Officer, explained that the present board members will be divided into virtual breakout rooms to discuss the following question:

- What actions/functions/roles/activities of Federation add the most value for the Jewish community as a whole? (What is our value add?)

President's Report

Laura Linder, JCP President and CEO, wished safe travels to board members Elissa Taub and Alla Lubin who will represent the Federation in Nashville, TN on National Lobbying Day. Ms. Linder shared that Debbie B. Lazarov and Shelley Robbins have recently trained 45 professionals on JFNA's Lion Behind Pin. Ms. Linder and a few key staff attended the grand opening of the Ronna Newburger Adult Day Center at the Memphis Jewish Home and Rehab.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Reflections from Elissa Taub re: recent lobbying efforts on behalf of the Memphis Jewish Community

JFNA Lobbying Day in Washington D.C.

On January 30th and 31st, Alla Olswanger-Lubin and I had an incredible advocacy experience attending JFNA's first ever fly-in to Washington, DC. In Washington, Alla and I joined about 400 people from over 60 communities to learn from distinguished speakers and to meet with our Representatives and Senators to advocate on three issues: funding for Israel, combating antisemitism on college campuses, and ensuring the physical security of our Jewish institutions.

The program began on Tuesday, January 30th with a moving interview of Maya and Gili Roman. Gili's sister Yarden was one of the hundreds of Israelis who was taken hostage by Hamas on October 7th. While Yarden was freed in late November, her sister-in-law Carmel continues to be held. Maya and Gili have traveled the world tirelessly telling Yarden and Carmel's story and advocating for the release of all the hostages. Maya and Gili shared with us their experience meeting with Members of Congress and telling their story to anyone who will listen. They were truly remarkable.

Next, we heard from Israeli Ambassador to the US Michael Herzog, who encouraged us to fight hard for Israel's right to defend itself. Ambassador Herzog shared information with us about the ongoing hostage negotiations and what is going on in Israel at the moment. We also heard from a distinguished panel of experts on antisemitism, specifically the IHRA definition of antisemitism, its history and importance. We learned a ton from the speakers and felt prepared to advocate with our legislators for support.

Wednesday morning began with a breakfast town hall meeting with Admiral John Kirby, Coordinator for Strategic Communications for the National Security Council. Anyone who has seen Admiral Kirby on television knows that he is a passionate defender of Israel. He provided us some interesting background about his own life and why he unequivocally supports Israel's right to exist and defend its people. As a career spokesperson, he said that he doesn't always agree with the things he says, but on Israel, he believes fully in the message he delivers. Admiral Kirby also provided key information about the Biden Administration's ongoing efforts to free the hostages and secure additional defense spending for Israel.

After Admiral Kirby's fantastic presentation, we headed to Capitol Hill. Alla and I met with aides from Rep. Steve Cohen, Senator Marsha Blackburn and Senator Bill Hagerty's offices. We also met personally with Rep. David Kustoff, who engaged with us and provided a fascinating update on the ongoing negotiations in Congress over the bill that would provide funding to Israel. Every office expressed strong support for our issues, and we were really encouraged about the response we received.

The day ended with a parade of Representatives and Senators who expressed to us their unwavering support for our three issues: Israel funding, combatting antisemitism, and providing funding to secure our Jewish institutions. We heard from Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY), Rep. Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (D-FL), Senator Jacky Rosen (D-NV), Senator Rick Scott (R-FL), Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-NY), Rep. Mike Lawler (R-NY), Senator Gary Peters (D-MI), Senator John Fetterman (D-PA), and Rep. Kathy Manning (D-NC). Their remarks produced multiple standing ovations!

Personally, I am so grateful to Federation for providing me the opportunity to participate in this event. I came away inspired on many levels: by the support for Israel and the Jewish community within the halls of Congress, by the tremendous respect those on Capitol Hill have for JFNA, and by the impressive organization and logistics that JFNA staff and volunteer leaders undertook to make this event happen.

Lobbying Day in Nashville with Representatives of the Nashville, Knoxville and Chattanooga Federations

We advocated on 2 issues – the houses of worship security grants and a resolution supporting Israel. The houses of worship bill has strong bipartisan support, so it sounds like the state will at least allocate \$750k again for this program. Of course, nothing is final until the governor signs the budget, but it sounds like things are moving in the right direction.

We had multiple impactful meetings during the afternoon:

I had a great meeting with Minority Leader Karen Camper. I could talk to her all day! She mentioned during our meeting that she'd love to visit Israel someday. She was supposed to go previously and had to cancel. I told her that I'd share her desire to visit.

I also met with state Senator Sara Kyle, who shared her cell number with me. She texted me to let me know the Israel support resolution (SB0870) passed today, which is awesome. I saw online that there were only 2 no votes. She genuinely seemed surprised to know that she had so many Jewish constituents. She told me she'd love to learn more about the community, and that we should get in touch anytime something of interest comes up. We should take her up on the offer. By the way, she was having lunch with Rep Justin Jones when I met with her. He and I also had a nice chat. That was a highlight of the day.

Senator Heidi Campbell from Nashville was super impressive, and she gave a passionate speech today before the vote on the Israel resolution.

As a group, we also met with Speaker Cameron Sexton, who was exactly as I expected, and we heard from several other TN Senators, including Senator Page Walley who serves Brownsville. He told us about his Jewish heritage (via his great-grandmother) and his support for Israel. We also met with representatives from the Governor's Office of Faith-Based Initiatives. I have a business card from one of their representatives (Monty Burks, I believe, was his name) and can share his contact in. Their office is interested in having participation from the Jewish community in their efforts. Perhaps there is an opportunity for MJF and/or FJFS to connect with that office if they have not already. The office is involved with supporting individuals who were previously incarcerated, those in addiction recovery, adoption/foster care and other initiatives.

I've never been on a lobby day before where the fruits of our labor were immediately evident, like they were on this one. I know that there were more than 2 senators on the fence about the Israel resolution, so watching it pass with votes from both sides of the aisle was super cool.