

**Board of Directors  
Board Meeting September 6, 2023, 5:30 pm  
Minutes**

On September 6, 2023 Memphis Jewish Federation Board of Directors held a Board Meeting to conduct its business in the MJCC Board Room.

At 5:37 pm Scott Notowich, Federation Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

**Memphis Jewish Federation Board of Trustees in Attendance**

Hal Fogelman, Michelle Katz, Martin Klazmer, Jaclyn Marshall, Lisa Menukin, Scott Notowich, Eileen Posner, Rachel Siegel, Jill Shanker, Elissa Taub, Andie Uiberall, Keri Unowsky, Jana Weiskopf, Molly Lane via phone.

**Jewish Community Partners Staff in Attendance**

Phyllis Abraham, Sophie Bloch, Laura Kaplan, Judy Lansky, Laura Linder and Bluma Zuckerbrot-Finkelstein

**Guests in Attendance**

Colonel Chris Moffat- Memphis Police Department, Amanda Braswell- Regional Security Advisor, Secure Community Network

Special Guest Presentation

Scott Notowich introduced Colonel Moffat to speak about his trip to Israel. Colonel Moffat shared that it was an amazing trip and that it allowed him to create relationships within our community, as well as to better understand the challenges facing the Jewish Community. Additionally, he shared that the relationships within our community assisted with the law enforcement response at the Margolin Hebrew Academy.

Minutes

Mr. Notowich called for the approval of the minutes from May 24, 2023. Andie Uiberall moved the minutes be approved, Jill Shanker seconded the motion. Board minutes from May 24, 2023 were approved.

Board Member Expectations & Conflict of Interest Form

Mr. Notowich requested that all board members sign the Board Expectations and Conflict of Interest forms and turn them in at the end of the meeting. Mr. Notowich reported that a consultant, Scott Kaufman had been hired to determine methods for JCP, Federation and Foundation to be more effective and recommendations will be forthcoming.

### Action Items for Approval

Scott Notowich reviewed the Memphis Jewish Federation Investment Policy. The policy lays out the expectations for asset managers as related to the endowment funds that are maintained by the Federation. This policy has no impact on campaign dollars. Mr. Notowich called for a vote on this policy, Eileen Posner moved to approve, Hal Fogelman seconded. Memphis Jewish Federation Investment Policy is approved.

Scott Notowich reviewed the Capital Campaign for Morris S. Fogelman Jewish Student Center @ University of Memphis for the need to update the Hillel facility. To date \$675,000 has been raised and there is the need for a capital campaign to raise the remaining \$375,000. Michelle Katz moved to go forward with raising funds, Keri Unowsky seconded, motion passes and the Capital Campaign for Morris S. Fogelman Jewish Student Center @ University of Memphis is approved.

### The Impact of Your Gift – The 2024 Annual Campaign

Judy Lansky, Director of Development, facilitated a small group exercise in which board members reflected on Federation's impact on their lives over the course of the past year. She reported that solicitor training occurred August 29<sup>th</sup> and as a component of that training Scott Gruber made a presentation asking for an increase. The goal this year is to ask for a 40% increase. Judy introduced Sarah Besser, Campaign Associate.

### Memphis Jewish Community Security

Mr. Notowich introduced Amanda Braswell, SCN Regional Security Director, who discussed the effective security protocols that were in place to successfully navigate the recent shooter incident at Margolin Hebrew Academy. Ms. Braswell also discussed which processes required further evaluation, including the need for more robust communication among agency leadership. Additionally, Ms. Braswell spoke about her to visit Israel with 6 members of law enforcement from Shelby County. Ms. Brawell stated that she understands the threat better, having had the opportunity to visit.

### Israel & Overseas Update

Jill Shanker gave a brief I & O update on Jewish Federations of North America's (JFNA) recent mission to Ukraine, on the precarious situation of the Jews of Argentina, and on potential responses to donors/community members regarding dollars sent to Israel.

### Board Member Engagement Opportunities

Scott Notowich reviewed available committees and explained the importance of involvement with the different committees. The committee chairs gave a brief overview. (See below)

Israel and Overseas - Jill Shanker

Needs Assessment - Sheri Lipman (Unable to attend. Scott Notowich provided an overview)

Community Relations Council - Elissa Taub

Security and Investment – Scott Notowich

Board members were asked to put a note on the flipchart for what they would be interested in learning more about:

**Israel and Overseas-** Eileen Posner, Lisa Menuskin

**Security-** Martin Klazmer

**Assessing and Meeting Community Needs-** Rachel Siegel

**Leadership Development-** Martin Klazmer

**Finance-** Eileen Posner

### **Committee Overviews**

**Israel & Overseas:** Our I & O grant to our overseas partners, JAFI, JDC and World ORT allow us to make significant impact in helping Jews and sustaining Jewish life in Israel and in 70 countries across the Jewish globe. With our help, and those of 145 other Federations, our partners have been able to build significant infrastructure, networks, relationships and expertise to meet current and emergent needs and to be in place for emergencies such as Ukraine. Being part of a collective enables greater impact.

- We strengthen our community's engagement with Israel in numerous ways:
  - Memphis-Shoham Partnership aims to strengthen Jewish peoplehood through personal relationships between Israelis and Memphis Jews. We have many projects including our Bornblum and MHA school twinning, professional exchanges and a book club.
  - Missions to Israel, including our very successful Women's and Men's Momentum trips
  - Celebrating Israel, like through last year's year-long Israel at 75 programming which, among other impactful programs, brought Bornblum and MHA together for a joint Lag Ba'Omer field day and culminated with the successful Shuk, Rattle & Roll event at the Botanic Garden.
  - Israel Scout Caravan brings Israeli culture to Memphis
  - Lemsky Endowment Fund supports Israel program & travel grants, local Israel engagement programs and social service projects in Israel
- We are currently exploring joining the JFNA iRep initiative, a platform for supporting diverse Jewish expressions in Israel. 26 Federations across the country are part of this effort. Since 2016, iRep has provided over \$2 million in support for more than 25 civil society organizations working on the ground to promote religious diversity in Israel.

**Needs Assessment & Planning:** Convening the community to assess and meet community needs is a core function of a Jewish Federation.

- We do just that under the umbrella of our Needs Assessment & Planning Collaborative, which was created under the leadership of Susanne Landau and is now chaired by Sheri Lipman.
- We learn a lot about community needs from our agencies' grant applications and in order to build on that, we started exploring and implementing new ways to gather data about community needs directly from members of our community.

- We are looking at community needs for all ages, from our Preschool Access Task Force to our Millennial Israel Engagement Task Force to our Senior Services Collaborative.

**Community Relations:** Current environment demands that we strengthen relationships with other faith-based and ethnic groups in Memphis, educate Memphians about Jews, Judaism and antisemitism and advocate on behalf of Jewish issues.

- We have 3 subcommittees: Engagement, Education and Advocacy
- We had a great first year last year: Highlights of each focus area:
  - Engagement: We've become active members of the Mayor's Multicultural Advisory Board and we held an informal interfaith get-together at the home of Margo Gruen.
  - Education: We created an antisemitism microgrant opportunity for the entire Memphis community and awarded 9 grants to a broad array of Memphis organizations. The Memphis Public Library held its program this summer for its diversity camp. Subcommittee members have presented on the Jewish people to diverse groups.
  - Advocacy: Collaborated with the other TN Federations to secure \$750,000 in state security funding for faith-based institutions; we reached out to our state legislators to support the initiative.
- We have several interfaith meetings coming up: Visit to Sikh Temple and meeting with the Episcopal Bishop of West Tennessee.

**Security:** Recent incident at Margolin Hebrew Academy demonstrated need and effectiveness of our security efforts, led by our SCN Regional Security Advisor Amanda Braswell.

**Finance:** Oversees the financial operations of Federation.

**Leadership Development:** New initiative to develop the next generation of Federation and community leaders.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm