

**NCJW Palm Beach – Board of Directors Meeting
November 3, 2021**

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Laurie Alexander, Helene Askinazi, Merle Bassin, Sophie Berkner, Sue Deitch, Cathy Einhorn, Linda Finkelstein, Dianne Goldin, Sandy Kaltman, Carol Lubin, Debbie Mendelson, Marsha Rickles, Sarah Rothschild, Robin Sambur, Susan Schwartz, Gail Siegel, Rona Sterling, Judy Traub, Sandi Winnick, Rita Young, Ruth Zalaznick

President Linda Finkelstein led the meeting.

Linda Finkelstein called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Pre-Meeting Program: Laurie Alexander, Director of the Soup for the Soul Program. Laurie introduced Deborah Morgan from Palm Beach Harvest. Deborah serves as Executive Director, and helped to found the organization in 1998. Palm Beach Harvest (PBH) is a community-based non-profit organization of volunteers who collect and transport surplus food to non-profit distribution centers throughout Palm Beach County. Deborah mentioned that the “hunger rate” is 21% in Palm Beach County. To combat this problem, PBH has 175 food donors, including mega donors such as Publix, Whole Foods, Chick-Fil-A, Longhorn Steakhouse, Outback Steakhouse and Seasons 52. It collects 3000 lbs. of food per truck load. The food is divided by 9 zip codes and is sent to social service, food pantry, and other agencies. Over 7.7 million pounds of food, including 67,000 hot foods, are distributed annually.

Due to COVID, the numbers served by all Florida Food Banks have increased significantly. For example, the poverty level is 41% in the Glades and about 21% in Riviera Beach and Delray Beach.

Deborah told the Board that Soup for the Soul was a “hit” because it is “very user friendly” and very well organized.

PBH is an all-volunteer organization, except for the drivers. Administration fees are well under 10%. Lakeside Presbyterian pays for administration costs. It seeks to ensure that everyone can eat in the same family on the same day. Deborah stressed a need to recruit additional volunteer drivers.

Linda Finkelstein called the formal Board Meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

Approval of the Minutes from the October Board Meeting - Cathy Einhorn made the motion.
Dianne Goldin seconded the motion.

Treasurers Report – Sophie Berkner reported a \$34,000 loss from end of the last fiscal year. She commented that she is hoping that the “stay at home” will cover the deficit. She reported that an additional \$10,000 would be released from the Section’s account on November 3.

Loe Goldwasser made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Helene Askinazi seconded the motion.

Future Board Meetings - Linda Finkelstein suggested that future meetings could be held in person or as a “hybrid,” with Zoom access for those who choose not attend in person. There was discussion and it was agreed that in-person Board Meetings would resume in November at AJFCS, with an option to attend via Zoom.

Ruth Zalaznick suggested that a motion be made. Debbie Mendelson made the motion to go to the “hybrid” format immediately. Judy Traub seconded the motion.

Programming on Shabbat – Linda Finkelstein initiated a discussion as to whether the Section should host and/or support programming on Shabbat. After a lengthy discussion, it was concluded that the Section will not initiate events on Shabbat.

- Re: sending out email in Shabbat, the Board concluded that it was ok to do so.
- Re: publicizing coalition partners’ events, the Section will issue a disclaimer that states that participation is “within your Shabbat observance.”

Linda Finkelstein updated the Board on the Stay-At-Home solicitation mailing. 1850 “invitations” will be printed. Linda requested volunteers come to her home to “stuff envelopes.”

Linda asked the Board to think about New Norms. The following were suggested:

- Sandi Winnick - An act of kindness throws out roots everywhere
- Rita Young - Keep your ears open and listen to volunteers interests. Share their interests and spread volunteers throughout the Section.

Linda Finkelstein mentioned that the nominating committee will be beginning their work shortly. The committee will consist of 5 members and 2 alternates. Sarah Rothschild and Ruth Zalaznick, last year’s chairs, will attend the first meeting and choose a new chair.

Membership discussion – The Board discussed volunteer participation at events. They discussed whether a volunteer is required to join the Section to participate. The question was asked about how many times a volunteers might participate prior to becoming a member. Several suggestions were made. The discussion was “tabled” for the time being.

Judy Traub, Human Trafficking – Judy and Elizabeth Harrison continue to refine a slide presentation to discuss online safety for minors. The presentation will be made to local

synagogues, churches and community centers. Judy met with media person from the Urban League and discussed opportunities for presenting this program to the black community.

Robin Sambur, Advocacy – The Advocacy Committee is planning its first anti-Semitism program. It will be the JCRC Anti-Semitism program. It will be held on Thursday, January 13, at South University in West Palm Beach. It will be led by Sandy Kaltman. Linda Geller Schwartz, former Florida State Policy Advocate, will be the presenter. The program will include a wine and cheese reception.

Dianne Goldin mentioned that NCJW INC has new campaign called 73Forward. The campaign seeks to increase access to abortion services across the US. Through this campaign, NCJW is rewriting the narrative and leading a new Jewish communal movement to remove educational, financial, and legislative roadblocks for people experiencing pregnancy.

Marsha Rickles, HeadSmart – Marsha and Ilene Leefer are moving forward with planning and are looking to purchase more helmets for children in schools. Also, there is a need for volunteers.

Dianne Goldin, National Initiatives - Jody Rabhan, NCJW INC Chief Policy Officer will meet with the Florida Sections on Friday, December 3. She will provide a Supreme Court briefing on the cases that will heard this session.

Lori Alexander, Soup for the Soul – The program will continue with residents of the Ironhorse community donating the ingredients for the chef-made soup.

Merle Bassin Let's Do Lunch/Administration – The program delivered 1200 sandwiches this year, so far. Installation will take place in April. Sophie Berkner volunteered her home. Merle volunteered the small clubhouse at Orchid Reserve in Ibis.

Debbie Mendelson, Meals with a Cause – Debbie asked for volunteers who would be willing to “serve” dinner at the Lewis Center.

Nadine Kaplan, Special Events – The video highlighting our Section's accomplishments is nearing completion. Nadine suggested that the videographer needed an additional \$400 to make final changes (which would bring the total cost to \$2,000). The Fall Kickoff Zoom event featuring Dr. Watson has 34 people registered, so far. Nadine is planning the Literary Lunch and Card Party.

Helene Askinazi, Communications – Helene requested that the Communications Form be used when planning any activity. She also requested that Board members refrain from contacting Connie Christians directly.

Linda Finkelstein, Fundraising – Linda announced that the Section received a \$5,000 grant from the Quantum Foundation that will be split between KCC and the Dignity Project. Linda recently attended a luncheon at BallenIsles to meet with the new administrator of their foundation.

Susan Schwartz, Villaggio – Sue reported that Villaggio will be holding a president's meeting shortly. She is hopeful that the Villaggio clubhouse will be open to host the Women's Seder.

Loe Goldwasser, Pathways in Education— Women of Wonder has not been able to return to the Schools. Loe made a motion to return the books to the schools. Judy Traub seconded the motion. Loe announced that the Book Club is recruiting new members.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m. Susan Schwartz made the motion. Merle Bassin seconded the motion.