

Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation  
Annual Congregational Meeting  
May 19, 2019

**In Attendance:** 91 people.

**I. Welcome and Call to Order – Sandy Spatz:** Cantor Friedland welcomed the community with music. The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am at 303 Dodge Ave, Evanston, IL.

**II. Sandy Spatz, President:** Sandy highlighted the events and accomplishments at JRC over the past year, including welcoming Rabbi David Eber as JRC's Assistant Rabbi for Education and the approval of a new mission statement: "JRC is a diverse, participatory, and sacred community dedicated to a daring, deeply-rooted Judaism". Sandy loved every minute of her presidency, is grateful for the relationships she formed, and gained an appreciation of what makes JRC JRC.

Sandy gave an update on the Pillars of Chai capital campaign. If no new pledges are received, JRC's operations budget will need to be tapped to meet mortgage payments starting in April, 2020; however, solicitations are in progress. Josh Hauser shared that his family agreed to give to the campaign so that JRC will last; he gave examples of how JRC's community nourishes all of us. Sandy noted that all households will be contacted to participate in the campaign and encouraged everyone to welcome the call and consider what JRC means to them.

Sandy thanked her leadership partners, Rabbi Weiss, Cantor Friedland, and Sharon Diaz, and noted that JRC will be in good hands with Elliot Frolichstein-Appel as president. She encouraged all to find their opportunity at JRC and for it to be as it has been for her: one of the best things she has ever done. She thanked her husband Tracy Hultgren for giving her the space to focus on JRC the past two years.

**III. Rabbi Rachel Weiss:** Rabbi Weiss thanked Sandy Spatz and her husband Tracy Hultgren for leaving their mark on JRC. She led attendees in the blessing of community building. She remarked that the godliness within each of us is elicited when we connect with one another and do transformational work. JRC is thus working towards broader engagement of lay leaders, breaking down the silos of participation, and redefining what it means to be a volunteer. Rabbi Weiss has signed a new 5-year contract with JRC. She thanked her wife Julia for her emotional and household support that enables Rabbi Weiss to embrace her role as JRC's rabbi. She thanked the Racial Equity Task Force and its leaders, Mandi Wolfman and Jen Jaffe, for supporting JRC's programming theme of racial equity over the past year. The theme for the coming year will be immigrant justice, with Beth Lange as the contact person.

**IV. Budget – Sharon Diaz:** Sharon reviewed a summary of revenue and expenses for FY 2019 budget, FY 2019 forecast based on nine months of actual results, and FY 2020 budget. Membership revenue has been negatively impacted by the shift of many regular households to senior households. The largest revenue sources are membership (51%), fundraising and donations (17%), Early Childhood (13%), and Religious School (10%). The largest expense category is payroll

(78%). The FY20 budget balances revenue and expenses. FY20 membership revenue assumes no net change in the number of members and a 1% dues increase. FY20 payroll expenses are budgeted lower due to (1) the outsourcing of the bookkeeping function and (2) expectations that members will be asked to fulfill some of the tasks currently done by custodians (e.g. door greeters and clean-up and closing the building after programs).

**V. Nominating Committee – Linda Mathias Kaskel:** Linda thanked the Nominating Committee members: Robin Trilling (chair), Cindy Aaronson, Christine Duffy-Levy, Robert Israelite, Adam Jaffe, Rich Katz, Linda Mathias Kaskel, and Mandi Wolfman. She presented the proposed slate of Board members:

**Returning Board members continuing their terms:**

VP Administration: Rich Katz (2017-2020)

VP Strategic Development: Linda Mathias Kaskel (2017-2020)

Secretary: Barbara Pinzur (2017-2020)

Member at Large: Adam Jaffe (2018-2020)

**Vacancies to be filled by the Board:**

VP Tikkun Olam: TBD (term expires 2021)

Member at Large: Lisa Servedio (replacing Robert Israelite; 2019-2020)

Member at Large: TBD (replacing David Block; 2019-2020)

Youth Member: TBD

**New Board terms:**

President: Elliot Frolichstein-Appel (2019-2021)

Immediate Past President: Sandy Spatz (2019-2020)

VP Education: Robert Israelite (2019-2022)

VP Financial Development: David Block (2019-2022)

VP Membership: Hannah Shearn (2019-2022)

VP Ritual Practices: Marla Baker (2019-2022)

Treasurer: Jonathan Markowitz (2019-2022)

Member at Large: Becca Sperling (2019-2021)

Member at Large: Debi Lewis (2019-2021)

Member at Large: Anne Wildman (2019-2021)

**MOTION:** Approve the slate of new Board terms as announced. (Motion by Linda Mathias Kaskel; second by Freddi Greenberg.) Unanimously in favor. PASSED.

Sandy Spatz thanked outgoing Board members for their service: VP Development Joel Gratch, Members at Large Diane Pezanoski and Julie Shufro, and Youth Member Michaela Brooke.

**VI. Claudia Rozenberg, Early Childhood Director:** Claudia will be leaving JRC at the end of July. She recognizes that JRC is a unique community and its Early Childhood is a wonderful program. She thanked the Early Childhood teachers, JRC's clergy and staff, Sandy Spatz, the Early Childhood Committee, the Search Task Force, and everyone in the community who has supported the program. Rabbi Weiss and Sharon Diaz thanked Claudia for leading the program.

**VII. Rabbi David Eber, Assistant Rabbi for Education:** Rabbi Eber expressed his love for the JRC community and for JRC's Religious School, teachers, and students. The Religious School curriculum strives to come alive for students through relevance, innovation, and serious Judaism. He is proud of the teachers and culture and how they have responded in moments of tragedy. He thanked all the volunteers, staff, Board, and his assistant Yvonne Kaminsky. It has been a blessing for him to join this community.

**X. Adjournment – Sandy Spatz:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 am.

*Barbara Pinzur, Secretary*