

Houston Hillel Board Meeting

03 May 2021 / 7:00 PM / Zoom

Attendees

Rabbi Kenny Weiss, Alyssa Silva, Lior Ashkenazy Dor, Ellie Rips, Rozanne Rubin, Grant Beiner, Lou Mizis, Ronit Sherwin, Jonas Actor, Scott Friedman, Sean Kessel, Kendall Toarmina Pang, Eric Bishop, Daniel Pickelner, Rabbi Gideon Estes, Jeff Berlat, Eric Cohn, Lena Lieb, Brian Cweren, Jeff Levine

Agenda

Kenny's D'var Torah- Kenny Weiss

In this week's Torah portion we read about the shemittah year, the sabbatical year. The next shemittah year is coming up this Rosh Hashanah. Connection to Rozanne's term ending in her shemittah year. A big thanks to Rozanne Rubin for all she has done as a leader at Houston Hillel.

Icebreaker - Rozanne Rubin

Rose, Rose, Thorn, Bud (Daniel, Rabbi Gideon and Lou shared)

Consent Agenda - Rozanne Rubin

Eric Cohn moves to approve last meetings notes as reported, Lou Mizis seconds.

Hillel International Opportunities - Rozanne Rubin, Scott Friedman, Lou Mizis

- Board Chair Call about values document being prepared for Hillel International
- Hillel International decentralizing medical benefits
 - Kendall Toarmina Pang asked a question about why Hillel International is decentralizing. Premiums are rising too much for the arrangement to be sustainable.
- Hillel Global Giving Week
- Birthright is resuming trips to Israel
- Serve the Moment- new initiative
- Board education series- Strategic Plan
 - We are ahead of the game and already have a comprehensive strategic plan
 - Diversifying board
 - Developing relationships
 - We could be presenting these kinds of presentations- We're very organized
- Board education series- Gen Z
 - Their life experiences are overwhelmingly different
 - Hillel must adapt to the needs of our constituencies
 - More ethnically diverse than any other generation
 - Gen Z has experienced more trauma and change in their lifetimes than most

Staff Reports - Ellie Rips, Lior Ashkenazy Dor, Alyssa Silva, Kenny Weiss

- Ellie Rips talks about her time ending with Houston Hillel, reflects on her time with students and the unconventional nature of her fellowship.
- Lior Ashkenazy Dor speaks about her first year in the US and everything being new, but coming into the Houston Hillel family has made things much smoother. She shares an anecdote about Gal, an Israeli student who came to Rice on a sports scholarship. Lior felt connected to this student and helped guide her through her first year.
- Alyssa Silva talked about change and how the changes that were made at Houston Hillel benefitted the twentysomething community.
- Rabbi Kenny Weiss reflects on the past year as working more cooperatively with staff and how Alyssa being in an assistant director position has allowed him to focus on other tasks. A big thank you to Lior for her work with students on Israel programming and developing ILF. A big thank

you to Ellie for her ability to engage students at Rice and UH and for creating the JLF program and being the reason for its success.

- Global giving results: so far we have brought in over \$7,268
- 100% staff donations achieved this year.

2022 Budget- Kendall Toarmina Pang

- Kendall Toarmina Pang shares spreadsheet with budget actuals
- 7.38% Surplus
- Expecting to spend more than in the previous year due to COVID
- Expecting similar cash inflow to last year
- Rabbi Weiss reflects on some grants that may differ, ex: Federation COVID grant and a renewal of the Federation Israel fellow grant.
- Question from Sean Kessel- answered by Rabbi Weiss
- Rabbi Gideon Estes requests a motion to approve budget, Eric Bishop seconds, budget is approved
- Question from Eric Cohn - answered by Rabbi Weiss
- Rozanne counted the vote - All are in favor - budget is approved

Nominating Committee- Eric Cohn

- Moving up: Scott Friedman as president, Grant Beiner as 1st VP, Sean Kessel as VP on Exec committee, and Lou Mizis as VP on Exec Committee
- New appointments to board: Daniel Braun, Nathan Canen, Terry Cweigenberg, Abby Lestin, Marcy Rothman, Riana Sherman.
- Re-election: Brian Hall
- Rabbi Gideon Estes moves to accept report, Daniel Pickelner seconds
- Eric Cohn calls for a vote- All in favor

Additional Notes

- Engagement report reflections
- 77% board giving, not 100%, but is up from last year.
- This is not your mothers Hillel. It has changed and adapted over the years.
- Houston Hillel has received an amplifier grant in honor of Rabbi Weiss.
- Thank you to Houston Hillel Committees