

# Library Minyan Steering Committee Meeting

December 21, 2023

## Minutes

- Call to Order- 8:03
- Attendance
  - Joel Elkins (chair), Jules Kamin, Howard Fredman, Tal Link, Ben Richards, Fran Grossman; Guests: Russell Cohen, Melissa Berenbaum, Larry Herman, Nina Golden
- Changes to committee next year
  - Tal stepping down, Russell Cohen taking over as membership chair
  - Marisa stepping down, Rachel Bernstein taking over as communications chair
- Reports
  - Finance - Jules
    - Approx \$16K in account (spread across General, Outreach and Chesed), which is on the historical high end
    - Accordingly, committee authorized end-of-year gifts to security and kitchen staff
  - Membership/Outreach - Tal
    - Good turnout at Hanukkah event - about 30 people
    - Concern is burnout if too many events
  - Social
    - Not a lot of requests for major simchas
    - Frumi and everyone else very happy with the kiddush she helped sponsor
  - Ritual
    - No objection to adding language to IDF mishaberach
    - We will work to get the additions rendered into Hebrew and get laminated
  - Gabbais
    - Everyone is doing a good job and no one seems overworked
    - There is a list of back-up gabbais in case of emergencies
  - Education
    - No report
  - Communications
    - No report
- Proposed Charter
  - Carl Sunshine did a yeoman's job going through and revising

- It will be sent out around the beginning of the year and then voted on at the general meeting
- Youth/Children coordinator is currently unfilled, so put the word out to see if someone is interested
- Most people think greeters are not needed, so no need for Greeting Coordinator
- At the start of a new term, no need for half-day orientation; meeting is sufficient
- Livestreaming
  - Melissa, Larry and Nina presented their joint proposal
  - There were some questions but no objections
  - Accordingly, it will be announced as a formal policy
  - As to when there will be joint services (and thus Livestreaming): weekday chagim with no yizkor (as has been the tradition) and on other (rare) occasions at the discretion of the Rosh
- High Holidays
  - We will try to start the process of finding leaders earlier, so that those who are competent but not fully comfortable during HH can have time to prepare (perhaps with the assistance of clergy or others)
  - Susan Laemmle was the impetus for this idea and would probably be willing to take the lead
- General Meeting
  - Everyone will be introduced (incoming, outgoing and continuing) and will have a chance to say a few words
  - The proposed charter will be presented for approval - if there are no objections, it will be adopted; if there are any issues, it will go back for another draft

Adjourned 9:05

## Prayer for Members of the Israel Defense Force

May God who blessed our ancestors Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah, also bless the fighters of the Israel Defense Force, who stand guard over our land from the border of the Lebanon to the desert of Egypt, and from the Great Sea unto the approach of the Aravah, on the land, in the air, and on the sea.

May the Almighty cause the enemies who rise up against us to be struck down before them. May the Holy One, Blessed be God, preserve and rescue our fighters from every trouble and distress and from every plague and illness, and may God send blessing and success in their every endeavor.

May God lead our enemies under our fighter's sway, crown them with victory, and keep them from harming innocent people. And may there be fulfilled for them the verse: For it is the Lord, your God, Who goes with you to battle your enemies for you to save you.

## **Library Minyan Policy on Livestreaming**

### **Background**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the LM considered the issue of livestreaming. In Spring 2021, the LM convened a membership meeting on Zoom to discuss whether LM should permit livestreaming of Shabbat morning services. The discussion was very charged and was followed by email survey, asking the following question:

*Should the Library Minyan permit livestreaming/broadcasting of its services during the period of the pandemic?*[emphasis added]

There were 97 respondents to the survey. An overwhelming majority (80%, 78 in favor and 19 opposed) voted to allow livestreaming.

A second question asked whether livestreaming should be limited to days when no other TBA services were being livestreamed. Another large majority (70%, 59-25) voted against such a limitation.

Despite the strong vote in favor, no LM Shabbat morning service was livestreamed. Several joint festival services have been livestreamed.

The matter came up recently, specifically on an occasion when no clergy-led Shabbat service was being held and the LM was asked to livestream its service. The Steering Committee denied the request.

The Rosh appointed an ad hoc committee, comprised of Melissa Berenbaum, Nina Golden and Larry Herman, to review the issue of livestreaming, and who, after having met and discussed the issue several times, make the following recommendation for LM policy on this subject.

### **Discussion**

It is recognized that this matter evokes strong opinions and feelings. Those in favor of livestreaming point out that it allows our members who are not physically able to attend services the opportunity to daven with us virtually, the LM community did endorse livestreaming during the pandemic, and the our *mara datra* permits it. Those opposed point out that a significant minority of LM members are not comfortable using such technology on Shabbat and chagim and that it would create an uncomfortable space for them, that some would not be willing to attend services that are livestreamed, and that the LM is not obligated to do something that the *mara datra permits* but does not *require*.

### **Proposed Policy**

In an effort to avoid further disagreement and the Steering Committee's need to consider the issue of livestreaming on a case-by-case basis, the following compromise proposal is offered to the LM Steering Committee to adopt as policy going forward.

1. As a general rule, Library Minyan does not livestream services;
2. As is currently the practice, services will be livestreamed when the LM joins with other TBA services even when the LM is "hosting" or "leading" these services.
3. On those rare occasions when the LM is the *only* Shabbat service on the TBA campus, the LM will agree to livestream its services. In such cases
  - a. It will be announced in advance as soon as possible (preferably 10-days' notice will be provided, if possible).
  - b. It will be noted at the top of the weekly LM newsletter.
  - c. Seating out of range of the camera will be made available
4. The livestreaming will be unidirectional. Under no circumstances will the livestreaming be in the form of interactive Zoom and no screens will be used to show the livestreaming participants.