

Minutes of Peretz Executive Committee Meeting

March 13, 2008

In attendance: Anton Friedman, Sylvia Friedman, Bernice Kastner, Donna MacDermot, Louise Miller, Victor Neuman, Harold Berson, Dena Dawson, Richard Rosenberg

Minutes: Anton Friedman; typed by Donna MacDermot

Corrections to previous minutes:

Dena was present at last meeting but not listed

Buisness arising:

- **Cremation:** Rabbi Mivasair would preside over cremations
- **Cemetery:**
 - ◆ search for land continues. Ahavat Olam needs 20 committed people to buy plots for an “egalitarian” cemetery; they have 10, if we could get 10 we could purchase jointly. Cost/plot: \$7000. Includes options for non-Jewish spouses. Louise and one or two others to research.

President's Report

None

Treasurer's Report

- Sent via email.
- Programming revenue down substantially from last year

New Business

- **CSJO conference (Victor):**
 - ◆ Peretz contributes registration fees, the delegates should be members for this benefit.
 - ◆ There is money in the youth fund for this purpose
 - ◆ Sylvia mentioned if Peretz could apply for Foundation or Federation grant to cover. Donna has already tried but not been successful.
 - ◆ Motion: Peretz can contribute up to 50% of air fare on top of registration fees for those who need subsidy. Victor, Louise; MSC.
- **Security**
 - ◆ Alarming of stairway: suggested that panic hardware be put on the inside so people are able to get out but not get into the stairway from the ground floor except with a key. This should prevent thieves entering the building and sneaking into the upstairs.
 - ◆ Put bell alarm in stairway, emergency exit? Concerns about alarm going off during performances.
 - ◆ Iosif going to install more doorbells: 8 buttons will be installed outside, attached to individual bells or flashing lights in kitchen, green room, auditorium, library, seniors lounge and office.
 - ◆ Need recording cameras at doors. Waiting to hear from Foundation re grant application.
- **Yiddish classes:**
 - ◆ Chaya went ahead and charged \$125 instead of \$150 before hearing Board's decision. Although the Board thought \$150 was a reasonable fee, we will stick to that this time and send formal letter to her

that this is a one-time only discount.

➤ **60th anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel**

- ◆ Federation asking for additional advertising. Board agreed last meeting to buy a flag greeting.

➤ **Jewish Seniors Alliance co-sponsored events**

- ◆ Events should have benefit to or be in interest of the Peretz
- ◆ Richard and Victor to make a policy re costs and discuss with Jerry Kushner. The policy should be to form a relationship based on the JSA wanting to use our facilities. [Sylvia]: Members of the alliance came and wanted to pay only \$20 to join the Peretz instead of \$50. Florence agreed to this, but has been told it's not our policy. [Harold]: Peretz has no protection from people joining as members and then running for the Board and "taking over" the Peretz. [Sylvia]: we should only co-sponsor a few events with the JSA.
- ◆ [Victor]: Important to make sure our overhead costs are covered in the future.

➤ **Benefits of membership**

- ◆ Victor presented the idea to have tables at banquets and seders reserved for members. Or allow members to register first. Question if this would be the kind of benefit that would jeopardize our tax free status. Need to check with Tom.
- ◆ [Donna]: would hate to have to say no to a non member who tries to be good and register early. Our members generally are last-minute registrants.
- ◆ Need to think of other ways to make people want to become members.
- ◆ Need to think of a way to appreciate volunteers.

➤ **Youth at banquets**

- ◆ Anton to ask youth what they would like to see on their table.
- ◆ Drinks at last banquet not very good (not enough bought, so kitchen staff watered down)

➤ **Vancouver Jewish Orchestra**

- ◆ Proposal from David Skulski (handout)
- ◆ Actual cost to Peretz might be in the hundreds of dollars per concert (including overhead: heating, lighting, cost of lost rental of auditorium)
- ◆ Question of who takes it if revenues of concerts fall short of projected
- ◆ Orchestra meant to be a Peretz program?
- ◆ [VN]: Peretz not prepared to subsidize this project completely
- ◆ {RR}: Concern that four concerts to start with is "overly ambitious." Given budget, not much room for possible financial losses.
- ◆ Suggested to ask David if he would cut back on the number of concerts. Note that this is not necessarily a cost per concert and might still be expensive.
- ◆ Motion: support two concerts if funding is adequate. Victor, Dena, MSC.

Motion to adjourn: ??

Next meeting: April 17.