ICFS Fall 2020 meeting -- APPROVED AT THE 5-2-21 MEETING with corrections, which are

reflected in these minutes

10/25/20

4:00 pm EST

On Zoom

Minutes submitted by Mady Cantor (first part) and Marc Hornick (second part)

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**Israel Cantor Family Society meeting agenda**:

Call to Order  
Reading of the minutes  
Financial Secretary report (Phil)  
Treasurer report (Scott)

Hospitaler report (deaths, illness, graduations, babies**,** weddings, awards) Ron  
Old Business

Past Events Slide presentation

Cousins calculator (Ethan)

Break Out rooms (Susan)

New Business

Ideas for Spring event (Larry)

Adjourn

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**In Attendance** (roughly in order of introductions)

Phil Cantor – Maplewood, NJ (chair) (East Coast Phil)

Susan Gladstone (Zoomaster) – Brooklyn

Ellen Malkis – Niskayuna, NY

Barbara and Mitchell Greene – Plainview, NY

Scott and Daryl Cantor – NYC

Doug and Ray Fisher – Baltimore

Steve Cantor – Chester, CT

Phil and Miriam Cantor – Los Angeles (West Coast Phil)

Irene and Paul Adler – Ann Arbor, MI

Laurie Knafo – Delray, FL

Barbara and John Paglione – Ann Arbor, MI

Ethan Cantor – Montclair, NJ

Marc and Roz Hornick – Boston

Aaron Hornick, with Emma – Maplewood, NJ

Amy Hornick and Larry Becker – Brooklyn

Max Liebersohn – Philadelphia

Ruth Reynolds – Sonoma County, CA

Dan Cantor – Blue Hill, ME

Jaime Feld – Boca Raton, FL

David Berman – Delray Beach, FL

Jillian and Bill Nechamkin – Wayne, NJ

Sandy and Linda Hornick -- Brooklyn

Stan and Sheila Gilman – Jericho, NY

Chelsea Hornick-Becker – Brooklyn

Ron Jordan – Long Beach, NY

Mady Cantor – Philadelphia

Denny and Marylou Gladstone – Boca Raton, FL

Laura Zelman – Potomac Falls, VA

Esther and Steve Kahn – Brooklyn

Ken Wachtel – Jersey City, NJ

Alice Markham-Cantor – Brooklyn

Meredith Hornick – Brooklyn

Sheldon and Janet Fisher – Denver

Tess Liebersohn -- Philadelphia

Phil Cantor called the meeting to order. As this was the first time the ICFS met on Zoom, and because there were many members present, Phil asked everyone to introduce themselves and say where they were zooming from. That took a while but resulted in the impressive list above.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the 10/27/2019 meeting were unanimously accepted with the following changes:

Attendance should include Marc Hornick (he was not late to the actual meeting, as listed)

Hospitaler report: Marc Hornick has a granddaughter (delete “remembered he had a…” )

Spelling of Marc’s daughter-in-law corrected to Rachelle.

**Financial Report/Treasurer’s Report**

Finances are strong.

Phil reported:

$11,652 in the checking account

1,679 in the Paypal account (dues)

$13,331 cash on hand

Treasurer Scott Cantor reported:

$13,200 in two 2 money market accounts, Legg Mason and Alianz. They have done well

About $19,000 in a cash account, not doing much. Scott recommends putting at least part of it in PGIM Ultra Fund (Prudential Global Investment Management), a little-risk bond fund where it will earn 2%. (Nothing is no-risk, he says).

Discussion:

Ron Jordan thinks it’s a good idea.

Preference was expressed for a bond mutual fund.

David Berman wants to know “what’s behind it” and will check it out.

Action plan: If there are no objections in a week, by Nov 1, 2020 from David, Ron, Ken or Marc, then Scott can go ahead and invest it in PGIM. It could be partial, like $10,000, and hold on to 9,000 for other opportunities.

There were no objections from members to this plan of action. There was general agreement that we want the cash to grow. It will remain liquid.

**Zoom issue**

At this point (perhaps because of the vote that just took place?) the meeting swiveled to discussion of what a Zoom meeting means for ICFS voting. Dan Cantor moved that a Zoom meeting be accepted as a legitimate meeting of the society. Susan Gladstone seconded it.

Discussion:

Sandy Hornick looked at the by-laws in which Article 7 says “member must be present to vote.” Big surprise – the by-laws do not mention Zoom. Sandy noted that there is also nothing in the NYC city charter about Zoom but that everything is currently taking place on Zoom.

Alice Markham-Cantor pointed out the US Congress does not follow that rule, and that a meeting could be considered a super-spreader event.

Susan Gladstone said that, if Zoom meetings are not considered legit, it means meetings would be basically limited to NY members.

Marc Hornick objects to votes on the by-laws taking place on Zoom.

Marc then proposed an amendment to the motion, that members must be physically present to vote for matters related to the by-laws.

Dan Cantor did not accept the amendment to his original motion.

The motion was called by David Berman.

Vote: 44 yeas (approx.); 2 nays; 1 abstention. Original motion -- that Zoom meetings are acceptable -- passes.

**Hospitaler Report**

Ron Jordan delivered the report with additions from the crowd.

Jeri Bilus died early in the pandemic, on 3/31/20, of Covid-related complications in a rehab center. Jeri was the sister of Ben Bilus, lived in NY, was a graduate of Syracuse University, worked in the banking industry.

Births: Libby Cantor Paglione and Steven Vedder had a son, Charles Sebastiean Vedder on 4/17/19. Grandparents are Barbara and John Pagilione.

Maisie Blossom Nechamkin was born on 6/9/19. Parents are Jillian and Bill Nechamkin, grandmother is Ellen Malkis.

Other mitzvot: Ari Berman (son of Mark and Robin Berman and grandson of David and Sara) will be bar mitzvahed next week in Plainview, NY.

Sheila and Stan Gilman celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary; Marylou and Denny Gladstone 50th and Sara and David Berman their 49th.

**Old Business**

Ron Jordan announced that Susan Gladstone is joining him on the cemetery committee. The announcement was greeted with Zoom applause.

Barbara Greene said she didn’t get an alert about the dues and would like to get it. Phil Cantor said he would notify the membership by email when PayPal invoices go out.

**Slide Presentation**

Phil Cantor, ICFS photographer, showed a slide show of past events complete with music. It worked well on Zoom. Everyone had a good seat.

**Cousins Calculator**

Ethan Cantor presented a visual “Cousins Calculator” complete with animation which dealt with the age-old question, how am I related to you? It was both entertaining and informative.

**New Business**

Amy Hornick brought up changing the membership rules. Zoom lets us be more diverse geographically. Now it is time to change the rules to be more inclusive. Thinks we should reconsider the membership categories to give full membership to non-Jewish spouses.

Audrey Hornick-Becker said that the problem is that different rights are basically unjust. Associate membership for non-Jews is second-class membership.

David Berman said that the social membership category is a voluntary choice by a member. Associate membership is for non-Jewish members. They do not have cemetery rights. If they were full members it could mean that the ICFS ends up supporting a Christian cemetery.

Audrey said we don't have to let an outside entity (like the cemetery) drive our membership categories and rules.

Ron said that the cemetery arrangements were not the basis of the ICFS. It was founded as a social group. The cemetery came later. He gave some background: in 1940s the non-Jewish spouse issue came up.  In the 1980's the associate membership category was created.

Marylou Gladstone said she was the second non-Jewish member in 1970. She said she was painfully isolated, until the "shunning" melted away upon the announcement of her conversion. She is still hurt having been so treated.  She supports making non-Jewish members full members.

Audrey said that the impact of the associate category is that it created second-class members. The ICFS needs to be more welcoming.

Chelsea Hornick-Beckersaid she is married to a non-Jew and feels the rule is irrelevant, unnecessary and silly. She doesn't like to come to meetings because her husband is not fully welcome.

Ron suggests rethinking the categories.

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At this point, Mady Cantor had to leave and Marc Hornick graciously agreed to take over recording the minutes:

Barbara Greene: We should listen to some more traditional-feeling people.

Ruth Reynolds: My father was on the committee in the 80's

Inclusivity is the main issue.

Zoom allows me to participate. I would not be able to fly in to meetings.

Suggests: Define the problem as "how to honor people and be inclusive."

Barbara Greene: The society will also die out if we assimilate.

Dan Cantor: We are all assimilated.

Barbara Greene: Not all of us.

Ken Wachtell: We have had no difficulty expressing individual thoughts without rancor.

We are a family.

Ron Jordan: The previous resolution of non-Jewish membership was to correct a mistake

in the constitution - referring to the exclusion of any one not born of Jewish

parents.

Marc Hornick: Stated his different recollection of the previous constitutional change as a

response to Dottie Goldstein's plea to include all her children, and a recognition by

society members of all persuasions that the exclusion of children born to Jewish

mothers and non-Jewish fathers exceeded Torah's requirements.

David Berman - Two of the issues created by admitting people of other religions are...

non-Jewish spouses being denied burial in Jewish cemeteries and holiday

celebrations for non-Jewish cultural occasions could become necessary to

accommodate non-Jewish members.

Chelsea Hornick-Becker: People who have made their choices to marry non-Jews have

not done so expecting their spouse to be buried on a Jewish cemetery,

Tess Liebersohn: We don't even have Chanuka parties.

We should have an outside person moderate the committee's deliberations.

Ron Jordan: Committee should have 10 members, not the 11 who volunteered.

Audrey Hornick-Becker: We need an outside moderator because people have very much

invested in their positions.

Marylou Gladstone: I was the outsider. We (Marylou and Dennis) have hosted and

accommodated kosher and non-kosher food preferences. We are a family 1st

and Jewish 2nd.

Phil Cantor (chair): For review, we have selected a committee of 11 people: Susan

Gladstone, Ron Jordan, Audrey Hornick-Becker, Linda Hornick, Chelsea

Hornick-Becker, Marc Hornick, Alice Cantor, David Berman, Ken Wachtell,

Barbara Greene + Tess Liebersohn

Marc Hornick: We should have co-chairs to represent both sides of the question.

Ron Jordan: What sides, we are all one family,

Phil Cantor (chair): I prefer a younger member for committee co-chair. Appointed

Susan Gladstone.

Marc Hornick: We should reduce the size of the committee. 11 is too many.

Ron Jordan or Sandy Hornick: in zoom meetings, 11 is easily handled.

Phil Cantor: we can't ask somebody to leave the committee.

Regarding next - Spring 2021 - meeting.

Larry Becker: Belmont racetrack, proved popular as venue, would be doable in Fall 2021.

Susan Gladstone: The date should (for meeting) should not be on a Jewish holiday, graduation date or Mother's Day.

Phil Cantor (chair): This was a successful meeting. Although we couldn't have pastrami,

at Ben's Deli we usually have 15 -20 attendees. Tthis time we hit a maximum

of around 37 Zoom participants.

Meeting adjourned.