

Q1 AI Generated Summary (by Moishkele Bot) – thumbs up or down – I didn't want to edit out all the parts that made me laugh, so left in a few quirky things.

Meeting summary for Q1 WHP ALUMNI COUNCIL QUARTERLY MEETING (01/29/2025)

Quick recap

The meeting focused on the challenges faced by the community since October 7th. The discussion also covered the significance of Tubishvat, and the development of a policy for political endorsements by an organization. The group discussed strategic planning during VUCA times of chaos and fighting Antisemitism, how to best accommodate the surge of interest in Jewish life, also an update from the Nation's capital and whether AI is a threat. Lastly, the group discussed recent wildfires in Los Angeles and their impact on the community, as well as upcoming events.

Next steps

- Angie to share these meeting notes and the chat in the WhatsApp group after editing.
- Delegates to visit the landing page to check updated bios and roster information.
- Delegates to mark their calendars for the next call on May 6th.
- Scott to post information in the WhatsApp group about organizations helping people in Pasadena affected by the fires.
- Delegates to continue posting questions and updates in the WhatsApp group.
- Delegates to contact Angie if they want to facilitate a conversation or bring a speaker to a future WTF Wednesday meeting.

Summary

Navigating Challenges and Embracing Change

Angie welcomed everyone to the meeting, acknowledging the challenges faced by the community since October 7th. She expressed gratitude to delegates and the need to contend with Jews in the margins of knowledge. Angie also mentioned the overwhelming pace of news from Canada and the US, and the ongoing hostage situation in Israel. She encouraged the participants to share their concerns and thoughts in the chat, which included issues like chaos, immigrants, rule of law, humanity, and the world they are leaving for their children. There was a breakout session to get to know the new delegates and share personal and leadership challenges.

Leading in Times of Global Chaos and Despair

Sharon shares her thoughts on the current state of the world, expressing feelings of shock, disbelief, and wonder. She describes a sense of perpetual despair due to various

ongoing issues, including rising anti-Semitism, the aftermath of October 7th, hostages in Gaza, climate-related disasters, political divisiveness, and senseless violence. Sharon also notes the difficulty in processing the overwhelming amount of information available and questions how the new President will govern.

Sharon discussed the significance of Tubishvat, a holiday that connects people to the land of Israel and its native species, and serves as a holiday of renewal. She emphasized the importance of nurturing oneself and looking at things from a new perspective.

Angie then introduced Jon Efron, who shared his experience as a communal leader navigating current events, Israel politics, community donors, parents, students, governance, and mission. Jon also discussed his role as the board president of Jewish Kids Group, an organization that provides Jewish after-school programs and B'nai Mitzvah programs.

Jon discussed an incident where the Jewish Federation, pressured the staff of JKG, which he is board chair, to sign a communal statement condemning not voting for funds to supply Israel with arms, without consulting the board of JKG or providing sufficient notice. This led to a policy review and the creation of an endorsement policy for the organization. The policy states that the organization does not endorse political or social positions unless they align with the organization's mission and are in the best interests of the families they serve. Jon emphasized the importance of being proactive and not reactive in such situations. He also mentioned that he is working with Federation to organize a meeting for all board presidents and chairs to discuss this topic further. Jon shares a policy he developed for his organization regarding political endorsements, which was inspired by recent events involving senators' positions on Israel. The policy outlines a process for making endorsement decisions and aims to be proactive rather than reactive. Participants discuss the challenges of implementing such policies, including dealing with social media posts by staff and board members. Jon mentions that developing a social media policy for staff is an important next step. The group also discusses potential political implications of these issues, particularly in Georgia where the Jewish vote could be significant in future elections.

Wildfires Impact and Community Response

The group discusses recent wildfires in Los Angeles and their impact on the community. Deborah and Scott share updates on the situation, noting that while some areas are severely affected, life continues as normal for most of the city. They mention the formation of WhatsApp groups to coordinate support efforts and highlight the Jewish community's strong response. Scott emphasizes that the people in Pasadena may need more assistance due to having fewer resources. The meeting concludes with Angie providing information about upcoming events and thanking participants for their contributions.

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a post from the chat when prompted to share something of concern