

BHBE General Board Meeting 10/26/22 at 7:30 PM Via Zoom

Present: Harris Miller, Allison Kamen, Bev Reinglass, Carla Banoff, Carol Pellish, Carter Greene, Dan Chodrow, Fran Diamond, Fred Rosenwasser, Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg, Gail Swerdlik, Gail Schneiderman, Greer Braun, Harold Primack, Helen Stopek, Ira Dubin, Jay Goldstein, Jessica Littman, Jon Clemons, Judy Levey, Larry Plawsky, Leah Buckbinder, Michael Lehrer, Minnie Goldsmith, Robin Smulson, Sam Rodin, Steven Bucksbaum, Susan Kay, Harriet Robbins Ost, Joan Meyers, Shoshanna Reynolds

Absent: Rochelle Leff, Ellen Sered, Cynthia Lerner, Helen Stopek, Robin Smulson

Clergy: Rabbi Crane, Michael Kahn

Guest Speaker: Trent Spoolstra – ADL Anti-Defamation League (BHBE Liaison)

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM

Bev Reinglass motioned to approve the minutes

Dan Chodrow seconded

The minutes were approved unanimously

Rabbi Crane gave his De'Var Torah

Trent from the ADL mentioned we're a signature synagogue and discussed antisemitism (harassment, vandalism and assault.) A report is made each year; this year there were 2700 anti-Semitic incidents. They will communicate with us if something happens at BHBE or in the area.

Rabbi Crane said we're grateful for all the High Holiday services being successful. Rabbi Crane reached out to all families who did not renew their membership. 5 families would like to return. He teaches Talmud (Wednesday's at 10 AM) and Psalms class (Wednesday's at 7:30 AM).

Little's Programs have been a success and fully supported by the Loseff fund and additional donors.

In final stages launching Intro to Judaism and will be overseen by Rabbi Dickman (7 synagogue consortium).

Bnai Mitzvahs are coming up.

Children's services were successful and thank you to those who led them.

Teen program – Connections for the Homeless and programs following Havdalah. They will receive regular emails for CHUSY and our programs.

Jessica or Cynthia will reach out to Aaron Frankel about how many people attended children's and teen services that are interested in becoming members.

President's Report (Jessica Littman for Cynthia Lerner): Adam Goldfarb is running a program for people to contribute to Kiddush. First take home dinner Friday, Nov. 18th. An email went out on 10/26/22. First in-person Friday night Shabbat dinner, following the Kabbalat Shabbat Service, will be Friday, Dec. 2nd at BHBE.

Scholarstream – check for emails and register. The Building Committee will meet the week of Oct. 31st.

Jessica thanked board members and congregants for their contributions and support for Percy Ferguson's Go Fund Me page.

Executive Director's Report - Michael Kahn: Thursday morning newsletter and announcements are emailed. Office is very busy. Please provide a couple weeks' notice for programs/events/needs. Cut off is Tuesday afternoon for the newsletter, which is done on Wednesday. Percy is doing well and is very thankful for the congregational support. Arturo is back full time. Simon is working three days a week. Scheduling is being done by Jackie and Michael until Percy returns. Arturo is here on Saturday and Sunday (two weekdays off.) His wife Maria will help serve with Susie on Saturdays alternatively at Kiddush.

Secure Illinois law to provide a 401K Plan to all employees. Paychex provides this program. We have an HR package through them.

One new family joined us as members in October. 354 members (328 paying members). 13 new members. 25 resigned. 62 students in the Academy.

We went over those streaming and in-person for services. Overall great statistics. There will be discussion on streaming at a future meeting (tabled). Steve Bucksbaum said streaming beyond the size of the congregation is normal at other synagogues too.

Treasurer's Report – Michael Lehrer: Line of credit was paid down to \$0. Interest is then avoided. Looking for ways to increase income and lower expenses. Michael went over our budget year to date.

Income: \$777,527 Expenses: \$386,069 (July 1st to June 30th period.)

Ceiling pipes leaking in the Academy and the Memorial Hallway. Buckets are present and the ceiling was removed.

Ways and Means - Larry Plawsky: Goal for 2022 is \$125,000. So far, \$111,107 or 89% of our goal. Went over gift increases, decreases and matches. 177 donors so far in 2022. 114 qualified for the match. Thank you notes will be mailed to donors. We'll reach out to those who haven't donated yet.

Bev Reinglass made a very important point that we should have 100% Board participation for the Annual Appeal.

Old/New Business:

Greer Braun – Sisterhood has three projects within the next month. Thanked those who participated in Challah and New Year's Greetings. Rummage Sale Nov. 6th and 7th. Thanksgiving baskets will fundraise money for The Ark while feminine products, cosmetics and paper goods can be dropped off. Nov. 20th is our holiday boutique. Gift shop is open on Sundays. Eric Zorn – Daytime series at 12:30 pm lunch and speech is coming up.

Harold Primack: We're applying for IL security grants.

Committee chairs should be in touch with those who signed up.

High holiday review sessions/feedback: Was addressed informally at the board meeting and with congregants. Most feedback was positive. Email Jay Goldstein or Robin Smulson.

Steve Bucksbaum – Food for Thought breakfast 10 AM in person on 10/30/22. Nov. 5th Veterans will be recognized on Shabbat as well as on Nov 11th Veteran's Day.

Action Items:

Jessica or Cynthia will reach out to Aaron Frankel about how many people attended children's and teen services that are interested in becoming members for Allison Kamen (Academy Board) - In Progress.

Fran Diamond: Question about projecting fund usage into the future.

Continue conversation to track streaming users/membership conversions for next year's High Holiday services.

Committee chairs should be in touch with those who signed up for their committees before the next board meeting. (Fran Diamond, Carla Banoff, Gail (which Gail?))

Meeting ended at 9:27 PM

Next meeting: Nov.16th at 7:30 PM via Zoom