

BHBE Board Meeting Minutes in Spak/Zoom 10/25/23 @ 7:30 PM

Present: Harris Miller, Fran Diamond, Leah Buchbinder, Ellen Sered, Rochelle Leff, Elle Rousso, Joan Meyers, Adam Goldfarb, Marsha Lyons, Gail Swerdlik, Irv Zagorin, Larry Plawsky, Jon Clemons, Cynthia Lerner, Allison Kamen, Carol Pellish, Ira Dubin Harry Robbins-Ost (Zoom), Greer Braun (Zoom), Zvi Tannenbaum (Zoom), Bev Reinglass (Zoom), Gail Schnitzer-Eisenberg (Zoom), Judy Levey, Minnie Goldsmith, Jessica Littmann, Shoshanna Reynolds, Dan Chodrow

Excused Absence: Carla Banoff, Steve Bucksbaum, Robin Smulson, Keri Bahar, Fred Rosenwasser, Sam Rodin, Carter Greene

Guest: Wayne Caplan - SVN Commercial Vice President and Congregant

Clergy: Rabbi Crane

Congregants Present: Lia Niederberger, Jerry Swerdlik, Harold Primack

Meeting started at 7:30 PM

Future of the Building - An overview/update on the property sale was discussed with the board. We're approximately one month into the sale. Lots of interest in our property. The board and congregation will ultimately decide. Please visit the Future of the Building Report and the Future of the Building FAQs for more information.

Approval of the minutes:

Dan Chodrow moved and Gail Swerdlik seconded approval of the September minutes.

Rabbi's Report - Rabbi Crane: Gave his DeVar Torah.

Saturday, Oct. 28th, 12:30 PM, meeting with mental health professionals on the current situation after Kiddush. November 19th fundraiser to purchase an ambulance for Israel for Magan David Adom. (Make checks payable to BHBE for the fundraiser. Being worked on for possibly the week of Oct. 30th.) Rabbi Crane and Cantor Roytman will be there. Friday night services will be revitalized - traditional, academy led, musical service (without instruments) and lay led service. Shabbatot with speakers - Scholar in Residence Nov. 3rd-5th will be Rabbi Pamela Barmash. This will be our last Teibloom Fund Scholar in Residence program. Shabbat dinner on Friday night, Nov. 3rd Shabbos Dinner is \$36 a person.

Cantor Roytman will meet with the students to prepare for Friday night services. Visited with BJE and their families. Rituals in Transition programs will start soon (Havdalah at Saturday evening service). Saturday, Nov. 18th, a magician will entertain the Littles. Introduction to Judaism 10:45-11:45 AM on Sundays, Psalms and Talmud class. Thank you to those who attended the Ethical Wills class.

President's Report - Cynthia Lerner: Not recommended to post events online due to antisemitism per the Illinois State Police. Please be careful. 50 people attended the listening events on the future of the building. It is strongly recommended that board members attend synagogue activities and events.

We need to collect again for the Sunshine Fund, \$36 payable to Cynthia Lerner.

Next board drop in will be Sunday, Nov. 12th 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM.

Need people to attend the morning/evening minyans.

Ritual Committee will conduct a review of the high holidays on Nov. 16th.

At Shabbat kiddush, take a moment to introduce yourself and welcome the Littles and their parents BHBE.

Membership - Shoshanna Reynolds

3 new member units joined.

344 members as of 10/25/23.

Academy - Alison Kamen

Classes are back on Sundays, and field trips are being planned by Hedva Yitzchak.

About 55 current students. Working on fundraisers.

Leah Buchbinder - Bylaws are being worked on. They'll be presented to the board and then the congregation.

Treasurer's Report - Adam Goldfarb: Watching our budget and costs (electricity and security).

Talked to our loan officer at ByLine Bank. Line of credit due soon.

Ways and Means - Larry Plawsky: \$104,000 pledged (60% of members). \$4,000 in matching money. Focusing on those who donated last year that didn't donate yet. Thank you notes will be mailed soon.

Let there be Light concert by Cantor Roytman and trio at 5 PM, Dec. 10th. Menorah lighting at 4:30 PM. \$36 per person, \$40 at the door. Under 18 is free. Will ask for sponsors at \$125 plus donations. We will be aggressively marketing this concert internally and figuring out how to market externally. Thank you to Larry for all you do!

Sisterhood - Greer Braun: Holiday Boutique on Sunday, Nov. 12th. Need volunteers and shoppers. Lunch will be for sale and raffle will be held.. Please contact Gail Swerdlik and Aileen Primack if you wish to volunteer.

The Torah Fund supports the seminaries and our TF program is on Thursday, Oct. 26th.

No old/new business

Meeting ended at 9:11 PM