

## BHBE Board Meeting In-Person and Zoom 11/15/23 @ 7:30 PM - Youth Lounge

Present: Cynthia Lerner (Zoom), Dan Chodrow, Gail Swerdlik, Ellen Sered, Rochelle Leff, Greer Braun (Zoom), Joan Meyers, Marsha Lyons, Elly Rousso, Robin Smulson, Jon Clemons, Fred Rosenwasser, Harris Miller, Harriet Robbins-Ost, Carla Banoff, Steve Levin, Adam Goldfarb, Carter Greene (Zoom), Jessica Littmann, Larry Plawsky (Zoom), Ira Dubin, Carol Pellish, Irv Zagorin, Bev Reinglass (Zoom)

Excused Absence: Allison Kamen, Shoshanna Reynolds, Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg, Minnie Goldsmith, Keri Bahar, Steve Bucksbaum, Fran Diamond, Zvi Tannenbaum, Leah Buchbinder, Judy Levey, Sam Rodin, Dan Meyer

Congregants: Lia Niederberger

Staff/Clergy: Michael Kahn, Rabbi Crane

Meeting began at 7:30 PM

Dan Chodrow motioned, Robin Smulson seconded.  
All said "Aye." The minutes were approved unanimously

Rabbi's Report - Rabbi Crane: Gave his De'Var Torah on Chanukah. Discussed Israel and the current state of antisemitism. Solidarity Shabbat (blue ribbons were distributed for those held captive by Hamas, Scholar In-Residence Weekend with Rabbi Pamela Barmesh was exceptional, excellent speaker and Torah reader (Thank you!), meeting with young adults and college students. Please reach out to Rabbi Crane for support.

Please consider giving to the Magan David Odom fund for an ambulance purchase.

Manufactured in Indiana and shipped to Israel via Chicago. Up to three ambulances so far from our group. Thank you to Sisterhood for your donation! Their name will be on the ambulance.

Well attended forum with mental health workers was well attended.

Revitalization of Friday night services. Cantor Roytman to meet with folks in Los Angeles within the Jewish world and will bring elements from other cantorial leaders. There will be a lay-led Friday night Shabbat service and a less traditional one.

Friday morning visits by Rabbi Crane or Cantor Roytman with BJE preschool. They're recorded and sent to the parents. They get familiar with us.

Retreat in September 2024 is being planned.

Rituals of transition: Three rituals. Havdalah, Tefillin and Mikvah will start at the end of January.

Saturday, Nov. 18th - magic show for Littles.

Sunday introduction to Judaism class 10:45 to 11:45 AM

Psalms class inspired by Jay Goldstein - Will continue in his honor.

President's Report - Cynthia Lerner: LOIs (Letter of Interest) were sent to us for the building sale. One is especially interested. More information will be forthcoming. The committee will report back.

March on Washington: Not enough people from BHBE were able to attend despite high turnout at the rally itself. Prayer for the IDF and to get hostages home. Mentioning and bringing attention to it seems to be plenty.

Executive Director's Report - Michael Kahn: Gym shoe fundraiser is running. Kindergarten Shabbat was in November. First grade will be in January.

311 paying members in 2023.

315 paying members in 2022.

34 unpaid members are staff, chesed or comped.

345 membership units in 2023.

347 membership units in 2022.

Gave away \$307,000 in consideration (130 families/individuals).

Academy \$8,000 given (10 families).

Working on finding out who's not registered from the Academy.

B&G: Broken fan in sound system. Was about \$400 to repair. Rental is better than our system. Rental will stay through the Cantor's concert. Roof needs to be replaced, but was patched. Issue with thermostat. Several thermometers were placed in the building for data to our HVAC techs. HVAC part will be repaired on Nov. 22nd.

Adam and Michael asked everyone who owes money to pay by Dec. 31st. Mostly was paid for by credit card or said they will drop off checks.

Board meetings Dec.-March will be Zoom only.

Next hybrid meeting will be in April.

We're meeting in the youth lounge because it's less expensive to heat/air condition or elsewhere. It's expensive in the Spak/Sanctuary to heat. Custodian costs are higher than planned. Activities require custodians. Arturo and Percy are full time. Simon is part-time. Rummage Sale is a lot of work. Anything outside the building requires additional assistance. Extra tenants or on secular holidays (custodians are paid more) and to oversee those who are hired. Wilmetsky Band is now part of BHBE. Need to be mindful of things, our employees and the budget.

Please make sure the walk-in refrigerator is closed. Boilers are leaking.

Treasurer's Report - Adam Goldfarb: Mortgage is now under \$800,000. Line of Credit will be renewed with Byline Bank. Also, looking for variances in the budget between actual and proposed. Electricity costs for example due to the HVAC units and schedules. They were reset. General building and maintenance projects will be isolated. Sanctuary repairs were \$50,000. Sound system now has a line item. Will be over \$10,000 for the rental sound system unit when done. Hourly employee pay isn't balanced and same for security due to the state of the country and Israel. Working on Profit and Loss sheets. Must decide whether to tap the line of credit. 90 more membership units need to pledge. 50 units make up the vast majority and could be \$125,000 more. Everything should be paid by Dec. 31st, 2023.

Illinois state security grant is not running yet. Harold Primack is working on security grants. Authorized a signer and is making sure we have everything. Deadline is Nov. 30th, 2023. Thank you!

Working on snow removal. Pay a minimum each month. Extra for large snowfalls. They will come over to plow if it is over 1 inch. Sidewalks must be cleaned.

Sisterhood Report - Greer Braun: Sisterhood Boutique went smoothly. Sisterhood board will donate \$10,000 for the purchase of an ambulance. Thanksgiving cards (works with Ark for those in need). Would really appreciate a donation. Checks can be made to the office at \$36. Necessities can be donated through the office. March 30th, 2024 will be Sisterhood Shabbat. Lia Goldfarb will help with Torah reading class after January 1st, 2024. Sisterhood board meetings have been in person with over 40 people in attendance.

Men's Club Report - Dan Chodrow: Dec. 3rd breakfast postponed, January 21st will be the next breakfast with March Fourth, February 11th will be the World Wide Wrap, Havdalah candle making on Jan. 21st. Build a pair of Tefillin will be one week before World Wide Wrap.

Vice President's Report - Jessica Littmann: QR codes available to donate for the ambulances. Birthday Kiddush now Dec. 16th. Meal to Go will be Friday, Nov. 24th \$26 for one, discount for 2+. Constitution is being streamlined so all committee members can see it. First round of editing will be done soon with ratification by the committee. The board and then the congregation will approve it.

Little's newsletter is being written - lots of young families. Please email Jessica [jessica@bhbe.org](mailto:jessica@bhbe.org) if you want something included by Thursday. We want to make sure everyone is finding things out. Bulletin board is being worked on. Needs an update in the winter. We should have an Am Yisrael Chai theme that is kid friendly.

Ritual - Robin Smulson: High Holiday Review meeting at 7:30 PM Thursday, 11/16/23 in the youth lounge. Needs someone to cover for Robin on Thanksgiving Shabbat Nov. 25th. Any events, please email or call Robin.

Ways and Means - Larry Plawsky: \$108,000. Several families are still outstanding. Will continue to communicate. Cantor's concert will cover cost of program. Will decide on surplus. Cannot post programs/events on Facebook. Please send it to friends and family at other synagogues. Presidents are aware.

New Business - Steve Levin: Partnering with ADL for Kulanu. They want us to do their initiatives between Nov, 2023 and June 30th, 2024. Advocacy and education including a secular organization. Anti-semitic database and link will be sent to Michael for the congregation. Information will be confidential. Email or text Michael or Steve if interested.

Old Business - No Report

Adjournment - Meeting ended at 8:47 PM.