

BHBE Annual Meeting Minutes - 5/22/24 - In the Chapel and Hybrid

Total meeting attendance: - 92 people (57 in person and 35 on Zoom)

This number represents 70 households which is more than the minimum required to have a quorum (25 households).

President Cynthia Lerner Called Meeting to Order at 7:05 PM

Approval of the 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

Gail Swerdlik motioned to approve the minutes

Ruth Hechtman seconded

The 2023 annual minutes were approved unanimously.

Rabbi Crane - Rabbi's Annual Report: Gave a D'Var Torah. Stated that since Oct. 8th, 2023, we continue to support our congregation, Israel and its people.

We met with mental health panelists to process the situation and had a special prayer service.

The ambulance will be ready in August 2024 to be sent to Israel.

Supporting Jewish students at Northwestern University Hillel and provided coffee cards to Jewish students.

Celebrated the 76th Anniversary of Israel's founding with a big celebration.

Enriched students through events and field trips, which included the Sisterhood, Men's Club and Volunteers.

Talmud class, Psalms class and Introduction to Judaism Class.

Littles events have been successful.

100 people attended the Littles event with farm animals.

Reengagement approach to prayer with various worship services, Shabbat dinners and Kabbalat Shabbat.

Special themed Shabbatot.

Appreciates the volunteers and committees in the community.

Special celebrations, b'nai mitzvahs, weddings and auf rufs.

Littles in the Big Service

Camp Chi Retreat Sept. 13th-15, 2024.

Social Action Committee - community service/partnership events such as with Winnetka Covenant Church.

Kulanu Committee - make sure events are accessible to all.

Cynthia Lerner - President's Annual Report:

Signed building contract with the Wilmette Park District on May 19th, 2024.

Initial money from the building sale will be sent and the 60 days of due diligence will begin.

We're all working together as a synagogue.

Pride Shabbat on June 1st.

Parade in Buffalo Grove on June 2nd.

Challah pick up on June 7th.

Gala on June 9th

Board Shabbat, June 15th

Grandparents Shabbat, June 22nd

Thank you everyone who supported the President throughout the year.

Jessica Littmann - Vice President's Annual Report:

Thanked the congregants and volunteers for their involvement.

Was struck by all of our events and programs we've had over 2023.

We hope there will be more crossover between the different demographic segments in our Jewish community.

Events were approved to be posted on Facebook and eventually on Instagram.

Little's events will be posted online.

Drop ins, sermons, Shabbat handouts and open meetings.

Important to find ways as a community to celebrate and work together.

Michael Kahn - Executive Director's Annual Report:

Annual report will be provided to congregants. It'll be available on our website for review.

Thank you to everyone involved in the synagogue including Rabbi Crane and Cantor Roytman.

Shoshanna Reynolds - Membership Chair's Annual Report:

Communicated with various members and recruited young families. Suggested committees to join that they may have a passion for.

18 new families and 5 younger families joined who are all very active.

Delivered welcome baskets with goodies.

More families are interested in joining.

Onesies and plush Torahs for new babies.

Exit interview for those who moved away.

Adam Goldfarb - Treasurer's Annual Report:

We can no longer maintain a balanced budget due to increased expenses and can no longer maintain the building including the following:

Budget was break-even for FY 2023 with a \$250,000-\$300,000 operating loss.

Repaired the sanctuary ceiling.

Time spent in building added more time for our custodial staff. \$50,000 overtime pay.

Increase in gas/electricity utilities.

65th birthday fundraiser did not happen.

General board to vote on FY2024 budget this evening.

The leaseback rent will be in there.

Low \$200k net operating loss in new budget.

Sale of the building is one step through the long process.

Important to know where we spend our money and focus on the future.

Larry Plawsky - Ways and Means Annual Report: Not in attendance - Report online

Allison Kamen - Academy Annual Report:

New principal Chedva Yitzchak, teachers and the madrichim did a great job this year.

School is growing. Students are having fun.

Partnerships with Sisterhood, Men's Club and Rabbi Crane really helped out and thank you to them.

Great Academy Board.

Raised \$1500 between Affy Tapple, shoes and spaghetti dinner.

Greer Braun - Annual Sisterhood Report (Zoom):

Sisterhood and the volunteers were extremely helpful.

Went over the various events throughout the year.

Super appreciative of those coming into the year round gift shop.

\$43,900 operating, academy, gala and organizations within the synagogue.

Fun and interesting speakers, events, evening programs.

Sisterhood Shabbat was an impressive event.

Steve Bucksbaum - Annual Men's Club Report:

Re-energized the organization. It's been an honor being Men's Club President for the last 3 years. Please buy Gala Rama tickets.

Shelly Reis - Legacy Annual Report: Not in attendance. Please see the annual report online.

Robin Smulson - Ritual Committee Annual Report:

John Givens and Sheila Gideon will volunteer starting in June 2024. Very successful year.

New Business:

Marsha Lyons - Constitutional Amendments

Those who are non-Jewish, but are in a home with a Jewish member can now be board members.

Membership voting rights: two adults in a household get two votes.

Board of Directors size of the board: Based on number of congregants.

Officers: Update on officers and their titles.

The committees will now report to the Vice President.

Executive was removed from the Vice President's position.

Anyone can be president if you're any Vice President.

President's role with the Rabbi, Cantor and Executive Director.

New identification of executive board members.

Board will fluctuate based on the number of members.

Standing committees were updated

Publicity and Public Relations now includes social media

The various committees are now included in the constitution.

Marsha Lyons - Nominations

Executive Board:

President - Jessica Littmann (year 1)

Executive Vice President - Ken Cohen (year 1)

Treasurer - Adam Goldfarb (year 1 - completed the 2nd year of a 2 year term in previous year)

Ways and Means Vice President - Fran Diamond (year 1)

Vice President of Ritual and Religious Practices- Harriet Robbins-Ost (year 1)

Vice President of Membership - Shoshana Reynolds (year 1 - completed the 2nd year of a 2 year term in previous year)

Vice President of Education and the Academy - Allison Kamen (year 2)

Recording Secretary - Harris Miller (year 2)

Sisterhood President - Barbara Ungar (year 1)

Men's Club President - Dan Chodrow (year 1)

Immediate Past President - Cynthia Lerner (year 1)

Board Members who will be returning for another term:

Steve Levin (year 2)

Elly Rousso (year 2)

Irv Zagorin (year 2)

Carla Banoff (year 3)

Fred Rosenwasser (year 3)

Gail Swerdlik (year 3)

Jon Clemons (year 4)

Rochelle Leff (year 5)

Joan Meyers (year 6)

New General Board Members:

Tim Comar (year 1)

Laurie Feinstein (year 1)

Andrea Graham (year 1)

David Greenstein (year 1)

Joan Kripke (year 1)

Stewart Miller (year 1)

David Mogul (year 1)

Gail Schneiderman (year 1)

Marsha Lyons and Keri Bahar - Nominating Committee Chairpeople

Nomination Committee Members:

Carla Banoff

Linda Becker

Carolyn Dinofsky

David Greenstein

Harris Miller

Harriet Ost

Elly Rousso

Irv Zagorin

Voting took place on both items of new business.

Final Voting Results:

For the constitutional amendments, 99% voted yes and 1% voted no

For the nominations to the board, 99% voted yes and 1% voted no

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM