

BHBE Board Meeting Via Zoom 8-23-22 at 7:30 PM

Present: Bev Reinglass, Cynthia Lerner, Joan Meyers, Carla Banoff, Carter Greene, Allison Kamen, Carol Pellish, Zvi Tannenbaum, Dan Chodrow, Diane Goldman, Gail Schneiderman, Fran Diamond, Harold Primack, Harriet Robbins-Ost, Ellen Sered, Ira Dubin, Jessica Littman, Harris Miller, Jon Clemons, Judy Levey, Rochelle Leff, Larry Plawsky, Leah Buchbinder, Michael Lehrer, Robin Smulson, Shoshanna Reynolds, Steve Bucksbaum, Susan Kay, Sam Rodin, Minnie Goldsmith

Clergy: Rabbi Crane, Michael Kahn

Absent: Fred Rosenwasser, Keri Bahar, Jay Goldstein, Jennifer Wertheimer, Helen Stopek, Gail Schnitzer-Eisenberg, Gail Swerdlik

Meeting began at 7:31 PM.

Bev Reinglass motioned to approve the minutes.

Susan Kay seconded

Minutes were passed unanimously.

Rabbi Crane shared the week's D'var Torah Portion.

Rabbi Crane's report:

BHBE is preparing for the Days of Awe. Had about 100 people in attendance at Families with Littles in partnership with the Solomon Schechter Day School. We had several ice cream social events.

We recently had Tisha B'Av services.

Strategic Planning Shabbat recognizing those involved.

Ways and Means Committee - Larry Plawsky: Will send out a letter for the High Holiday Appeal within the next few days. Increase gift over 2021 by 10% mainly to cover the synagogue and streaming, etc. We want everyone to give whatever they can afford. Participation rate increase is in the works. Congregants can donate online or via check and may donate stocks.

200 people came to Shabbat in the Shade on Friday, Aug. 19th 2022. Young families made challah. There were hot dogs and hamburgers. Great turn out Shabbat morning, Aug. 20th, 2022 (record turnout) outside the high holidays. Concert was well attended.

President's Report - Cynthia Lerner:

It was a wonderful weekend honoring Cantor Roytman.

Planning Scholar in Residence for next summer/fall 2023

Executive Director's Report - Michael Kahn: Went over the documents that were emailed to the board (Robert's Rules of Order, Mission Statement, Bylaws/Constitution, what to expect as a board member, etc.) Documents will gradually be updated through the Strategic Planning Committee's guidance.

Constitutional updates will be resent to the board from the May 2022 Board and Congregational meetings.

Consent Agenda: It's submitted the Friday before. The purpose of the consent agenda is to share information from the committees to keep our meetings shorter. It's a more concise way to communicate. We vote on the agenda at the meeting.

Committees: List of ongoing committees and Strategic Planning Committee subcommittees. Cynthia will send out a list by the end of the week.

Had a meeting with an insurance broker to see how competitive our broker currently is (very important for our budget).

Please remain patient with our staff (6 total full time) (3 full time staff) including the clergy.

Budget was approved with a \$62,000 deficit.

Chicago Chinese Center leaving due to lack of enrollment. Without the typical \$11,000 in total rent for their space will cause the deficit to be around \$73,000.

Kiddushim will be dessert only unless sponsored or a special event.

Membership: BATCH Billing – Bill sent automatically to members who were members in the previous year. We cannot do this with the online form in place. Instead, a targeted email was sent to those who didn't renew (good response.)

130 family units renewed.

76 individuals renewed.

3 new members since July.

1 resignation

Academy - Expecting 65 students of 77, 59 confirmed.

Membership committee is being formed. Board members will reach out to Michael Kahn to volunteer for membership phone calls.

Rabbi Crane's suggestions: Bring in members via streaming and no electronic actions (typing, etc) to access streaming. Users can leave it on the entire Shabbat by logging in Friday night.

Please email Michael with your opinions/questions.

Treasurer - Michael Lehrer: Invoice backlog and the line of credit of \$180,000 (Interest rate is 4.5%) will continue to be paid. Discuss ways to lower costs and raise funds to control the budget deficit. Will have a meeting with the budget/finance committees to make our budget sustainable. Lower membership due to Covid or moved away, etc. Inflation/interest rates are causing higher expenses. Stock market is not as steady.

New/Old Business – None.

Good and Welfare

Sunday, September 11th at 10 AM is the drop in informal coffee meeting on the Academy's first day.

Next Board Meeting: **9/21/22 @ 7:30 PM via Zoom**