

BHBE General Board Meeting Via Zoom 12/21/22 @ 7:30 PM

Present: Harris Miller, Cynthia Lerner, Carla Banoff, Carter Greene, Dan Meyer, Robin Smulson, Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg, Harold Primack, Ellen Sered, Jay Goldstein, Jessica Littman, Fran Diamond, Jon Clemons, Larry Plawsky, Michael Lehrer, Robin Smulson, Shoshanna Reynolds, Steve Bucksbaum, Dianne Goldman, Ira Dubin

Absent: Gail Swerdlik, Fred Rosenwasser, Helen Stopek, Greer Braun, Allison Kamen, Susan Kay, Zvi Tannenbaum, Gail Schneiderman, Harriet Robbins-Ost, Minnie Goldsmith, Rochelle Leff, Leah Buchbinder, Judy Levey, Carol Pellish, Sam Rodin, Dan Chodrow, Joan Meyers, Keri Bahar

Clergy/Staff: Rabbi Crane, Michael Kahn

Meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM

The minutes were requested to be approved by Cynthia Lerner.

Jay Goldstein motioned

Ellen Sered seconded

All said "I" - Motion was passed unanimously.

No consent agenda this month.

Rabbi Crane gave his D'Var Torah on Hanukkah.

We have hosted three Hanukkah celebrations.

90 people at the Families with Littles Program

Academy Hanukkah Celebration

200 people at our community Hanukkah celebration

Judaism 101 program is going smoothly with 17 adult learners.

Talmud class in-person and on Zoom resumed.

4 baby namings, B'nai Mitzvahs and an Auf Ruf.

Youth Programs overseen by Rabbi Dickman. 10 youths attended regional USY program.

Chief respondent for Jewish Law and Standards.

Jewish Scholar in Residence for Nov. 2023 was chosen.

President's Report - Cynthia Lerner:

New family joined Beth Hillel. 18 new members so far.

We were approached by Kol Emeth to rent space and they eventually want to merge. We're in the early talking stages. A Yeshiva is buying their space on Touhy Avenue in Skokie.

Please check the bulletin every Thursday, which includes the events/programs. Be sure to read Aaron Frankel's emails every Thursday by clicking on the link.

Tot Shabbat begins at 10:45 AM - Please stop by to say hi.

Ways and Means - Larry Plawsky: \$123,309 Goal is: \$125,000.

Many donors increased their donation by 10%+
136 donors qualified for match
33 donors have not pledged
38 donors reduced their donation.

Thank yous will be sent by mail and a congregational thank you.
Looking at new ideas for fundraising.

Vice President - Jessica Littman: New Kiddushim program. Letters were sent to those with January birthdays or can sponsor in honor of their friend's birthday. Will be put in touch with Adam Goldfarb or Marsha Lyons.

New Friday night initiative based on Dec. 2nd Shabbat dinner.

Working on organizing storage of the building and also to meet fire codes per the Fire Marshall.
Anyone interested in helping, please let Jessica know.

Michael Kahn: Sam Bolen was hired to supervise our kids on trips (salaried and varying part-time schedule). Rabbi Dickman cannot do the overnight trips at this time. We'll evaluate how it goes.

Membership is about the same as our November 2022 report.

Great in-person turnout for the community Hanukkah program, Academy and Families with Littles too.

105 people on Saturday, Dec. 17th at the Kiddush.
30-60 people on average stream our service on Shabbat morning.

Treasurer - Michael Lehrer: Talked about finances with past presidents, Executive Board and at the finance committee meeting. Also, how we'll put the budget together for next year. He mentioned the impacts to the budget such as less fancy Kiddushim/more sponsorships, rentals, security, Line of Credit, parsonage loan, inflation, interest rates, utility costs, greater need for personnel.

He discussed how we'll cover the budget and make payments. Possibilities are borrowing from the endowment or congregants and increase cash coming into the building by sending membership dues notices in April to not max out the Line of Credit.

Total income: \$949,919

Total expenses: \$607,291

Action Items:

Fran Diamond suggested a consent agenda from the Academy and our youth group.

Also...

How will we address the line of credit?

How will we prepare next year's budget?

Fran would like Michael Lehrer to present what we'll do next and how we'll manage these budget issues.

Steve Bucksbaum would like a monthly report on expenses.

Robin Smulson suggests a quarterly report on expenses.

A decision will be made on this issue.

How will we deal with inflation and cut our deficit for FY 2023-2024?

Steve Bucksbaum suggested we reappraise the parsonage.

The motion was tabled: In order to fund the operating costs when need arises within the next 30-60 days we take money out of the line of credit.

A monthly budget report will be recommended going forward from the Treasurer.

Please let Michael Kahn know if you want to help with planning future budget and dues. He will share info with Michael Lehrer.

1. Get a loan to lower our payments.
2. Reach out to our donors.
3. Have the board approve it.

Bottom Line: We need to be more conscious of our spending.

Our Finance Committee's recommendation per Jessica Littman: Fund the synagogue through the end of January to avoid taking money from the endowment through a couple of different ways:

Ask our donors to cover expenses.

Or...

We'll need to draw \$150,000 from our LOC.

**Motion - Steve Bucksbaum*

I move that a Treasurer's report will include the following, all the information will be current as of the end of the previous month:

A complete balance sheet, that includes both long term and short term liabilities (line of credit). Assets should include the bank balance as of the end of the previous month.

A complete income statement for the previous month. This report will show all monies spent in the month ending of the previous month. And include all monies incoming to the BHBE checking account.

If passed, implementation of this motion will begin with the next General Board meeting of BHBE in January, 2023, all the information will be current as of the end of December, 2022. Moving forward, the Treasurer will be expected to provide these reports at each General Board Meeting, as of the end of the previous month.

Discussion was made on the above motion on how to address it.

8 Yes votes, but didn't pass this meeting due to no quorum. A monthly budget report will be recommended going forward from the treasurer. Cynthia Lerner suggests we revisit the bylaws and see what the position requirements are.

Cynthia Lerner will discuss the paper directory/ad book with Larry Plawsky – will be tabled.

A committee is being put together to discuss dues for 2023-2024.

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?))

Harold Primack: Begin to prepare the budget for the 2023-2024 year.

Programs/Events:

The second Shabbat morning of each month we are planning to have the kiddush sponsored by people celebrating a birthday beginning in January 2023.

Friday, January 27th will be our next Shabbat gathering. Any ideas are welcome.

Fun evening event – there will be a show Feb. 25th, 2023 – the Chicago Bar Association Show at the synagogue with desert for \$45 a person.

Good and Welfare - Please show up for Shabbat services!

Next Board Meeting: 1/25/23 @ 7:30 PM via Zoom