

BHBE General Board Minutes 3/22/23 @ 7:30 PM Via Zoom

Present: Harris Miller, Cynthia Lerner, Robin Smulson, Dan Meyer, Allison Kamen, Carla Banoff, Carter Greene, Carol Pellish, Ellen Sered, Zvi Tannenbaum, Fran Diamond, Fred Rossenwasser, Gail Swerdlik, Gail Schniederman, Greer Braun, Harold Primack, Harriet Robbins-Ost, Joanne Meyers, Ira Dubin, Jay Goldstein, Jessica Littman, Jon Clemons, Larry Plawsky, Michael Lehrer, Rochelle Leff, Steve Bucksbaum, Susan Kay, Judy Levey

Absent: Dianne Goldman, Sam Rodin, Leah Buchbinder, Helen Stopek, Bev Reinglass, Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg, Shoshanna Reynolds, Minnie Goldsmith, Keri Bahar

Clergy: Rabbi Crane

Staff: Michael Kahn

Motion to approve the minutes - Carla Banoff

Seconded by Robin Smulson

The minutes were passed unanimously.

Meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM

D'Var Torah and Rabbi's Report - Rabbi Crane

Our Judaism 101 Program continues to be outstanding for Academy parents and students who choose Judaism.

Psalms and Talmud classes continue.

Jewish Mysticism just wrapped up.

Rabbi Dickman and Sam Bolen are doing a great job arranging and running programs for our youth.

A member of our community who chose Judaism and an Auf Ruf took place. Both were celebrated.

The B'nai Mitzvah cohort was well received.

Purim Megillah reading went smoothly.

Passover information, how to sell chametz and times for services to come via email in a few weeks.

Rosh Chodesh starts Thursday night.

Rabbi Crane's birthday will be on 3/24/23!

Ways and Means Report - Larry Plawsky:

Preparing for the Gala on Sunday, June 11th. Ad Book details are going out. It would be great if ads are made early for the synagogue.

Let the synagogue know whether you plan to attend the gala early. Invites will go out in April. Please reach out to Fran Diamond regarding the ad book or Larry Plawsky for general questions.

Building and Grounds - Harold Primack:

State of IL - grant application was approved for \$150,000. It'll go towards contract security personnel. All remaining documentation will be completed over the next couple months. It's spent over a three year period.

Men's Club donated a \$10,000 check to the synagogue. Thank you to Harold Primack, Steve Bucksbaum and Men's Club members for your assistance!

President's Report - Cynthia Lerner:

Went over the nominating committee and the names.

From the Board:  
Dan Chodrow  
Carter Greene  
Minnie Goldsmith  
Carol Pellish  
Rochelle Leff

Not current Board members:  
Matt Rothenberg  
Carole Babendir  
Allan Rodin

Terms expiring will be filled with the slate determined by the Nominating Committee.

Important that were involved in the greater community.

Executive Director's Report - Michael Kahn:

Thanked the Sisterhood for the new freezer.

Thanked Men's Club for generous donation.

Receiving security training.

Renting was suggested for our building. We have people interested in our office space. The Chinese Center will return this summer. Also, rentals for events.

Aaron Frankel is finishing his tenure. He switched jobs and will be full time for two more weeks. Will go down to 10 hours a week. Will make sure the school is running smoothly through May. An update will be made to the congregation soon. We hope to promote someone from within who Aaron recommends.

ERC (Employee Retention Credit) through the government. We applied through a firm Kesef recommended. We will receive \$179,000.

Sunday, April 16th, Donuts and Data on BHBE's 65th Birthday from 9:30 to 11 AM. We'll show members how to use ShulCloud. Bring your laptop and Shul Cloud password. Michael showed the board how to use ShulCloud. We have a Facebook page managed by Jessica Littman.

Treasurer's Report - Michael Lehrer:

Budget will be discussed in a future meeting. The committee is preparing it.

Great news on the ERC, security grant and staff changes for the budget. Adjustments are being made. We're trying to avoid deficits.

We don't expect a dues increase this year. Fees will be slightly increased in the Academy. Fundraisers for the 65th Anniversary, etc will be included.

Future of the Building Committee meeting on Wednesday, April 27th.

Special Budget Committee meeting after Passover.

Vice President's Report - Jessica Littman:

Cleared space in the basement and prepared it for the tenants. Anyone interested in helping, please email Jessica. Jessica Littman's new email: [jessica@bhbe.org](mailto:jessica@bhbe.org)

Pictures were made to show what goes in the compost bins. Compostable plates, napkins, food scraps. Plastics go into the recycling bin. Waxy items go into the garbage bin.

Action Items:

Passover seder in the future on the second night - Fran Diamond.

New/Old Business:

The Constitution Committee is meeting. They need two more meetings. It'll be voted on May 31st by the board. Then, the congregation.

Birthday Kiddushes are going well.

Events:

Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat dinner on March 24th at 5:30 PM - about 100 people will attend. HIAS representative to speak.

Sunday, June 11th - A Night in Old Havana - 65th Anniversary Edition

The Gala is \$150 per ticket (\$300 per couple), as it was in 2019. And you can still earn a free ticket by selling a half page ad, same as in 2019.

LGBTQ+ Inclusion Committee - Susan Kay:

Pride Month will be in June.

Pride Shabbat on Saturday, June 24th.

Chicago Gay Pride Parade on Sunday, June 25th.

BHBE will be a sponsor of the parade and participate with over 14 other Jewish organizations under Keshet for LGBTQ Inclusion in Jewish Life's leadership. The BHBE LGBTQ+ Inclusion committee is actively exploring other ways to recognize and celebrate Pride Month at BHBE this year.

Sisterhood - Greer Braun:

Thank you to everyone who attended Sisterhood Shabbat and to those who arranged it. Lots of participants.

New freezer was purchased for the kitchen.

May 7th, lox boxes will be sold - partnership between Sisterhood and Men's Club. (\$36 each.)

Joan Meyers said to please consider a donation of lox boxes to The Ark. Mother's Day sale too.

Men's Club - Steve Bucksbaum:

Man of the Year on March 26th at Beth Judea

Join us in honoring **Sheldon Reis** as the 2023 award recipient! Presentation of the award will take place from 3:00 to 5:00pm at Congregation Beth Judea, 5304 RFD, Long Grove

Yellow candles will be distributed on Monday, April 17th.

Men's Club Breakfast, Sunday, April 23, 2023

Rabbi David Bauman discusses "How to be a Mensch."

In-person after morning minyan.

Men's Club Shabbat is April 29th.

May 31st, Cubs game outing.

Meeting ended at 8:32 PM

Next General Board Meeting: **April 27th, 2023 at 7:30 PM in-person at BHBE**