

BHBE Board Meeting Via Zoom 12/20/23 @ 7:30 PM

Present: Harris Miller, Jessica Littmann, Gail Swerdlik, Marsha Lyons, Adam Goldfarb, Allison Kamen, Basil Jacobson, Carla Banoff, Carol Pellish, Carter Greene, Zvi Tannenbaum, Elle Rouso, Greer Braun, Ellen Sered, Fred Rosenwasser, Ira Dubin, Robin Smulson, Joan Meyers, Jon Clemons, Leah Buchbinder, Steve Bucksbaum, Irv Zagorin, Larry Plawsky, Shoshanna Reynolds, Rochelle Leff, Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg, Harriet Robbins-Ost

Excused Absence: Dan Chodrow, Cynthia Lerner, Minnie Goldsmith, Keri Bahar, Fran Diamond, Sam Rodin, Dan Meyer

Clergy: Michael Kahn, Rabbi Crane

Meeting began at 7:33 PM

Bev Reinglass motioned to approve the minutes

Marsha Lyons seconded

All said "I" and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Rabbi's Report - Rabbi Crane: Gave his DVar Torah. Revitalization of Friday night services. Academy Shabbat (Shabbatot led by Rabbi Crane, Cantor Roytman and the Academy). Community member led Friday night Shabbat service on the third Friday of each month. Kol-Tefillah Shabbat - melodies and innovative services led by Cantor Roytman and Rabbi Crane and a traditional Shabbat service. A community email with dates will be sent within the next few weeks. Littles program will be on January 20th. Havdalah programs are very popular. Hanukkah celebration had many folks attending. Rituals in Transition Jan. 21st 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM - spice boxes and Havdalah candles for Saturday, Jan. 27th at 3:30 PM Mincha, learning sessions on Havdalah, Maariv and Havdalah with a songs session. Introduction to Judaism, Psalms Class and our Talmud Class continue.

President and Vice President's Report - Jessica Littmann (for Cynthia Lerner): Financials were discussed. Lots of large decisions will be discussed in the near future. We need insight from all board members to make sure everything is decided accurately. It's really important to understand the situation. In negotiations with the three current Letters of Intent (LOI) (nonbinding). There are also a couple additional offers in consideration. LOIs can be received by Dec. 31st, 2023. More updates and metrics will be forthcoming from the Build the Future Committee to help us make decisions. Negotiations will be made. Once a decision is made, it will be followed by a board and congregational vote. Our future location is to be determined.

Executive Director's Report - Michael Kahn: Checked in on membership dues and members. Due Dec. 31st, 2023. One family resigning and 4-5 families cannot keep up with commitment due to personal reasons. Using our current sound system. Sound system rental is gone. The

SKIP Fund will be looked into per the JUF. They would like to eventually have us reach out to those who gave money and liquidate it at synagogues as the program isn't popular. Will look into affordable membership rates in connection to the budget that will sustain us. We need more staff.

Treasurer's Report - Adam Goldfarb: Revenue position is the same as in 2022 when looking at membership, dues and the appeal. Our costs are up \$50,000-\$100,000 compared to last fiscal year due to security, building repairs and payroll. Got a reduction of \$7500 in contract with Kesef - our bookkeeper. Security grant did not start yet. No government programs are expected. Byline Bank requires an appraisal on our building and will need to use our Line of Credit. A quick decision of \$175,000 (8-10% interest rate) was drawn from our LOC to make up for expenses (locked out for 30 days). Most revenue is in. An emergency meeting of the Finance Committee was made. They unanimously decided to tap the endowment fund (rainy day fund) between \$350,000-\$375,000. Also, have restricted funds, but need to be careful with using them. They must become unrestricted by the owner and go through a legal process with the State. Proceeds from the building sale will replenish the endowment fund and the LOC. Also, will be saved in a high interest account. Additional fundraisers and rentals will also help cover expenses. \$90,000 per month in expenses as of Dec. 2023. Expenses have exceeded our revenue for many years. Possibly \$50,000-\$75,000 in dues are outstanding. Need volunteers to help our office staff.

Sisterhood Report - Greer Braun: Had a great amount of Thanksgiving donations. Events will come up in January, Tu B'Shevat program in February. Sisterhood would like to know what kinds of events are meaningful to our younger members.

Men's Club - Steven Bucksbaum: Prepare spices and Havdalah candles on Jan. 21st. Men's Club breakfast on Feb. 11th. Sandwich making between Men's Club, Sisterhood and Social Action Committee in the spring.

Membership - Shoshanna Reynolds: Reaching out to new members to see if they're happy. Most are positive. Everyone seems warm and welcoming.

Academy - Allison Kamen: Students are mostly registered. Cooked and served food by the Academy (spaghetti dinner) in March at 5 PM on a Sunday. Gym shoes are being donated.

Ways and Means - Larry Plawsky: \$128,740 raised in 2022. \$122,356 in 2023. Goal is \$130,000. 217 donors this year (same as 2022) 131 qualified for the match. Only 35 donors reduced their gifts. Final round will be sent in January with a close out, Gala (need committee formed) and Purim are being planned.

Ritual Committee - Robin Smulson: Zvi Tannenbaum will fill in for a weekend in January.

No Old/New Business was reported

Birthday Shabbat is January 13th, 2024.

Thank you to everyone who contributed this year to BHBE!

Meeting ended at 9:12 PM.