

C O N G R E G A T I O N

Brith Shalom
 MEETING MINUTES- BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Date	October 15, 2015	Time	7:00 pm -8:24 pm
Staff	Rabbi Teller, Cantor Levine, Larry Estes	Guests	Peter Ghingiss
In Attendance	Jeffrey Actor, Milton Mosk, Stephan Rubin, Debi Mishael, Jacobo Goldberg, Lisa Lowenstein, Moshe Even, Steve Conoway, Aaron Howard, Ellen Fiesinger, Steve Lerman, Dani Roisman, Seth Lerner, Karen Bernstein, Allan Goldstein		
Next Meeting Date			

ATTACHMENTS TO MINUTES		
No.	ITEM	DESCRIPTION
1	Agenda	
2	Membership Committee	Update on several projects planned

TZEDAKAH COLLECTED AT LAST MONTH'S MEETING	\$63.00
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MEETING ACTION ITEMS			
No.	Action Item	Owner	Date
1	Financial affairs to bring a motion to increase security fee		Feb
2			

MOTIONS OR DECISIONS MADE	1 ST / 2 ND RESULTS
Whereas The Congregation Brith Shalom facilities hosts a variety of large group meetings, programs and events for itself, its auxiliaries and committee, and non-CBS groups; and Whereas it is in the best interest of CBS that there be sufficient security during those times when access to the facility included doors that are unlocked so as to allow participants to have ready and free access to the building, Now therefore, Resolved , that the CBS Board of Trustees (Board) approves and authorizes its administrative professional staff to take all necessary and appropriate steps to provide security personnel, all of whom are armed during the periods of time when a large group meeting, program or events occurs.	Motion discussed and tabled. Motion will be sent to the EC to discuss further.

I. President's Welcome

- A. Jeff shared a story about students on the metro. We need to cultivate a message of tolerance. We can't judge by appearances.
- B. Martin Kaminsky is coming into Men's Club to speak about Refugees.
- C. **Minutes for approval** (Jan meeting) Approved

II. Clergy Reports/Educational Report

- A. **Rabbi Teller** spoke about the success of Interim Plan as reflected in the committee report. Membership engagement has always been a part of our goal and vision. What makes Brith Shalom unique is the active community. This coming Shabbat is a reflection of the work of the plan we laid out. Sages Shabbat will honor members 80 years and above. This is the kick-off of the Chai Initiative to reach out to members and engage people in meaningful ways.

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- B. Cantor Levine: Chai Team, and Tikkun Olam Team Report** Cantor reports 150 people at Mitzvah Day...looking at new ways to approach Mitzvah Day in the future. Also, a Tikkun Olam committee has just been formed to expand beyond Mitzvah Day. It will encourage members to engage beyond the one-day event. 20 people came to that initial meeting with great enthusiasm.
- C. Membership Report** Dr. Peter Gingiss is a guest at this meeting- Membership chair. Explaining new initiatives for the membership committee. Peter thanks the clergy and staff who have been very supportive. New member party will be planned for March. Many times people approach membership through the internet. The committee follows up to get to know the people and help to connect them to the programs, people and activities that interest them. Julie Pomerantz has volunteered to form new chavurot as she did in the past. 10 people on the membership committee. Peter described a program called "guess Who's Coming to Dinner." Ideally, long standing members will be paired with new members. The designation of "new members" is still flexible and possibly going back as far as people who have joined in the past two years. As board members, we should be cognizant of new members or visitors who they see in services.

III. Financial Report

A. Update: FYTD Income Statement/Cash status

- B. Comment on current year budgetary commitments and Fundraising goals.** Milton reports that the budget is approved by the congregation but traditionally the board recommends acceptance or not. A draft of budget will be presented at the March meeting so that we can approve or question the budget at the April meeting in preparation for the annual meeting. Milton welcomes other board members to join the financial affairs committee.

Jeff asked to reflect for a moment to determine if we were successful in fundraising in this current year's budget goals. Milton reported that three events were in mind when the budget was conceived. We ultimately put our focus on the Cantor's Concert and it was highly successful. Not all of the money will be received in this year's budget so we might be a little short in this year's numbers. Some of the target numbers in sustaining new members or moving current members to higher levels have not been met. The forecast to budget items have not been fully met. The year is not yet over and we still have an opportunity to focus on our membership goals. There is a potential to attracting new families from amongst the Montessori School parents. 90% of the families are not connected or members of UOS so we are not poaching from them. who will be the families of the future.

Rabbi will be engaging 30 minutes each Friday afternoon with the school with music and stories. This is another way to connect with the community. Cantor Levine commented that we are building for the future. We have many new young professional members who will be the families of the future.

Financial Affairs Committee is proposing a raise in the security fee which has not been raised in many years. The committee will bring a motion next month when details are firmed up. We are trying to reduce administrative tasks needed to run the synagogue. Perhaps this will be detailed to the board at a later meeting. We are also trying to get more people on automatic payment plans to help facilitate the processing of payments. Pending release of ChaverWare we will implement which will help process ACH transactions. There was some discussion and it was sent back to the committee to discuss and present back to the board for further action.

IV. Old/New Business/Updates

- A. Cantor's Concert** The Cantor's Concert was an amazing event that reached multiple goal. The chairs were incredible. Jeff reported that so many community leaders have contacted him to congratulate Brith Shalom on an event that was a tribute to all involved. Many people were involved in the event. The leadership and the community embraced the event and we set a high bar for future events. 675 people were in attendance. Numbers keep going up but current tally is ~\$145,000. We have collected over \$55,000 to date. Expenses were around \$13,000. We had 660 RSVP's in advance of the evening. \$2,000 was collected the evening of the event. We are contemplating having DVD's made. The JHV and the Chronicle both had wonderful articles, front page of the STAR section. The press was wonderful for Brith Shalom. The quality of the event..."slicker than a seal"...Aaron Howard. The program was not just a concert of songs, it was a program with a journey, a story and took the audience on an emotional experience. Highest accolades to all.
- B. Security** - We have moved forward to inform the congregation of the recent decision on security. We need continue this process to inform the membership. Signs have been approved. Above the 4 doors, on the glass, "Welcome to Congregation Brith Shalom" "Goldberg Montessori School Campus". Larry described the places where the signs will be located. The Roisman Family has graciously contributed to offset the costs of the new signage. Communication of the new policies is paramount.

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The Motion from the December meeting was discussed.

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A discussion was had with Hazak about funding of security for their meetings and this will need to be done for other groups. Some discussion about how this will be done and in what circumstances will require extra security. Larry explained the guidelines which will be determined by when the doors are left unlocked to allow open access to anyone. Some discussion about the need for this motion. It was explained that this would provide documentation of the policy to hire security staff ...

Jeff presented motion. Jeff tabled the discussion and motion. The motion will be brought to the EC to discuss.

- C. **Discussion: Interim Plan** Mitch was not present for the meeting but he is working with his committee on continuing to evaluate the Religious School. Next meeting they will be asked to make a presentation about the continuation of the interim process. The board will then bring forth a recommendation to the congregation at the annual meeting.
- D. **Update: Contracts** Amy HaLevy has been working with a group to further the contract with Cantor Levine and David Krohn. All of the contracts go under the assumption that we are still under the "interim plan", for which evaluation is continuing.
- E. **Sisterhood Update** Lisa reports that the Mishloach Manot committee feels that it is important to return to delivering. Spring break is the week before Purim and bags will not be able to deliver to RS families at school, therefore, many drivers are needed. **40-50 drivers will be needed March 20, Sunday.** Delivered by March 23 to get them delivered.

V. **Good and Welfare – Adjournment**

Yom Limmud is Feb 14. A large number of congregants will be participating/teaching

Thank you to the Roismans for donating the the new signs.

Scholar-in-residence coming up...Rabbi commented we have several Scholars-In-Residence coming to our congregation. There are three consecutive weekends scheduled with events. Lots of joint sponsorships made these programs happen.

Sisterhood Shabbat is January 29-30. The Women of Valor will be named.

FNRuach kitchen volunteers have been wonderful making this program continue. They cook and allow us to continue to provide a great meal without the costs.

Kehillah High 125 students. Very successful. 10th grade retreat with 3 schools. Great blending and community building. It worked.

Appreciative of Larry's work to make the Cantor's Concert a success.