

# Congregation Brith Shalom Board Meeting

## Minutes

August 18, 2011

CBS President Milton Mosk called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm.

Present:

Milton Mosk, Allan Goldstein, Jeff Actor, Karen Lukin, Greg Sheena, Rosine Chappell, Steve Conaway, Joel Dinkin, Jennifer Friedman, Alan Goldsmith, David Lewis, Matt Stein, Wendy Conaway, Lisa Estes, Maxine Goodman, Lisa Lowenstein, Laurie Silverblatt, David Wald, Rabbi Ranon Teller, Cantor Lance Rhodes, Cantor Mark Levine, Larry Estes, Rhoda Goldberg.

Rabbi Teller gave a D'var Torah on Parashat Eikev. God feared that once the Israelites reached Canaan they would lose touch with God and community because they would have so much. It is important that Jews in the United States, who have so much, remember the community and be caring to those in the community who not as well off.

The June 2011 Board Meeting minutes were accepted with no changes. Maxine Goodman made the motion and Laurie Silverblatt seconded the motion.

### **I. President's Report – Milton Mosk**

Milton reported that he and Rabbi Teller will be meeting with the Executive Director of USCJ, Rabbi Steven Wernick, to continue the discussion about CBS's leaving USCJ. Milton will appoint a committee by the next Board meeting to come up with possible solutions.

### **2. Endowment Report-Maxine Goodman**

Maxine reported that CBS has opened an account with the Houston Jewish Community Foundation. The campaign Cabinet would like 100% Cabinet and

Board participation before the Campaign is presented to the entire congregation at the High Holidays.

At this time the commitments to the Campaign have been:

\$16, 816 increase in Annual Giving.

\$170,000 in Endowment commitments

\$420,000 in Legacy commitments

### **3. Education Report- Cantor Mark Levine**

Enrollment continues to increase annually. 124 students are currently enrolled and this will probably increase to 140-145 students. CBS has the only program that has not decreased. There has been a 33% decrease in enrollment in afternoon Hebrew School in the last ten years.

There will be three Teen retreats during the year. One of these will be an adult and teen retreat at Camp Young Judea the weekend of January 27.

Family programs that were introduced last year will continue.

The weekly school email will be sent out to all parents of school age children. The faculty will send out biweekly emails to parent about what is happening in class.

High Holiday Youth Services will be coordinated by Traylyn Evans. Traylyn Evans, Becca Evans and Ellen Heffler will lead Youth Services.

Traylyn Evans is the Youth Director and he is coordinating Machar for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades, Kadima for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades and the Teen Youth and Mosad Shalom program that includes retreats, a Shabbat Club. CBS teens are also part of HouJew, the Houston area chapter of USY.

There will be a very active adult education program. Rabbi Teller and Cantor Levine will present programs to educate and inform the Congregation about the theology of Conservative Judaism and the Jewish legal decisions that define Conservative Judaism.

A booklet will be available during the High Holidays that will list all CBS programs through the end of 2011.

Programs for September:

Galit Dardashti- September 18 (joint program with JCC)

Introduction to the High Holidays class- September 18 and September 20-taught by CBS clergy

Drumming and Humming: A Pathway to God – September 7, 14, 21

*Kosher Nation* book discussion-September 25 at CBS

#### **4. Buildings and Grounds-Wendy Conaway**

New HVAC controls are being installed for a more efficient system.

The sound system is being upgraded and a video monitor will be installed in the foyer.

New storage and shelving will be installed behind the Bimah.

The Department of Homeland Security Grant provided funds for security measures. The Committee is looking at purchasing bollards for the main entrance and the school entrance. The Committee is also looking into finding a provider for security training for Clergy, Staff and Board members.

The idea of installing a fence was brought up. The Enhancement Committee feels that the security benefits do not warrant hurting our relationship with the Church and also making CBS look less inviting.

Wendy suggested instituting a Member in Charge Program. A board member would be designated to be in charge at every CBS event in case of emergencies or if building problems arise. An emergency response plan would also be developed.

On a few occasions the building has been left unlocked. We need to find a better way to make sure that the building is secured after everyone leaves.

## **5. Financial Report-Gregg Sheena**

The move to Amegy Bank is almost complete.

There is a surplus of \$71,346 because of the annual giving funds that have been received.

The \$68,000 surplus at the end of the last fiscal year paid for the new air conditioner in the school wing.

Jeff Actor asked that a monthly summary of the financial report be sent out to Board members with the minutes.

The Endowment Account will have a separate balance sheet.

## **6. Membership Engagement Project-Lisa Estes**

Milton spoke about the need to engage our members and how difficult it was to get people to agree to join the Board. New leaders should be identified through the committees, but that is not happening.

The Membership Committee had a brainstorming session and came up with these conclusions:

Members will become more involved if they are approached on a personal level.

The average person does not want to be a leader.

It is more about how you ask people to help, not about the program. Phone calls are more effective than emails. A suggestion was made to call congregants and ask about volunteer interests. A database could be created from this information. Please email Lisa with names of people who can make these calls.

Also, new members should be approached.

## **7. Old Business- Rhoda Goldberg**

Allan Goldstein called the question in regards to the motion to adopt the endowment charter and establish account with the Houston Jewish Community Foundation that was tabled in June. Motion carried unanimously.

## **8. New Business- Rhoda Goldberg**

a. A motion was made for CBS to accept the names of the members suggested by the President who will serve on the committee to review Cantor Rhodes for the purpose of determining whether to renew Cantor Rhodes' contract:

Shirley Warshaw(chair), Mitch Kreindler, Charlotte Axelrad, Chuck Koller, Martin Kay, Paula Baker, Tracy Jakob.

This was unanimously passed.

b. A motion was made for CBS to accept the names of the members suggested by the President who will serve on the committee to review Cantor Levine for the purpose of determining whether to renew Cantor Levine's contract:

Charlotte Axelrad(chair), Mitch Kreindler, Lisa Lowenstein, Iris Fisherman, Peter Gingiss, Allan Goldstein, Tracy Jakob.

This was passed unanimously.

c. Board accepted a legacy gift from Lawrence Katz.

## **9. Good and Welfare**

Rabbi Teller received a thank you note from Arielle Lothman thanking him for helping make it possible for her to go to Israel.

Sisterhood will hold its membership meeting on September 12

Men's Club will meet on September 21 at 10:00 am to discuss the events for the coming year.

There will be a meeting of the fifth grade parents on August 21.

Cantor Rhodes will be the Cantor in Residence over a weekend in Alexandria, Virginia

Rabbi Teller spoke about his time at Ramah in the Rockies.

Six CBS members attended the HazemerFestival: Bruce Methner, Cantor and Dena Rhodes, Sheila Levine and Allan and Etna Goldsmith.

The Axelrad, Klein and Methner families helped fund the new machzorim.

Steve and Maxine Goodman will donate the new shelving behind the Bimah.

Raquel Goldberg's picture was in the Houston Chronicle as part of a story about a Berry family fundraiser.

Jennifer Friedman is putting together a book with stories and photos about the efforts to help the Berry family. Five copies will be given to the family.

There will be a fundraiser at CBS on November 6 to help the Berry family.

The next Board meeting will be on Thursday, September 15 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhoda L. Goldberg

Secretary