

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

Brith Shalom
 Board of Trustees – Meeting Minutes

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|-------------------|--|--------|------------------|
| Date | January 19, 2017 | Time | 7:00 pm -8:11 pm |
| Staff | Cantor Levine, Larry Estes | Guests | |
| In Attendance | Jeffrey Actor, Debi Mishael, Ellen Feisinger, Milton Mosk, Ken Podell, Stephan Rubin, Iris Fisherman, Steve Lerman, Jacobo Goldberg, Seth Lerner, Dori Wind, Dani Roisman, Rhonda , Kaaren Bernstein, Alan Goldstein, (Amy HaLevy-on the phone), Morris Narunsky | | |
| Next Meeting Date | February 16, 2017 | | |

| Documents Distributed during the Meeting | | |
|--|----------|--------------------------------|
| No. | ITEM | DESCRIPTION |
| 1 | Agenda | Agenda for the 1/19/17 meeting |
| 2 | Nov. YTD | Year to date financial report |

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| TZEDAKAH COLLECTED AT LAST MONTH'S MEETING | \$ |
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| MEETING ACTION ITEMS | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|-------|------|
| No. | Action Item | Owner | Date |
| 1 | | | |

| MOTIONS OR DECISIONS MADE | 1 ST / 2 ND RESULTS |
|---|---|
| Motion to nominate the following people to the nominating committee: Allan Goldberg, Maxine Goodman, Aaron Howard, Ellen Feisinger, Rhoda Goldberg. | Allan Goldberg/ Dori Wind PASSED |

Thursday, January 19th, 2017

- I. **President's Welcome**
 - A. **Minutes for approval (December 2016 meeting)** APPROVED
- II. **Clergy and Education updates**
 - A. **Rabbi on Sabbatical, Ed Director will give updates** – Cantor reported that this Shabbat Vicki Teller is celebrating her 50th birthday.
 - I. **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS**- Anna Blum will return for one more year. The decision to split the 6th grade has been successful. The school budget will be passed by March. Final enrollment number was 158 this year. We are planning on 162 for next year. On January 14 the Kindergarten class will participate in Kabbalat HaTorah. We received a donation specifically earmarked for Young Family Programing.
 - II. **LIFE CYCLE/CHAI TEAM/TIKKUN OLAM**-We have had 3 deaths since the beginning of Rabbi Teller's sabbatical but funerals and shivah minyanim are under control. B'nei Mitzvah dates for 2018-19 have been distributed and are being finalized. There is a B'nei Mitzvah Family workshop this Sunday. The chair of the Chai Team had to resign for personal reasons. _____ has agreed to take on this position. The Tikkun Olam committee decided to make collections on a bi-monthly basis instead of monthly.

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- III. SPECIAL EVENTS- Shefa Gold will be here this weekend. She will participate in several events and activities. Guess Who's Coming to Shabbas is scheduled for January 20. Sisterhood Shabbat is 1/27-28. Men's Club Advocacy Breakfast is 1/29. Young Professional Shabbat is 2/18 and Yom Limmud is 2/19.
- IV. ADULT EDUCATION- The Film Festival will take place the next three Sunday evenings at the synagogue.

III. Old/New Business/Reports and Updates

A. Introductory Discussion: Policy on Proposed change in USCJ Membership Standards

- I. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1KpoQnyFcljQjBBZDIibktJNOU/view> Jeff explained a new USCJ proposed change that deals with membership. The standard membership said "only members of the Jewish faith..." The USCJ is recommending a change that you no longer have to be Jewish to be a member of a congregation. What does it mean to be a member of our Conservative Synagogue? Jeff would like to turn this over to the committee and some of our clergy to discuss this. The process is that it will be on the agenda in March with a vote in December at the annual meeting. We should be proactive and discuss this in advance. The link is provided for us to review. There was some discussion about the implications. If the USCJ motion is passed in December, we could then decide to change or keep our CBS Constitution regarding membership qualifications. This is clearly a conversation which requires Rabbi Teller's input and guidance. We have time to address the issue but this is the beginning of the conversation.

B. Update: Campaign and Gala 60th celebration

- I. **Reports** Stephan reports that a lot of people have been hard at work. 126 reservations have been received thus far for the Gala dinner. \$165,426 is total revenue to-date. The mailing describing all of the weekend's activities has gone out. There has been some pushback on the \$500 per seat cost for the Gala. Some members have made seats available for members who cannot afford. We are working with people to fill the room. We have a goal to reach 250 attendees. Please RSVP if you have not already done so. The directory is also in the works. We had a goal to distribute it by the event but we have revised, due to the need to complete the ad solicitations. The directories will be distributed with the Mishloach Manot bags. Sisterhood asked the board last year to help deliver, this year the Sisterhood will help the board complete the distribution of directories. There is a Silent Auction on Saturday night. There are some high-end silent and live auction items on Thursday night. A professional auctioneer will preside. Projection for the live auction is \$10,000 but Stephen projects it will be much more than that. Arrangements are being made to open the live auction on-line to really expand the number of potential purchasers/donors. If anyone has additional items please contact Iris.
- II. **Directory will be delivered on Purim (thanks Sisterhood!!!)**

- C. **Life and Legacy -Have 12 – need 6 more!** We have participated in this and have done well. The Grinspoon Foundation has funded this year. Goal last year was 18 and we had 26 and were the top performer in the Houston Jewish Community. We already have 13 for this year. The first step is a letter signed that says you are willing to discuss and explore this. The Foundation gives us \$6,000 if we reach our goals.
- D. **Update: 613 Mitzvah campaign** We are moving forward. The goal is not to compete the campaign with the 60th. We did get another 6 figure donation commitment today. The committee will do more after the 60th.
- E. **Constitutional Revisions -Will form an ad hoc committee** -General edits, nominating committee procedures, budget clarifications, possibly membership issues will be addressed. We will form a constitution revision committee. This ad hoc committee will provide recommendations to move forward. Jeff asked for board members who want to serve on this committee to contact him. Stephan recommended that stakeholders have a representative...ie...sisterhood, men's club, etc.
- F. **Administration -Personnel and Internal resources** – There have been some changes in office personnel. Denise is no longer here. Lori Campbell has started on a probation basis. Loren Brook (from SEARCH) has been brought on board for a short-term basis, specifically to help with the 60th. Donna, a college student is at the front desk to greet people during busy times.
- G. **Facilities -New furniture here!**- Jeff thanked all involved with handling the new furniture. Blake did a great job with the physical moving and assembling of the furniture.
- H. **Sisterhood Shabbat – January 28th**-Dori reported that she would like to have everyone in attendance. The Marcia Sheena award winner will be announced. Torah Fund pins are available. Torah Fund is April 23. Jeff encouraged all to attend.
- I. **GMS (Goldberg Montessori School) – requested meeting for long term vision** Jeff commented that it is such a pleasure to see all the little faces in the morning after morning minyan. UOS is meeting to decide with GMS about the future. We will not know how long GMS needs us until they meet. We will address the issue in a few months to look to the future. GMS is currently in the middle of their second year at CBS. They have an option for another year. We can choose to accept the 3rd year or not.
- J. **Enter into minutes – HJCF grants submitted- Multiple religion Mitzvah Day; Mikvah project**- Two grants have been submitted. One grant is to involve a Muslim community in addition to the Christian community for a multi-religion Mitzvah Day. The second grant revolves around the *Mikvah* and builds rituals around non-traditional life moments. This is part of the Chai Initiative to reach people at meaningful moments in their lives.

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- K. **Update: Ed Director Renewal -Contract assembly has begun-** We are in the process. Moving along. We look forward to having Cantor Levine here for a long time.
- L. **Formal approval of Nominating Committeeif not done at December's meeting.....**Allan Goldstein nominates the committee: Maxine Goodman, Aaron Howard, Ellen Feisinger, and Rhoda Goldberg. It meets the constitutional requirement to have a past president, and 2 current board members. Motion seconded by Dori Wind. All in favor. Motion passed.
- M. **Other updates and Reports-** Rabbi Teller will return the weekend of March 11 for Purim. Jeff commented about doing something special to mark his return.

IV. Financial Info

- A. **Update: FYTD Income Statement/Cash status –** Milton reported that we have struggled with the best format to use to be able to present something clear and meaningful to the board. He is working change the format for presentation beginning next month. It will give us a better ability to see what our fixed expenses look like and give us the ability to have some meaningful input in the process. Income statements will remain the same but the expenses will be more clearly laid out. Milton presented November YTD numbers. Endowment funds to not show up on these reports. The funds are not co-mingled. The numbers being reported may not be a true reflection because the process to transfer to KESEF is still happening. Larry reported that he is in the middle of an audit on the RS families to make sure all the fees are attributed to the correct lines. He will have a better picture by February on the variance of the RS tuition line. Milton asked us to look at our own statements and inform the office if there are any mistakes.
- B. **Budget process for FY2018 –**The FAC (Financial Affairs Committee) presents a preliminary budget to the board in March for comments. At the April meeting (4/20/17) the board is asked for approval/recommendation and then it is sent to congregants two weeks prior to the annual meeting in May. All committees need to have budget requests for out of the norm expenses submitted to the committee. Milton reported on the process of creating the budget and soliciting information from the committees.

- V. **Other Business:** A question was asked about content of the e-bulletin, specifically the latest inclusion of a J-street event. Larry explained that the highest priority is synagogue programs, community section, some internal vetting about community events.

VI. Good and Welfare – Adjournment

- A. **Next Meeting: February 16th, 2017**
- B. **Kol HaKavod to Noah Mishael and front page news!!!**
- C. **Doreen and Marshall Lerner will receive the Shul of Bellaire's "Lampighter Award".**
- D. **Happy Birthday to Rabbi Teller**
- E. **Happy Birthday to Vicki Teller**
- F. **General Meeting Date: May 16, 2017**