

C O N G R E G A T I O N
 **Brith Shalom**
 Board of Trustees- Meeting Minutes

Date	February 16, 2017	Time	7:00 pm - pm
Staff	Cantor Levine, Larry Estes	Guests	Erica Furman
In Attendance	Amy HaLevy (on phone), Jeff Actor, Ken Podell, Aaron Howard, Ellen Fiesinger, Stephan Rubin, Milton Mosk, Debi Mishael, Dori Wind, Jacobo Goldberg, Steve Lerman, Karen Bernstein, Rhonda Kaplan		
Next Meeting Date	March 23, 2017		

HANDOUTS AT MEETING		
No.	ITEM	DESCRIPTION
1	Agenda	CBS February Agenda
2	Financial	YTD-

TZEDAKAH COLLECTED AT LAST MONTH'S MEETING	\$ 27.00
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MEETING ACTION ITEMS			
No.	Action Item	Owner	Date
1	Host families needed for USY weekend.	All board	March
2	Attend Purim basket stuffing and sign up to deliver baskets	All board	March
3	Focus Group- assess needs and desires of Young Families	Ellen Feisinger Cantor Levine	
4			

MOTIONS OR DECISIONS MADE	1 ST / 2 ND RESULTS
Postpone Constitution Revisions to March	

Thursday, February 16th, 2017

- I. **President's Welcome-** Jeff relayed a story of sending a dancing heart message to his lovely wife on Valentine's Day but the text was mistakenly sent to someone else. *Jeff observed that you should always be careful of what you release in public.*
 - A. **Approval of Minutes (January 2017 meeting)** Approved

- II. **Clergy and Education updates**
 - A. **Rabbi on Sabbatical, Ed Director will give updates:**
 - I. The Kehillah High 10th grade Retreat will be held next Weekend in Galveston.
 - II. There are two more planned Young Professional events, a Shabbat Dinner – Friday, Feb. 24 and a Mock Seder – Sunday, April 2 at the home of CMEL

MEETING MINUTES- Board of Directors

- III. We are Hosting a USY Convention – March 3-5. We still need hosts families from CBS. 6-8 of our own students will be attending the convention. Thank you to Jonas Actor who has been very helpful in planning.
- IV. Teens continue to read Torah and the competition and publication of verses has been very successful. Total verses are approaching 900.
- V. The Mishloah Manot-Purim program run by Sisterhood is well underway. The school participating in making graggers for the bags. More volunteers are needed to putting together the baskets – Saturday night March 4. Deliveries will begin Sunday, March 5. School early dismissal to encourage family participation in the mitzvah. This year the new directory created in conjunction with the 60th anniversary will be included in the bags. Over 600 deliveries will be made. More drivers are needed. Please consider volunteering.
- VI. Purim celebration is March 11 – Ahasveirosh’s Palace – Casino Night
- VII. Moneys raised will be utilized by the Tikkun Olam and Chai Teams.
- VIII. Tikkun Olam programming: There are 3 special events in next month (in addition to the ongoing programs). Thanks to Sherri Taxman, Shelley Nadel and Debi Mishael for coordinating.
 - i. a. Program for children at Casa de Esperanza (March 5)
 - ii. b. Houston Food Bank (March 19)
 - iii. c. Run for the Roses (April 2)
- IX. Lisa Lowenstein has agreed to chair our Chai Team.
- X. Grants – Thank you to Rachel D’voretzky and Shelley Nadel who assisted with grant proposals for 1) Mikveh Program and 2) a three Religion Mitzvah Day
- XI. Thank you to Federation for substantially subsidizing three sessions for our teachers with Mindy Gold, an expert in using technology in the classroom.
- XII. Friday evening attendance is growing. Twice in last 4 weeks, on non-special program evenings, more than 50 people were in attendance.
- XIII. Aaron added to the report and described the Shavuot program will be special this year because it is a joint program with Beth Israel. There will be 9 presenters, 3 from CBS, 3 from BI and 3 from the community. The date for the program is in the evening of May 30th.
- XIV. Special Community Notes:
 - I. Yom Limmud at Emanu-El this coming Sunday.
 - II. JFS Reel Ability Film Festival starts this Sunday evening. Free films.
 - III. Kosher Chili Cookoff – February 26. Go Men’s Club!!!!

III. Old/New Business/Reports and Updates

- A. **Life and Legacy _Goal reached!** Larry reported that the CJL put out a promotion for January. The organization with the most legacy letters for the month received a special treat. CBS again has lead the community with 12 new legacy letters. We have 23 total this year (26 last year) for a grand total for 49. Cookies and bragging rights are ours! Jeff thanked Larry for the final push.
- B. **Report: Gala and 60th celebration-** It was a wonderful weekend . 184 people attended the Thursday night Gala. The evening was a success with the efforts of lots of people. We have met our goal of \$125,000 net and will probably exceed that. There was a simultaneous push for the Mitzvah Campaign which did yield results. We appreciate donations from all levels. Great feeling of family was felt. Shabbat morning services were spiritual and meaningful to honor our founders and a nod to the next generation with the 3rd grade receiving their siddurim on the same day. Stephan relayed the experience of sitting on the bima with David Gerger. The two of them had grown up together at Brith Shalom. Saturday night was wonderful. Sandra Weiner attended and even rose to dance with her nephew, Sandy Weiner. The scholar in Residence added great content and meaning to the whole weekend.

We learned some important lessons in the process of planning the event. Cantor Levine commented that we are a richer congregation because of the presence of Lori and Stephan, Marge & Hans and Sandy and Leslie. The committee members and office staff were essential. It was a great team.

- C. Erica Furman came to address the board. The mishloach manot are underway. We will be delivering the directory with the bags. Bigger bags are needed to fit the directory. It will cost a little more. The students are making a gragger for each bag instead of the classic plastic. March 5 we are delivering and we need more drivers. Please sign up to assist. We are making more than 600 bags. Approx. 150 will be picked up at the synagogue or delivered to Religious School students but nearly 450 will be delivered to members’ homes. The more people that help deliver, the lighter the load for all. People have a week to deliver but they can be picked up on March 5. Assembly will be Saturday night, March 4 after 8pm. Please come and help assemble and drive.
- D. **Update: Policy on GA Proposal change in USCJ Membership Standards-** The question is: “Who is defined as a member?” At our January meeting we decided to wait to get input from Rabbi Teller. His opinion is that it is

MEETING MINUTES- Board of Directors

not something we need to address in detail. It doesn't really affect us in a meaningful way. We can look at it later. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1KpoQnyFcljQjBBZDlIbktJNOU/view>

- E. **Constitutional Revisions-** Postpone to March meeting. 3/23/17
- F. **Kitchen-** There has been a request to address the kitchen needs. A number of interested congregants, Karen Bernstein and Larry, are taking a walk through the kitchen next Wednesday at 6:30 pm. We will begin to address what the next step might be. Ken Podell asked us to think about our goal or vision for the kitchen. The group will begin to address this issue and will bring it to the facilities committee. We will circulate Karen's report from past.
- G. **Report: meeting with UOS-GMS on 2/5/17-** There was a meeting with GMS-UOS and our leadership to discuss intend for the future. They were blunt. UOS has no intent moving forward to rehouse GMS. So GMS will not be moving back to UOS. We had our first meeting to discuss the needs of GMS and our Religious School. It was clear that both need to better evaluate their own needs before we have a productive dialogue. At this point, we will continue our landlord/tenant relationship. It is premature for us to make plans until GMS decides what they want to do going forward. Some board discussion ensued. This will need to be discussed further. There have been about half a dozen families who have joined the synagogue because the school is here. It is a natural feeder. Dr. Leonard Goldberg has attended all of the meeting. We will know more in the coming months. This is a preliminary notification that this will be a future issue on the synagogue agenda.
- H. **Update: Ed Director Renewal** voted unanimously to keep Canto Levine for a long time. The process continues to complete the contract.
- I. **Date of General meeting**
 - I. **May 21st conflicts with Federation program-** They have asked us to change the date of our meeting. We are looking for another date and we will notify you when another date is chosen.
- J. **Other updates and Reports**
 - I. **Israel Advocacy**—Lori Actor helped to arrange a program on March 5. Gary Kenzer, formerly the North American CEO of Honest Reporting, is an expert in Israel advocacy specializing in media bias. For the last several years he has presented to the Federation's Teen Israel Ambassadors program as well as Israel educators, sisterhoods, churches and others in the community. He is a knowledgeable, thoughtful and engaging speaker.
 - II. **1,600 people** Attended AIPAC Israel Advocacy annual event dinner. We were well represented.
 - III. **ADL conference call** Larry reported. An uptick of anti-semitic events both locally and nationally. ...Beaumont graffiti and Cy Fair High School, UofH and Rice. The events are being taken seriously. Senior leadership of the schools have been taking it seriously. ADL does have a program geared towards HS kids that we can use. We are encouraged to go about our lives but remain diligent. It was asked if we can address the issue with RS students. The idea will go back to Ed. Council. Ellen and Cantor Levine will follow-up. There was some discussion about procedures and staff preparedness.

IV. Financial Info

- A. **Update: FYTD Income Statement/Cash status** Milton provided highlights. We have not had to draw on our line of credit. We need to collect on our pledges. Milton is still projecting to end the year without having to draw on the line of credit. The FAC meets next Tuesday for its first pass of the budget. A revised draft will be presented to the board for the first time at the March meeting. The board will vote to pass it on to the congregation at the April meeting.
- B. **Updates: Endowment, Legacy, Operations, 613 Mitzvah campaign** The committee will now refocus attention on the Mitzvah campaign. We are currently at 1.2 million plus. People are responding positively when asked and we need to continue. Milton was thanked for his efforts and he commented on the efforts of all of the committee members. WE have not drawn on this. The goal is to use the interest for special programs and not for operating.

- V. **How integrate young families (R/S) into fabric-**Some dialogue about addressing the needs or perceived needs of the young families. Cantor Levine described a recent donation and a small ad hoc committee that is starting to talk/plan about this group. Perhaps the next step is to address a focus group in the next coming months to get some info. Ellen will contact Peter Ghingiss

VI. Good and Welfare – Adjournment

- A. **Next Meeting: March 23rd, 2017 - NOTE DATE CHANGE!**
- B. Mishaloach Manot bags – volunteers needed!
- C. Event: March 11th. Megillah and Event (Casino night)
- D. Congrats to Sisterhood Shabbat and Lori Actor for Woman of Valor
- E. Lori and Steve Rubin for their heart and dedication to CBS
- F. Entire committee and congregation who supported the 60th anniversary weekend
- G. Milton reported: Jason has been accepted to vet school, Mississippi State. Still some other interviews