

Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday August 8th, 2019 7:30pm

In attendance: Judy Goldberg, Gabriel DeBrito, Lizza Sandoe, Andy Goldberg, Marla Lewitus, Susan Tohn, Mike Joachim, Marcos Szydlo, Neil Frieband, Jim Billings, Debbie Glass, Toby Kopman, Steve Probst, Laurie Margolies, Michael Brown, Aaron Friedman, Scott Newman, Rabbi Josh Breindel, Beth Schine

Welcome: Judy Goldberg

Judy thanked folks for showing up mid-summer. And thanked Gabriel for tonight's snacks.

Hebrew with Janet: "Seeing and Foreseeing" - Chazon

Rabbi's Report: Rabbi Joshua Breindel

Ritual

- Tisha B'Av service is this coming Saturday evening at 8:00 pm.
- Beth El and B'nai Torah are collaborating for a Kabbalat Shabbat service at the Wayland Town beach Friday night 8/23. Please come and bring friends/neighbors/acquaintances!

Lifecycle/Pastoral

- Had a deeply moving and spiritual farewell for long-time member Ruth Riceman who is moving to Peabody.
- Long-time Beth El member Ivan Lubash died while Rabbi on vacation. Lorel led funeral. Rabbi will be meeting with Ivan's daughter Rachel when she is ready.
- Alex Kaner celebrated his 18th birthday here at Beth El. It was a joyous party and rabbi was honored to be present.

Community Outreach/Events

- Will be presenting in Pittsfield for Barrington Stage production of "If I Forget" on Sunday August 11th, continuing a tradition started when at Anshei; Very excited!
- Rabbi and Lorel working together on new educational and spiritual initiatives for the month of Elul. Rabbi Eliana Jacobowitz will be speaking the Sunday before Rosh Hashanah on the Kabbalah of the High Holidays.

Programming and Education

- Planning for 5780 School year ongoing – working with Scott, Shoni, and Sheila
- Sunday morning education plan: alternate weeks of Adult Jewish Life course with Hasidic stories and mysticism.

Administrative

- High Holiday prep well underway!
- Work ongoing with Scott and Judy around planning for the intergenerational Shabbat dinners and other social planning for the upcoming year.

Personal

- Had a wonderful vacation in Maine! Looking forward to the High Holidays and the year to come!

Temple Administrator's Report: Beth Schine

- Membership at 253 – soon to be 254
- 125 financial commitment forms have come in so far. Of those, 15 are at full dues plus extra, 70 are at full dues, 21 chose the 3% option and 49 are on dues revision. Total amount collected/pledged is ahead of last year though – currently \$328,192 vs. \$323, 478 for the first 125 commitments last year.
- School starts the week after Labor Day – Sept 8th for K-6 and Sept 9 for 7-12.
- Some of our new security upgrades will be in place within the next week. Cameras are being installed at numerous interior and exterior points. The new exterior doors will be in place soon thereafter.
- Other upgrades are underway – concrete ramp, etc.
- Handicap accessible doors will *not* be in place in time for the High Holidays.
- The new water cooler will hopefully be in place in time for the start of the school year. It will include a bottle-filling station and will be located in the education wing,
- Beth is having surgery on August 20th to repair rotator cuff damage. She will be out of the office for up to two weeks, though hopes to be able to do some work – or at least check email – the second week. She will be in a sling for 4-6 weeks and unable to drive during that time. *We wish Beth all the best of luck with the surgery and speedy healing.*

Security Update: Jim Billings

Security systems

- 6 new cameras will be installed next week. Surveillance will be at all entrances and exits, with the addition of covering the back portion of the parking lot (looking towards the basketball hoop), one looking out over the garden and playground, one in the hallway looking towards the doors, plus the existing camera at the office entrance and the existing live stream camera in the sanctuary, which will now have dual functionality - The sanctuary camera will have dual functionality; half to continue the live stream and half to cover the Ark. The cameras will be motion triggered and can be tweaked to deal with particular sensitivities (like swaying trees for example). Should we find we want or need more cameras we can add units (up to a total of 12). The cameras are all hardwired. All video will be stored for up to 7 days.
- A new keypad/reader, which will allow everyone to have access to the building using their own code, will be installed soon. The caveat is that most people's access will be restricted to services and events/meetings as needed. These limits can be modified at a moment's notice if necessary.
- Three emergency landlines are being installed as well. One will be in the office, one in the Kolel, and one in the sanctuary. To dial out we will need to dial "9" first (so, for example, we will need to dial 9911 to reach 911). It's possible that the phones will be programmable for emergency calls.

- The congregation will be notified of all these upgrades as soon as they are in place.

High Holiday security

- Due to the increase in targeted violence, High Holiday security will be increased this year. In previous years we have had one police detail, largely to direct traffic. This year we will have two police details, one stationed out in the road as usual for traffic and one stationed at the entrance to the synagogue. The one at the entrance will be accompanied by our volunteer (Board member!) ticket checkers. All names will be checked at the door (there will be a checklist) before entrance to the building is allowed. There will be a second volunteer ticket checker inside.
- The goal is to balance keeping people safe while not discouraging community. Hopefully our members and guests will understand the need for enhanced security and will appreciate our efforts.
- All attendees **MUST** have a ticket in hand. This will be communicated consistently and clearly to the congregation.
- Unlike in years past, the hallway and exterior greeters will need to be in place throughout the service. We can look into have a computer with a live stream of the service at the ticket desk.
- *Question:* What will we do if someone shows up without a ticket and without being on the list? *Answer:* they will definitely be questioned (by BE member and police) and will be denied entry if necessary.
- *Question:* What do we do in case of inclement weather? Usually people wait inside. *Answer:* We haven't figured that out yet.
- All our volunteer ushers and greeters (Board and otherwise) will have mandatory safety training prior to the High Holidays.
- Discussion ensued about having and using nametags at the High Holidays. The concept is wonderful, the logistics are complicated. The discussion will continue at the Staff and Ritual meetings and a decision/plan will be presented to the Board at the next meeting.

High Holiday Update: Toby Kopman

- Sandy Coy is hard at work securing Torah and Haftarah readers
- Craig Ross is once again serving as our overall High Holiday Coordinator. His responsibilities include coordinating all logistics: the ushers and greeters, the challah and honey, the honey and apples, coordinating with the office on security and ticketing, securing the bus shuttles and town hall parking permits, coordinating the food drive, working with Scott to coordinate the kids' programming, and more. This is Craig's second year undertaking this massive and crucial job. He'd like a replacement for next year!
- The office will be sending out ticket request forms by the end of the month. Tickets will follow.
- The closed-loop hearing enhancement system is being repaired and will be functional in time for the High Holidays.

Climate Change Justice working group: Rabbi Breindel

Rabbi reported that there is a dedicated group of congregants working on initiatives related to climate change, climate justice and more. They are developing a guiding statement and a statement of principles, which they plan to bring to the Board this fall. They are hoping to bring educational programs and initiatives to the congregation, focusing on both individual and group actions. The rabbi expressed his strong support for this initiative, as climate issues are near and dear to him and of great urgency for all of us.

Meeting Adjourned 8:50pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jocelyn Bailin.
Clerk, Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley