

Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday September 12th, 2019 7:30pm

In attendance: Judy Goldberg, Lizza Sandoe, Andy Goldberg, Marla Lewitus, Susan Tohn, Mike Joachim, Marcos Szydlo, Jim Billings, Debbie Glass, Jon Harper, Jesse Wertheimer, Justin Lewitus, Toby Kopman, Laurie Margolies, Scott Newman, Rabbi Josh Breindel, Beth Schine

Welcome: Judy Goldberg
Judy thanked folks for showing up!

Hebrew with Janet: “Get Out” Tetze; where’s the yud?

Rabbi’s Report: Rabbi Joshua Breindel

Collaborative Shabbat with B’nai Torah was held at Wayland Town beach on 8/23. It was a very warm experience! They’ve repeatedly approached the Rabbi about future ritual/program collaborations.

S’lichot Rinah: we will be doing this for the first time! Please come on Saturday September 21st at 7:30pm.

Lifecycle/Pastoral

- Conducted funeral for Audrey Levington (z”) on Fri., 8/23.
- Conducted graveside service for a non-member family at Beit Olam East (9/11). They donated to my discretionary fund. The Rabbi invited the family to join us for High Holidays.
- Offering intense pastoral care – not unusual for this time of year.

Adult Ed:

- Rabbi is holding a teaching this Sunday morning on shofar folklore and mysticism. Following the Rabbi’s class Mitch Kramer will be leading a shofar-blowing workshop.
- There is Elul programming throughout the month of September. Part two of a four part series by the Metrowest Jewish Mindfulness program will be held at Beth El on Thursday September 19th. There will be a program on The Gates of Mystery: Mystical Teachings within our High Holy Days with guest teacher Rabbi Eliana Jakobowitz: Sunday the 22nd.

Community Outreach: Rabbi is looking to get more involved and visible in the local community. Will be conducting a Jewish holiday-themed story time and sing-a-long at the Goodnow Library in Sudbury on Tuesday September 17th @ 10am. Rabbi is hoping to do additional story time events throughout the year in Sudbury and in Framingham, possibly elsewhere as well.

Social Action: Rabbi, along with numerous congregants and rabbinic colleagues, will be participating in the Climate Day of Action on Friday September 20th in

Boston. Congregants are coordinating rides and carpools; information has been shared on BBoards as well as social media.

Administrative

- Held **third intergenerational Shabbat service** (formerly known as Shabbat Across the Generations) on September 6th. Judy and the Rabbi are tasking the Leadership advisory committee to gather feedback.
- Collaborating with leadership around new initiatives that will foster a sense of community connection and cohesion. Judy will speak about some of these initiatives at Rosh Hashanah.
- Collaborating with leadership around security initiatives. Thanks to all who are helping to move forward on this critical aspect of community life.
- Rabbi has been working with Beth El's "Green Team" and JCAN around environmental statements and initiatives for the new year. I'll speak about this at the High Holidays.

Temple Administrator's Report: Beth Schine

- Membership at 250
- Three new school families have joined us. One family, the Thurston/Halsband family, has rejoined.
- Resignations include Amir-Lin, Luftig, Lerner, Brooks, Zalkin, N. Goodman, B. Weiss, Novack. Ruth Riceman moved away and Ivan Lubash died.
- 193 financial commitment forms have come in so far. YTD we have collected or had pledged \$448,757. The approximately 55 remaining outstanding dues commitments will likely involve significant abatements.
- FOBS ARE HERE! Doors to the building will be open at certain times, but the building will eventually be locked more frequently than it is now. All congregants will eventually be issued a fob to enter the building. Each fob will be programmed to allow entry at appropriate times for each recipient; there are default settings that can be programmed (for example: for Sunday morning education or for Shabbat services, etc.). Fobs can be reprogrammed as needed, and can be deactivated if lost. They are not identifiable and cannot be linked to Beth El. The rollout of the fobs will happen in stages, starting with the high school students and all education families. Families will receive one fob for free and will be charged a nominal fee of \$10 for each additional and/or replacement fob. The fobs cost us \$4 each; the fee will help offset some of the additional costs.

Education Report: Scott Newman

- The first day of school was this past Sunday and it went off without a hitch – Scott heard only words of praise and no issues reported at all!
- We are completely staffed for the school year!
- During Sunday classes the Rabbi and Scott held a "Town Meeting: of sorts with the parents. This is something they have done and will continue to do

periodically to keep a finger on the pulse of our families with children.

Takeaways from this meeting include:

1. They **like being asked** their opinions!
2. They joined a synagogue for these reasons: to find **community** and to **reinforce Jewish identity** on both the family and individual level
3. They want **learning relevant** to where they are in their Jewish lives.
4. They want **babysitting** coverage so they can attend this adult learning
5. They want opportunities to **relax and socialize** with one another.
6. #4 need to happen on **Sunday mornings** in general

The Rabbi and Scott will run with this feedback trying to create programming and opportunities that will work for this group of members. The foyer will continue to be used as a social hangout area. Program ideas include Jewish mindfulness/yoga, walking Jewish meditation, Yiddish/Jewish culture classes, etc. Joan is already teaching a beginning Hebrew class, The goal is to offer two choices plus the foyer on any given morning.

Security Update: Jim Billings

Security systems

- 5 new cameras have been installed. With the two existing ones we now have seven cameras in place. The company is Basco Alarm and Security and they have been great to work with.
- The new keypad/readers have been installed on some external doors and fobs are being distributed slowly. We have 200 fobs on hand and will need more.
- The doorbell outside the back entrance is now connected to a buzzer outside the sanctuary and down by the Kolel.
- The congregation will be notified of all these upgrades as soon as they are in place.

Other updates

- Tom Rose has been working with the Sudbury chief of police on additional security measures.
- The handicap accessible doors are in the pipeline. They will not be installed until after the High Holidays.

Security Trainings – Judy Goldberg

Congregants Tom Rose and Chuck Kukla undertook a deep dive into researching the behavioral side of security and emergencies. This area looks into how people behave during an emergency and what actions make the most sense. They presented their findings to staff and lay leadership on September 11th. As a result of their research they are prepared to offer three Sunday afternoon trainings:

- Congregant Readiness: Safety - What to do in an emergency. ALICE training with Chief Nix of the Sudbury Police Department, Stop the BLEED training
- Congregational Readiness: Certain volunteers from the congregation will be trained as leaders in case of an emergency of any kind.

- Infrastructure Readiness: First aid kits, emergency calls, etc.

In addition, Beth El is considering being a test site for an enhanced 911 system that is currently only available in schools and other educational systems. The system is accessed/activated through cellphones, tablets, and such.

High Holiday Security – Judy Goldberg

- Congregants will be *strongly* encouraged to park at Town Hall. Less congestion in the parking lot leads to better security. There will be one greeter stationed indoors in the usual area to greet folks, check tickets, and hand out any tickets that had not yet been picked up. There will be an additional greeter stationed outside the door with the police officer to check tickets and help interview anyone who shows up without a ticket. These are one-hour shifts lasting from ½ hour before the service starts to ½ hour after it starts.
- Question: What happens to those who show up after the greeters leave?
Answer: Staff will discuss this and a solution will be found.
- There will be security training for all traffic directors and greeters one week prior to Rosh Hashanah. Those who cannot make it to the training in person will be provided a handout from the training,
- For the Yom Kippur food drive, the collection vans will be in the Town Hall parking lot.

Board Phone Calls: Judy Goldberg

Each Board member is to call everyone on their call list prior to Rosh Hashanah to wish them a happy new year. This is a great time and a great way to check in with congregants and touch base. If you find out any information from this call that might impact membership, please let Beth know. If you find out anything that might have pastoral care implications, please let the Rabbi know. Let them know that if they have any concerns that in addition to staff they can reach out to you as a Board member. Marcos made the suggestion that anyone you were not able to speak with in person you should email with same message/information.

High Holidays update: Toby Kopman

- All chanting slots have been filled, thanks to the great work by Sandy Coy!
- There will be a complete roster of all service participants – chanters, personal prayers, etc. on the bimah at each service.
- There will be two rehearsals for Torah readers prior to the holidays – one for RH readers and one for YK readers. Elaine Barnartt-Goldstein has graciously offered to lead these rehearsals. IF a reader appears not to be ready, Elaine will alert the appropriate Gabbi for follow-up.
- All details for busses, police details, and such have been taken care of.
- A request for usher volunteers went out to the congregation today. If slots are not filled we may need to make targeted phone calls, Judy has identified a list of people who can be called upon to volunteer.

- Toby will coordinate with Neil F. to make sure that the challot get sliced and drizzled with honey and set up on platters prior to erev RH.
- Proposal: To offer High Holiday tickets at a reduced charge to those who came for free last year. Discussion: why do this? Proposal defeated unanimously.

Tikkun Olam: John Harper

- Beth El has been asked to be a collection site for the Sudbury Neighbor Brigade annual coat drive. They would like to put a bin in the hallway at Beth El to collect coats and jackets. This bin needs to be emptied on a regular basis and the donations brought up to the loft for storage until they are picked up. Andy Goldberg volunteered that he would lead this effort along with the educational program kids on Sunday mornings.
- We are in need of a driver to bring the annual food drive donations to Family Table (all other sites have volunteer drivers already). Jocylyn offered to do this.

New Dates: Judy Goldberg

The December Board meeting had been moved from December 12th to December 19th.

The policy forum has been moved to January 12th.

Meeting Adjourned 9:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jocylyn Bailin.

Clerk, Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley