

**Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley**  
**Virtual Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday March 11th, 2021 7:00pm**

**In attendance:** Barbara Miller, Cynthia Meyersburg , Debbie Blicher, Debbie Glass, Jake Steinmann, Jerry Kazin, Jesse Wertheimer, Jim Billings, Jocylyn Bailin, Judy Goldberg, Lizza Sandoe, Marla Lewitus, Michelle Fineblum, Mike Joachim, Neil Frieband, Sabina Pestka, Steve Probst, Steve Breit, Beth Schine, Rabbi Breindel, Scott Newman, Shoni Aronovich

**Welcome:** Jim Billings

Good to see everyone again – thanks for continuing to show up!

**Hebrew With Janet:** K.H.L

**February meeting minutes:** Jocylyn Bailin  
Minutes approved unanimously

**Rabbi's Report:** Rabbi Breindel  
Full report attached.

Last Tuesday, he slipped and twisted his knee – did not break anything but have partial tear in his meniscus – slowly recovering, today was his first full day back at work. (*Wishing him a speedy recovery!*)

Discussion about how Beth El can maintain benefits of Zoom interactions once we get past COVID – could affect many areas, not just services.

**Temple Administrator's Report:** Beth Schine

Add to Rabbi's request that we think about transitioning to post-COVID world. Will have a Board meeting for brainstorming on this. It has been exactly a year since we shut down because of the pandemic.

Membership: 239 families

Dues collected to date: \$451,500. Budgeted for \$545K. Estimate that \$100K of this is collectable.

Fundraising: Scotch tasting was a success! Final numbers not in but it looks to net us around 7K. Pick a Project and Pay (PPP) has also been successful! Again, no final numbers, but should net us at least 5K

Recent events: 3 zoom shivas. They continue to be meaningful and important for the families. Tons of programming: Green Team and Tikkun Olam lead the pack for congregant-led programming. Upcoming programming includes a mental

health talk and discussion, an earth day challenge, and Refugee Shabbat. Ongoing programming includes the anti-racism book group, the Jewish lives book group, the MetroWest mindfulness offerings, and more!

Calendaring Meeting: This is an important meeting involving collaboration for all Beth El programming. This will be happening soon – look for an invitation.

**Education Program Update:** Scott Newman and Shoni Aronovich

**Scott:** The education program is plugging along, even through the doldrums of winter! We are dreaming of what it will be like to learn and study and play together in person again, and also thinking about the logistics it will entail. Along with logistics we are running through budgeting scenarios, one for in-person learning and one for continued remote learning. Lots of planning involved!

**Programming:** The teachers and students put on a Purim Spiel. There is a family Havdallah this coming Saturday night. The school is planning something to honor and celebrate Lorel.

**Shoni:** The Purim Carnival was done online this year. Virtual just isn't quite the same as doing it in person, but the high schoolers really rose to the challenge and did a good job. Good news: The CJP grant for the collaborative MetroWest High School has been approved! Not only are we receiving a grant, but a consultant is also part of the package! We are planning for the high school program to be in-person in the fall. HiBur update: nobody is really sure what will happen with HiBur this coming year. Israel is fully open, almost as if Covid had never happened; however, there is reluctance on the part of the Israelis to come to the US. It's possible that HiBur will be a one-way program this year. Too soon to know.

**L'Hitra'ot update:** Jim Billings

We have a professionally designed website for Lorel's L'Hitra'ot celebrations. All major events are being published there. Check it out! Some events ongoing, some completed, some yet to come. Lots of different types of events, some small group, most open to the entire community, announcements will be sent out as things come up. We have rented the tent to facilitate outdoor 1:1/small group meetings. There will be a final weekend event in September during Sukkot. ; currently the plan is for it to be a virtual event. IF it turns out that the event can be in-person then we will need new facilitators. There will be a zoom component no matter what. ***PLEASE: The committee needs volunteers to help facilitate some of the events. Please consider stepping up to help make this happen. Ask your friends to do it with you!***

**Vision Alignment Committee Update:** Jocylyn Bailin

The VAC focus groups are underway. There will be twelve in total, plus several small group and/or 1:1 interviews with clergy and staff, plus a congregational survey. The committee will meet April and May to translate this data into a vision statement and present to the Board who will then work to develop a strategic plan.

**Executive Session invoked 8:05pm**

Meeting adjourned 8:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jocylyn Bailin

Clerk, Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley

