

Beth El Board Minutes 12/13/2018

Board Attendees

- Jim Billings
- Yaakov Cohn
- Ken Fishman
- Neil Frieband
- Aaron Friedman
- Judy Goldberg
- Sheila Goldberg
- John Harper
- Toby Kopman
- Laurie Margolies
- Steve Probst
- Helen Shik
- Lizza Sandoe
- Judy Sletzinger
- Marcos Szydlo
- Susan Tohn
- Roberta Unger

Other Attendees

- Rabbi Josh Breindel
- Scott Newman
- Janet Buchwald
- Tom Rose
- Beth Schine
- Chuck Kukla

Agenda

- Hebrew with Janet: 10 min
- Rabbi's report: 10 min
- Membership and finances report: Beth, 10 min
- Scott's report: 10 min
- Nominating Committee report: Ken, 5 min
- Comments and questions about delivered reports: 10 min
- Preliminary Report of Safety Committee and deliberation: Tom and Jim: 20 min
- Fundraising for Tikkun Olam: Policy discussion and deliberation: John: 20 min

Board Votes

- Motion: That for all Shabbat and Holiday services, school sessions, and major events, from 15 minutes before official start until 15 minutes after, the door is unlocked. Then, until the end of the event, the doors are locked with a phone number that people can call to be let in, with phone to be answered by ad hoc committee.
 - Approved: 8 in favor, 4 opposed, 4 abstentions.

Discussions (excluding any votes/decisions)

Rabbi's Report

- Ongoing
 - Open Doors – continuing through January. Prospect of concluding the series with a few larger get-togethers at Beth El (younger families, too).
 - Connecting with Adult Ed, Tikkun Olam, and Safety committees
- Ritual
 - Enhancing slides for Shabbat Rinah based on requests to have higher-contrast text positioned higher on the screen
 - Presented to Ritual Committee around revising potlucks. “Community Shabbat” to attract as broad a range of participants as possible; these will be on the first Friday of each month, starting in January.
- Lifecycle
 - Led his Beth El funeral service at Beth El, for Sandi Bernstein
 - Josh Brooks became our newest Bar Mitzvah.
 - Also celebrated his first Hanukat Banim ceremony, with Scott and Lorel
- Community Outreach/Events
 - Participated in interfaith Thanksgiving service at St. Elizabeth's
 - Appeared for a third time on Chagigah for Chanukah show. Invited to do a spot whenever we have something to share
 - Shared Chanukah stories at the MetroWest Jewish Day School
 - Early coordinating with B'nai Torah and Or Atid for Yom Hashoah
- Programming and Education
 - Presented HiBuR seminar – Israel in Jewish spirituality and folklore

- Hanukat Harav was transcendent: thanks to the Board for all their support for the event, the rabbinic transition, and the Rabbi

Administrator's Report (Beth)

- Membership is 265 households, unchanged from last month
- Have collected \$373,000 in dues out of budgeted \$575,000, just over 65% - rate is similar to prior two years, so we are on track to match our budgeted dues revenue
- Hanukat Harav event last week was a “raging success” – despite a power failure 3 hours before
 - Fatima church offered to host us when it looked like we might not have power for the Hanukat Harav – there were extremely gracious and helpful, though it turned out not to be necessary
- Work on accessible door moving slowly because there are multiple aspects to review
- Getting defibrillator; planning to train people who are at Beth El regularly, and some people are already trained

Education Report (Scott)

- Recently did visit to Shulman House (residential community) with Hanukah songs
- Doing snack packages for kids who do not normally have snack packages during school vacations
- Have a small subcommittee looking at other Tikkun Olam ideas
- Continuing with inclusion theme from last year
- Hanukat Banim was a lovely ceremony
- Social Justice seminar coming up with RAC in Washington
- Continuing with Shabbat Experience, which integrates various Beth El activities rather than keeping the groups (e.g., Tot Shabbat) fully separate
- Started new proficiency-based rather than grade-based Hebrew education this year – very positive response from parents – entry level is now “multi-generational Hebrew”

Nominating Committee – Ken Fishman

- Starting calls to Board members to check in with each
- Looking for feedback, ideas about potential future leaders, etc.

Ritual Report – Toby

- Having big conversations about our siddur – comments and views on the Ritual Committee have been similar to what was on the bboards

Safety Committee – Jim Billings and Tom Rose

- Rabbi – the “Torah of Safety” – what our scriptures say about security
 - Jewish culture is strongly biased against weaponry
 - Jewish teachings are also strongly in favor of protecting ourselves and our community when they are threatened
 - So our tradition tells us that we have to strike a balance between these guidelines

- Insights not included in the Safety Committee hand-out
 - Attacks generally happen in daylight – so a focus on lighting is not that relevant to these security concerns
 - Greeters outside are a deterrent, because of the psychology of likely terrorists – they do not act rationally when they are about to attack, and an external greeter sends a signal against attacking that tends to be respected.
- Volunteers for greeting/guarding the doors
 - Expect that not all volunteers will show up on time,

Reports and Attachments

- Coordination of Tikkun Olam Fund-Raising
- Health Care Fund proposed guidelines
- Ritual Report 12-13-2018
- Safety Committee 12-13-2018
- Tikkun Olam Report 12-13-2018