

**Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday September 8th, 2022 7:30pm**

**In attendance:** Michelle Fineblum, Jerry Kazin, John Harper, Allison Alter, Jim Billings, Ann Barysh, Toby Kopman, Neil Frieband, Cynthia Meyersburg, Debbie Glass, Barbara Miller, Fern Chertok.  
Staff: Rabbi Josh Breindel, Scott Newman, Beth Schine, Shoni Aronovich

The Rabbi led a moment of silence and melody in memory of Gil Wolin and Queen Elizabeth.

**Hebrew with Janet:** Return again

**Welcome:** Michelle Fineblum

Michelle welcomed the Board and noted the many excellent Board reports distributed in advance of the meeting and also the inclusion of the Beth El Vision Statement on the agenda (attached). Several comments noting the helpfulness of the Board reports in fostering cross-committee coordination.

**Sukkot-Simchat Torah:** Toby Kopman

Chai Guys and others will set up the sukkah on October 9. The October 16 congregational Sukkot event will start at 4:30 and lead up to 6:45, ending just before our 7 PM Simchat Torah service. All activities will be intergenerational, and will include activities for kids and adults, and dinner. High school kids will help but need someone to supervise. Hibur students will be there, both local and Israeli.

**\*\*ACTION ITEM:** *Volunteers are needed for organization, running activities such as crafts, and distributing food for dinner*

**High Holiday Bonanza:** Ann Barysh

The original purpose was to pull people in from all over the Boston area for great pre-holiday programming. However, decided to start small with a less is more approach this year. The first session on September 18<sup>th</sup> will focus on Rosh Hashannah, with activities centered around apple picking and learning about shofar. The second session will be on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and will be a community tashlich event, with a picnic and storytelling. Scott Newman will be helping with both events. In future years, the hope is for more programming and larger events. Membership hopes that these activities will provide a way to advertise BE differently. All programming is designed to be interactive and intergenerational, open to BE members and those interested in joining our community.

**Funding for communications consultant:** Neil Frieband

Neil noted the Allocation Committee approval of funding for the communications consultant to assist in marketing Beth El.

**Follow-up to Kallah:** Michelle Fineblum

Several folks expressed how wonderful it was. Michelle promised that this was not just a one-off event. Michelle distributed a draft set of Values and Community Agreements discussed at the Kallah and said the Community Agreements would be consolidated into 8 or 10 to support the values. Judith and Fern volunteered to work with Michelle after the holidays to draft this consolidated list, to be sent to the rest of the Board and senior staff for review, and to be discussed at a future Board meeting. Michelle hopes the Board will be able to have similar events again later in the year.

## **High Holiday Greeting:** Michelle Fineblum

Thanks to everyone for doing a wonderful job greeting. There are many new opportunities to do greeting during the High Holidays. A Sign-Up Genius will be created for High Holidays greeters.

## **Minutes from July 14th Board Meeting** – prepared by Jocylyn Bailin

*Motion: To approve the minutes from the July 14<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting*

*Motion approved: unanimous*

## **Recruiting of Volunteers** Debbie Glass, on behalf of Jocylyn

We recently completed a compilation of committees, their leadership, membership, and activities. You all received a copy. What is surprising and amazing is the sheer percentage of congregants who are already volunteering - at least 25%! Rabbi Josh celebrated that large percentage. Others noted the same names show up in multiple groups – we have some “super volunteers”.

The question remains: how do we recruit, nourish, and appreciate our volunteers?

Fern Chertok has assembled a team of students in her Organization Behavior class in the Hornstein program at Brandeis. They will do analysis and offer recommendations to Beth El regarding our volunteer recruitment and support issues.

Comments/Suggestions:

- Create a group intelligence/knowledge basis that can be drawn upon by all Board members;
- Share the monthly reports widely as these are valuable in conveying opportunities to new members.
- List specific tasks can inspire specific responses (especially in form of discrete tasks vs. serving on an open-ended committee).
- Board Members use High Holiday Board calls might as an opportunity to engage with members about volunteer opportunities.
- Have the Rosh Shanah hand-outs also include information on committees and tasks.
- Regularly email list of volunteer tasks to congregation. Question: how would these be compiled?

**\*\*ACTION ITEM: need a volunteer to help organize the list of tasks with additions/subtractions**

## **Community Connections:** Michelle Fineblum and Rabbi Breindel

We have recently had several deeply engaged members resign from the congregation. Rabbi Josh talked with some of these recent resignations and reported they had many similar comments: They are a loss for the community. They are feeling burned out. They are feeling unappreciated. We need to think about how to nourish our volunteers and all members.

Comment: were some of these resignations inevitable in the wake of Lorel’s retirement?

Rabbi Josh shared insights from the Clergy Leadership Incubator (CLI) program that he is engaged with: “the core of any community is relationships”. People join and participate in a community because their friends are here; people leave because their friends are no longer here. We need ways for us to engage – more than just committees and services and need to give mindful attention to these ideas and needs.

The Rabbi intends to speak about the need for sustaining community in his High Holiday sermons. At the forefront we must focus on fostering relationships and helping congregants be nourished, and cared for.

**Comments:**

- This goes back to volunteers and in-person connections
- The High Holiday Bonanza plays into this – encourages intergenerational bonding
- Ours is a community that connects around food. Right now there are no current Oneg or Kiddush hosts, and no visible plan to implement this any time soon.
- Our Education families will engage *after* they are feeling cared for, not before.
- New families look at things differently than prior generations.

**Suggestions:**

- Include more information in the directory – Board members, lists of Committees (like what was compiled) and social groups (eg: book groups, mah jong groups, affinity groups)
- Create more purely **social** events and connections. *Examples:*  
 Community Shabbat dinners – both at Beth El and in people’s homes  
 Create havurot  
 Adopt-A-Grandparent/Grandchild: match empty nesters with families with younger children  
 Congregational retreats  
 Create affinity groups – Beth El hikers, BE knitters, BE kayakers, BE bakers, BE jazz musicians, BE quilters, etc..  
 Offer Shabbat yoga  
 BE camping trips  
 Reinstate Beth El Christmas Eve dinner and movie night  
 Create volunteer appreciation events

**\*\*ACTION ITEM: High Holiday calls should include a conversational template** to go beyond simply hoping they come to services. Some noted the difficulty of reaching people in phoning them, had to leave warm and friendly messages. Rabbi Josh suggested follow-up calls if no answer the first time. It was suggested that we (the Board callers) ask open-ended questions, rather than simple yes/no questions.

***Examples of open-ended, inviting questions:***

- Acknowledge that I’ve been assigned to call you – open-ended question what’s important to you, then listen
- What are you looking forward to this year?
- Do you have a goal for the new Year?
- What will you enjoy participating in Beth El?
- What has been a highlight for you last year?
- What are you worried about in the New Year?
- Caution about asking an “unwrapping” question” if not able to wrap up again
- Need personal comfort to discuss
- Needs follow-up? What can I do to help you? Have to follow-through
- We hope to see you on Zoom or in-person /I am looking forward to seeing you.
- What kind of social connections activities would you like to see at Beth El?

Rabbi Josh and Michelle thank the Board for its partnership with them in fostering more community.

**Covid Task Force Update:** Michelle Fineblum

The Covid Task Force will meet this coming Monday evening to discuss the High Holidays and Covid protocol. Likely will make recommendations to the Board to enable the Board to set the policy. Will be done by email (since no meeting before the High Holidays). Michelle noted the challenge of striking the balance when it comes to policy; our medical and public health advisors may say that mask-optional is fine and it comes down to weighing the comfort of different congregants. (Some more comfortable with requiring masks and some with having the choice to go without a mask). It was noted that we still have high percentage of congregants who are at greater risk of contracting or falling seriously ill from Covid. Ultimately this is not about individuals but about taking care of one another.

**Meeting Adjourned: 9:00pm**

Respectfully submitted,  
 Jocylyn Bailin

Clerk, Congregation Beth El of the Sudbury River Valley (with much appreciated typing assistance from John Harper)

Attached Reports:

- Rabbi
  - Tefilah/Ritual
  - Membership
  - Administrator
  - Education - Youth & Family
  - Education - Teen
  - Education - Adult Talmud Torah
  - Tikkun Olam
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## Rabbi Report August-September 2022

### Ritual

#### **Leading Friday evening services.**

- Excellent feedback from **Aaron Stevens** joining me on guitar
- Co-led erev services at Wayland Town Beach with B'nai Torah on 8/19
- Working with **Rabbi Lev and Lisa Jane Lipkin** to balance Beth El traditions with their unique voices on alternate Saturday mornings for this year.

#### **High Holiday prep** is taking up a LOT of my time.

- Raising awareness for all re: how much work Lorel put in to the ritual life of our community! And reinforcing the need for a clergy partner.
- Working with Lisa Jane Lipkin on High Holiday services
- Thank you to Janet B. for her partnership on Selichot and several aspects of Y"K services!

### Lifecycle/Pastoral

**Anxiety and tension** continues to be exceedingly high (for many communities).

### Community outreach/events

Attended **interfaith clergy luncheon** in July. Will continue to connect.

### Programming and education

- MC'd **Linda Hirschhorn concert** and purchased her CDs for the congregation.
- Working with Scott, Shoni and Fern on **advance planning the new academic year**.
- Continued monthly **Jewish F&SF book group** – final one before HiHos in August.

### Administrative

- A LOT of time spent bringing in Lisa Jane Lipkin as our **High Holiday soloist**.
  - Thank you to Carolyn and Michelle for being full partners in this process!
- Coordinating with Judy and Janet on **finding a new permanent clergy partner**.
- Working with **Strategic Plan committee** on next steps for the community.

Respectfully Submitted

Rabbi Josh Breindel

## Ritual Committee Report

August 24, 2022

### High Holidays

1, Our wonderful HHD Coordinators Lisa and Steve Breit, met with the Ritual Committee to ensure good communication and task assignment. We thanked them profusely for taking on the job.

2. Service times for evening HHD services

- Erev Rosh Hashanah and Kol Nidre were set at 8pm. The schedule of services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur was reviewed.

3. Rosh Hashanah Box Lunch

- We talked about the importance of communal dining to reinvigorating our community cohesion.
- We discussed a lunch provider and sources to pay for boxed lunches for congregants who choose to stay.
- Tasks were assigned.
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4. Rosh Hashanah morning study :Facilitators are needed to engage small group study on a topic from Rabbi Breindel's source sheet or one that is of interest to them, all based on the theme of community cohesion -- receiving (and offering) blessings.

5. The afternoon Yom Kippur break after the Musaf service

- Study leader names were proposed.
- Other activity options, including poetry, drumming, movement and meditation were proposed with possible leaders.
- Tasks were assigned.

6. Sukkot

- Last day of Sukkot was discussed
- Simchat Torah was discussed. Dan Goodman, who did a wonderful job with Simchat Torah music last year, will be invited again to perform.
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7. Selichot

- Janet Buchwald and Rabbi Breindel are working together on a Selichot service.
- Janet needs our help with publicity and technical aspects.
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8. Zoom Hosting : Marty Weiskoff volunteered to be the Zoom team coordinator.

Respectfully Submitted, Toby Kopman Co-VP Ritual

## Membership Report August 2022

The Anns have been working hard this past year and a half to respond to the challenges of recruiting families to join Beth El. We have listened long and hard to the advice of our knowledgeable colleagues about the need to recruit new and young families in ways different from what was done in the past. And, given the specter of COVID, that has not been easy to implement.

Being mindful that new and young families want community and engagement in issues of social justice as a focus, The Anns launched and participated in a number of activities. We have attended Tot Shabbat and listened to what parents wanted from Beth El. Overall, they were pleased with the Beth El experience and believed that they were becoming part of the larger community. Several families asked to have services outside during the summer and for the temple to create multigenerational activities that were not necessarily based on rituals. We have passed these insights on to the relevant committees.

During the early days of our tenure as committee heads, we reached out to Susan Tohn who shared with us her insights on how to reach out to new members. As a result, Ann Kramer initiated a project in which she delivered Hanukkah goodies and candles to new members.

In a desire to strengthen our relationship with elderly members of the Beth El community and to those who have moved to other areas, we became supporters of the Virtual Hevra initiative. This is proving to be modestly successful and time will tell if this is viable.

As women of a certain age, we understand that our electronic skills might not be as strong as others. Nevertheless, we are becoming conversant with Pastoral Reach thanks to the endless patience of Beth. We are working closely with Barbara Miller and Alice Waugh regarding outreach beyond the existing Beth El community.

We have also contacted those members of Beth El who have recently resigned. As a rule, their reasons for leaving Beth El have to do with life changes and not dissatisfaction with Beth El. However, when contacted these former Beth El members

were pleased that we have noticed their leaving and were touched by our efforts to talk with them

In our initial effort to understand the history of the membership committee, we met with Scott, Shoni and Sheila in order to understand how information about Beth El was shared. As a result of this meeting, we suggested that the board approve the hiring of a PR/media person. At one point, we handed over this concept to the committee headed by Lisa Brit and Barbara Miller. We have been working with them ever since.

Now that the COVID "clouds" have cleared to a degree and meetings are being held in the temple, the Anns have created a subcommittee of Beth El members and the Rabbi who will be meeting with new members on September 11. The focus of this group is to orient new members to the many offerings of Beth El and to answer any questions they might have. As a result of this effort, we would like to establish a cadre of outreach volunteers who will act as formal or informal mentors to our new members.

In keeping with the theme of the need for a multi-general outreach approach to new members, we came up with the idea of a High Holiday Bonanza. This Bonanza is designed as a community builder for our current community and as an outreach tool for prospective members.

Starting with an initial meeting in July and with the Rabbi's guidance, we created a High Holiday Bonanza Committee whose mandate was to create several opportunities through the High Holiday time period for intergenerational activities of all sorts.

The Anns met with Bridget Hodder, who helped us to form our themes and events. After meeting with the Committee, we chose Sunday, September 18 and October 2 as the dates for the Bonanza. We have been meeting with Scott and Shoni, Alice Waugh and Beth in order to implement seamless events,

At this point, our September 18 program is going well. Our events are as follows: Apple picking with Scott; Cooking with several renowned Beth El Bakers; a bit of torah study with the Rabbi and crafts with members of the Committee.

Our October 2 event theme will be Redemption, and will focus on preparation for Yom Kippur.

Our work continues and right now we could continue to need volunteers for our Bonanza events. We would like to create a stable of volunteers who could reach out to new members to help them become a part of Beth El

Finally, we are looking for an in-house artist who could help to create a simple "tri-folder" that gives a quick overview of Beth El.

**Ann Barysh and Ann Kramer**

**Temple Administrator Report to Board of Directors**  
**August 31, 2022**

**Membership**

Current membership: 227 (Expect this number to change in both directions as people join and resign)

**New members since July 1**

Asher Greenberg & Juliana Marcus  
(Daughter Orly – naming was 2 weeks ago)  
Peter & Coleen Fishman (Charlie, 13)  
Emery & Elyssa Ku (Aaron, 2 yrs)  
Liela Weltman (Roy Weltman’s mother)  
Chuck Shepard (rejoining)

**Resignations since July 1**

Steve Balzac & Aimee Yermish  
Alan Corin & Patricia McCoon  
Bill & Myra Keller  
Jim Raffel & Maria Favorito  
David & Jodi Strauss  
Betty Thorner  
Raphael (Rob) & Shoshi Kahn-Woods  
Craig Ross & Denise Nelken

**Financial Commitments for 2022-2023**

**No response yet: 78**

**Pending (have rec’d forms or payments w/ no forms, need to finalize arrangements): 4**

**Received and Resolved: 145**

<b>Full+ :</b> 18	\$ 72,000
<b>Full:</b> 75	\$ 246,500
<b>3% :</b> 21	\$ 37,205
<b>Adj.:</b> 37	\$ 42,795

**Total dues commitments to date: \$ 398,500**

**Major activities of last two months:**

- **Calendar meeting** – held 2<sup>nd</sup> calendar meeting a month ago, made great progress with next year’s programming, including some brainstorming about full community, intergenerational opportunities.
- **Conversion to new database** – went live with move from Chaverware to ShulCloud at the end of June. At this point, use of ShulCloud is limited to the office staff and Neil, while we make sure that we are familiar with the essential functions of maintaining and updating the database and financial/bookkeeping records accurately, are satisfied that financial processes are going smoothly. We are about to send out the second month of statements in the new system. Format of the statements is likely to change as we get more familiar with the options and find or create one that conveys information as clearly as possible. We have encountered some glitches and errors in the process, have so far been able to identify and correct the cause of those. ShulCloud will allow us to integrate a lot of functions that we currently do in separate platforms, e.g. registration forms, online payments, access to online member directory that is continually synced to the database (!), and member access to update their contact information, pay bills online. This will not all happen right away, nor will it all happen at the same time. The advice from ShulCloud support as well as from other administrators I’ve spoken with who made this same transition, is to take our time before “going live” in giving access to the membership. I expect to be bringing in staff and some of our lay

leaders with experience and knowledge in this area first, to help in getting things set up, testing, and being sure that we have clear instructional tools. So, please be patient, and please let the office know of any changes in contact information for yourselves, or that you learn as you make calls to the membership.

- **Processing financial commitment forms** – have been spending a great deal of time taking in forms, making sure adjustments and additional donations are recorded accurately (thank you, Carolyn!), having conversations with those members in need of adjustments to their dues. This will continue for some time – we’re about 2/3 of the way there, tends to go more slowly as we get closer – may need help with making calls to the stragglers
- **HH arrangements** – online ticket request went out a couple of weeks ago; current ticket requests show 192 people anticipating that they will attend in person over the two holidays, with numbers at individual services ranging from 69 (2<sup>nd</sup> day RH) to 176 (both 1<sup>st</sup> day RH and YK) Please send in your ticket requests **now** if you want to attend in person, encourage others to do the same. Having an idea of what the numbers will be will help us know how much flexibility we have in setting up seating in the sanctuary.
  - Registrations/ticket requests
  - Coordinating with HH coordinators
- **COVID task force** – meeting next Monday – if anyone has specific questions they would like the task force to address, please let Laurie Margolies know
- **Building**
  - See the results of the Beautification committee’s work – classroom wing has had major facelift – paint, flooring, new carpeting, new furniture
  - Floors and carpets have been cleaned, window cleaning about to be scheduled
  - Window repairs being scheduled
- **Fobs**
  - We are engaged in an effort to get “a fob in every pocket” to improve and streamline our security measures, and so that all our members are able to enter into the building when they come for a class, a service, a meeting, to pay a bill, use our library, etc. Important things to understand about the fobs are:
    - They are programmed to work at specific times, not all the time. They allow access when we are “open for business”, i.e. our posted office hours, when we have services, for special programming or events. If you try to use your fob and it doesn’t unlock the door, it means one of two things – either you’ve tried to use it “out of schedule”, or I’ve made a programming mistake. (or your fob has died – this has happened to a few) Let me know if this happens to you.
    - And, I share this with you so that you will be knowledgeable leaders who can spread the word to encourage people to always have their fobs with them when they come to Beth El, be in touch with me if they need one or have problems with them



## Youth and Family Education Report

August 25, 2022

**Physical Plan:** The beautification committee has been diligently working to complete painting, flooring, and assembly of new desks, tables, and chairs. Our team is especially grateful for the work they are doing. It is a very large job and it is paying off. When all is done, classrooms will be warmer and inviting, closer to the vision of 'a second home' that we dreamt together over a year ago together.

**Enrollment:** We have internalized **Michelle's initiative** to engage more congregants. Building off that idea, BE InSpirEd! is at the stage where more recruitment is critical, while we continue to engage and integrate internally. Ongoing conversations are taking place as to how we might measure such engagement. I have personally reached out (several times) to those who are not registered and offered conversations as I customarily do at this time. Usually, it is that they are traveling or not thinking about school year. I expect we will hear from them in the next two weeks as routines return to normal. There are a couple of prospective members in the Tot Shabbat crowd not eligible to be enrolled in BE InSpirEd this year, as they are too young, but we have begun building the critical relationship that leads to enrollment. This is evidence of a 'pipeline' starting back up post-covid.

**Current Enrollment:** (30 registered out of 36 expected in PK-7<sup>th</sup> grades) :

### Kindergarten – 4

Pre-K- 1

First - 1

Second – 4

Third – 6

Fourth – 6

Fifth – 5

Sixth – No Students (bubble)

Seventh - 3

**Middle School:** I am taking on primary collaboration with Middle School families this year as Shoni further develops Hibur and the High School. Numbers are small, so we are participating in the collaborative with several other congregations: The Jewish Learning Collaborative of Metrowest.

### Teaching Staff

**We have sadly lost two teachers** (for positive personal reasons unrelated to Beth El):

- 1) **Harry Abrahams who was teaching up the 3-4 grade.** Harry has increased responsibility at his job, and we are sad to see him go.
- 2) **Anna Kammen, our early childhood teacher.**

**Anna's position will be assumed by Rachel Kornreich**, who was with us last year functioning as Hebrew tutor and substitute. She is very skilled with this age group and is an early childhood teacher, well poised to assume this role. **The diligent and far-reaching search is on for faculty members to fill the positions.** Congregations across our country are reporting difficulty with staffing.

Joan Makepeace (family Hebrew and Special Ed) and Judy Azer (1- 2 )will remain on our faculty.

**Education Program Opening Date:** September 11<sup>th</sup>

Will be a kickoff where Rabbi Josh and I will invite everyone to the first Family Shabbat on that Friday night the 16<sup>th</sup>. Opening day will be a Family Learning day that appropriately will focus on the Commandment of, "Remembering Shabbat and keeping it holy."

**HHD Family Services**

**High Holiday Programming:** Rabbi Josh and I have worked to expand our offerings to families and young families for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. This effort has created TWO services. A young Family Service for families with children 0-3, and another for PK-5<sup>th</sup> grade. We are excited to provide these services and look forward to the feedback as data for future years.

**Special Note:**

*It is very important to us that members of the Board of Directors get to witness the programming we create with our families first-hand. Please know that we welcome you to join us any time this year and observe all we are doing. It is only by understanding our young families' experience that we can best embrace them and make thoughtful decisions. My door and phone are open for you any time if you have questions or want to learn more, or plan a visit to our vibrant BE InSpirEd! programs.*

***Respectfully submitted, Scott Newman, Director, Youth and Family Education***

# Teen Education and Engagement Report

**August 2022 - Shoni**

## High School

Opening day is September 12!

First semester class will be *Our Story* with Rabbi Josh, and *Ethical Dilemmas* with me.

**New this year** - every other month we will host a Family Night, in which Rabbi Josh and myself will lead activities for both the teens and their parents.

We're expecting 4 new students, and 1 who might not be continuing.

## HiBuR

The Israeli HiBuR group will be here on October 13, and will join our Simchat Torah celebration on Sunday, October 16!

On the American side, we have **16** students this year, which is the largest group we've had at least since I got here.

Most of my work these days are planning for the Boston Mifgash, which are 10 days of non-stop programming.

Initial funding from of \$10,000 from CJP has already been received.

## J-LOFT

This coming year under the J-LOFT umbrella we will be offering the RAC program with a weekend in D.C., a service trip to NOLA, HiBuR, and a variety of local classes led by Rabbis from the different temples.

J-LOFT kick-off/open house event will be on Sunday, October 2.

Temple Israel of Natick is a potential new partner in J-LOFT this year, joining Beth El, B'nai Torah, Or Atid, Beth Sholom, Beth Am, and Kerem Shalom.

An initial funding of \$6,000 from CJP has already been received, and with the opening of the new application window, I'll be applying for additional funding.



## **ADULT EDUCATION/TALMUD TORAH**

**August 24, 2022**

We look forward to joining in community at Beth El in 5783.

Adult Ed did not meet in August. There will be more to report at our next Board meeting. Both scheduled events and other considered possibilities are listed.

### **HIGHLIGHTS of SCHEDULED EVENTS**

#### **MEDITATION**

New member David Daniel Klipper will offer 6 Meditation sessions on Zoom Wednesday mornings at 11:00a.m. beginning September 14 (skipping Yom Kippur, resuming the following Wednesday) He offered an inspiring talk at a recent Friday service. Additionally, he serves as a chaplain, and trains chaplains.

#### **JEWISH FANTASY & SCI-FI BOOK CLUB**

Rabbi Breindel and Stephanie Bennett will continue presenting the book club on the last Wednesday of the month, except during holidays and vacations. They explore themes and perspectives of Jewish life and culture with a regular following of 20-25 including a non-member who arrived via Facebook. We aim to attract more attention among readers and the book community outside of Beth El in the New Year.

#### **SHONI ARANOVICH–ISRAELI CULTURE**

If you have not been to one of Shoni's presentations, they are always engaging. He chooses interesting subjects and offers depth of insight into the complex history and culture of Israel. He is on the calendar for November.

#### **POSSIBLE MUSIC/CULTURAL EVENT November**

This will be discussed at the September Adult Ed meeting.

**WITH RITUAL–CHANUKIAH 50th ANNIVERSARY LIGHTING** We would like to have some print and local tv, radio news Chanukah overlaps Christmas this year. Dec 18-26.

#### **JEWISH LIVES BOOK CLUB**

We will continue with the Jewish Lives Book Club series From Yale U Press.

Marcos Szydlo will present on Einstein: His Space and Times, date TBD.

The focus will be about Einstein's worldview, rather than his scientific endeavors. Including his views on Israel. Make some time to read, and if you don't have time to read, come anyway!

**LIBRARY:** Don't forget we have a library full of excellent titles, including cookbooks. In the past, occasionally a cart of books would be brought out after a service. We should plan to continue this practice. I will check with Hadley and Stephanie regarding purchases.

### **POSSIBILITIES**

**RABBI NEHEMIAH POLEN**–A Beth El favorite (Making efforts to reach him) He has a recently published title: Stop Look and Listen: Celebrating Shabbos Through a Spiritual Lens

**HARTMAN INSTITUTE:** We will be in touch about continuing study, which was popular in the past. They recently opened a Boston area office. This year is Israel's 75th Anniversary (Hadar also opened a Boston area office.)

ENVIRONMENT/CLIMATE with a JEWISH SCHOLAR Considering a Jewish scholar on the subject

#### MARGE PIERCY

Rosie Rosenzweig recently told us MP is looking for teaching opportunities in the coming year. Poetry, Sci Fi? We'll find out if this is a viable possibility.

#### HEBREW BEGINNING & INTERMEDIATE

--Will follow up to see if anyone is interested in a Beginner/Refresher class before the Holidays. There was not interest during the past 2 years.

--The Intermediate class is always popular and has a following. We need to encourage folks who have not taken this class to try it. We know why Janet has a following.

#### SUNDAY MORNINGS

--I think the upcoming Holidays Bonanzas will begin to address Holiday cooking demos, discussed when I spoke with Cynthia M about programs for school parents.

--We plan to showcase our Beth El children's authors, Bridget Hodder and Joy Weider. Looking to schedule 2023 per the calendar meeting. I notified Bridget

--More needs to be planned for Sunday mornings

#### SUGGESTIONS WE HEAR OFTEN

--Bring in a comedian or humorist

--Can we have a Beginner's Judaism or Judaism 101 class offering a broad overview of thought, history and culture. This could be taught by one or a team.

#### ITEMS OF INTEREST WE DIDN'T GET TO LAST YEAR

Consider some high impact guests/programs for our own community, and also invite the greater community, locally and regionally. Perhaps partnering with groups from the city or region to co-sponsor a program or concert. I started outreach, pandemic, now resuming outreach.

Additional Program Considerations we didn't get to in 5782

--Invite a panel of young Jews from outside of Beth El to share how they experience Jewish life. --Invite a panel of young Beth El Alums to share how they experience Jewish life.

--A session or short series on Retirement, as another wave of congregants joins this lifestyle, Rabbi Pam Wax may be a possibility. She is trained in wise aging, etc. Exercise class.

#### Behind the scenes

--I put in a lot of time toward making connections inside and outside of Beth El and learning processes for publicizing our events. It's been hit or miss, when I do have time, but there has been some forward motion. Beth and Svetlana have helped. Janet B and I have come up with a few new contacts for publicizing the summer concert. There are always other unexpected issues to address in a timely manner that come up throughout the year.

I'm working to learn to update JewishBoston, not much free time lately. It is quite out of date and we need to post our new programs and hope to be designated Top Picks.

--Process Doc: Update our publicity process doc, work on docs for live, hybrid and zoom events.

#### MARKETING, PR, OUTREACH

Adult Ed among others will benefit from marketing and publicity support. We look forward to a more efficient process, consistent presentation, and help implementing updates.

#### METROWEST JEWISH CULTUREFEST

I am our rep to meetings with local synagogues in this program. Excellent programs last year, but since they coincided w other holiday programs, attendance was ok, could have been better. They will try to avoid

overlap this year. The aim is to introduce traditions and customs from Jewish communities around the world. Last year a grant was received from CJP. They applied for another one recently. Four orgs from the group will be considered hosts this year, not Beth El. Maybe next year? I would like to meet them off of Zoom at some point. Basically it is run by Rabbi Poirier from Beth Shalom. It includes Or Atid, BNai Torah, Beth Am, Shillman House

**Thank you for your support and don't forget to take advantage of programs.**

Best,  
Barbara Miller  
VP Adult Education/Talmud Torah

## *Tikkun Olam Report as of August 8, 2022*

### **Sanctuary Committee**

- The Sanctuary Committee is looking into partnering with other congregations and groups to sponsor a Ukrainian family through the HIAS Welcome Circles program.
- The Sanctuary Committee delivered a collection of Medical Supplies for Ukraine to Makor.

Contact: Carl Offner (carl.offner@comcast.net)

### **Antiracism Working Group**

Ann and Lisa B organized the Antiracism Learning Group's discussion of the recently published book, *Blacks and Jews in America: An Invitation to Dialogue* by Terrence L. Johnson and Jacques Berlinerblau. Sunday, July 17.

- Michelle L organized a Beth El Summer Community Book Read on Ibram X. Kendi's new book *How to Raise an Antiracist*. Monday, August 8.
- Lisa G is organizing a five-part antiracism workshop at Beth El in the fall: [Our Liberation is Bound Together: Combatting Racism, Antisemitism and White Supremacy](#). This workshop is offered by Kavod Boston. Wednesday evenings Oct 19, 26, Nov 2, 9, and 16.
- Ann attended the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism-MA's Action Meeting on August 11 to learn about RAC's initiatives in MA, including voting rights work.
- Matia, Martin, Jane, Ann, Wendy and Karen participated in an August 13th METCO-sponsored tour of Nubian Square, Roxbury, led by two current METCO students.
- Following the Board of Directors' endorsement of an antiracism [Resolution](#), Judy and Karen continue to meet with pairs of staff/clergy/board members to discuss how to bring an antiracism lens to all aspects of Beth El's operations. They've met with nine pairs so far. These meetings will continue throughout the year.
- Judy and Karen are in continued contact with the Sudbury Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee about the representation of Indigenous Peoples in public markers in Sudbury.
- Hadley ordered a number of antiracist children's books for the Beth El library. This initiative will continue in the fall.

Contacts: Judy Goldberg and Karen Blumenfeld ([antiracism@BethElSudbury.org](mailto:antiracism@BethElSudbury.org))

### **High Holiday Food Drive**

- The process began for organizing the High Holiday food drive. Food and money donations expected be given to: Family Table, A Place to Turn Natick, Sudbury Food Pantry, and Voices Against Violence
- Contact: Allison Alter (allison.j.alter@gmail.com)

Respectfully Submitted, Allison Alter, VP Tikkun Olam