



MINUTES

April 26, 2022 25 Nissan 5782 7pm

Attendance: Ellie Short, Andy Salsman, Marc Luber, Phil Nordlinger, Jason Cohen, Todd Leon, Melissa Rubenstein, Cantor Rachel, Jon Stevens, Stephanie Kravatz, Jeff Cohen, Robin Firestone, Debbie Rosenthal, Ellen Rawicz, Brandon Weiss, Jeff Cohen, Rachel Tyler (Zoom), Rabbi Goldberg, Rabbi Briskin (Zoom), Cantor Kohlbrenner

Guests: Beth McAleese, Debbie Stevens, Alan Sheinberg, Steve Rodos, Brett Cohen

Motion by Stephanie Kravatz, seconded by Jon Stevens: to allow the golf committee to proceed with creating this event and once the contract is reviewed to put down the deposit. Unanimously approved.

Michael Smolen moves to approve 2022-2023 budget, Stephanie Kravatz seconded. Unanimously approved.

Board meeting goal – “To laugh at least once per meeting”

I. Welcome/ Remarks/Points of Information

- Approval of 3-22-22 Minutes
 - *Andy Salsman motion to approve, Brandon Weiss second, unanimously passed*
- Dinners at Board gatherings – About \$10 each ? YES, possibly pair up 2 or 3 people to sponsor each one
- Board dinner – say farewell to departing members, Consensus was yes, details to follow
- Important Upcoming Dates: **Monday, May 9, 7:30 pm** Annual Meeting, **Friday, May 20, 7 pm** Board Installation/Honoring Board Retirees/Donor Recognition, Bucks County Jewish Festival – **Sunday, May 15 12-3pm**
Need shift volunteers
- Reports on ShirBoard drive under 2021-22 Gatherings –SHAFTY, Bldg & Grounds, Education/Lifelong Learning, Finance/Budget, Rabbi Briskin, Exec Dir
https://drive.google.com/drive/u/2/folders/1xYNTbP0xwu9JYOs_-zOHUKtnO-zHHJcg

D'Var Torah – Debbie Rosenthal

I. Relational Judaism discussion – Rabbi Briskin

Listening campaign to find out what our congregants need, similar to what occurred at board meeting last time. Themes from board discussion: people are starting to think ahead to next phase of our lives, relationship between expectations and reply (low expectations make it easier to overachieve; high expectations make it easier to disappoint). Additional sessions, May 17/18 and May 25/26 will focus on larger congregation; April 28 session is primarily for committee members. Need board members to help facilitate sessions. There was a suggestion to send questions in advance of the focus group sessions so people can have time to think about them.

Goal is to form small group communities which will create the feeling of community in larger events

Budget justification for Rabbinic intern – Rabbi Briskin

Opportunity to have a rising 5th year rabbinic student at HUC work with us in a part time capacity. A rabbinic student who will be living in New Hope for her 5th year contacted Rabbi Briskin.

Rabbinic intern could do the following and could provide long lasting value, filling spots for Chevrat Torah (they get paid, no impact to budget), enhance family education programs that would enhance the relational component to what we have historically done

This intern has experience doing community building work, she is earning a chaplaincy (help to rebuild Chesed Committee). Create programs/pieces that would be around for years to come.

Estimated cost: 8 hours/week \$8000 for the internship; 10 hours a week, \$10,000 for the internship Chevrat Torah budget offset of \$2500 (Sept to May)

Consensus to add line item for intern to budget. If budget is approved, further discussions around expectations for this position as well as whether this candidate is a good fit.

Board members to help with committee recruitment – Jon Stevens, Jason Cohen 5 min

Jason has a list of people interested in getting involved; each board member is expected to make calls to these people by end of May to identify the best committee fit for them

II. Golf Outing Proposal – Todd Leon, Marc Luber, Brett Cohen, Rabbi Eric

Charge from Philanthropy Committee to create signature Shir Ami event

Prior golf outings that have been run through Men's Club have not been that successful.

Key to success—golf course that you couldn't normally play at because it is members only, people will pay more for that.

Volunteers to run program, open to members and non-members

Though late in the budget process, it fits in philanthropy budget for 2 events this year.

Motion above.

III. Presentation and Approval of 2022-23 Budget – Robin Firestone, Michael Smolen, Phil Nordlinger

Program/engagement director—Purim party planning, coordinate holiday, new member events, organize volunteers

Motion above.

IV. Closing Prayer – Cantor Kohlbrenner

**Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Rawicz, Secretary**

MONTHLY BOARD REPORT

NAME: Ken Standig

DATE: 4-24-2022

TITLE OR COMMITTEE: Buildings & Grounds

Please provide a summary for the board of what you and/or your committee have been up to since the last meeting. Bullet points are fine.

- Discussed 2015 Capital Plan with Larry Schorr and decided on an action plan to update the program with Phil, starting with review of the HVAC equipment.
- Reviewed proposed 2022-23 maintenance budget with Phil.
- Reviewed JEPP security questionnaire with Phil, for submittal this month.
- Alerted Phil to deepening sinkholes along the exit driveway requiring repairs.

Please list and describe any upcoming initiatives and/or events.

- Site visit in May with JEPP representatives to prepare a security assessment.

Are there any items that the board needs to discuss or actions that the board needs to take at this time? If so, please specify the question, topic and/or required action.

None.

If you have any documents that you would like to include with your report, please email them with this form.

None.

Director of Operations Report 4.25.2022

Submitted by: Phil Nordlinger

Total paid membership vs last yr & 3 yrs ago

Total paid by year (includes payments for all dues sources including preschool families and TS and these numbers include all payments through today without regards to what fiscal year the payment came in):

FY18-19 – 814,677.37

FY19-20 – 780,683.63

FY20-21 – 685,012.39

FY21-22 – 468,540.38 **518,012.80** **567,934** **597,648** **613,758** 665,000

Membership Numbers:

FY18-19 – 586

FY19-20 – 548

FY20-21 – 544

FY21-22 – 513 **515** **514** **513** **513** 504

CoG and all other giving totals:

Circle of Giving (Payments by fiscal year received, not based on pledge dates):

FY18-19: 98,037.01

FY19-20: 140,050.78

FY20-21: 142,868.98

FY21-22: 70,359.14 **116,823** **168,188.42** **181,874** **186,942** 200,000

Other Donations:

FY18-19: 93,592.45

FY19-20: 185,791.45

FY20-21: 78,185.80

FY21-22: 64,544.85 **69,990** **104,238.59** **105,903** **137,107** 158,000

ELC enrollment **162** **162** **162**

New members since 1.22.2022

Weissman, Jaclyn (22-23)

Schechter, Lindsay and Jason

Resigned members since 2.22.2022

Ehrlikh, James and Marina

Pollack, Niv and Amy

Chou, Steven and Suzanne

Checkoff, Jaime and Abby

Robinson, Jodi

Sobol, Lori and Spencer

Smilk, Robert and Michelle

Lynch, William and Sarah

Katein, John and Erika

Actions and Goals

Completed budget committee meetings and prepared budget to present to the BOD on 4/26

Attended first meeting of JEPP Security Analysis and in process of completing JEPP analysis document

Installation of new fire panel began on 4/25

BOARD REPORT- CLERGY/STAFF

NAME: Eric Goldberg

DATE: Board Meeting 4/26

TITLE OR COMMITTEE: Rabbi/Director of Education

Please provide a summary for the board of what you have been up to since the last meeting. Please include an update on your goals when relevant or indicate activity pertaining to your goals. Bullet points are fine.

Religious School Update

1. Religious School was in session/in person from March 23rd to April 13th.
2. Religious School was on 'Passover Break' from Sunday April 17th through Wednesday April 20th. Classes resumes this past Sunday, April 24th.
3. Our 6th-10th grade Wednesday 5:30-7:30p schedule continues. While we have eaten dinner outside when the weather has cooperated, and plan to do so any time that the weather allows between now and the end of the Religious School year, we have continued indoor dinner when necessary. Ellen Rawicz, Karen Briskin and Rachael Smolen (in conjunction with me) coordinated getting pizza, snacks and drinks to every class space in a timely fashion. Students ate in their class spaces and only with their grade level counterparts. Students put their masks back on after eating.
4. A continued 'todah rabbah' to our Religious School families for their calls, emails, and texts letting me know about the health of their family. While parents have asked about our policies on masks and when/if they will change, 99.9% of parents have said they will follow whatever rules we have even if they prefer for their children to have the option to not wear a mask.
5. In the month between board meetings, to my knowledge, a small number of children have tested positive for COVID. In each case, there has been no 'spread' to Religious School aged children or anyone in our Shir Ami family.
6. Planning for our 2022-2023 Israel Teen Adventure (Tiyul) is well underway. Tentative dates are Dec 24-Jan 4.
7. Students would miss 2 days maximum of school, which is always a concern for our parents.
8. Tiyul will be open to all 2022-2023 8th-11th graders.
9. Based on the number of travelers, we will determine the number of chaperones needed from Shir Ami.
10. Kayla Ship, our point person from Keshet (the tour company) met with families and students on Wednesday April 6th. At this time, based on contact with parents both electronically and in person, I estimate that 20-25 students will travel to Israel with Ferne and myself this December.
11. Planning is underway for the 2022-2023 Religious School year. A tentative calendar has been set and a tentative theme — Israel at 75 — has been chosen. Speaking of which, please mark Sunday September 11, 2022 on your calendar as we would love for all Board members to join us for our 'Opening Day' of Religious School!

12. In that same vein, we have big plans for our last day of Religious School this year (Sunday May 22nd) and we would love for Board members to join us from 11-11:30 as we have our 'End of Year' Tefillah/Song Session Spectacular! We are also going to ask students to wear their 'wackiest/craziest' clothing and encourage you to do the same!

Lifelong Learning (LLL) Update

We have had several LLL events since our last meeting. A special 'todah rabbah' to Rabbi, Cantor and our Shir Ami community for making each of these events a success! The response that I have received is overwhelmingly positive. Here are a few highlights:

- Our 'Basic Hebrew' classes continue and are receiving a lot of interest. Todah Rabbah to Batel Moore and Rabbi Paula Goldberg for their guidance and leadership.
- On Thursday March 24th our Racial Justice Book Group met to discuss 'How the Word is Passed' by Clint Smith.
- We were joined on Tuesday April 29th by Yishai Gelb and Kobi Assaf for 'My Israeli Story.' Yishai and Kobi shared their personal stories of growing up in Israel and the exciting partnership that Shir Ami and their company (My Tree Israel) are kicking off. I am happy to discuss that partnership at any time and will be reaching out to families and individuals personally to be involved. To learn more about MyTree, please click here: <https://www.mytree.org.il>.
- Thursday April 7th was the next installment of Feed Your Mind and Soul. We viewed the documentary 'Gefilte Fish,' which is near and dear to our congregation as it was made by Andy Salsman's family! Our conversation was wide and varied, including many recollections about Passover traditions, why those traditions are important to 'keep alive,' and what happens when the next generation wants to do things differently.
- Shir Ami Record Club met on Tuesday April 12th. 'Todah Rabbah' to Matt Hoffman for leading us in 'Runnin' Down a Dream.' the music and times of Tom Petty.
- Looking ahead, we have three very special events coming up: Shir Ami READS (About the Night by Anat Talshir) on May 12th, My Israeli Story (w/special guest Roy Noyman) on May 17th and Shir Ami Record Club ('Bouncing Around the Room - The Music of Phish' with Jeff Eder) on May 24th.

Additional Items

1. We had a wonderful Intergenerational Service on April 1st centered on Kehillah (Community). Todah Rabbah to Rabbi, Cantor and Michael Smolen for bringing the service to life with music and readings. Todah Rabbah as well to our students, April birthday and anniversary participants who helped lead the service.
2. I continue to make daily birthday and anniversary calls.
3. Continued pastoral care calls, emails and texts
4. 'Car Line Pastoral Care' continues as car line at Religious School is one of the places I learn most about what is going on in people's lives. We would be happy to have board members join us car line any day we have Religious School and thank you to those who have done so already.
5. We look forward to being part of 'For Pete's Sake's, Walk!' event taking place at Citizens Bank Park on Sunday May 1st. As of today we have over 50 participants and our numbers are growing!

As always, do not hesitate to be in touch should you have any questions or want to know more. I can best be reached via phone/text (856-359-5758) and/or email (egoldberg@shiramipa.org)

Please list and describe any upcoming initiatives and/or events.

- We look forward to promoting and being part of 'For Pete's Sake's, Walk!' event taking place at Citizens Bank Park on Sunday May 1st. To learn more, click here: <https://takeabreakfromcancer.org/fpswalk22/>

Are there any items that the board needs to discuss or actions that the board needs to take at this time? If so, please specify the question, topic and/or required action.

Nothing specific, but please know that we would love to see board members any time at Religious School!

APRIL BOARD REPORT

NAME: Michael Smolen / Robin Firestone

DATE: 4/26/22

TITLE OR COMMITTEE: Finance and Budget

Please provide a summary for the board of what you and/or your committee have been up to since the last meeting. Bullet points are fine.

- Facilitated annual budget meetings for all departments

Please list and describe any upcoming initiatives and/or events.

- Prepare for presenting final proposed budget at the annual congregational meeting on 5/9

Are there any items that the board needs to discuss or actions that the board needs to take at this time? If so, please specify the question, topic and/or required action.

N/A

If you have any documents that you would like to include with your report, please email them with this form.

N/A

BOARD REPORT- CLERGY/STAFF

NAME: Rabbi Chuck Briskin

DATE: April 25, 2022

TITLE OR COMMITTEE: Clergy Report

Please provide a summary for the board of what you have been up to since the last meeting. Please include an update on your goals when relevant or indicate activity pertaining to your goals. Bullet points are fine.

- a. Facilitated the third of our Racial Reads Series (within Tikkun Olam); Purim events–spiel, adult Purim study session
- b. Passover materials–two “thought for Shabbat” Passover related videos; food bank promo video (with Marc Luber), Wrote a blessing that was distributed to the congregation, which many people used (from what some have told me).
- c. Passover Yizkor–50 people in attendance; Bread Fest dinner before Shir Shabbat 125 people; 150 people at services; many thanks to Cantor Rachel and Michael Smolen for planning the service; Jodi Friedman for coordinating the dinner.
- d. 2 memorial services
- e. 3 b.mitzvah services

Please list and describe any upcoming initiatives and/or events.

Tue, 4/26–RAC-PA celebration featuring Sens. Toomey and Casey and Rabbi David Stern. Focus of conversation is how to have civil conversations and advocate our justice priorities within politically diverse communities. I am part of the leadership team and am presenting at the meeting (hence my limited time with you at this month’s board meeting).

Wed. 4/27–Yom Hashoah program featuring [Sheryl Menacker](#)

Thu. 4/28–Second Relational Judaism listening campaign meeting (meetings for the entire congregation set for May 17, 18, 25, 26). **BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED AS FACILITATORS**

Sun. 5/1–Circle of Giving event

Fri. 5/6–Intergen. Service celebrating Israel; Graduation blessings for seniors

Sat. 5/7–Confirmation service 4:30 p.m. **ALL ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.**

Mon. 5/9–Camp Harlam Faculty Planning Day

Fri, 5/13–Rabbi Paula Goldberg speaking at Shabbat services; Sharing her reflections as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the ordination of the first woman rabbi.

Fri. 5/20–Preparing liturgy and ritual for Board Installation

Sun. 5/22–Bucks Kehilla program–Parents’ Circle featuring Israeli and Palestinians who have lost children to violence.

Fri. 6/3–last Intergen service of the year; planning to have it outside, featuring a bbq or food trucks. Big end of the year celebration.

Calendar visioning and planning meeting set for Thurs. 4/28.

HHD planning to begin in May

Summer Service schedule beginning to take shape: WE PLAN TO HIGHLIGHT OUR MEMBERS AGAIN, IN OUR PROGRAM CALLED "KOL HA'KAHAL-THE VOICE OF THE CONGREGATION" FEATURING GUEST SPEAKERS EACH FRIDAY NIGHT WHO WILL SPEAK ABOUT THE TORAH PORTION OR SHARE A BIT ABOUT THEIR JEWISH STORY.

Are there any items that the board needs to discuss or actions that the board needs to take at this time? If so, please specify the question, topic and/or required action.

- a. I WILL BE PRESENTING A PROPOSAL TO BRING TO OUR TEAM AN 8-10 HOUR PER WEEK RABBINIC INTERN (HUC-JIR STUDENT WILL BE COMPLETING HER 5TH YEAR REMOTELY WHILE LIVING IN NEW HOPE).
- b. WE NEED SEVERAL BOARD MEMBERS WHO CAN SERVE AS FACILITATORS DURING OUR RELATIONAL JUDAISM LISTENING CAMPAIGN MEETINGS
- c. WE STILL NEED BOARD MEMBERS TO VOLUNTEER TO GREET, USHER, AND "WORK THE ROOM" FOR FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES.

BOARD REPORT- CLERGY/STAFF

NAME: Ferne Levy

DATE: Mar 21, 2022

TITLE OR COMMITTEE: Youth Director

Please provide a summary for the board of what you have been up to since the last meeting. Please include an update on your goals when relevant or indicate activity pertaining to your goals. Bullet points are fine.

A fun April!!!!

April 9th- Sr. Shafy, Escape the Room and dinner. 10 teens in attendance

April 20th- Sr. Shafy Elections. 17 high school board members

April 24th- Bonim (5th & 6th). Ultrazone. 10 teens signed up as of today

April 24th- K2Club. Spring Simcha (cookie decorating & item donation). 18 signed up as of today

April 30-May 1. I will be up at Harlam for Sprinter Kallah (the first NFTY-PAR in person event since January 2020)

Please list and describe any upcoming initiatives and/or events.

May 1st- Religious school 6 & 7th graders (and families) and Sr. Shafy have signed up for a walk for cancer called For Pete's Sake in Philly

We are continuing to collect pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald house. The contest ends on the last day of RS where the winner (s) will be pied!

Our year ends in May. We will have two old/board new/board meetings as well as board installation and senior sendoff. I plan on having one event this summer at Funzilla for all ages. I'll be visiting Camp Harlam for their synagogue BBQs with campers. And something new I'd like to do this summer is to have a Home Hosted Happy hour (Sangria & snacks) at my house for the parents of my Shafy board.

Are there any items that the board needs to discuss or actions that the board needs to take at this time? If so, please specify the question, topic and/or required action.

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