



MINUTES

December 13, 2022 19 Kislev 5783 7pm

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

Attendance: Ellie Short, Jon Stevens, Beth McAleese, Brandon Weiss, Melissa Rubenstein, Ellen Rawicz, Marc Lubet, Jason Cohen, Stephanie Schwartz, Michael Smolen, Andy Salsman, Helen Berman, Rabbi Briskin, Jared Fingerman

Absent: Rachel Tyler, Jeff Cohen

Guests: Nina Orr, Barbara Roth, Becky Markowitz, Wendy Sosky

Motions:

- Approval of 11-15-2022 minutes, motion by Melissa Rubenstein, second by Beth McAleese, unanimously approved
- **Motion by Jon Stevens to increase ELC rates by 6%, second by Stephanie Kravatz, unanimously approved**

I. Welcome & Remarks 15 min.

- Approval of 11-15-2022 minutes, motion by Melissa, second by Beth, unanimously approved
- Tzedekah
- Board dinners /WoSA Board meeting sign-up sheets
– in ShirBoard drive folder
- Reports on ShirBoard drive under 2022-23 Gatherings- Bldg & G, RS/LLL, Pastoral Care, Ritual, Rabbi Briskin, Exec Dir, Inclusion, Marketing, SHAFTY, Engagement
- Circle of Giving Fund – Board members are expected to make a contribution, another way of demonstrating leadership
- WoSA Chanukah candles \$16/box – Becky Markowitz, Wendy Sosky
- Dvar Torah – Helen Berman

II. Code Blue Update – Barbara Roth

Have sign up genius which will go out more broadly

Tonight is the 5th night, we’ve had up to 14 guests each night

III. Approval of ELC tuition for 2023-2024 – Nina Orr, Phil Nordlinger

Currently 40 week calendar, ends in 2023 a week before CRSD
Propose 41 week to be closer to CRSD in 2023-24, allows for a week between school and camp
Camp is 8 weeks, possible playcare week if we can staff it
Infant center, room for 8
Motion by Jon Stevens to increase ELC rates by 6%, second by Stephanie Kravatz, unanimously approved

IV. 2022-2023 Goals: 10 min

Growing Spiritually - Andy, Beth, (with input from Rabbi)
Learning Together -Stephanie, Ellen (with input from Eric)
Connecting - Jason
Making an Impact -Marc, Helen (with input from Rabbi)
Admin/Facility - Jon, Phil, Michael

V. Update on ShirGroups – Rabbi Briskin

Rebecca Kaufman and Rabbi B sorting through people who are interested in small groups, approx. 100 people
Combination of active and newer names, some groups will cross generations
15 people asked to be group liaisons
They will place people into groups to launch in January
Existing group for recent empty nesters...Marc Weiss and Robin Firestone
Some examples: Empty nesters, born in the 50s more or less, bourbon and wine, shabbat dinners group,

VI. Creation of B Mitzvah Taskforce – Stephanie Kravatz

B Mitzvah program needs attention as we look to welcome a new cantor.
Look at entire process, what is our long term goal, how are the children prepared, Hebrew, opportunity to do something meaningful and spiritual
Task force to determine board and congregational goals
Resource: B mitzvah revolution from URJ

VII. Update on Golf Outing with Mahjong and Cards – Marc Luber

Monday May 15...important for all board members to support and try to get support
Will also need volunteers that week/that day

VIII. Constitutional amendment to add dissolution clause, as per requirement to apply for 501 (c) (3) status – Phil Nordlinger

URJ will no longer support so Shir Ami needs to have its own 501(c)(3) designation. Dissolution clause needs to be added to by laws.

Essentially a clause that says if we dissolve, assets get donated to another non-profit.

**Action: for our counsel to recommend language for board review/approval
Needs congregational vote**

IX. Director of Operations Report – Phil Nordlinger

Updated on security

Ordered new keyboard, new fridge

X. Clergy Reports

Rabbi Briskin

Robin Burstein from ADL coming on 2/12, also doing a program for 6-10th graders, Wed January 11

MLK day participating with Macedonia Baptist Church, panel followed by service

XI. Closing Prayer - Rabbi Briskin

MONTHLY BOARD REPORT

NAME: Ken Standig

DATE: 12-12-2022

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.

- Attended final JEPP meeting at Shir Ami for Emergency Response Team (ERT) training.
- Attended meeting at Shir Ami to discuss alarm systems and building-wide announcements through new fire alarm annunciator panel.

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

- B&G regular (almost monthly) zoom meeting.
- Meet with Phil & Ellie to determine path forward to complete the draft Emergency Action Plan (EAP) now that our sessions with the JEPP team have concluded.
- Scheduling emergency response training sessions for staff and congregants.

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.

Note that the semi-annual servicing of the HVAC system was performed, including replacement of all filters, to maintain the ventilation system in good operating condition, especially important in view of on-going concern over covid and other respiratory diseases.

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

None.

Connecting

Objective	Actions/Activities	Measure of Success	Completion Date	Accountable / Responsible
<p>Increase reach to engage members and become a more welcoming community</p> <p>Refresh the Shir Ami value proposition to create a more compelling rationale for membership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead and support small group initiatives Capitalize on opportunities to engage and welcome members at peak times such as events, RS carline, Shabbat services Host Shir Happenings Open House during high impact events/programs Solicit volunteers and identify interests asking members to update ShulCloud profile Formalize buddy system for new members Host 2-3 new member events per year Build member cohort personas to help other committees better serve members Deliver a refreshed Shir Ami value proposition for each cohort 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get more people engaged and involved with a meaningful purpose Increase volunteer list/base to help support greeting and welcoming Collect feedback and meeting highlights 	Dec 2023	<p>Engagement committee</p> <p>Marketing and Communication committee</p> <p>Membership committee</p> <p>Shir Ami board</p> <p>Auxiliaries</p> <p>Clergy</p>



BOARD REPORT- Executive Director

NAME: Phil Nordlinger

DATE: 12/13/2022

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.

- **Coordinated Shir Ami as a CODE BLUE site**
 - **Worked with representatives of AHTN to understand the logistics of the program and the needs from Shir Ami**
 - **Worked with Tikkun Olam Committee Co-Chairs, Barbara Roth and Essie Cherkin to formulate the plan and organize volunteers**
 - **Installed magnetic locks on doorways between sanctuary building and admin building for added security**
 - **Informed and coordinated staff on CODE BLUE procedures and devised alternate programmatic logistics for Shabbat and other programs on nights with CODE BLUE.**
- **Obtained quotes on new kitchen equipment including a new reach-in commercial refrigerator, range/oven and ice-maker. Received approval to purchase the refrigerator and range/oven. Installation to be completed mid-December.**
- **Finished installation of fire panel.**
 - **Created announcements for the annunciator to be triggered automatically in the case of:**
 - **Fire**
 - **Ambulance**
 - **Panic button**
- **Worked with ELC Director on 23-24 rates and strategized about fee structure**
- **Obtained quotes for a new digital keyboard for the sanctuary. Item is back-ordered.**

Circle of Giving pledges and donations to date: \$134,300

New households since July 2022: 14

Resignations since July 2022: 28

DECEMBER BOARD REPORT

NAME: Bob Cherkin

DATE: 12/11/22

TITLE OR COMMITTEE: Inclusion Committee

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.

- 1) Discussion with Rabbi Eric and Staci Kincus re: providing programming tied to holiday themes and fun activities for families with a Special Needs child. The first holiday will be Tu Bishvat, February 5 and 6.
- 2) Met with Rabbi Briskin re: Jewish Disability, Acceptance and Inclusion Month (JDAIM)...February 24, 2023: Friday Shabbat Service.... Keynote Speaker: our own congregant Sarah Sharma to share her family's story...Notice in Jan-Feb Shiron, email to Committee in early January
- 3) Coordinated with Sharon Benoff re: the next DEI meeting; tentatively 1/18 or 19

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

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.

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

2022-2023 Board Goals

Achieving our Mission:
The Bucks County Hub of Reform Judaism

Shir Ami Board Meeting
November 15, 2022



Making an Impact to our broader community through Shir Ami

Objective	Actions/Activities	Measure of Success	Completion Date	Accountable / Responsible
Consolidate and coordinate Tikkun Olam activities across all Shir Ami groups – ELC, Religious School, SHAFTY, Axillaries, Board Committee, and clergy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand steering committee to include representatives from each constituent group Create a master calendar of all planned/scheduled Tikkun Olam related activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master calendar of activities Conflicts/overlaps of efforts reduced or eliminated 	5/23	Marc Luber, Barbara Roth RS, ELC, SHAFTY, auxiliaries
Increase awareness of Tikkun Olam – what it means, our responsibility. Create Tikkun Olam environment that is focused, driven and engaged to address targeted areas for advocacy	<p>Conduct information sharing, contacts with political representatives, rallies, fundraising, educational sessions to support 2022-2023 target areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voter Registration and Get-Out-The-Vote Schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address school board and administration to prevent censorship of speech and reading materials Address conflicts between school and Jewish calendar/practice Reduce Gun Violence <p>Read/discuss articles and books on racial justice to increase understanding.</p> <p>Create Shir Ami local organizing group of 5-7 people (LOC) to lead efforts and coordinate work with RAC-PA on targeted areas.</p> <p>Use RAC/RAC-PA as resource for Tikkun Olam information and activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congregation demonstrates awareness of advocacy areas Demonstrated impact on areas of advocacy LOC is established and coordinates Shir Ami actions with RAC Congregants participate in racial justice reading/discussion and apply lessons. 	5/23	Arthur Krauss, Andee Losben Rabbi Briskin Estee Cherkin Barbara Roth Janis Bader Harriet Paley



Making an Impact to our broader community through Shir Ami

Objective	Actions/Activities	Measure of Success	Completion Date	Accountable / Responsible
Increase the amount and frequency of food distributed to those in need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue fundraising to support increased 2023 goal Increase number of distributions and pounds of food distributed during the year Increase number of agencies who receive food Establish/re-establish small steering committee Continue to encourage broad volunteer participation Collaborate with other local organizations, such as the police, schools, etc. to collect food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet targets for fundraising Meet targets for pounds of food distributed Meet targets for volunteer participation Meet targets for agencies served, interagency collaboration 	5/23	Marc Luber Steering Committee Rabbi Briskin Estee Cherkin Barbara Roth
Become Code Blue Shelter for the month of December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit team to respond in weather emergency Assist with shopping, cooking and serving in the event Shir Ami is employed as a shelter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accommodate those needing shelter as required 	1/23	Rabbi Briskin Estee Cherkin Barbara Roth



DECEMBER BOARD REPORT

NAME: Helen Berman

DATE: 12-12-22

TITLE OR COMMITTEE: Pastoral Care (Chesed)

Chair people: Helen Berman and Harriet Paley

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.

- Continuing to solicit membership and solicit leaders for specific projects
- Soliciting information on congregational needs
- We are planning to promote the clergy form on Shir Ami website as a way for people to tell us about events in their lives, so we don't miss things.
- Plan to work with clergy to do training to lead Shiva Minyans and expand number of lay leaders
- Encouraging Chesed donations

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

Planning is beginning...

- **Soliciting leadership** for project to develop emergency services cards/posters to make information available to congregants (Notes and calls have gone out to members with social services background.))
- **Soliciting leadership** for project to design Shir Ami celebrations card(s) and start sending cards to kids and over 80 year olds for birthdays. (Notes and calls have gone out.). We are working with Eric to solicit designs from students/parents.
- Determine where our congregants are living in Senior Facilities – determine if we should do programs at facilities or bring residents to Shir Ami

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.

There used to be notebooks that were passed down from one committee chair to the next with notes on committee responsibilities, calendar, activities, forms used, sample flyers, etc. Do these still exist?

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

Rabbi's Report

December, 2022

Nefesh Mountain/Gever Shabbat:

A very successful weekend, and two very uplifting “performances” by Nefesh Mountain. Approx 150 for services Friday night, and 250 or so on Saturday night.

December 2023 Israel Trip:

Itinerary is just about set. Working with Makor again. Trip will run Dec. 20-31, 2023. Should get final pricing by the end of this week or the beginning of next week. We will announce it at Friday night services with a note to watch the mail for details coming the following week.

Shir Groups:

- a. I will report during the meeting.

HUC Intern, Rebecca Kaufman

Rebecca has been participating in services, leading Chevrat Torah, coordinating Shir Groups and leading our 2nd grade family education program. I've observed in each of these settings and have been very please with her leadership, maturity, and ability to connect with our congregants. Additional details will be shared at the Board meeting.

Special Shabbat Services in the Weeks Ahead:

- a. Friday, December 16—Rock Shir Shabbat and Israel Blessings.
- b. Services on Dec. 23 and 30 on Zoom only.

Tikkun Olam:

- a. Code Blue in full effect. Kudos to Essie and Barbara for their leadership and organization.
- b. Will be preparing a Christmas eve meal to guests and providing shelter no matter the temperature.

B.mitzvah:

- a. We held a meeting for our 6th grade parents to review the b.mitzvah prep year. This was a follow up from our b.mitzvah retreat in early November.
- b. Dates for the 25-26 year have been assigned.
- c. 4 b.mitzvah in November and December. None until early February

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE BOARD MEMBERS TO VOLUNTEER TO PRESENT GIFTS AND TO REPRESENT THE CONGREGATION AT OUR B.MITZVAH SERVICES. WE HAD A SERVICE LAST MONTH WHEN NO BOARD MEMBER WAS PRESENT. FURTHERMORE, THE BOARD MEMBER CAN SERVE AS A GREETER (WITH ANOTHER B.MITZVAH FAMILY) AND HELP TO DEAL WITH ISSUES SHOULD THEY ARISE. LAST YEAR WE HAD A NUMBER OF BOARD MEMBERS WHOSE CHILDREN BECAME B.MITZVAH AND WERE IN ATTENDANCE AT MOST OF OUR SERVICES SO FINDING A REP WAS EASY. THIS YEAR WE HAVE FEWER CONNECTIONS WITH OUR B.MITZVAH THEREFORE IT IS

IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE THIS COVERAGE EVERY WEEK. PLEASE COORDINATE WITH JODI AND PHIL SO THAT WE KNOW WHO IS THERE WEEK TO WEEK.

Pastoral:

We had three members in the hospital and then in rehab centers. All are still in rehab centers continuing to recover. I made four visits to each of these members over the last month.

David Tuck, who is a survivor of Auschwitz and a prolific speaker about his experiences is in a skilled nursing facility recovering from a number of ailments. He turned 100 years old last week and I had a chance to visit with him this past weekend.

I officiated at two funerals and six shiva minyanim for our members over the last few weeks (and including upcoming this week).

Regular check ins with our ill and recovering congregants.

Community:

I am serving on the Comprehensive Planning Committee for the Council Rock School District, a group comprised of teachers, administration and community members tasked with creating a three year comprehensive plan to guide the district.

I will be leading candle lighting and a study session at Oxford (formerly Attleboro) on 12/20.

I will be leading Shabbat services at Ann's Choice (4:00 p.m.) on Friday, 12/16

DECEMBER BOARD REPORT

NAME: Beth McAleese

DATE: 12/11/2022

TITLE OR COMMITTEE: Ritual Life

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.

-Following up on the feedback from HHD survey, culminating Feedback from HHD

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

-Looking to meet with the Ritual Life Committee in January

-Focusing on the objective of building a list of greeters and ushers

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.

BOARD REPORT- CLERGY/STAFF

NAME: Eric Goldberg

DATE: Board Meeting 12/13

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: Over the past month we have had classes on Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. In addition to our ongoing curricular focal points, the end of November provided an opportunity for us to put an emphasis on the concept of 'modeh/modah' (thankfulness) and December on the concept of 'Hanukkah' (dedication/rededication). Through art, music, cooking, classroom learning and all five senses, our amazing teachers and madrichim have led our students to a deeper understanding of themselves and how these values are integral to living a Jewish life in 2022. A special 'todah rabbah' to Michael Smolen, Rabbi, Cantor, our teachers and madrichim for making this month a great one!
2. We have made small changes to our new Religious School and SHAFTY weekly email. In speaking with Jodie Levinson (who it truly has been a pleasure collaborate with on this endeavor) and touching base with families, the email has been well received. It is clear to me that many families are opening AND reading the email sent each Friday.
3. Our latest 'Meet, Greet and Treat' for Religious School parents was Sun 12/4. While the crowd was smaller than those in the past, it was a great opportunity for those who were there to connect. Our newcomers included a parent whose child had just enrolled in Religious School and I know he very much felt warm and welcomed by those who were there - including members of our Board.
4. Our 2nd grade parents met with Rebecca Kaufman this past Sunday (12/11) for our latest 2nd grade Parent Gathering. It was a mix of 'new' and longer term Shir Ami families, as well as a mix of moms and dads. The focus was on the lessons/teachings of Hanukkah and how those lessons can be applied/related to

parenting in 2022. I spoke with Rebecca after the event and she was happy with how things went.

5. Our 3rd Grade Family Program is this coming Sunday (12/18). We look forward to welcoming our 3rd grade families for a day of fun, learning and connection.
6. Please be on the lookout for incredibly creative hanukkiyot created by our 5th graders. They will be on display in the sanctuary area from now through the end of Hanukkah. While some are functional and most are not, they show just how inventive our students can be and the pride they have in being Jewish!
7. Next stop: Israel! We are less than two weeks away from having our feet on the ground! Ferne and I are excited to travel with 25 teens to Israel this December. We had a wonderful meeting with the kids on Sun 12/4, providing an opportunity for them to connect with each other in fun ways and to answer any questions they had. Our teens will receive a special blessing this Friday (12/16) as part of Rock Hanukkah Shabbat (see details below).
8. ADL

Lifelong Learning (LLL) Update

- a. iEngage continues with Rabbi Briskin. Through the consideration of major historic moments, this year long series grapples with the different ideas and values that shape the meaning of modern Israel, Zionism, and Jewish identity today. Our next session is Wednesday 12/21.
- b. Thursday December 1st was the opening 'Jerusalem Masterclass' session for the year. Our focus was on the 'Love Stories of Modern Jerusalem.' Israeli Tour Guide and Philadelphia native Kobi Cooper (virtually) led us on a journey through the lesser-known but still fascinating secrets, sites, sapiens and stories of Jerusalem which tour guides never get a chance to tell. We 'visited' sites associated with great love stories, including those connected to a nobel prize winner, Jewish underground fighters, hopeless romantics and star-crossed lovers. The stories, both heart-warming and heart-wrenching, took us to places in the city both familiar and totally unfamiliar.
- c. On Thursday December 8th, Rabbi Briskin led a discussion of 'Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor' by Yossi Klein HaLevi. *Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor* is

Klein HaLevi's attempt to reach beyond the wall that separates Israelis and Palestinians. In a series of letters, he explains what motivated him to leave his native New York in his twenties and move to Israel to participate in the drama of the renewal of a Jewish homeland, which he is committed to see succeed as a morally responsible, democratic state in the Middle East.

- d. This Thursday (12/15), join us for 'Dinner and a Movie.' We are asking those attending to watch 'Maktub,' and Israeli film that is funny, challenging and heartwarming. The premise is as follows: After surviving a bomb attack, two low-level mobsters in Jerusalem change their ways and set about making strangers' Wailing Wall prayers come true. The movie is available on Netflix.
- e. Looking ahead, Lifelong Learning in January will feature our 2nd Jerusalem Masterclass ('Secrets of Death and Burial in Jerusalem'), iEngage ('Judea and Samaria - Occupation or Liberation?'), and Dinner and a Movie ('Abe' — a movie about a 12 year old who one Israeli parent and one Palestinian parent).

Additional Items

1. Continue to make daily birthday and anniversary calls.
2. Continued pastoral care calls, emails and texts
3. Officiated at life cycle events.
4. Hanukkah Rock Shabbat is well on its way (12/16; 7pm) The band has been meeting/practicing on as very regular basis the past few weeks and are truly unbelievable! Their dedication, commitment and desire to make this service creative and meaningful is unparalleled. It is truly going to be a special night and I hope everyone who is able will attend. It is a pleasure to write/adapt the music and 'lyrics' with Michael and Cantor. Thank you as well to the incredible band members: Avi Briskin, Ezra Briskin, Brandi Chesner, Dave Chesner, Jeff Eder, Ben Hoffman, Matt Hoffman, Beth LaPat, Asher McAleese, Jay Miller, Yale Saltzman, Eric Schnitzer and Michael Smolen. We are especially excited to add several new members to the group — including a couple of our teens traveling to Israel!

5. Continued planning for the Shir Ami Golf Outing taking place May 15, 2023. Todah Rabbah to Brett Cohen, Todd Leon and Marc Luber for all of their incredibly hard work and dedication.
6. Walking/Running group continues.
7. Attended JEPP security session with the Shir Ami professional team.

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)

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! Thank you for all of your support!

BOARD REPORT- CLERGY/STAFF

NAME: Ferne Levy

DATE: 12/12/2022

TITLE OR COMMITTEE:

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.

- Sr & JCrew's (8th-12th grade) Thanksgiving project was Cookies for Kindness was a success. 29 trays were delivered to home bound Shir Ami members and members of our community (police, firefighters, etc.). 7th grader & Sr Shafy made cards wishing them a Happy Thanksgiving or thanking our workers
- The Latka sale was a huge success and we were grateful that Shafy benefits from it this year!
- 12 members of Sr. Shafy spent Sat night in New Hope creating candles at Wax n' Scents and having dessert at Nina's waffles.
- 32 members of K2Club attended our Sunday after school Hanuakkah celebration as we had lunch, games, and made hanuakkah trays for their families.
- Canteen & Shabuddies are coming back on Wednesday nights! Canteen takes place on Wednesday dinner break and our 8th graders run it (proceeds go to the Tiylul fund). Shafy board members are paired with 6th graders and become "Shabuddies", Shafy Buddies. It's someone to look up to and get to know through games and other fun activities.
- We sent another 4 boxes of shoes to Soles 4 Souls

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

- We are preparing for Hanukkah in all of our youth groups, Hanukkah hop is coming up on Tuesday, December 20th and Sr. Shafy will celebrate on Wednesday, December 21st
- We are starting to prepare for Purim
- We are hosting WINSTY on Jan 14-15 (mid-night bowling/SA shul-in)
- SAVE the Date for the SHAFY flea market on April 16, 2023!!

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.

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

DECEMBER BOARD REPORT

NAME: Helen Berman

DATE: 12-12-22

TITLE OR COMMITTEE: Tikkun Olam

Committee Chairs: Barbara Roth and Essie Cherkin

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.

Meeting of Steering Committee planned for 12/12/22.

The Tikkun Olam has several concurrent efforts in progress. Each has a congregant leader.

- Code Blue – Shir Ami has become a Code Blue site for the month of December through AHTN (Advocates for Homeless and Those in Need).
 1. We have hosted guests on 2 nights – 12/1 and 12/9 so far (about a dozen guests each night).
 - a. Hot dinner
 - b. Place to store clothes, cots, bedding, supplies for AHTN
 - c. Place to set up cots and sleep overnight
 - d. Breakfast foods to carry out in the morning
 2. Our volunteers shopped, cooked, served, engaged, cleaned up
 3. AHTN staff/volunteers check guests-in, stay overnight, and escort guests out at 6:30 am next day
 4. A special Christmas Eve Code Blue night is planned.
- Food Drives – Marc Luber
 - New goals
 1. Continue fundraising to support
 - a. FY 2022 IN: \$13,890
 - b. FY 2023 Goal: \$16,500 (Current \$4,593)
 2. Increase number of distributions during the year
 - a. Goal – Minimum 8 distributions including HHD
 3. Increase pounds of food distributed HHD and other distributions
 - a. 2022 Annual total: ~28,000
 - b. 2023 Annual goal 31,000
 4. Increase number of agencies who receive food distribution from Shir Ami, if we are able to do #1 and #3
 - a. Currently 7 consistent agencies served. Goal: 8
 5. Establish/re-establish small steering committee
 - a. Help with ideas/decision making
 - b. Help run distributions
 - c. Help with shopping to supplement food collection
 - d. Help with fundraising
 6. Continue to encourage broad volunteer participation

- a. 2022 – Average 40 ppl/distribution (2 Days)
 - b. 2023 Goal – 45 ppl/distribution
7. Collaborate with other local organizations, such as the police and schools, to collect food

- Education Fair Funding – Janis Bader
- Social/Racial Justice – Janis Bader – New reading list presented by Janis and Harriet and dates scheduled for meetings for winter-spring. Flyer has been created for Shiron.
- Political Activism (Get out the vote) – Arthur Kraus and Andee Losben Get Out the Vote activities continue in cooperation with RAC PA
- Coat Drive for Afghans/Ukrainians – Stan and Shelley Cohen – Collection was very successful. Over 80 bags of coats and clothes donated to JFS,
- Biblical Garden improvements
 - Barry and Stacey Groder interested in leading this effort,
 - Action waiting on discussions re: goals for the garden
 - This will be referred to the Building and Grounds Committee
- Providing support to the Buffalo community impacted by the recent Tops tragedy – Ron Smolow – Ron has circulated a draft proposal for how local congregations can collaborate with the groups in Buffalo to help. It is yet to be determined if/how Shir Ami can help.
- Re-establishing college connection – promote importance of voting – We sent letters re: voting and to current addresses to the college students. We have received minimal response from students. We will try soliciting information from parents. Without current addresses, we are unable to send gifts to the students.
- Appreciation – recommendation to do something to recognize support of police for synagogue security, as well as food collection

Please list and describe any upcoming initiatives and/or events. -Scheduled December zoom meeting to continue discussion of additional projects

Under discussion:

- Expanding political activism (RAC priorities) – common sense gun control
- Congregational education on current topics, such as the BDS movement
- Road clean-up

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

Next meeting 12/12/22

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.

There is an interest in cleaning-up plantings, repairing dedicated benches, and improving the Biblical Garden. Discussion and decisions are needed to determine direction/plan. Will it remain a “Biblical” garden, or be converted to plants that are better suited to our climate? Will it be moved/extended into other parts of the property – closer to the front, on the other side of the parking lot. Will outdoor meeting spaces be created? How will it be funded? Does this really fall under Tikkun Olam, or should it be part of Building and Grounds?

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