

**BETH EL CONGREGATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2023**

The following appear at Beth El: Audrey Wolff, President; Eileen Bloom, Financial Vice President; Herb Dreiseszun, Facilities Vice President; Charleen Holt, Secretary; Barry Becker, Treasurer; Alana Berrett, Ari Hoffman, Brad Ostrow, Bill Tuttle, Jose Tafla, Danny Witenstein

Staff present: Rabbi Stein Kokin, Alicia Moskowitz, Executive Director ; Joanie Charnow, Preschool Director

Board present via Zoom: Gail Ulan, Sara Zilversmit

Board members absent: Kim Mertens, Education Vice President; David Goldfarb

Staff absent: Nanci Siegel Manson, Talmud Torah Director

6:32 pm Audrey calls the meeting to order.

Rabbi gives a D'Var Torah.

PRESCHOOL:

Joanie is allowed to present her report out of order and provides an update on the playground. The preschool will receive a grant for infrastructure in the amount of \$125,000 will be used for updating the playground which must be spent in the next month. There are now 55 children in school. DES (Department of Economic Security) has provided 18 grants for tuition coverage.

Joanie is excused and leaves the meeting.

HIGH HOLIDAYS:

Audrey advises that, again, this year the Board will make calls to the congregation. The lists will be sent out via e-mail by the end of the week and they need to be completed before the holidays begin.

If you can provide a ride to someone for any of the services, please contact Alicia.

6:56 pm Gail joins the meeting.

Cantor Nissim Nati will be on Zoom after minyan on August 23, 2023, on the minyan link to meet the congregation. We will hear him sing appropriate holiday songs. He will join us for Selichot on Saturday evening, September 9.

This year Ann Polunsky will be doing the holiday honors with the help of Sharon Cohn. Sign up genius will be used to volunteer to usher. There will also be an education and general appeal, presenters not yet known.

Photographs for the Days of Awe will be posted on Facebook starting this Friday, 1 Elul.

RITUAL:

The new prayer books have arrived. Ben is preparing new book plates and donation forms to remember Cantor Sam Goldman. They will first be used at Sukkot.

FINANCIAL:

Alicia states that USCJ has accepted our dues appeal; therefore, our dues will be \$10,000 for this year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Alicia announces the following staff changes: Roberta submitted her resignation, today was her last day. She will be working at Valley Beit Midrash to start a programming position. There is a new office manager starting Mon-

day, Andela. M will be doing digital marketing for 20 hours a week. Elijah is taking over the youth activities and teaching 4th and 5th grades.

Beth El has been approved for a security grant in the amount of \$50,750. The money will be used to place ballards (holding plants) in the front of the main building; a public address system for outside events; replacing the doors in the Pavilion and Youth Lounge; and security cameras for youth and preschool doors. All of these improvements will take place starting in September.

RABBI'S REPORT:

The holiday schedule is discussed as well as services with other synagogues.

FACILITIES:

Herb reports that the air conditioning continues to be a problem. Service calls are made almost weekly. One unit was replaced in the Mallin Building at a cost of \$10,000. Painting in the preschool is complete. The new furnishings for the Preschool have been unpacked and already in use. The maintenance man does the best he can with the hours he is working. The carpeting in the Social Hall is complete; now waiting for the walls to be painted. The recent rains have not caused any known leaks. The carpet in the lobby, chapel, Hammerman Hall, Pavilion and religious school hallway is scheduled to be cleaned August 23, 2023. New lobby floor mats should be here by August 25, 2023.

Bill states he and his wife would like to start painting and will donate their time and paint. Their starting place is Hammerman Hall. Alicia will give Bill the paint color.

SOCIAL ACTION:

Sara says the back to school supply drive is on Sunday August 20 from 9-11 am. All items collected will be donated to Valencia Newcomers School. For September will be the annual Kol Nidre food drive.

Other community engagement activities and adult education are as stated on the agenda.

7:35 pm Danny leaves the meeting.

Barry reports that the Chavurah is meeting on August 27 at 600 at his home. There will be light refreshments and a guest speaker who will provide an introduction to Islam.

MEMBERSHIP:

There is a Days of Awe photo display being led by Risa Mallin. They are looking for photographs of anything that makes you think or say awe.

EDUCATION:

Hebrew school director update: Gail provides an update on the search for a replacement for the Talmud Torah Director. Nanci is resigning after Yom Kippur. Susan Finks will be the Interim Talmud Torah Director starting September 16 through May 31, 2024. In January of 2024 both parties will re-evaluate to determine if Susan will continue as Talmud Torah Director. In April 2024 there will be a fund raiser to honor Nanci and all the educators.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Audrey reminds the Board that each member must serve on at least one committee.

Audrey is still searching for an Executive Vice President (or co-Vice Presidents) to replace her next year.

Audrey hopes to have a Sunday morning meeting, but no date is currently set.

MINUTES

Eileen moves and Jose seconds to approve the minutes as presented. The motion is passed unanimously.

7:54 pm Herb leaves the meeting.

Good and welfare.

8:05 pm The meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Charleen Holt
Secretary
Beth El Board of Directors