

Annual Meeting – Meeting Notes
May 6, 2018

Opening: Rabbi Gurevitz

Metaphor for life: All about the journey, not the destination. In the upcoming Book of Numbers, each step of the way brings something new and the community evolves as a people in their journey. Each year, we begin anew as a community at B'nai Shalom, responding to who is here. A growth process staying steady with our core values.

1. Approval of [2017 Annual Meeting Minutes](#)

- 1.1. No questions / No discussion.
- 1.2. Motion to accept minutes approved.

2. 2018 Board Slate – Gordon Meeting

Committee members shared.

Always looking for new voices in leadership; see Rabbis or board members to share your interest.

3. Membership – Karen Rothman & Cheryl Kasof (VP of membership & congregational affairs)

Gratitude to volunteers who see the good and the potential, then take it and making it better.

Many volunteer opportunities and events from the past year: recognition of participation in the room (Cheryl & Karen have a list of these opportunities)

4. Finance Committee – Larry Samberg – Reviewed some highlights from the annual report

- 4.1. Primary goal: Ensure the financial stability of the congregation
- 4.2. Largest Item: Creating the yearly budget
- 4.3. New policy: credit card use
- 4.4. Transition of the management of our endowment fund
- 4.5. Renewed mortgage (this happens every 5 years) – did this a bit early to get the best interest rate. Third lock of our 25-year mortgage. Balance is \$1.087M.

5. Remarks – Rabbi Gurevitz

- 5.1. Gratitude to Allison Orenstein – partner and leader as president
- 5.2. Blessings for leadership in a couple of weeks @ Shabbat service.
- 5.3. Last year – shared reflections of past 5 years – bringing direction and focus to all that we did as a professional staff and board. Hit a stride toward a shared vision.
- 5.4. This year reflections – a growing sense of confidence in our vision-driven ways. Impacting the quality of our community life. A desire from the external community to be involved.
- 5.5. Experimental Kol Nidre service – diverse community responds spiritually to services differently. Community response – 200 people joined in the social hall and sanctuary had about 50 empty seats. In the past, we had one service in the sanctuary. Many more people attended this year – a great response.
- 5.6. Expanding what we provide for Jewish experiences in our congregation – Jews from over 50 towns into one hub – over 450 households – over 300 children in youth programs. Social and cultural gatherings!
 - Iron Chef
 - Wine Tasting
 - Sisterhood Kallah (Art of Dressing)

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- CBS social clubs of many types (hiking, theater, ...)
 - Trip to Israel (second time)
 - Trip to Cuba
 - Youth groups (WAFTY, 6th grade overnights, ...) – opportunities to “bond”
 - Next Year post confirmation class trip: Civil Rights Movement trip to Alabama
 - Interfaith: Central MA Connections in Faith (many communities participated – variety of local churches, 2 Muslim communities, Hindu)
 - Building a stronger and more empathetic local community.
 - Over 100 attended in second event March
 - June 2 = third event
- 5.7. 40th Anniversary – opportunity to look back and to strengthen our future
- We still value and seek out Jewish community life.
 - We recognize and value founding values / families
 - Continue to experiment and respond to interests and needs

6. Highlights in Education: Rabbi Joe Eiduson

- 6.1. Congratulations to Steve Winer: New Exec. Director
- 6.2. Completing our 3rd year of learning program – a reorganization of curriculum and class processes
- 6.3. Geshet (bridge for 6th grade) – showcasing family projects on May 15 @ 5:30pm – 7:00pm.
- 6.4. Camp Ramah – new location for 6th grade trip. Will go there again in 18/19 school year
- 6.5. Inaugurated new Hebrew learning program: Hebrew in Harmony. Learning Hebrew through music. Home learning as well as school learning. Feedback – enjoy the online learning at home.
- 6.6. Partnering with Brandeis University – piloted this year; full use in 18/19
- 6.7. Chai
 - Successful seminars in DC
 - 11th & 12th graders to PA (including new Jewish museum & creative worship & study)
 - 11th & 12th to Alabama with a group (civil rights tours to Jewish groups and interfaith groups) – also Selma and Montgomery. Worshipping @ Atlanta church on Sunday where MLK, Jr. would preach (anticipating 20 or more students will attend)
 - 11 to be confirmed on May 19, 2018 @ 7:00pm
 - Senior High School Recognition – 18 graduates joined
- 6.8. Looking for Early Childhood Coordinator
 - Similar role for youngest students as Cheryl Pouliot & Debbi Morin
 - Expanding to 12 sessions in 18/19

7. President’s Remarks: Allison Orenstein

- 7.1. Gratitude for being able to serve as President of the Board. Thank you for committing your time and energy to B’nai Shalom.
- 7.2. New shul website – migration has gone very well (Thank you Steve!)
- 7.3. What we have accomplished:
 - Social clubs from the membership committee
 - New programs for volunteering – social action committee
 - Joining over 150 URJ congregations in our commitment to social action programs

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- Religious school – social action themed experiences by grade
 - Ex: imagine traveling as a refugee (experiential learning)
- Thank you to Rabbi Gurevitz – positioning B’nai Shalom as a leader in the community around interfaith connections and communities
 - Immersing ourselves in others communities of worship
- Brotherhood & Sisterhood – engaging our community
 - Welcome back BBQ
 - Speakers for breakfasts
 - Women’s’ Seders
 - Pie bakeoff
- Committees who are creating energy and experiences for our community:
 - Ritual
 - CBS cares
 - WAFTY
 - Gala
 - 40th year celebration
- Life and Legacy
 - We hit our initial goal - \$5000 incentive check received
 - Will be reaching out to engage others in this

8. Incoming President Remarks – Rob Blumberg

- Building culture: A volunteer culture makes this possible
- Fourth year on the board: seen the functioning and needs change as we grew
- Core functioning of the synagogue are now up and running, so the work ahead is about community engagement (volunteerism and willingness to give time)
- Excited to take on this role and looking forward to taking on initiatives that make us even stronger as a community

9. Election Results - Slate has passed. See attached.

10. Questions? None

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Slate of Officers and Directors for June 1, 2018 - May 31, 2019:

Office	Candidate (term expiration)
President	Rob Blumberg (May 31, 2020)
VP, Finance & Administration	Michael Manning* (May 31, 2019)
VP, Education	Steven Goldstein* (May 31, 2019)
VP, Congregational Affairs	Cheryl Kasof * (May 31, 2019)
VP, Membership	Karen Rothman * (May 31, 2019)
Secretary	Heidi Swanick * (May 31, 2019)
Treasurer	Carole Grayson * (May 31, 2019)

Newly Nominated Directors

Director	Jordan Eisenstock (May 31, 2020)
Director	Wendy Zingher (May 31, 2020)
Director	Robin Baer* (May 31, 2020)
Director	Phil Leavitt* (May 31, 2020)
Director	Judy Deane (May 31, 2020)
Director	Allen Rosenfeld* (May 31, 2020)

Previously Elected & Continuing

Immediate Past President	Allison Orenstein (May 31, 2019)
Director	Mark Chapleau (May 31, 2019)
Director	Alan Ehrlich (May 31, 2019)
Director	Andy Feldman (May 31, 2019)
Director	Andrew Shaw (May 31, 2019)
Director	Simon Davis (May 31, 2019)

*Currently serving in same position