



Choosing Our Path
Bechirat Haderech Shelanu
בחירת הדרך שלנו

Annual Report

January 1 - December 31

2021

Mission Statement

B'nai Havurah is an inclusive, participatory Jewish Reconstructionist community (Kehillah) that is passionately committed to experiencing Judaism by infusing tradition with renewed meaning in a contemporary American context. We do this through study (Torah), worship and joyous practice (Avodah), social justice (Tikkun Olam), acts of kindness (Gemilut Hasidim), and connection with the Jewish People (Am Yisrael).

A Jew is asked to take a leap of action rather than a leap of faith. – Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

A Message of Thanks

We thank our Officers and Trustees who served on the B'nai Havurah Board during the 2021/2022 term.

Officers:

Ben Honigman**, Chair
David Gordon**, Vice-Chair of Integrated Learning

Bob Stephens**, Vice-Chair of Administration
Linda Treibitz**, Secretary
Ethan Waldman**, Past Co-Chair

Elected Board Members:

Rachel Clark*
Laurie Cohn***
Debbie Goodman**
Sherry Martin***

Appointed Board Members:

Mark Brown**, Havurah HaMakor
Owen Chariton***, Havurah Ruach
Bill Goldberg**, Havurah Yofi
Sharon Haber**, Havurah Aytz
Shauna Morgan-Sherman*, Havurah B'kavod Jose Diaz
Kate Tribbett**, Havurah Mishpacha
Alan Lazaroff***, Havurah D'Zera
Janet Sherman***, Havurah Gadila

*Term ends on June 30, 2022

**Term ends on June 30, 2022, will renew term

***Mid-term (term will end on June 30, 2023)

*To save resources, we have printed a limited number of copies of this annual report.
We have posted this annual report on our website at bnaihavurah.org/annualreport2021.
Please contact our office at 303-388-4441 if you would like an annual report mailed to you.*

Message from the Board Chair and Executive Director

When we began the 2021-2022 term in July 2021, the Board of Trustees identified three primary goals: hire a rabbi, find a new home, and increase membership. We have succeeded in one of the three and are hard at work on the other two. Rabbi Katie Mizrahi officially starts in September 2022 as our new rabbi. The Rabbi Search Committee, led by Susan Spero and Jeff Haber, with the help of Talia Winokur, David Gordon, Judy Reaven, and Sandy Goldman, did a remarkable job. They interviewed several candidates and put together an announcement for a new rabbi that our central organization said was one of the best ones that they had seen. We are eternally grateful for their hard work. THANK YOU!



In this Annual Report and at the Annual Meeting, you will learn more about our Facility Task Force and Facility Exploratory Team in 2021 up through the present time. We owe many thanks to Allan Wallis, Chair of both groups, for his outstanding leadership and hope that we will have a more definitive answer to where we will be living as an organization within the next few months.



Our last goal of increasing membership proves to be the most complicated. The Board of Trustees had a full-day membership summit in February to address this goal. We discussed new approaches to this problem. We have assigned two groups to thoroughly explore our declining membership issue and make proposals to address the situation. The Dues Task Force, led by Bob Stephens and Janet Sherman, is exploring new and innovative ways to fund B'nai. It is clear that the old system of asking for dues from our members does not work for everyone, and we believe it has been one of the reasons that younger families are not joining as fast as we had hoped. And the Membership Task Force, led by Bob Stephens and Linda Treibitz, has been hard at work developing new ideas on how we can attract new families. Both task forces will be presenting their recommendations: first at our May 24 Board Meeting and then to our members at our Annual Meeting.

In addition to these four working groups, we have had enormous success with three other programs. Our adult educational program, A Year of Learning, sponsored by the Grynberg Family Foundation and led by Debbie Goodman, has presented vital programming that addressed women's rights, race equity, and more. Please refer to the rest of the Annual Report for more information about A Year of Learning.

Next is our My Mitzvah program, launched in 2021, led by Risa Aqua with Hal Aqua. In the first year of this program, Risa and Hal (with some help from Sarah Kaplan Gould) are working with nine students to prepare them for their B'nai Mitzvot. In creating My Mitzvah, Risa's vision was that students from diverse backgrounds and levels of knowledge train together toward individual and shared goals while families find a welcoming, non-judgmental place to grow Jewishly in community with others. By all accounts, My Mitzvah fulfills this vision, and we look forward to continuing success in this program.

The third accomplishment is the efforts of Zeik Saidman and Marilyn Winokur in the tremendous success of Coloradans for the Common Good, a broad-based, non-partisan organization focused on working for social justice in Colorado. As a member of CCG, B'nai Havurah is proud to work with more than 25 other interfaith groups (including congregations, labor unions, education associations, and others) who have achieved so much in promoting democracy and fair treatment of all citizens. Look for CCG's 2021 highlights and their goals in this Annual Report.

We thank all of our members for their belief in B'nai Havurah and invite you to join us as we look forward to the upcoming term, welcome Rabbi Katie Mizrahi, and build a more sustainable future for our wonderful community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ben Honigman'.

Ben Honigman, Board of Trustees Chair
honigmanb@gmail.com

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Becky Epstein'.

Becky Epstein, Executive Director
exec@bnaihavurah.org

Report from Hal Aqua, Cantorial Ritual Director

To state the obvious, 2021 was a year of challenges for our community, coming as it did in the second year of the global pandemic. The calendar year began with the unprecedented jolt of January 6, and that evening B'nai Havurah members gathered via Zoom to find comfort in community, with Rabbi Evette and me leading us in discussion, prayer, meditation, and song... not as good as meeting in person, but far better than doing nothing.



halacqua13@gmail.com

When I think of describing our community's spiritual and social life in 2021, that phrase – far better than doing nothing – is an apt descriptor of the way we came together last year. Keeping our attention on the ever-shifting demands of COVID protocols, we held Shabbat services, sometimes in person, sometimes virtually; we met in person for b'nai mitzvahs and funerals and on Zoom for shiva services; and as we became more attuned to rapidly-changing technology, we developed a hybrid approach to our gatherings, an approach that we continue to refine and improve upon today. It's been a steep learning curve, but we're doing it together.

A few of my favorite moments from 2021: a Zoom Purim celebration with a mask contest and a rapid-fire Megillah retelling (in English); a pre-Pesach community seder at Highlands Church to share our traditions with new friends and perhaps future partners; a last-minute shift from in-person to mostly-virtual High Holy Days services at Highlands; celebrating Second Day Rosh Hashanah outdoors with friends from Beth Evergreen and B'nai Chaim at a lovely mountain park; and walking with a Torah scroll in a joyful all-ages group from B'nai to nearby Lollipop Lake (in Garland Park) on Simchat Torah.

As we move into the summer and start planning for our 2022 High Holy Days, I look forward with anticipation and positive thoughts to welcoming Rabbi Katie into our community and working with her and our High Holy Days team as we celebrate the coming seasons with intentionality, love, and camaraderie. I know that it will be far, far better than doing nothing.

High Holy Days By Joan Wallis

We began planning for High Holy Days 2021/5782 in April 2021, hoping for a hybrid (in person and on Zoom) approach. As it turned out, just two weeks before Rosh Hashanah, we, with input from our Covid Task Force, decided to offer our services on Zoom only. Our service leaders, leyners, readers, presenters, and immediate families joined us at Highlands Church.



Our Highlands hosts were incredibly welcoming and helpful. The sanctuary was spacious and well ventilated. The acoustics were terrific, and their cameras and tech support (along with our own Dan Prendergast at the wheel) ensured a successful Zoom presentation to our at-home attendees.

In addition to our High Holy Days committee and staff, many members provided volunteer support, for which we are grateful! A special shout out to David Wiener, who did so much to make things run smoothly.

If you are interested in volunteering for this coming High Holy Days, don't hesitate to contact me.

We'll see you for our 2022/5783 High Holy Days, both in person and on Zoom!

Special thanks to the Shabbat Committee:

- Hal Aqua
- Angele Faulchier
- Felice Morel
- Risa Aqua
- Sandy Goldman
- Dan Prendergast
- Becky Epstein
- Debbie Goodman
- Carla Sciaky

And to our High Holy Days Committee:

Chair: Joan Wallis joanwallis@gmail.com

- Committee:**
- Hal Aqua
 - Risa Aqua
 - Becky Epstein
 - Debbie Goodman
 - Felice Morel

Report from Debbie Goodman, Program Director

Year of Learning programs have provided B'nai Havurah and the broader community a wide variety of educational and cultural experiences in the last year. The 2021 programming year began with a two-month celebration of Yiddish Culture that included Klezmer concerts and discussions of Yiddish literature facilitated by staff at the Yiddish Book Center. Professor Pamela Nadell of American University was featured in two programs during the year, both of which drew national audiences on Zoom. The programs focused on America's Jewish Women, and The Triangle Shirtwaist Fire and the social justice reforms that followed. Israeli artist Shirel Horovitz did a presentation about Israeli art as a reflection of history and memory; and Rabbi Deborah Waxman, President and CEO of Reconstructing Judaism, spoke about resilience and Jewish practice.



debbie@bnaihavurah.org



One of the priorities of the Year of Learning is social justice programming, and the recently formed Racial Justice and Awareness Committee has played an integral role in addressing that goal. Learning became the first priority of this group, as reflected in the committee's Mission Statement:

Our goal is to be an open and inclusive congregation. We are committed to educating ourselves and B'nai Havurah about racism, uncovering our own prejudices and privileges. We will work to unlearn our racist patterns, share power and work in coalition to promote racial justice.



Earlier this year, The Racial Justice and Awareness Committee presented a multi-session reading group using Isabel Wilkerson's groundbreaking book *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*. In the coming year this committee will bring more educational opportunities and programming around racial justice and equity to the B'nai Havurah community.



The Year of Learning programming is made possible by the generosity of the CBG Family Fund and provides the opportunity for B'nai Havurah to bring new programming to the community that requires resources and support not previously available. The B'nai Havurah community has been able to expand and enhance opportunities for learning, collaboration, and celebration as a result of the Year of Learning initiative, with a focus in the last year on Jewish culture, the American Jewish experience, and social and racial justice programming. In the coming year, Year of Learning programs will continue to bring quality experiences, distinguished teachers and cultural celebrations to our community.

Special thanks to our Year of Learning Advisory Board:

- Celeste Grynberg
- Pat Madsen
- Janet Sherman
- Bobbie Towbin
- Kate Tribbett
- Joan Wallis

And to our Racial Justice and Awareness Committee:

- Jennifer Ades
- Janet Fine
- Susan Kaplan
- Janet Sherman
- Alice Turak
- Marilyn Winokur
- Talia Winokur
- Joan Wallis

Rabbi Katie Mizrahi: Helping to Write the Next Chapter of B'nai Havurah's Evolution

In March of 2021, our Rabbi Search Committee, with the support of Reconstructing Judaism and Rabbi Joel Alpert, embarked on a journey to find our new rabbi. After interviewing six candidates and checking references, the Search Committee recommended that the B'nai Havurah community bring Rabbi Katie Mizrahi to Denver to lead a Shabbaton in December. The community had multiple opportunities to meet and interact with Rabbi Katie.



We are incredibly pleased that Katie Mizrahi will become our new rabbi beginning September 1, 2022, just a few weeks before Rosh Hashanah. Search Committee Co-Chairs Jeff Haber and Susan Spero said, "The members of the Search Committee worked very well together in our desire to create a fair, open, and comprehensive process. Given the overwhelmingly positive feedback from 117 members after our Shabbaton with Rabbi Katie, we believe we have helped B'nai find a wonderful leader to guide us in writing the next chapter in our community's evolution."

We are grateful to our search committee members, Susan Spero, Jeff Haber, Talia Winokur, Dave Gordon, Judy Reaven, and Sandy Goldman, for their work on behalf of our community.

Job well done! / *Yasher koach!*

*Thank you for your consideration of Rabbi Katie by **waiting until September 1** to contact her.*

Meet Adrianna Beaudette, Our Office Manager

Adrianna Beaudette has 10 years of experience working for non-profits, mostly focused on education and leadership. She moved to Denver after working for many years helping to develop and support programming at a leadership school and instructing wilderness courses in the West and around the world.

Adrianna enjoys canoeing, backpacking, and reading quietly in beautiful places. She is excited to explore the beautiful state of Colorado!

We're sure the entire community will find Adrianna more than capable and enjoy her upbeat personality and warmth.

Please welcome Adrianna the next time you call or stop by the office!



Many Thanks to Eddie Davis and Tamara Hertz

In October of last year, we were sad to see Eddie Davis, our office manager, bid farewell to B'nai Havurah. Eddie was a kind, calm, and capable professional who made connections with staff and members during his 2+ years with us. We wish Eddie our sincere regards and gratitude.

Tamara Hertz, who has had several roles at B'nai Havurah, stepped in as office manager until we filled the position. She kept our office humming from October 2021 until we hired Adrianna Beaudette in April 2022. We owe her a debt of gratitude!

Report from Risa & Hal Aqua, Co-Directors of My Mitzvah

My Mitzvah at B'nai Havurah was a pilot program that started in September 2021. Our class of nine consisted of 5 students from four B'nai Havurah families; two students whose families had left B'nai in the past few years; and two other unaffiliated families who found us through the internet or by word of mouth.

The students came with widely varying amounts of Jewish education and background; all were welcome, and all studied together in class. Most, but not all, students also received private tutoring (not included in our program fee).

Our class met twice monthly; Covid was a challenge, but we did our best. At one of our early classes, which was in person and outdoors, students jumped into learning about the mitzvot by organizing piles of disparate mitzvot typed on strips of paper into various categories. Their enthusiasm and willingness to grapple with these commandments – some familiar, some obscure, some easier to make sense of than others – set the tone for the rest of the year. The cohort proved to be mature, engaged, and supportive of each other; they felt comfortable and accepted regardless of how much they knew coming in.

The students participated in several Shabbat B'yachad services throughout the year, practicing their prayer/leadership skills and getting a taste of a B'nai Shabbat service.

As we enter the season of B'nai Mitzvah celebrations, we hope our class further gels as a community of friends. We are confident that the celebrations will be varied and meaningful to students, families and community.

Goals and Vision for 2022

Next year's cohort is beginning to take shape already. There are fewer B'nai children in the next class – just 2 or 3 – but we have been receiving many inquiries, and are optimistic that we'll have many more students this year.

We look forward to working with Rabbi Katie when she comes on board. We have not yet talked about what roles she would like to take on and what directions she would like the program to take in the future. Sarah Kaplan Gould has agreed to continue, and to expand her roles as teacher, tutor and curriculum developer.

Things we hope to continue: Welcoming families who don't want a cookie-cutter approach to B'nai Mitzvah; empowering children to approach Torah and prayer in the bold and inquisitive way we do here at B'nai Havurah; providing a Jewish community to unaffiliated Jews while augmenting B'nai Havurah's small current Youth Education cohort.

Things we hope to do better: More creative prayer-writing and interpretation; more integration of Mitzvah Projects into our group classes; more family gatherings (we had very few this year due to Covid).

All in all, it's been an amazing year of learning for students and staff alike. Energized and optimistic, we look forward to an even better year in 2022-23.



risaaqua25@gmail.com

halaqua13@gmail.com



Special Thanks to the My Mitzvah Advisory Board

- Angele Fauchier
- Ilana Fishman
- Ben Honigman
- Joan Wallis

2021 B'nai Mitzvah



Bat Mitzvah of Teagan Moran Simler
Saturday, February 6, 2021



Bar Mitzvah of Ben DeBoskey
Saturday, June 26, 2021



Bat Mitzvah of Lindsay Wisott
August 21, 2021

*May you live to see your world fulfilled,
May you be our link to future worlds,
and may your hope encompass all
the generations to be.*

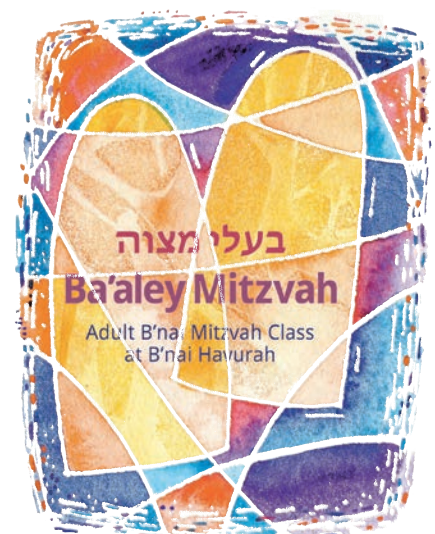
Baaly Mitzvah: Our Adult B'nai Mitzvah Program

Most Jews automatically becomes a Bar-, Bat- or B'nai Mitzvah when they turn 12 or 13. Baaley Mitzvah (Master of the Mitzvah) is the term we've given to those who choose to take on the mantle of B'nai Mitzvah as adults.

On Saturday, November 20, 2021, after studying with Risa and Hal Aqua, Ketzel Bradley, Lisa Eller Davis, Siobhan Houston, Sheila Pack, Barbara Shindell, and Andrea Wisott became Baaley Mitzvah. **Mazal Tov!**

For this very special occasion, this group led us in prayers, a D'var Torah, and a Torah portion, all for the first time.

If you are interested in becoming a Baaley Mitzvah, please contact Becky Epstein, exec@bnaihavurah.org or call our office at 303-388-4441.



B'nai Chai Legacy

Our B'nai Chai Legacy donors, individuals just like you, are committed to ensuring that B'nai Havurah, the only Reconstructionist community in Denver, continues to thrive for future generations. We hope you will join the others who have chosen to include our inclusive, caring, thinking community based on social action, rich cultural heritage, and joyous practice in your will, trust, retirement account, or life insurance policy.

- Has B'nai Havurah had a positive impact on your life?
- Do you wonder where B'nai Havurah will be 50 years from now?
- Would you like to support the values of our dynamic community?
- Is liberal Judaism important to you?



Ensure that B'nai Havurah continues to thrive as Denver's Reconstructionist home!

If you have already included a gift to B'nai Havurah in your planned giving, please let us know!

To see a list of our B'nai Chai Legacy members, please go to: www.bnaihavurah.org/bnaichailegacy.

Contact Becky Epstein at exec@bnaihavurah.org | 303-38-4441 for additional information.

Many thanks to our current B'nai Chai Legacy Members!

What a Reconstructionist Approach Offers

Reconstructionists approach Judaism — and life — with deep consideration of the past and a passion to relate it to the present. In a rapidly changing world, Reconstructionist communities share and create new ways of being Jewish to connect us to the divine and ensure our lives are filled with purpose.

- We view Judaism as the evolving civilization of the Jewish people in an ongoing relationship with God. Our shared culture — rituals, traditions and practices — reflect over 3,000 years of that evolution, and we continue to share and shape it today.
- We break down the walls that divide us — demonstrating what it means to be Jewish today — standing up for justice and creating a better world for all.
- We experience — and discover — God through our daily acts of ritual, creative expression and humanity, which leads to individual spiritual fulfillment.
- We have originated many of the core innovations within American Judaism and lead efforts to make our community even more forward-thinking, inclusive and relevant.
- We are committed to democratic practice in Jewish life and believe that people hold the right — and obligation — to reconstruct Judaism in order for it to remain relevant in our lives.

Committee Reports

We are eternally grateful to our exceptional volunteers who work on committees, task forces, and Positioning B'nai organizations. Though the following reports do not include all of our volunteer groups, we thank the many members who, through their visible and invisible deeds, make B'nai Havurah the inclusive, Reconstructionist community we are today.



Serving others is one of the pillars upon which Judaism rests. — Lynn Schusterman

Adult Education

The Adult Education committee primarily relies on the vast knowledge and expertise of B'nai Havurah's members who create their own educational programs for our community.

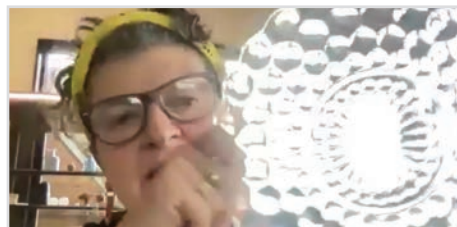
In 2021, Adult Education sponsored 17 programs, including two movie discussion groups, and presentations on topics ranging from literary analysis, writing, biography, and religion, to art, sustainable gardening, genetics, cooking, medical cannabis, and more.

In 2022, we will continue to bring similar programming to our community and for some events will be collaborating with the Year of Learning, sponsored by the CBG Family Fund. We are also discussing combining our programmatic efforts with Chachamim (Wise Guys), led by Bobbie Towbin and her Havurah, Ben Zion.

Let Laurie Cohn know if you have an idea for a program, if you'd like to teach or facilitate a program, or join the committee!

Thank you to our 2021 program facilitators:

- Hal Aqua
- Liz Evans
- Gary S. Frohlich, MS, CGC
- Margery Goldman
- Sandy Goldman
- Debbie Goodman
- Dave Gordon
- Celeste Grynberg
- Sharon Haber
- Kavod on the Road
- Deb Lebow Aal
- Nancy McCahill
- Pat Madsen
- Rabbi Katie Mizrahi
- Ronnie Rosenbaum
- Vicki Saragoussi Phillips
- Carla Sciaky
- Janet Tamaren
- Dan Taubman
- Talia Winokur
- Simon Zalkind



Chair:

- Laurie Cohn
lauriecohnbnai@gmail.com

Committee:

- Becky Epstein
- Dr. Dave Gordon
- Pat Madsen (joined in 2022)
- Lorrie Tishler

Ongoing Adult Education Programs:

Books & Bagels – meets on the first Sunday of each month at 10:00 am

The Rest of the Tanakh – meets every Thursday at 4:00 pm



Coloradans for the Common Good

In 2018, B'nai Havurah became a member of Coloradans for the Common Good*, meeting all the requirements of Positioning B'nai, our social justice policy. CCG's 29 broad-based, non-partisan organizational members (congregations, unions, civic groups) work together to tackle local issues across lines that often divide our communities. CCG's leadership development also trains ordinary people to have a powerful voice in decisions that affect their lives.

2021 CCG Highlights:

- Supported preschool workers in Jefferson County as they organized to form a union
- Stood with UFCW Local 7 members during their successful strike for fair wages and safe conditions at King Soopers
- Collaborated with farm workers and allies to increase protections for agricultural workers
- Gathered 250 people in Jefferson County to secure commitments from school board candidates to increase wages for workers in JeffCo Public Schools
- Worked with the National Gun Safety Consortium and got commitments from the CO State Patrol and Boulder County Sheriff's Department to test and evaluate innovative gun safety devices



Event Photos by Eric Einstein Photography

In mid-2021, CCG began planning its **First Annual Colorado Interfaith Labor Seder**. Held at Rodef Shalom on April 4, 2022, it was a success beyond expectations:

- In total, 170 people from Ft. Collins to Colorado Springs – members from labor unions, churches, synagogues, civic institutions, and other non-profits – shared in reading the Passover story of liberation and its relevance to workers' struggles today
- Forty-eight B'nai members and their guests attended to recognize the continuing struggle for workers' rights, freedom, and dignity
- Hal Aqua's guitar strumming and songs of freedom, co-led by Talia Winokur, stirred the crowd to join in clapping and singing
- Workers from different industries shared their individual stories and called on participants to join in solidarity with working people of Colorado
- The keepsake Haggadah, created for this occasion, included awesome passages to promote collective action

Sincere thanks to B'nai Havurah's generous sponsors, supporters, planning team, and volunteers for their vision, dedication, and commitment to this inaugural Labor Seder. You made it all possible!



**COLORADANS FOR THE
COMMON GOOD**

Making Democracy Work

B'nai Havurah Co-Chairs:

- Zeik Saidman
zeiks@aol.com
- Marilyn Winokur
marilyn@winokur.com

B'nai Havurah Committee:

- Jennifer Ades
- Glenn Cooper
- Susan Cooper
- Becky Epstein
- Richard Fantel
- Debbie Goodman
- Pat Madsen
- Maggie Miller
- Shauna Morgan-Sherman
- Barbara Shindell
- Paul Simon
- Allan Wallis
- Talia Winokur

In 2022, CCG is organizing around issues of Public Education, Affordable Housing, Voting, Healthcare, Healthy Food, Workers' Wages, Clean Air, and Gun Safety. The plan is to build an even more powerful organization to do this work. PLEASE JOIN US!



**CCG is a Positioning B'nai organization. Positioning B'nai is our Social Action Policy that provides a path for anyone in our congregation to support and promote social justice. To learn more, please go to www.bnaihavurah.org/our-social-action-policy-positioning-bnai.*

Colorado Faith Communities United to End Gun Violence

Havurah B'kavod Jose Diaz: Standing Up to Gun Violence

Havurah B'kavod Jose Diaz represents B'nai Havurah as an active member of Colorado Faith Communities United to End Gun Violence (CFCU)*, a multi-faith coalition of more than 40 congregations working together to reduce Colorado's rising gun death rate.

As diverse faith communities, CFCU works to reduce injuries, deaths, and the resulting grief caused by the improper use of firearms — whether suicidal, accidental, or criminal. They work together in areas where they can be most effective, including legislative advocacy, public health initiatives, public awareness, and increased engagement of our faith communities.

Following the tragedies of the racially-motivated, gun-related deaths in Buffalo, NY, and the horrific elementary school shooting in Uvalde, TX, CFCU and Havurah B'kavod Jose Diaz understand how frustrated and hopeless most people feel right now.

You are not helpless: we must continue to work toward our goals of ending gun violence. For actionable steps you can take immediately, go to: www.cfcu-co.org/cfcu-response.

To get involved, contact Alana Smart.

**CCG is a Positioning B'nai organization. Positioning B'nai is our Social Action Policy that provides a path for anyone in our congregation to support and promote social justice. To learn more, please go to www.bnaihavurah.org/our-social-action-policy-positioning-bnai.*



Colorado Faith Communities
United to End Gun Violence

Chair:

- Alana Smart
alanaks@aol.com

Committee:

- Glenn and Susan Cooper
- Richard Fantel
- Pat Madsen
- Shauna Morgan-Sherman
- Paul Simon and Debbie Reinberg
- Alana Smart and Zeik Saidman
- Howard Tishler

In addition, approximately 20 B'nai Havurah members support our work as Friends of B'kavod Jose Diaz Havurah.



Students from Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School led the first March For Our Lives in 2018 following the shooting at their school in Parkland, FL.

Let's join them on Saturday, June 11, 2022 from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm at the Capitol for the Second March For Our Lives. CFCU Members and Friends will be meeting at 9:45 am on the east side of First Baptist Church, 1373 Grant Street.

Contact Alana Smart for more info: alanaks@aol.com

**Join B'nai & CFCU
for this event!**

Chesed Circle

Chesed means lovingkindness, which is expressed in our community through various acts of kindness. As usual, the Chesed Committee was busy in 2021. The Chesed Committee has led the way in meal preparation and delivery to recuperating and families in mourning, helping out at shivas, paying visits, making calls, and sending get well cards.

In 2022, Chesed is recruiting new members. If you'd like to learn more, email Co-Chairs Carol Bubes or Lorrie Tishler. They could use your help!



Co-Chairs:

- Carol Bubes
cbubes@outlook.com
- Lorrie Tishler
lorrie_edits@yahoo.com

Committee:

- Shirley Coren
- Paula Gudder
- Vicki Saragoussi-Phillips
- Barbara Shindell
- Bobbie Towbin

Facility Task Force/Exploratory Team

By Allan Wallis

During 2019-2020 the Facilities Task Force identified 19 churches that B'nai Havurah might lease space from. Members of the FTF researched the churches and visited most of them. The most promising was Central Christian Church, where we had held High Holy Days services for eight consecutive years.

The Board appointed an Exploratory Team to engage in negotiations with Central Christian Church. The Exploratory Team met with representatives from Central Christian Church from January through March of 2020, after which they determined that there was no basis for further negotiations.

At this point, consideration turned to leasing commercial space. We quickly determined that this option wasn't financially viable.

A new lead came to us via Carla Sciaky. She had been working with a performance group rehearsing at Highlands Church (1700 S. Grant).

Carla liked the building and Pastor Jenny and thought there might be a good fit for the facility and values (e.g., actively engaged in social justice issues.)

The FTF met at Highlands Church on October 14 to tour the 28,000-square-foot building. There was a general feeling that this could be a good fit. Ben Honigman reactivated an Exploratory Team to engage in negotiations with Highlands. The first meeting of the Exploratory Team with the Highland's counterpart took place on January 31 of this year. Those meetings continue.

Chair:

- Alan Wallis
allan.wallis@ucdenver.edu

Facility Task Force:

- Carla Sciaky
- Caroline Portis
- Dan Prendergast
- Ethan Waldman
- Gail benEzra
- Lorrie Tishler
- Marilyn Winokur
- Priscilla Press
- Ron Lepoff
- Sharon Haber
- Talia Winokur
- Mark Brown
- Elaine Selsberg
- Ben Honigman

Exploratory Team:

- Joel Judd
- Bill Goldberg
- Ron Lepoff
- Marilyn Winokur
- Rob Baumgarten

Staff:

- Hal Aqua
- Becky Epstein

Inclusivity

Accomplishments:

- Annual Inclusivity Shabbat with JDA in February 2022: Our topic was chronic health conditions. Dave Gordon moderated the panel.
- B'nai Havurah supported several other events associated with JDA, including the Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance and Inclusion Month events, and Coping with Suicide presentations.
- Judy Reaven was part of two presentations on autism spectrum disorder to Har Hashem (April 2021 and December 2021).
- Participated in Purim "Masking" and Passover Spoon Theory educational programs that

Erica Baruch and others developed.

- Maintained multi-access (virtual and in-person) services and programming to ensure the inclusion of those who cannot participate in person for a variety of health/ability reasons

Challenges:

- The committee needs more members to accomplish our goals.

B'nai Havurah is proud to partner with Jewish Family Service of Colorado Jewish Disabilities Advocates to create disability awareness, promote inclusion, and ensure Jews with disabilities and their families can participate fully in a rich Jewish life.



Chair:

- Judy Reaven
judy.reaven@cuanschutz.edu

Committee:

- Ketzel Bradley
- Leslie Doherty
- Becky Epstein
- Dave Gordon
- Robert Kruger
- Anna Lazaroff

With extraordinary support and assistance from Erica Baruch, Jewish Disabilities Advocates Advisor.

Library

Our Library has been relatively dormant during COVID, though now that the building is open, books can circulate again.

For many years, our Library has operated on a formal basis — we have a catalog and check-in/check-out system. However, we do not have the volunteer power to make this work. For example,

we have at least 10 boxes of uncatalogued books in storage. To catalog them will take a lot of hours, and will require us to "deaccession" enough books to make room for new ones.

If you like working with books, or just have thoughts on how the Library could be more useful to you and others, please let Pat know.



Committee Chair:

- Pat Madsen, Chair
patsact@hotmail.com

Personnel

During the past year, the personnel committee has worked to develop recommendations on several B'nai personnel policies. It has also sought to clarify its role as advisors to the Chair, the Board, and the Executive Director. The committee currently has the following priorities:

1. Reconstruct the annual performance evaluation process into a holistic and ongoing performance management process.

The committee has drafted tools and resources to facilitate this recommended process.

2. Reconstruct job descriptions. The committee recommends using a standardized template that will clearly articulate job duties and expectations.

3. Update the Employee Manual. The committee will also develop a process to ensure that the Employee Manual stays current and relevant.



Committee Chair:

- Alan Greenberg, Chair
adgreenberg76@yahoo.com

Committee:

- Gail Gudder
- Sherry Martin
- Barbara Borow-Stephens
- Greg Tamkin

Tikkun Olam

2021 Highlights:

- Awarded \$500 to the Second Wind Fund, a program providing professional counseling for teenagers at risk of suicide.
- Gave \$250 to the Habitat Interfaith Alliance golf tournament fundraiser.
- Provided a \$500 grant to Kavod Senior Life's Kavod on the Road program.
- Dispensed a \$500 award to Earthlinks, a program providing life skills, transportation, work assistance, housing, and jobs to homeless citizens.

- Awarded \$500 to Judi's House, a program that provides grieving services to children and other families dealing with the loss of a loved one.

Tikkun Olam approved 17 grant proposals in 2021. The committee respectfully requests donations from the congregation to allow us to continue repairing the world.



Committee:

- Carol Bubes
- Glenn Cooper
- Robert Kruger
- Nancy McCahill
- Jeanne Pantone
- Barry Rosenberg
- Carole Smith
- Lorrie Tishler
- Alice Turak

Co-Chairs:

- Glenn Cooper
coopergx@aol.com
- Nancy McCahill
nancymccahill@hotmail.com

Youth Education

2021 Highlights:

Spring 2021: Chai Five trimesters included family learning (Jewish cooking, Jewish traditions and genealogy) and arts (Jewish drawing and painting, stop motion animation). Story Adventure met throughout the spring.

Fall 2021: Following the departure of Dr. Carol Morris, Youth Education began the Year of Joy program for children of all ages and their families. Monthly events included a tallit painting party, a Havdalah celebration with Israeli dancing, and a Hanukkah party.

Monthly Shabbat B'Yachad services, with prayers increasingly being led by My Mitzvah students.

2022-2023 School Year:

Year of Joy and Shabbat B'Yachad programming for all ages continues through 2022. Youth Education is working on targeting programming for younger children, and will partner with Rabbi Katie around her goals for Youth Education.



Chair:

- Angele Fauchier
afauchier@gmail.com

Committee:

- Risa Friedman
- Shauna Morgan-Sherman
- Kate Tribbett

Ex Officio Members:

- Hal Aqua
- Risa Aqua
- Becky Epstein
- Dave Gordon



Recognitions: January 31 - December 31, 2021

Do not be wise in words, be wise in deeds —Jewish Proverb
(Some attribute this quote to Marcus Aurelius.)

We are grateful to our many wise members and friends who donated to B'nai Havurah in 2021. Monetary donations of all sizes sustain our community in many important areas, including supporting our staff, Youth and Adult Education, High Holy Days, Social Action, and much more.

To view a list of our 2021 donors, please go to www.bnaihavurah.org/recognitions2021.

Note: In order to access this webpage, you will be asked to login to ShulCloud. Please call our email us if you would like assistance logging in.

Hamakom Yenachem

May their Memory
be a Blessing



Beverly Sherman

January 27, 2021
Mother of Janet Sherman



Bernard Reder*

April 27, 2021
Husband of Elizabeth Ferber Reder



May Chariton

July 10, 2021
Mother of Owen Chariton



Harold L Cohen

July 26, 2021
Father of Marla Cohen



Marilyn Heller*

February 26, 2021
Mother of Linda Treibitz
Grandmother of Janelle Treibitz



Judy Cohen**

May 18, 2021
Wife of Harvey Cohen



Ed Towbin**

July 14, 2021
Husband of Bobbie Towbin
Father of Risa Aqua,
Samantha Baumgarten, and
Michael Towbin



Jack Grynberg**

October 11, 2021
Father of Rachel, Stephen, and
Miriam Grynberg
Former husband of Celeste
Grynberg



Ruth Chapman**

March 20, 2021
Predeceased by her husband,
Arthur Chapman, z"l



Alida Stein**

June 9, 2021
Mother of Judy Stein, Rob
Stein, and Randy Stein



Myrna Abramson

July 19, 2021
Mother of Craig Abramson



Joel Ivan Miller

November 9, 2021
Partner of Sandy Goldman



Gloria Lebow-Green

April 13, 2021
Mother of Deborah Lebow Aal



Bluma Field

June 19, 2021
Mother of Rabbi Brian Field

* B'nai Havurah member

** B'nai Havurah founding member

Statement of 2021 Financial Activities



2021 was another challenging year for B'nai Havurah. We did not have the benefit of the PPP Grant and we lost members. Even so, our assets grew to \$1,417,864 as of 12/31/2021. Total Ordinary Income was \$420,686 which was 87% of Budget and resulted in a deficit of \$66,079. Nonetheless, including Other Net Income from our Restricted Funds and Investments, we ended the year \$61,075 in the black. It is the strength of our Restricted Fund donations and other investments that are keeping us in the black.

Membership Dues were only \$9.5K under Budget. Other Half donations were strong at \$12K+ over Budget. Youth Education (not anticipating Carol's departure and smaller class sizes) and our April Fundraiser (revenue fell short) accounted for \$37K less revenue than planned. Due to the pandemic and careful budget management, Ordinary Expenses were lower than expected and we ended the year at 96% of Budget.

In conclusion, our finances remain strong for now. However, B'nai Havurah will need to implement strategies for retaining members, attracting new families, and other revenue-generating activities in order to support an ongoing vibrant community.

Co-Chairs: Bob Stephens and Linda Treibitz coloradostephens@aol.com | linda.treibitz@comcast.net

Committee Members: Ron Lepoff, Kate Tribbett, Ethan Waldman, Marilyn Winokur **Staff:** Becky Epstein

REVENUE

Membership Dues	\$225,574
Youth Education Program	\$11,918
Other Program Income	\$5,847
Individual and Business Contributions	\$55,409
Fund Development	\$74,208
Facility Rentals	\$25,665
Investment Income	\$22,065
Total Unrestricted Revenue	\$420,686

Other Revenue:

Restricted Fund Donations	\$123,822
Asset Value Growth	\$49,453
Total Other Income	\$173,275

NET INCOME. \$593,961

EXPENSES

Payroll	\$279,266
Contract Services	\$63,550
Operations	\$26,239
Facilities & Equipment	\$91,812
Business Expenses	\$25,899
Total Expenses	\$486,766

Other Expenses

Restricted Funds Expenses	\$44,282
Endowment Expense	\$3,101
Total Credit card allocation	\$(1,263)
Total Other Expenses	\$46,120

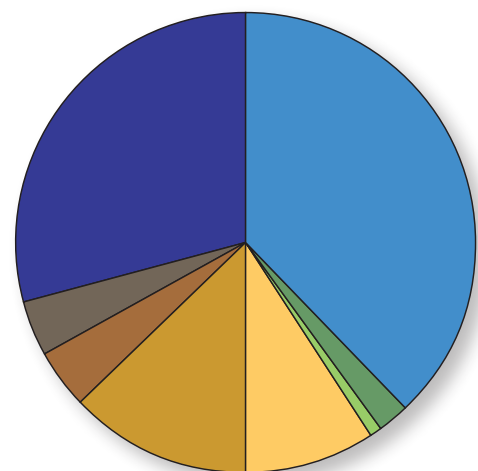
TOTAL EXPENSES & OTHER EXPENSES. . . . \$532,886

2021 TOTAL NET INCOME. \$61,075

STATEMENT OF ASSETS

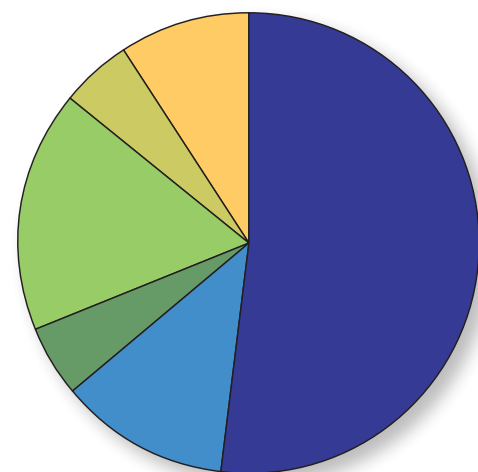
	2020	2021
Current Assets (1)	\$588,873	\$608,967
Fixed Assets (Bldg. & Property)	\$313,953	\$304,116
Other Assets (Rose Endowment)	\$477,483	\$504,781
TOTAL ASSETS.	\$1,380,309	1,417,864

(1) Liquid Assets: Includes checking, savings, accounts receivable, Charles Schwab and the Rose Designated Fund.



REVENUE

Membership Dues	Fund Development
Youth Education	Facility Rentals
Other Programs	Investment Income
Individual & Business Gifts	Other Income



EXPENSES

Payroll	Facilities & Equipment
Contract Services	Business Expenses
Operations	Other Expenses

An Evening of KITSCH AND CULTURE

**Saturday, June 11
7:00–9:30 pm**

**at Highlands Church
1700 S. Grant St. Denver**

**\$50 or
\$75 per
person**

**Wear
Festive
Attire!**

Join us for our 2022 annual fundraising event, raising shekels for our awesome community and giving us an opportunity to celebrate!

**Register by
June 9,
2022**

On our Website:

[bnaihavurah.org/event/
Kitsch&CultureTickets](https://bnaihavurah.org/event/Kitsch&CultureTickets)

or by Phone:

303-388-4441

FEATURING: TWO AUCTIONS!



Fantastic artwork up for auction created by our B'nai community artists Hal Aqua, Risa Aqua, Jill Arnson, Ketzel Bradley, Risa Friedman, Sharon Haber, Avi Kieffer, Kathryn Levi, Barbara Stein, and Donna Wintz



Another auction featuring getaways, dining and entertainment opportunities, including:

- Getaways to Taos (courtesy of Tamara Hertz & Doug Johnson), Lake Manawa in Council Bluffs (courtesy of Sally & Tom Stich), and more!
- Tickets to Colorado Rockies, Seattle Symphony, Miner's Alley, Vintage Theater, Cherry Creek Theater, JCC Mizel Arts & Culture Center, and more!



An elaborate, delicious, and plentiful buffet of hors d'oeuvres provided by Jimmy's Jersey Street Cafe & an open bar



Exciting entertainment: accordionist Florin Alexandrescu and jazz trio Ethan Michael, Camilla Vaitaitis, and Bridget Hartman (all Lamont School of Music alumni)



Person-on-the-street interviews with Debbie Goodman (Jimmy Kimmel has nothing on Debbie, plus we're not rigging it!)

Presenting Sponsor:



Additional Sponsors:

- Elizabeth Ferber Reder
- Phyllis Goodman
- Margery Goldman
- Celeste Grynberg
- Ben Honigman & Mary Kohn
- Tamara Hertz and Doug Johnson
- Anna & Alan Lazaroff
- Stacey & Ted Levin
- Nancy McCahill & Carole Smith
- Priscilla Press
- Marilyn Winokur