FROM THE PRESIDENT

Friends,

Tonight we mark the end of the synagogue year, both fiscally and programmatically. This coincides with summer vacation and the associated sentiments of freedom, change of pace, and diminished responsibilities. During this time our synagogue life continues without interruption untethered to any schedule other than the Jewish *luach*, or calendar. Throughout June, July, and August, minyan will be held every day, members of our community will celebrate and, unfortunately, mourn, and Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El will be here for these times. Throughout history, the synagogue has been the primary gathering place for Jews. So, though we head into summer and activity here slows, TBH-BE will not be on vacation.

Measuring success as a synagogue is quite challenging. I look to an excerpt from our mission statement for guidance:

We [TBH-BE] enable each member to achieve his or her Jewish identity through innovative and traditional worship experiences, lifelong learning, fulfillment of *mitzvot*, and community involvement.

As a vibrant, multigenerational congregation, our mission is to serve and support each member in a caring, respectful and collaborative manner.

Whether you attended a *shivah minyan*, chanted a Torah portion, participated in the production of *The Music Man*, attended an adult education class, Torathon, or one of our scholars’-in-residence programs, contributed to Shul Night Live, enrolled your child in the new Lower Merion Area Hebrew High school, traveled to Eastern Europe with TBH-BE, knocked someone out at the ECC’s dodgeball event, worked on behalf of the Craft and Gift Show, raised funds through our Matanah Campaign, volunteered for Hava Nagrilla, gave a book to a child during Shabbat services, planted vegetables in our new garden, or participated in any of the other activities and

Mazel Tov To:

Men’s Club Man of the Year:  
*Adam Soll*

Men’s Club Silver Circle Award  
in Memory of Allan Fink (z”l)  
*Allan Horowitz*

Dor Chadash Award Winners:  
*Holly and Norm Nelson*

Maltzman Memorial Shabbat Dinner Honorees:  
*Jane and Lee Bender*

Sisterhood Torah Fund Honoree:  
*Barbara Bookman*
programs at TBH-BE, we hope you and your family’s community and Jewish experience has been positively impacted. I have had the privilege to learn about many of the mitzvot performed by and on behalf of members of our congregation, and am both gratified and humbled at the selflessness and generosity of our congregation.

While we recognize all of our accomplishments from this past year, let us focus on the future. We are on track to meet our budget and benefit from a modest surplus for the second consecutive year. With our $3.25 million, five-year Capital Campaign completing its third year, we have expanded our parking and improved our grounds, and we have paid the balance of our former $1 million mortgage. We are also on track to address some of the highest-priority, long-standing structural issues with the mansion building in the coming year.

The smooth functioning of our facilities is a critical prerequisite to the Jewish life that it houses. Both our ECC and religious school students continue to benefit from the educational offerings at TBH-BE and our robust life-long learning opportunities are meaningful and diverse. Whether through in-house or invited teachers, we are blessed by an array of programs and classes that enable us to continue to grow and develop.

Our membership is strong, but it should never be taken for granted. Whether a new or veteran member, we want everyone to feel a strong connection to the shul. Those spiritual, social and community based connections form the backbone of our synagogue.

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as president of TBH-BE and lead on behalf of those for whom I have such deep respect. Thank you so much for all your encouragement and support.

-Josh A. Davison, President, TBH-BE

**By the Numbers**

ECC Enrollment:
2014/15: 129
2015/16: 140
2016/17: 156

Religious School Enrollment:
2014/15: 123
2015/16: 157
2016/17: 135

B’nai Mitzvah this year: 18

Total number of households as of March 2016: 729
*Total number of households as of March 2015: 721*

Youth Torah Readers: 32
Teen Madrichim in the Religious School: 20

Total number of meals delivered by Response to Hunger over the past 8 years: 15,000
**LMAHH**

There’s a new Hebrew high school in town! With an intention to engage more of our teens in continuing education, LMAHH (Lower Merion Area Hebrew High School, pronounced llama) will provide weekly Jewish learning experiences for students from many synagogues (or no synagogue) under one consolidated program. Joining together to create a positive social atmosphere for all students involved, we are also able to provide our students with a diversity of viewpoints from educators and rabbis from across the Main Line and beyond. The school will meet on Sundays and Tuesdays and operate on a trimester model. Students can choose whether to attend Sundays, Tuesdays, or, if desired, both sessions. We know that our students have many commitments and we aim to provide them with maximum flexibility while ensuring that we have enough students at all times to provide a stimulating social environment.

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**Rachel Kull Retires**

Last year we celebrated the 25th anniversary of Rachel Kull’s work and commitment to Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El. This year, her 26th, we honor her retirement from the TBH-BE ECC family. Many of you know Rachel as a teacher in our Bright Horizon’s program; however, Rachel was also the creator of and curriculum writer for our Let’s Play program. Her natural talent for assisting children in developing and improving social and emotional skills has benefitted children of all ages. Rachel has mentored our students into successful school-aged children and, now, young adults. And, I now realize where these skills came from – Rachel is an actress! Teaching social skills to children is all about modeling behaviors - acting. We were lucky to have Rachel on our stage, and we have been lucky to have her in our classrooms. Please join me in congratulating Rachel and thanking her for her excellent work with our children.—Judith Mont Scarani
**Youth Choir**

Our Youth Choir has seen explosive growth over the past few years. Beginning in 2013 as a trial run, the 2014-2015 class (photo to right) included a small number of young singers.

Fast forward to the 2016-2017 season where we now have close to twenty students (photo to left). To what do we attribute this massive evolution? The students! Their enthusiasm for Youth Choir has been so contagious they have been recruiting their peers to join them.

**B’nai Mitzvah Class of 2016/17**

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Evan King</td>
<td>10/08/2016</td>
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<td>10/22/2016</td>
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<td>Shaine Davison</td>
<td>10/22/2016</td>
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<td>Annie Newmark</td>
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<td>11/26/2016</td>
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<td>Ari Abramovitz</td>
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<td>Talia Hirshman</td>
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<td>Sonia Laby</td>
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<td>Jacob Spivack</td>
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<td>Jacob Kopelman</td>
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<td>Benjamin Wolf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Will Shapiro</td>
<td>5/06/2017</td>
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<td>Jordan Becker</td>
<td>5/27/2017</td>
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Back: Zachary Riggio, Ari Schwartz, Avery Grinnell, Shani Feinstein, James Rafferty  Front: Shayna Henniger, Lilah Spitzer, Rachel Reese, Dahlia Gavrin, Margot Lewis

**Kindergarten Class of 2017**
Our House
**Bikkur Holim**

The Caring Committee has been hard at work, as always. This year they have focused part of their efforts on initiating a new program, *Bikkur Holim*. As Rachel Dunaief explained in the June Pharisee, “In the beautiful Jewish tradition of visiting the sick, our newly formed Bikkur Holim team is ready to offer support to those who are ill in our community. If you are facing illness, whether at home or in the hospital, a member of this group would be glad to visit you. Illness can be lonely; a warm visitor can revive the spirit.”

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**Religious School Yad**

*Make-Your-Own-Yad*

Working with artist Avi Zuckerman, our 5th graders and their families had an opportunity to learn about their Hebrew name and to create a beautiful yad. This yad, made of a combination of silver beads and silver blocks with the student’s Hebrew name, made for a beautiful keepsake. We expect many of our students will use this yad when they read from the Torah at their Bar/Bat Mitzvah (and beyond!).

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**Magic Moments**

For the second year in a row, thanks to the excellent work of TBH-BE’s Amy Botel, Magic Moments is the recipient of the Main Line Parent Love Award for Best Mommy and Me Class and New Parent Support Group. Congratulations, Amy!

Upcoming classes begin June 29th and meet weekly through the summer.

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**Gan Kehillah: Our New Community Garden**

Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El has long been known for its generous community food assistance programs including Cook for a Friend, Response to Hunger, and Soup for the Soul, as well as our home-cooked Shabbat *kiddushim*. This year, thanks to the leadership of Kathy Elias, Elli Weinstein, and a crew of active volunteers, we have created a community garden. The garden produce is available for all of our food programs with additional produce expected to
be donated to local food banks. Lettuce from the garden has already been added to our Shabbat lunches.

The garden, located next to the Holocaust Memorial Chapel patio, will serve as an educational tool for our Early Childhood Center and Religious School. To help the soil, and to further improve our environmental impact, the kitchen has begun composting leftover vegetable and fruit pieces. As the garden grows, we expect to expand our composting capabilities.

**建一对祈祷毯**

利用犹太男会联合会的“建一对”工具包，我们的6年级学生制作了自己的木制祈祷毯，内含经文。虽然这些祈祷毯没有经过认证，也不打算用于常规用途，但它们确实帮助学生和他们的家庭理解制作祈祷毯的过程，并强调了完成这项mesvak的重要性。

**Yom ha-Shoah Commemoration**

今年的犹太人大屠杀纪念日活动在TBH-BE举行，包括蜡烛点火、几篇演讲、TBH-BE青少年合唱团、‘b’nai mesvak课程，以及哈弗福德高中合唱团。该活动由犹太教育委员会精心准备，并献给伊莱·威塞尔的记忆。犹太教育委员会是一个由志愿者组成的委员会，其中包括一些幸存者的孩子，他们每年都会进行这项活动作为对需要完成的工作的纪念，同时也为确保这一悲剧不会重演。

**Saul Wachs And Lev Shalem**

我们很荣幸拥有Saul Wachs博士，他用我们的新祈祷书来教导我们，如何通过祈祷来面对每个人面临的深刻存在性问题。我们共同探索了祈祷的lamah——我们为什么祈祷，以及我们的新祈祷书可能如何帮助我们。Saul Wachs博士将在今年晚些时候返回TBH-BE教授课程，他的六堂课将反映犹太教对世界文明的影响。
**Youth Programs**

In addition to LMAHH and USY teens have two additional ways to be involved at synagogue.

**Teen Madrichim in the Religious School** serve as classroom aids, peer mentors, and group facilitators. They are role models of participation for younger students and enable each of our students to receive individualized attention.

**Youth Torah Readers**, led by Hazzan Rosner, empowers our teens to keep reading Torah and Haftorah. For a small stipend, the students will read Torah to fill in open slots. This win/win program further develops our youth’s Torah reading skills and provides quality reading for our congregation.

Contact Ken Krivitzky for more information.

**Throwing Axes and Dodgeballs**

What do axe throwing and dodgeball have in common? For our Early Childhood Center families, they mean just another night out. In the fall, as a way to kick off the year, a group of parents gathered at Urban Axes in Philadelphia as a way to do some wholesome group bonding. Following the laughter and the throwing, there were definitely some sore muscles.

On a cold Saturday night in January, the Cherry Auditorium was transformed into dodgeball courts. H.S.A. coordinated 8 teams to throw at each other. The team names and costumes were creative, the action was fierce, and the Cherry survived.

**Music Man**

Every two years our resident theater folk entertain TBH-BE and the local community with song and dance, and thus 2017 began mellifluousy as TBH-BE’s thespians, artisans, and the folks who always volunteer for such things brought their skills to the Cherry Auditorium for several very well-received performances of the Music Man!
BE HERE.

ADULT EDUCATION: Programs and speakers throughout the year for everyone.

BOOMERS: Focused on the empty-nesters of our membership, this group meets throughout the year for dinners, speakers, and day trips emphasizing camaraderie.

HESED NETWORK: Chessed Network extends itself to those in our community who need special, gentle support during times of transition, crisis and/or joy.

CHOIR: An ensemble singing throughout the year and performing at holidays, special shabbatot, festivals, concerts, and the Delaware Valley Jewish Choral Festival.

COOK FOR A FRIEND: Providing a friendly visit, cooking meals or delivering. Our meals are prepared and delivered at the end of each month to those in need.

HAVURAH: Havurah gathers to worship, learn, teach and celebrate in an intimate setting, while remaining a part of the larger congregation. We welcome everyone!

ISRAEL AWARENESS COMMITTEE: Devoted to countering anti-Israel and anti-Semitic attacks and to keep congregants and our college students informed on Israel.

KERUV: TBH-BE is committed to a tradition of Keruv (outreach and welcoming), especially as it relates to single faith and interfaith families. Keruv consultants are always available to speak with you, as is Rabbi Cooper, about how interfaith couples are warmly welcomed “under our tent.”

L’CHAIM: Focusing on “over 65” members and meeting throughout the year for dinners, speakers and day trips with an emphasis on camaraderie and fun, L’Chaim activities are open to everyone.

MEN’S CLUB: Men’s Club plans events, both fun and useful, to assist the synagogue in its mission to serve its congregants in social and service areas.

MIKVEH: A unique facility open to all streams of Judaism, the Mikveh at TBH-BE serves as a vital, independent and self-supporting resource for the Jewish community of metropolitan Philadelphia.

RESPONSE TO HUNGER: This initiative was established to provide much needed meals for low-income, elderly, and challenged adults who live in the surrounding areas of the synagogue.

SISTERHOOD: A diverse, multi-generational group of women supporting the synagogue through a variety of programs benefitting our members and the larger Jewish community.

SOUP FOR THE SOUL: Each month we prepare 30 – 40 quarts of soup which delivered, as needed, to members recovering from illness, childbirth or completing a period of mourning.

YOUTH GROUPS: TBH-BE is a great place to be a kid! Programs include— Young Explorers (families with young children), Bonim (Grades 1-4), Kadima (Grades 5-7), USY (Grades 8-12) and more!

Looking Ahead

Hava NaGrilla

August 27, 2017 marks the 1st Annual Mid Atlantic Kosher Smoked Meat Barbecue Contest and Festival. The event promises to be as grand as its name! Judges from across the country and over 3,000 guests are expected. We encourage the entire TBH-BE community to support this event which puts our synagogue in a tasty new spotlight.

Celebrating Israel at 70!

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the birth of Israel and, throughout the year TBH-BE will be participating in the celebration. From special events to sharing information about Israel in our communications platforms, TBH-BE is happy to include you in the fun! Watch for more information in September.
Community Circle Commitment Model

Our Community Circle Model continues to help secure the fiscal health of our congregation. This past year, 137 households made a patron-level commitment to our synagogue, up from 132 households last year. We extend our thanks and a very warm welcome to our new patrons; to our returning patrons, we say thanks once again! Your continued investment in our synagogue as a patron is valued and appreciated.

We hope that the number of congregants making a patron-level commitment to the synagogue will continue to increase in the upcoming fiscal year. Our staff and leadership are always available to discuss the patron model with our members. As always, we thank our entire membership for making everything in this annual report possible.
### Funds

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**Summary of Current Fiscal Year Operating Performance**

As we move towards the close of our fiscal year, we are currently projecting a $30,000 surplus. We are grateful to our community both for their general support of the capital campaign and for their timely payments. The campaign enabled us to pay off our mortgage in the middle of this year, which directly led to our surplus.

Our budget for the next fiscal year was reviewed by the Executive Committee and had two hearings at the Board of Directors meetings in March and April, where it was approved. The Board also reviewed our financial position and projections for the current fiscal year. The charts pictured (left) depict both the revenues and expenses of our upcoming operating budget. The balanced budget is just under $4,200,000 and represents a 5% increase over this current year’s budget. This increase is largely attributable to expanded enrollment in our Early Childhood Center. To provide greater clarity, Patron commitments are separate from the fundraising and membership commitment lines. Membership Commitment, Patron Commitment and Fundraising Grants are approximately $1,915,000 or 46% of the budget. Tuitions (RS, ECC, and Camp) total approximately $2,115,000 or 50% of the budget. Salaries for clergy, staff, and teachers and taxes make up the largest portion of expenses at approximately $2,925,000, or 75% of our budget. We have increased our maintenance budget by almost $100,000 to $230,000.

We are pleased to share these highlights with you. The full budget is available in the synagogue office for your review and Ken Krivitzky is happy to answer any specific questions about the budget.