



2020 Annual Meeting of Temple Beth El May 28, 2020

- **Call to Order**: President Martin Spokony called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. Marty gave an update to Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.32 stating religious gatherings of no more than 10 people can resume across New York State. We are working on protocols for distancing and disinfection as we work to bring back religious services which we will discuss later under reopening.
- **Welcome/D'var Torah**: Marty Spokony welcomed everyone to TBE's 2020 Annual Meeting. Marty mentioned that while he would prefer to have this meeting in person or be in shul with everyone, we have to take ZOOM as the next best thing. The meeting was then turned over to Rabbi Bitran to deliver the D'var Torah. What better day to talk than on Shavuot. What is Shavuot – shalosh regalim? It is about time and the feast of the weeks counting 50 days from Pesach.
- **Approval of Minutes and President's Report**: A motion to accept the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes as written was made by Howard Goldberg and Aviva Schochat seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- **Finance Report**: 2019-2020 Budget: We've been fiscally responsible due to strong receivables earlier in the first half.

Revenue

- There was a big change through the month of May due to COVID and we expect to be at 50% through the remainder of the year – approximately \$75K.
- Keshet Reimbursements of -\$30K.

Expense Control & Cash

- Reduced operating costs.
- Staff were furloughed in March - \$22K – were able to bring people back due to the Payroll Protection Plan.
- Limmud Director
- TBE is in a firm cash position through end of this fiscal year; a \$250K paydown was made on renovation loan in January.

Additional Funding Sources

- Payroll Protection Plan/SBA - \$200K. Payroll Protection Program – Michael Phillips reported the payback is at 1%. We have the option to payback over 24 months on money we don't use, however, Michael feels we will come close to spending it. Regarding repayment procedures – Canandaigua National Bank has not come out with repayment procedures, but they expect to shortly.
- Federation Fund - \$50K
- Farash Foundation - \$18K
- Life and Legacy - \$10K

The 2020-2021 Budget was presented in our May 5 Board Meeting. Marty reported that there is a great deal of uncertainty as we go into our next fiscal year and there are significantly more questions than there are answers. The deficit budget of approximately \$175K was approved, noting the considerations we are accounting for relative to revenue and expense.

Revenue

- Anticipating 25% reduction in receivables (membership dues).
- Camp Keshet – Restructured Program TBD
- HHD & Pillar
- Other Income – Calendar, dinners, bulletin, adult education, Lulav & Etrog and Tree of Life

Expenses

- Teacher & School Salaries – delayed Start (October) / Headcount
- Professional Salaries
- Non-Professional Salaries
- Maintenance Staff (x2)
- Utilities – investment in energy conservation (e.g. LED and solar)
- Farash Grant Expense

Critical Expenses (must-do)

- Roof, parking lot, etc.

A motion to accept the budget as is was made by Leon Gossin. Eric Brandt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- **Ritual Committee:** Ellen Comisar, Chair

Ellen Comisar - The committee is looking at how we can do things creatively during these times of COVID and beyond. We have to remember that we can't be inclusive if some of our congregants don't have access. The committee has also:

- Established a B'nei Mitzvah Buddy Program which connects an individual member of the Ritual Committee or congregation with individual students and their families. The program seeks to help families better understand the Shabbat service and aspects of participation; building connectivity with the congregation; and reducing the anxiety in the weeks and months ahead of the "big day."

- Created a “Beyond the Mahzor: Mediations and New Melodies” which will introduce new High Holy Day readings designed to inspire and spark conversation.
- Collaborated with our Executive Director to assign honors for the entire HHD period.
- Launched a D’verei Torah program to engage writers in our congregation.
- Moving forward, the Ritual Committee will focus on partnering with our Education Committee on programming to engage more families and strengthen the B’nei Mitzvah Buddy Program by exploring/offering interactive and intergenerational events for students and parents.

Marty Spokony suggested the possibility of handing out the Mahzor to all congregants.

Gerald Gamm will be talking with Rabbi Bitran and Debbie Zeger about the logistics of holding services outside. We will also be developing over time, procedures for holding funerals and bat/bar mitzvahs while COVID is still in effect.

Rabbi Bitran said we should be streamlining services to all of our congregation. Based on previous attendance at services, our shul population fall into one or more categories – those who cannot make it to services; those who prefer to watch services from home and those that want to come to shul regardless for services. Gerald Gamm reiterated that streamlining services will continue whether a congregant chooses to come to shul or not. For congregants saying Kaddish, Rabbi mentioned we are holding daily minyan via ZOOM.

Debbie Waltzer expressed concern for our older congregants who may be isolated and may not have access to computers. The question was also raised on whether congregants have access to a siddur where they live.

Marty Spokony took a moment to thank Ellen for her dedication to TBE. Ellen and her husband, David, will soon be relocating soon to Florida. She will be missed.

- **By-Laws:** Howard Ressel raised the question on whether we had to vote on the budget. Marty responded that we did not.
- **Archive Committee:** Gerald Gamm (Chair) – The Archive Committee played an important role during the rededication of the sanctuary last September. The crown jewels were hundreds of photographs turned in by members of our congregation documenting galas, weddings, bar/bat mitzvahs, Keshet, summer camp and so much more including pictures of aesthetic changes to Temple Beth El over the years. Gerald invited everyone to continue sending in their photos so they can be cataloged in our archives and featured on the walls of our synagogue. Martin Spokony thanked Gerald and the committee for all their efforts on this endeavor.
- **Education Committee:** Co-Chairs Laura Hurwitz and Mary Marsh.:
 - Collaborating with Mandi and Jody to refine our curriculum and goals for Keshet and Limmud.
 - Working with Federation on cross-organizational programming.
 - Exploring partnership opportunities with Hillel Community Day School.
 - Encouraging family learning and engagement experiences through a curriculum based on Rituals, Jewish Values and Hebrew.
 - Laura continues to work with Farash on UpStart work for Jewish supplemental educational experiences in Rochester.

- Making an investment with a recommended consultant in Toronto.
- **Reopening:** Gerald Gamm, Chair. Reopening Committee members include Larry Glass, Irwin Goldberg, Mical Raz, Sara Ressler and Lina Spokony.

Gerald Gamm: These are challenging times for our community, but we are working on establishing safety parameters for in-person activities and services and outlining what we believe to be the best practices to ensure the safety of our congregants, teachers, and staff for when we reopen. We are being kept up to date with local, state and federal guidelines as well as receiving recommendations from the CDC and USCJ.

The following comments/suggestions/concerns were made regarding reopening:

- Having congregants bring their own Tallis and Kippot.
- What can we learn and how do we move forward. We need to think through protocols and make sure we are doing them safely.
- How do we decide who comes to services? Invitations will be sent out to each and every congregant. The selection process may be based on a first come-first serve basis, randomly or by lottery each week. We do not want to discourage the elderly or those at a greater risk from COVID from participating.
- Our long-term goal is rooting for doctors to produce a vaccine that will allow us to open our doors to everyone.

High Holy Days: We have more questions than answers as to how our High Holy Days will look like come Fall. A committee has not been formed yet to discuss the High Holy Days. Marty would like to hear from everyone on reimagining what the HH may look like during these times of social distancing.

Shavuot: There will be an in-person minyan this evening to celebrate Shavuot limited to 10 people by invitation. The celebration will be held in the sanctuary, spread out with no one sharing prayer books.

If anyone has ideas, suggestions or concerns regarding our reopening, please contact Gerald Gamm.

- **Volunteer of the Year Award:** Martin Spokony presented Carolyn Nussbaum with the Volunteer of the Year Award for her tireless dedication and service to Temple Beth El.
- **Discharge of Outgoing Board Members, Election and Installation of Board Members:** Rabbi Bitran joined Marty in discharging the outgoing Board Members and announced the incoming slate of Officers and Board of Trustees. Marty expressed TBE's thanks to the outgoing Board Members with expiring terms and Rabbi Bitran gave a blessing to the incoming Board members.

Outgoing Board Members: Dan Goldstein, Paulina Kovalsky, Adrienne Markus and Brett Shulman.

Incoming Board of Trustees for a New 3-Year Term (2020-2023): Marc Brugg, Marcia Stern and Debbie Waltzer.

Incoming Board of Trustees for a Second Three-Year Term: Leslie Crane, Allison Fogel, Howard Goldberg, Aviva Schochat, Lisa Tellem.

Officers: Allison Fogel is nominated to a one-year term as VP filling a vacancy left by Debi Brenner. The remaining officers serving in the 2019-20 fiscal year are nominated to continue their roles: Marty Spokony – President, Sara Flaum – Vice President, Gerald Gamm – Vice President, Abe Glazer – Vice President, Matt Ryen – Secretary and Michael Phillips – Treasurer.

A motion to accept the nominations to the board was made by Gerald Russ and seconded by Howard Ressel.

Shoutouts to Marty Spokony for the work he continues to do as President of our Shul and also to Debbie Zeger for helping out with A Scoop in the Loop yesterday.

Motion was made to adjourn by Michael Phillips and seconded by Lisa Tellem. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM.