

Beth EI Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes August 10, 2017

Members Present: Abby Steele, President; Neal Goldman, Past President; Charlie Frohman, Vice President/Brotherhood; Cathy Winterfield, Vice President; Rachel Marcus-Mitchell, Secretary; Chip Morris, Treasurer; David Marco, Ron Van, Donne' Ordile, Gail Greenfield, Sherill Herzfeld, Tracy Aquila,

Rabbi Matuson and Jacquie Sinder (office manager) were in attendance.

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Abby Steele, President.

Approval of July Minutes: The July 2017 minutes were approved and accepted as written.

D'var Torah: The Rabbi spoke from Deuteronomy. Moses speaks about love in the first person. He realizes that he had never spoken to his people about love and apologizes to them as he expressing his love for them and about a covenant of love. How powerful it is to love and say it to each other, as he said it to the exodees. The Rabbi told us that love makes life whole and we have an opportunity to leave to the next generation this message of love. A love of oneself and a love of one another. We have to trust and love each other unconditionally.

It is from this message that the Board decided to send flower seeds to all the congregants when they receive their High Holiday tickets. This is an expression of love and planting seeds for the next generation.

President's message: Abby shared that she noticed a lot of energy and enthusiasm for Friday and Saturday Shabbat services. She also commented that the attendance has increased. She commended Vicky Kennedy, our newly appointed Education Director has worked long hours to develop a "great curriculum" for our school. In addition, she complimented the Board for its passionate work and reminded everyone how important it is to maintain confidentiality in our Board meetings.

Treasurer: We provisionally welcomed three new members to our congregation. They are Sari August (single member) and Ronald Rappaport (single member), and Hannah and David Moore (3 school age children). Chip reported that from last fiscal year to this year (July), we are 10 thousand in the black. Our cash in the bank is 20k more than last July. However, we still have an issue with our new system and that is why our July statements have not gone out. He is concerned about the return of commitment letters, as they have not all come in. Donne' suggested we consider utilizing a new app. Sherill suggested we send a blind email to the members that have not renewed, reminding them of their commitment.

New Business Matters:

Celebrate the Seasons- Tracy reported that it will be held October 3rd. At the Rabbi's creative suggestion, we will be using the theme of "planting seeds" and utilize a

“Tree of Life” motif designed by Sherill. We will use the same caterer, and same bar set-up.

Directory- Gail reported that she wished more of the Board members placed ads. She has everything organized and soon will be ready to go to the printer. It should be out by the High Holidays.

High Holidays- Neal said we were well organized and we have secured Cantor Butensky for our Services. Buzzy Klausner will be in charge of the ushers, and he is working on it presently. The Rabbi will be sending letters and asked the Board to please have input as to when they are available and what they would like to do. The Rabbi also asked for names of people outside the Board who might be deserving of an honor or interested in one. There was some discussion about last year’s dilemma when people who were scheduled were not present to accept their honors. There will be a plan “B” for subs in place this year. Cathy would like to hold a shofar class for young people interested in blowing the shofar.

Board Committee Chair Reports:

Library Committee- Cathy Winterfield mentioned that the chairperson and committee wish to have the decision capability to accept or reject books offered for the library. There was much heated discussion involving this matter. Abby, as President, requested that the Library committee develop a policy and procedure (if it is not already decided) as to the role of the chairperson and the committee’s criteria for accepting books in the future.

Sisterhood: No report as Vickie Kennedy was not present. However she continually sends out email blasts advising sisterhood members of all the upcoming events and activities. There will be the Fashion Show scheduled for September 14th, Nancy Rubenstein is doing an incredible job organizing the models and coordinating the event. Please spread the word.

Brotherhood: Charlie Frohman reported that the Jumbo Shrimp game was attended by 21 people and organized by Ed Mercel. Dinner with the Rabbi has continued to be successful. There will be a Business Roundtable event soon to be announced. There are new picnic tables that were assembled and anchored permanently outside by Ron, Stuart and Danny.

Membership: Gail shared that the Shabbat dinners are a wonderful success and she tries to match ages and children when hosting the dinners. There is also a mixer planned. All new members will get a welcome letter and telephone call welcoming them to our Beth El family. She needs a list of people to help get involved. She shared a lot of new ideas and a poem about planting seeds and passing along a love of Judaism from one generation to the next. L’dor v’dor.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the Board will be September 6, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Marcus-Hendry Mitchell, Secretary