

TEMPLE BETH-EL Board Meeting, July 16, 2009

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Steinborn, Paul Feil, Arthur Berkson, Mike Lieberman, Mike Mandel, Alison Mann, Marianne Panzini-Rosenthal, Marty Poel, Josh Rosenberg, Bill Stein, Jay Spetalnick, Terri Sugarman, Rabbi Paul Citrin
ABSENT: Ford Parkes-Perret

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mark Steinborn called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM. Mark handed out a TBE Calendar. Stefani will create a PDF for our website.
2. TEACHING: Rabbi Paul Citrin stated that July 29 is Erev Tisha B'Av and we will have a special service with a presentation of the Israel trip. This is a day of fasting and remembrance of the destruction of the temple.
3. MINUTES & CORRESPONDENCE: The minutes were approved with corrections. Bill sends the minutes to the TBE Administrator for archiving. Harvey Hilbert receives a copy for posting as a PDF on the website. The temple received a letter from the town of Beit She'an for our donation from the sisterhood.
4. TREASURER'S REPORT: Paul Feil reported that the temple has received nearly \$10,000 from the cantor event and deficit relief checks. Bill has an action to present the TBE Religious School expenses and budget at the next meeting. Arthur mentioned that he had a discussion with David Steinborn about hosting a golf tournament fund raiser at the Sonoma Ranch Golf Club.
5. RABBI'S REPORT: The rabbi stated that there will be a Yizkor Book for this year. The rabbi plans to have a Congregational Retreat hosted at the Cloudcroft Lodge on October 23-25. Alison asked how the meeting with Rabbi Kane went. Rabbi Citrin stated that Rabbi Kane has been invited to be on the bimah during the High Holy Days. There will be creative liturgical services for the erev services.
6. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
 - a. BOARD RETREAT: The location for the August 16 retreat has been changed to the temple.
 - b. SHABBAT ANNOUNCEMENTS: Arthur requested for board volunteers to make announcements at Friday evening services. Marty spoke to encourage attendance at Saturday services too.
7. OLD BUSINESS:
 - a. ADELANTE COSTS: Mark led a discussion on the cost of publishing Adelante and possible ways to reduce the cost. Arthur stated that he prefers to have a printed copy of Adelante so that he may review it during the month. The board consensus is to continue publishing and mailing the Adelante.
 - b. W2 vs. 1099: There was a discussion about whether temple members can receive W2s or 1099s. The 1099 form is really for a self-employed individual. Can an employee decide which one to receive based on what is best for the employee? Terri was going to look on-line for HR information on this topic.
 - c. MEMBERSHIP DUES: The percentage of members paid in full by June 30 is 60%. Approximately 25% have underpaid their dues while 15% have paid no dues. We find that 8% of the members pay for 25% of all temple income.
8. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. URJ BIENNIAL: This year's URJ Biennial will in November in Toronto. The temple will probably not send any representation.
 - b. ADELANTE MESSAGES: Mark stated that the following issues of Adelante will have special messages from TBE board members: October – Jay will write about Specific Gifts. December – Arthur and Josh will describe the importance of the temple to younger families. Mark needs to receive the articles by the beginning of the previous month.
 - c. EMAILS TO CONGREGATION: Alison recommended that emails coming from the temple to the members should have a signature of who generated the email. Mark stated that there should be procedures to approve the message by the president and/or the rabbi. Motion: Emails sent to the entire congregation must be approved by the rabbi or president and must be signed by the author or committee that generated the message. Passed unanimously.
 - d. SANCTUARY CHAIRS: Frances Williams has a grandson who is willing to donate funds to pay for the purchase of sanctuary chairs. Mike Lieberman will work with the Aesthetics Committee on a recommendation. Josh recommended that we should donate any of our un-needed chairs. Alison volunteered to coordinate on this issue.
 - e. STATUS OF NON-JEWS IN OUR CONREGATION: The rabbi handed out draft guidelines and led a discussion on this topic. Mark will have a list of changes to the TBE Constitution and By-Laws addressing this topic for a future committee. The board consensus was that Judaic matters involve Jewish members while business matters may involve non-Jewish members. Arthur requested that any changes be stated in a positive way. Jay asked about children of mixed couples. The rabbi stated that a child is Jewish provided the appropriate life cycle events occur (including Bar/Bat Mitzvah).
 - f. COMMITTEE CHAIRS: Mark handed out a list of committees and chairs. The only committee without a chair is Long Range Planning.
 - g. TRAINING WHEELS: Bill stated that Christi Rubin cannot continue as the leader of Training Wheels. He will look for a replacement.
9. SISTERHOOD and MENSCH CLUB: Terri stated that the Sisterhood's "Girlz Night Out" was extremely successful. Terri said that the Sisterhood is looking at relocating the Judaica Shop. Mark stated that there is no immediate need to relocate. Bill requested that the book fair boxes be removed from the classes by mid-August.
10. EXECUTIVE SESSION:
- a. The board voted to approve the membership of Kathy Barit.
 - b. DUES COMMITTEE: Mark led a discussion on the need to re-examine pledges. We must send out dues letters by the end of July. Special letters will be developed for the three categories (fully paid, underpaid and non-payment). We will establish a temporary Membership Benefits Committee. Paul and Mike Mandel will report back in September.
 - c. Arthur stated that Rebecca Berkson is setting up a quiet room for children.
11. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 09:12 PM. The next TBE Board meeting will be August 20, 2009.

Respectfully submitted, Bill Stein