

Highlights from the Board of Directors Meeting on November 16, 2016:

- Rabbi Cohen expressed her sincere thanks to the Board and the entire congregation for being part of Yoni's recent Bar Mitzvah celebration. She also announced that we will begin catering our own Oneg Shabbat as opposed to using an outside caterer; this will result in measurable cost savings. Rabbi also announced that Shabbat evening service times will soon be moving to 7:30pm. She also encouraged everyone to not only attend services, but also to stay for a while afterwards to relax and schmooze! As Chanukah is approaching, Rabbi noted that candle lighting will once again take place at the Orange Circle; there will not, however, be a Chanukah Happening party because of the overlap with winter break this year.
- Results from the recent TBS Congregational Survey were presented by a team consisting of Angela Holmes, Randi Noell and Nancy Fidel. This survey provided a mechanism for TBS membership to communicate their opinions with the goals of uncovering useful information for planning Temple-wide activities and programs and allowing us to identify the various talents and resources within the TBS community. The survey was sent to 450 congregants beginning of July 2, 2016; 146 responses were received at the time the survey was closed on September 1, 2016. The majority of responses came from congregants 55 and older. The survey team shared member comments noting the many strengths of TBS along with several constructive suggestions for growth; they also compiled a list of recommendations derived from the survey. Two notebooks will be assembled containing the complete report of findings; these will be placed at TBS for review by all those interested.
- Pam Ranta, Director of Early Childhood Education, reported on her recent trip with a large group of educators to Anji, China, to observe early childhood education programs. She talked about their "True Play" program where young children participate in self-directed play activities and where the teachers allow for creative freedom with minimal interference. This results in a high level of child collaboration and engagement. The plan going forward is to determine elements of these programs that are appropriate to implement at TBS.
- Jerry Rothblum, TBS Treasurer, presented a report on TBS membership. This analysis contained a detailed breakdown of our membership by dues level with comparisons to last fiscal year. Our total committed membership stands at 432 of which 18 are new members and 18 members chose not to continue. She also noted that 49 existing members have not yet returned their membership renewal forms; the Membership Committee will continue to follow up with these congregants. At the present time, committed annual dues total \$706,350 against a budget of \$720,000. Additional renewing members will of course bridge this gap.
- Jerry Rothblum also presented a Finance Report to the Board following the first financial forecast completed this fiscal year. She noted several positive and negative forecast adjustments to the original budget with the net result being a projected deficit of about \$35,000 after transfers. She also mentioned that TBS has not conducted any holiday appeals in the last four years. Given that it's still early in the year, Jerry noted income opportunities in the areas of a Spring Gala, weekday facilities rentals, and membership renewals and growth. It was noted that Reservations-Only is being separated from the Spring Gala and will be run as a year-round program.
- Michele Shugarman, VP of Worship, presented a report prepared by the Worship Committee about this year's High Holy Days experiences. There were no significant disruptions during the HHDs and our core of volunteers and paid security guards handled security very well. No parking tickets were issued to any congregants. Echoes of Elul had a larger number of contributors than could be published. Air conditioning and intermittent sound system issues remain and are being addressed by Building & Grounds. The choir was very well received. A total of \$11,300 was collected in HHD ticket sales and 68 non-congregants attended services. The Worship Committee will be meeting in February to review feedback and make appropriate changes for next year. A big thank you to Rabbi Cohen and Cantor Reinwald for making this special time so meaningful!

- Jeff Winston, Secretary, provided an update on the search for a new Executive Director. Casting a wider net on recruiting websites yielded a total of 140 applicants of which 11 were considered worthy of a closer look by the Search Committee. Skype interviews were conducted with 3 prospects and in-person interviews for two candidates closely followed. One very promising candidate has been identified and the Executive Committee has authorized the Search Committee to move forward with contract negotiations.
- Under the category of Other Business, Andrea Wasserman announced that agendas for upcoming Board of Director meetings will be posted on the TBS website at least 2 days in advance on the meetings starting in January 2017. This is being done to provide greater transparency to Board activities going forward and to allow congregants to determine their level of interest in attending future Board meetings.

Jeff Winston
Board Secretary