



Congregation Beth Shalom

of Brandon

Congregation Beth Shalom Annual Meeting May 20, 2020

Attendees: Rabbi Bryan, Sharon Aaronson, Suzie and Mitch Baylis, Anita Clifford, Jon Ellis, Julie Enszer, Sandy Schwartz, Anna and Steve Feldman, Mark and Sheryl Finke, Errol and Sheila Fishman, Joan Frankel, David and Carol Anne Friedman, Meral Ginsburg, Lynn and Larry Kaler, Gabe Lifschitz, Michael Lubin, Caren Magdovitz, Jeff Newman and Lauren Weisman, Mags Oldman, Sandee Pelk, Janice Perelman, Carol Plesur, Gerald and Judith Pliner, David and Rudina Richter, Sandy Saviet, Julie Shienbaum, Steve Slavkin, Christine Stockelman, Allan Weber, Allan Weiss and Toby Koch

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by the President, Jon Ellis, at 6:03p.m. A quorum was established with 27 family units in good standing present.

D'var Torah: The D'var Torah (attached) was given by Rabbi Bryan Mann.

Approval of Minutes: Mitch Baylis moved to approve the minutes from the 2019 annual meeting. Dave Friedman seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

President's Report: Jon Ellis provided his State of the Congregation for 2019-2020 year. He reported the following:

1. Jon noted that the times have changed. Many of our congregants have been affected by the Pandemic. Certain changes we are experiencing may become permanent. We are now in a fully virtual environment, and all is progressing well in this environment provided ZOOM is cooperative.
2. Jon thanked all those who were generous in their donations and those who volunteered in the past fiscal year.
3. He next addressed our financial status.
 - a. Jon noted that our membership has dropped considerably. Our membership is now in the low 80s. As a result, our income from dues has dropped proportionately. This has adversely affected as talent pool as well. He emphasized that we need to look harder at ourselves to determine what we need to do differently to increase our membership. The key question is: "What do we need to do differently to bring back members?" He did recognize that the remaining membership group was stronger and more dedicated to the survival of CBS. As a result, our Kol Nidre drive raised almost \$40,000, substantially more than in prior year. Additionally, our annual fundraiser was hugely successful.
 - b. Despite the increased income, we had inordinate expenses related to the replacement of the roof. We did receive a settlement from the insurance carrier

thanks to the diligent work of Gerry Pliner, but there was additional cost incurred as the roof was lifted and serious problems were uncovered. Jon thanked Gabe Lifschitz for all his hard work supervising the roofing project and all those who had participated in the project.

- c. Jon noted that the budget presented is problematic with a deficit is \$49,000, which could adversely affect the Temple's future unless we address 3 areas: maintaining successful fundraising events, ensuring that our Kol Nidre Appeal is successful, and increasing our membership
4. Jon thanked Rabbi Bryan for his rabbinic leadership over the past two years. During the last year as president, Jon became better acquainted with the Rabbi, learned more about him, and will certainly miss him.
5. Jon thanked the Rabbi Search and Rabbi Transition Committee Chairs and those serving on those committees for their identifying Rabbi Schreiber (Reb Tuviah) as a good choice for CBS and coordinating the interview weekend. Now under the direction of Julie Enszer and the Transition Committee, programming will be provided to meet the new Rabbi. It is each of our responsibilities to find a way to meet the Rabbi, get to know him, and make him feel welcome at CBS. This could be a transformative change for CBS.
6. Jon recognized that the political environment is quite problematic, and we have not escaped these problems. He reminded us that we need to listen to each and be respectful of other's opinions. We need to bridge the gap. We need to return to being a warm and welcoming congregation.
7. Jon concluded that it has been a pleasure to serve as our president for the past year. He thanked the entire board for their help over the past year. If he slighted anyone over the past year, he does apologize.

Life Cycle Events at Congregation Beth Shalom: Rabbi Bryan provided a report on this year's events. His report is filed separately with the secretary.

Religious School Administrator's Report Given by Sheila Fishman: The report is filed separately with the secretary.

Treasurers Report: The Report was provided by Allan Weber. Allan provided a written report and the proposed budget for 2020-2021 which have been attached to the minutes. He indicated that much of our Financial State was presented by Jon. He reiterated that the proposed budget is uncertain given the pandemic. It was difficult to properly project income, and chose to reflect conservative figures. He also reported that:

1. The 2020 budget was negative for the first 11 months of the year with a deficit of \$2000. We reduced the previously proposed deficit considerably given the successful Annual Fundraiser and the Kol Nidre Appeal. He is hoping that we are just as successful with these activities into the next fiscal year.
2. On the expense side, Allan reported that we had unexpected expenses related to the new roof installation which was not covered by the insurance settlement. As a result, we had to withdraw from our Endowment Fund. It must be our goal for 2021 to replenish this fund. He also reported unexpected expenses related to several of our trees falling on our neighbors' properties, requiring removal and repairs.

3. Given the Pandemic, we were successful in securing a loan to cover salaries through the Paycheck Protection Plan for small businesses.
4. He was pleased to announce that we realized no deficits regarding the Religious School given the Administrator and Teachers were volunteering their services and declining a salary. Additionally, the staff has been covering most of the expenses realized by the school.

A motion was made by Dave Friedman to adopt the proposed budget for 2020-21. The Motion was seconded by Toby Koch. The Budget was unanimously approved.

Ballot Process & Vote. Dave Friedman explained the ballot and the voting process. As per the Bylaws, a Nominating committee was formed to identify CBS members who could fill the seats of those finishing their term. The slate was approved by the Board at its March meeting and was published to the congregation 30 days prior to the annual meeting. No other names were submitted after the slate was published.

The ballot for 2020-2021 is as follows:

President: Steve Slavkin

1st VP – Gerry Pliner

2nd VP – Toby Koch

3rd VP – Sheryl Finke

Secretary—Dave Friedman (for one year)

Members-at-Large: Michael Lubin, Sandee Pelk and Gabe Lifschitz.

A Motion was made by Allan Weber to adopt the Slate, seconded by Gerry Pliner, and unanimously approved.

Recognition: Jon announced that he wished to recognize Sheila Fishman who worked closely with him during his presidency and attended most committee meetings on his behalf. He noted that over the past year, she has served as secretary, Religious School Administrator, co-chair of the Rabbi Search Committee, and worked with the Temple Administrator. He was amazed by her commitment to CBS. Toby reiterated Jon’s comments and stated that the Board is dedicating a leaf to our Tree of Life in her honor. Additionally, they are providing her with several gift certificates. Sheila was taken aback by the recognition and thanked the Board for their kind words and wonderful gifts.

For the Good of the Order:

1. Jon thanked the Past Presidents attending the Annual Meeting for their continued dedication to CBS. They included: Jeff Newman, Julie Shienbaum, Dave Friedman, Sheila Fishman, and Sheryl Finke.
2. Steve Slavkin thanked the attendees for supporting his nomination to the presidency, and he looked forward to serving for the next two years.
3. Mitch reminded everyone that, sadly, Rabbi Bryan will be leaving CBS in late-June. He encouraged attendees to donate to the Rabbi’s farewell gift. He also asked that congregants share memories of the Rabbi’s last two years for the Memory Book.

Adjournment: Dave Friedman moved to adjourn the meeting and Sandee Pelk seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously, at 7:03p.m.