

# Congregation Beth David Board Meeting

## MINUTES:

August 22, 2023

Approved September 27, 2023

### PRESENT:

- |  |                                  |  |
|--|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Nathan Handelsman, President                | 9. Michael Bierman,<br>Secretary | 18. Neil Shapiro, DaL                        |
| 2. Art Singer, VP Education                    | 10. Bonnie Hirsh, DaL            | 19. Wendy Askenas, DaL                       |
| 3. Daniel Kahn, VP Admin                       | 11. Bonnie Slavitt, DaL          | 20. Howard Gannes,<br>Hazak Representative   |
| 4. Bill Beyda, VP Finance                      | 12. Cathy Beyda, DaL             | 21. Wendy J. Glasser,<br>Imm. Past President |
| 5. Hanna Firman, Treasurer                     | 13. Frank Yashar, DaL            | 22. Barbara Biran, Dir Ops & Ritual          |
| 6. Rivka Shenhav, VP Ritual                    | 14. Ginny Baird, DaL             | 23. Rabbi Nathan Roller,<br>Rabbi Educator   |
| 7. Susan Greenberg-Englander,<br>VP Membership | 15. Irene Spector, DaL           | 24. Rabbi David Kunin,<br>Senior Rabbi       |
| 8. Stephen Schleimer, Financial<br>Secretary   | 16. Joseph Bendahan, DaL         |  |
|  | 17. Leah Newman, DaL             |  |

### ABSENT:

- 
- 

### GUESTS:

- Zoe Handelsman
- 

#### 1. Welcome & Announcements (Nathan Handelsman)

7:30

- The Board was encouraged to sign up to bring snacks & drinks for a future Board meeting and to sign up to be a greeter for Shabbat.

#### 2. D'Var Torah (Rabbi David Kunin)

7:34

**3. Good & Welfare (Nathan Handelsman)**

**7:40**

**Our Condolences to:**

- Barbara Taubman on the passing of her brother, Larry Salba
- Sarah Rosenberg and Dan Rosenberg on the passing of their husband/father, Beth David member, Norman Rosenberg
- Davida Adelberg on the passing of her sister, Brendel Wittman Lang
- Roberta Schwartz on the passing of her brother, Mark Bernstein

**Mazel Tov to:**

- Wendy & Lance Glasser on their 50th Wedding Anniversary
- Elayne and Sheldon Penn on their 69th Wedding Anniversary
- Hillary & Stan Farkas on their 56th Wedding Anniversary 47th anniversary
- Bonnie & Lee Hirsch on their 36th Wedding Anniversary

**4. Adoption of Minutes from previous General Board Meeting (Nathan Handelsman)**

**7:43**

- The minutes from the July 18, 2023 General Board Meeting were approved as presented.

**5. Priority Discussions (Nathan Handelsman)**

**None**

**6. Q&A on Officer Reports & Announcements (Nathan Handelsman)**

**a. Administration (Dan Kahn)**

**7:44**

Solar panel replacement in progress.

See Appendix A for the Report.

**b. Membership** (Nathan Handelsman)

7:46

**i) Membership Report & New Member Welcome**

**Membership Report (Data for July 1-31, 2023)**

Membership Units as of July 1, 2023	<b>397</b>
Increases (Welcomed in July)	0
Decreases	0
Database correction	-1
<b>Membership Units as of July 31, 2023</b>	<b>397</b>
Honorary	5
Friends of Beth David	29
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>430</b>

**July Losses**

- None

**July Resignations**

- None

*Resignations are people who leave by choice;*

*Losses are people who leave as a result of circumstance (moved, death, etc.)*

See Appendix B for Membership report.

**c. Finance** (Bill Beyda)

7:48

Bill gave the Finance report and an update on the increase to the requested Sustaining Dues.

See Appendix C for Finance Report and an update on the Annual Campaign

## 1. Budget Amendment Motion

7:44

### Background

There are two material changes to our forecasts that the finance committee requests the board adjust in our budget so we are dealing with realistic figures based on anticipated actuals.

### Motion

Resolved that the 23-24 budget be changed as follows:

Change expense line 70/4201 · Sustaining Contributions to match current forecast, \$763,000 total for the year instead of \$786,000.

Change expense line 80/6105- USCJ Dues from \$20,700 to \$22,648 to match current forecast.

**Motion by:** Bill Beyda Second by Wendy J. Glasser

13 Yes 2 No 3 Abstain

The motion passed.

**d. Education (Art Singer) 7:52**

- Fall Registration for religious school is open - Online / In-person
- There are promotions to attract new students to the school and to Beth David.
- The Summer program has been postponed until next year

See Appendix D for Education Reports

**e. Ritual (Rivka Shenhav) 8:00**

- High Holiday Prep
- Requesting all Board Members sign up as High Holiday Ushers/Greeters

See Appendix E for Ritual Reports

**7. Old Business None**

**8. New Business**

**a. Online Shabbat 8:05**

Discussion Online “Shabbat” cost (impacts Ritual and Admin) need financial impact.

**b. 360 Review 8:09**

We are going to try a new staff review process.

**c. Board Responsibilities 8:24**

**9. Closed Session 8:25**

**10. Adjourn 8:26**

# Board Meeting Summary

## Action Items:

None.

## Summary of Board Actions Taken at Meeting:

### a. Summary of Motions Passed:

1. Finance Budget Motion

### b. Policies Adopted:

None.

### c. Charters Adopted:

None.

### **Absent at August 22 Meeting**

- None

### **Absent at July 18 Meeting**

- Neil Shapiro, DaL
- Rabbi Nathan Roller, Rabbi Educator

### **Absent at June 20 Meeting**

- Susan Greenberg-Englander, VP Membership
- Wendy Askenas, DaL

### **Absent at May 18 Meeting**

- Stephen Schleimer, Financial Secretary
- Joseph Bendahan, DaL
- Frank Yashar, DaL
- Leah Newman, DaL
- Rabbi Nathan Roller, Rabbi Educator
- Rabbi Jaymee Alpert, Senior Rabbi

### **Absent at April 27 Meeting**

- Susan Greenberg-Englander, VP Membership
- Rivka Shenhav, VP Ritual
- Hanna Firman, Treasurer
- Cathy Beyda, DaL
- Leah Newman, DaL
- Frank Yashar, DaL
- Neil Shapiro, DaL
- Wendy J. Glasser, Imm. Past President
- Barbara Biran, Dir Ops & Ritual
- Rabbi Jaymee Alpert, Senior Rabbi

### **Absent at March 28 Meeting**

- Hanna Firman, Treasurer
- Rabbi Jaymee Alpert, Senior Rabbi
- Leah Newman, DaL

### **Absent at February 28 Meeting**

- Wendy Askenas, DaL
- Susan Greenberg-Englander, VP Membership

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michael Bierman  
Recording Secretary



# **Appendix A**

## **“Admin Report”**

# Nonprofit Security Grant Program - Sequence of Events

No Change



✓ Receive NSGP Grant Notification [Sep. 2022]

✓ Receive Required Project Documents List [Oct. 2022]

✓ Submit Required Project Documents to Cal OES [Nov. 2022]

Prepare and Issue RFPs

Receive Project Approvals from Cal OES and FEMA [TBD]

Select Project Proposals and Sign Contracts

Perform Contract Work

Pay for Completed Project Work

Submit Project Expenses to NSGP for Reimbursement

2022 NSGP Grant Closes - May 2025

Five separate projects over about 2 years

# August 2023 Admin & Facilities

## Admin

- For the security grant, we have been assigned a new representative; once again awaiting approval to proceed. Gentle reminder, that once this is received that this is a reimbursement grant, meaning we will need to expend the funds for each project and then request reimbursement
- HHD Event guide will be printed on August 29, to be mailed by the 30th
- New Zoom guidelines have been implemented due to Zoom bombing which occurred on July 29 during Shabbat services
  - For services, require Zoom pre-registration as well as logging into Zoom
  - For all other publicized meetings including minyan, require Zoom pre-registration
  - For recurring events, only need to pre-register once - important to keep the confirmation email from Zoom; if lost, they may re-register; this banner has been added to all of the Zoom pre-registration pages

## Facilities

- The kitchen dishwasher is out of service; waiting for parts from Hobart - no delivery date yet
- LED strip lighting in the sanctuary is out; Mark Nagel has been contacted; will be fixed before RH
- Installation of our new solar panels has begun and is expected to go on for about 3 weeks. It should be completed before Rosh Hashana. All of the work is on the roof and the scaffolding is hidden behind the building so it won't affect anyone accessing the building
- A little more paint touch-up in the sanctuary to spiff up for the High Holidays. Thank you to Lee Hirsch and Shmuel Shottan for their help.
- The Annual Parking Lot Cleanup was a huge success. We had xx people trimming, cleaning, sweeping, raking, oh my!

# **Appendix B**

## **“Membership Report”**

## Program Committee Meeting Minutes July 20, 2023

Attendees: Susan Greenberg-Englander, Barb Green, Ginny Baird, Cathy Beyda, Wendy Glasser, Bonnie Hirsch, Bonnie Slavitt, Nathan Handelsman.

### Event Guide

The event guide will be distributed at the end of August with High Holy Day tickets. Lynn should be provided information as soon as possible.

The Program Committee is planning the following events to be listed in the guide.

- Break the Fast (September 25).
- Whale Watching (October 29)
- Weekly Balance and Stretch Class with Aaron Hodges (Wednesdays, 12-1pm)
- Weekly Afternoon Balance and Stretch Class (Day and Time TBD)
- Scavenger Hunt (Date TBD)
- Friday Night Shabbat Cooking Classes with Rabbi Kunin (Indonesian, Japanese) (Date TBD)
- Shabbat Hikes (Date TBD)
- Zip Code Dessert events (Dates TBD)
- Movie Nights (Dates TBD)

### Scheduled Events

1. **New Member Event** (8/6).
2. **Honey Pour** (8/9). This event has been confirmed and eight (8) people have RSVP'd so far. Someone needs to follow up with Rabbi Roller to see if honey has been purchased. Wendy stated that she can purchase honey at Costco if necessary. **NOTE: This event is not on the Beth David Calendar.**
3. **Shabbat Services at Vasona** (8/11). 50 people have signed up already. Challah has been ordered. Susan will buy wine for Kiddush. Wendy will ask Jeff how much wine is needed for Kiddush.
  - **Update.** Wendy spoke with Jeff. For 50 people, we only need one 750 ml bottle of wine for Kiddush.
4. **BBQ & Barchu** (8/25)
  - Event will take place on the Sukkah patio. Barb will call the office to determine maximum capacity and how many people have signed up to date.
  - A Sign-Up-Genius has been prepared requesting volunteers for the event. Barb will manage the volunteers.
  - There are several options for table clothes (Bonnie Hirsch purchased 6 white table clothes, Wendy Glasser has 12-15, Beth David Women have several as well). Napkins and utensils will be rolled.
  - Bonnie Slavitt will investigate how many canopies we have.
  - Desserts, Fruit (fruit kabobs & half grapefruits) and flowers will be placed on each table.
  - The evening's program includes a classic guitarist and services.
  - Wendy will talk to Rabbi Kunin about whether leftover cookies can be reused once plattered.

- **Update from Wendy.** Wendy spoke with Rabbi Kunin. If we have pareve cookies on the table for a meat meal we cannot reuse them for Shabbat morning. We may want to limit the cookies we platter, and refill as necessary, to avoid this issue.
5. **Break the Fast** (9/25). Barb Green and Helaine Green are planning a break the fast this year.
  6. **Private Whale Watching Tour** (10/29). Boarding at Moss Landing.

### **Events Under Discussion**

1. **Additional Meet and Greets.** Jane Jacobson has offered to host a Meet and Greet at the beginning of August. Barb Green will follow up. Seema Cicerone is hosting a Meet and Greet on August 9. We will revisit whether to hold additional Meet and Greets after the existing events have occurred.
  - **Update:** Jane Jacobson will host a meet and greet on August 16 from 7-9pm.
2. **Friday Night Cooking Classes.** Rabbi Kunin has offered to offer cooking classes on Friday nights, including classes on Indonesian and Japanese food.
3. **Shabbat Hikes.** Rabbi Kunin has indicated that he is willing to continue our Shabbat hikes.
4. **Scavenger Hunt.** Susan is planning a scavenger hunt. Date to be determined.
5. **Afternoon Stretching/Exercise Class.** A second trainer has offered to do a balance and stretch class. This class would take place in the afternoon.
6. **Hannukah Events**
  - **Rabbi Kunin** is planning a 12/25 event
  - **Hazak** usually does a Hanukkah event
  - **Beth David Women** is starting to plan a Hannukah lunch
  - **Men's Club** is considering a Latkas and Vodkas event again this year
  - **Teens** are planning a spaghetti night on December 24
7. **Volunteer Recognition.** Bonnie Slavitt suggested that we have a volunteer recognition event.

### **Event Ideas**

1. **Dance Party**
2. **Zip Code Desserts**
3. **Events for Sukkot**
  - Note: Beth David Women is planning Ladies Who Lunch in the Sukkah
4. **New Year's Eve Celebration** – possibly a movie night
5. **Monthly Shabbat Potlucks.** We used to do this. Nathan would love for us to do this again.

**Honeygrams.** This year's Honeygrams will include honey, fruit gels, dark chocolate gelt, other items, a letter from Rabbi Roller, and possibly Sukkot blessings. The committee felt we could omit juice.

### **Next Meeting – August 7**

Cathy will submit an intake form so that the meeting will be placed on Beth David calendar. Ginny offered to run the Zoom for the meeting. **Update:** intake form submitted 7/24.

## **Appendix C “Finance Report”**

	<b>Jul 23</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>\$ Over Budget</b>	<b>Jul 23</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>	<b>\$ Over Budget</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>
<b>Income</b>							
<b>10 - Ritual</b>	6,082	1,110	4,972	6,082	1,110	4,972	40,120
<b>20 - Religious School</b>	2,196	2,000	196	2,196	2,000	196	36,172
<b>30 - Adult Ed</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,000
<b>40 - Admin</b>	72,666	1,500	71,166	72,666	1,500	71,166	18,000
<b>50 - Youth Group</b>	1,000	0	0	1,000	0	0	0
<b>60 - Programs</b>	3,385	500	2,885	3,385	500	2,885	29,500
<b>70 - Finance</b>	232,066	69,433	162,633	232,066	69,433	162,633	833,200
<b>80 - Board of Directors</b>	13,833	29,167	(15,334)	13,833	29,167	(15,334)	352,600
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>331,228</b>	<b>103,710</b>	<b>226,518</b>	<b>331,228</b>	<b>103,710</b>	<b>226,518</b>	<b>1,314,592</b>
<b>Expense</b>							
<b>10 - Ritual</b>	4,399	7,833	(3,434)	4,399	7,833	(3,434)	131,050
<b>20 - Religious School</b>	111	50	61	111	50	61	66,914
<b>30 - Adult Ed</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,000
<b>40 - Admin</b>	15,196	20,511	(5,315)	15,196	20,511	(5,315)	178,942
<b>50 - Youth Group</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	500
<b>60 - Programs</b>	969	1,875	(906)	969	1,875	(906)	37,300
<b>70 - Finance</b>	22,828	29,050	(6,222)	22,828	29,050	(6,222)	40,600
<b>80 - Board of Directors</b>	2,140	1,975	165	2,140	1,975	165	26,100
<b>90 - Staff Costs</b>	62,927	67,484	(4,557)	62,927	67,484	(4,557)	809,783
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>108,570</b>	<b>128,778</b>	<b>(20,208)</b>	<b>108,570</b>	<b>128,778</b>	<b>(20,208)</b>	<b>1,302,189</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>222,658</b>	<b>(25,068)</b>	<b>246,726</b>	<b>222,658</b>	<b>(25,068)</b>	<b>246,726</b>	<b>12,403</b>



**CONGREGATION BETH DAVID**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
As of July 31, 2023

	Jul 31, 23	Jun 30, 23	\$ Change	Jul 31, 22	\$ Change
<b>ASSETS</b>					
<b>Current Assets</b>					
<b>Checking/Savings</b>					
1001 · Operation Ca Bank & Trust	433,115.81	315,596.61	117,519.20	188,175.86	244,939.95
1002 · Market Affiliate	49,281.07	49,281.07	0.00	257,389.73	-208,108.66
1003 · PayPal Account	0.00	0.00	0.00	-144.00	144.00
1004 · Petty Cash - Admin	1,539.50	1,529.50	10.00	554.60	984.90
1006 · Smith Barney Parent Acct.	1,136,759.03	1,124,191.00	12,568.03	1,043,324.07	93,434.96
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>1,620,695.41</b>	<b>1,490,598.18</b>	<b>130,097.23</b>	<b>1,489,300.26</b>	<b>131,395.15</b>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>					
Prepaid Insurance	0.00	22,503.00	-22,503.00	0.00	0.00
1200 · Due From Addison Penzack JCC	2,200.00	2,200.00	0.00	2,200.00	0.00
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>2,200.00</b>	<b>24,703.00</b>	<b>-22,503.00</b>	<b>2,200.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>1,622,895.41</b>	<b>1,515,301.18</b>	<b>107,594.23</b>	<b>1,491,500.26</b>	<b>131,395.15</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<b>10,504,760.17</b>	<b>10,504,760.17</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>10,504,760.17</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Other Assets</b>					
1605 · Property Value	2,200,000.00	2,200,000.00	0.00	2,200,000.00	0.00
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>2,200,000.00</b>	<b>2,200,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,200,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>14,327,655.58</b>	<b>14,220,061.35</b>	<b>107,594.23</b>	<b>14,196,260.43</b>	<b>131,395.15</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>					
<b>Liabilities</b>					
<b>Current Liabilities</b>					
Accounts Payable	-1,444.00	4,799.71	-6,243.71	1,232.00	-2,676.00
Credit Cards	0.00	21,043.99	-21,043.99	4,465.72	-4,465.72
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>					
Deferred Solar Income	0.00	5,100.00	-5,100.00	0.00	0.00
Deferred Endowment Grant	0.00	33,275.93	-33,275.93	0.00	0.00
Endowment Fund Loan	82,230.66	82,230.66	0.00	0.00	82,230.66
2210 · Payroll Liabilities	1,108.33	4.80	1,103.53	2,612.94	-1,504.61
2400 · Prepayment on Account	80,350.79	157,352.57	-77,001.78	93,132.91	-12,782.12
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>163,689.78</b>	<b>277,963.96</b>	<b>-114,274.18</b>	<b>95,745.85</b>	<b>67,943.93</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>162,245.78</b>	<b>303,807.66</b>	<b>-141,561.88</b>	<b>101,443.57</b>	<b>60,802.21</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>162,245.78</b>	<b>303,807.66</b>	<b>-141,561.88</b>	<b>101,443.57</b>	<b>60,802.21</b>
<b>Equity</b>					
3000 · Named Fund	510,168.89	498,662.09	11,506.80	494,515.87	15,653.02
3100 · Organizational Restricted Funds	-1,983.46	-1,983.46	0.00	814.00	-2,797.46
3200 · Special Purpose Fund	42,418.54	30,221.42	12,197.12	46,705.74	-4,287.20
3300 · Restricted Funds Ritual	19,881.26	22,195.18	-2,313.92	70,478.97	-50,597.71
3400 · Unrealized Income	13,945.91	8,944.13	5,001.78	2,502.64	11,443.27
3500 · Unrestricted Net Assets	13,349,382.00	13,352,640.00	-3,258.00	13,352,640.00	-3,258.00
3600 · Retained Earnings	8,832.33	1,880.25	6,952.08	1,880.25	6,952.08
Net Income	222,764.33	3,694.08	219,070.25	125,279.39	97,484.94
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>14,165,409.80</b>	<b>13,916,253.69</b>	<b>249,156.11</b>	<b>14,094,816.86</b>	<b>70,592.94</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>14,327,655.58</b>	<b>14,220,061.35</b>	<b>107,594.23</b>	<b>14,196,260.43</b>	<b>131,395.15</b>

# **Appendix D**

## **“Education Reports”**

**Adult Ed Zoom Meeting  
July 20, 2023, at 2:09 p.m.**



**Attendees:** Ginny Baird, Paul Freudenthal, Dori Jaroslow, Ruth Kohan, and Miriam Marr.

**Minutes:** The minutes from June 15, 2023 were approved.

## **Old Business**

**Modern Musical Midrash with Rabbi Roller:** There were 12 participants for the Leonard Cohen Zoom discussion in July. Miriam will find out which topics Rabbi Roller plans for a fall series.

**Book Group:** Miriam reported that the book group schedule is complete through May 2024. On August 12, after Kiddish lunch, we will discuss *The Women of Rothschild: The Untold Story of the World's Most Famous Dynasty* by Natalie Livingstone and led by Rachel Abramovitz.

**Carol Salus:** Carol Salus can present a Zoom talk about the artist Degas and the Dreyfus affair on October 22 at 7:30 p.m., our time.

**David Blumenthal:** Miriam reported that Prof. Blumenthal does not want to speak about his upcoming book until it is published.

**Sigalit Ur:** Miriam reported that we could schedule Sigalit Ur's discussion about *Conversations between Jews and Gentiles in the Talmud* on one of the first three Sundays in November.

**CBD Board Update:** Ginny gave an update on what is happening with the Beth David board.

**Budget:** Paul reported that we had \$4262 remaining in the budget in June.

**Nadia Ragozhina:** She is not proposing to give another talk.

**Sheila Peltz Weinberg:** There was a small turn out for the Zoom talk on June 25 at 11:00 a.m. Shelia talked about grandparenting and her personal experiences.

**The Jewish News of Northern California (The J) Speakers:** We agreed to give Alix Wakk \$360 for her presentation on either November 12 or January 28.

**Note:** It was suggested to have a speaker from the Israeli Consulate, which draws a good crowd. Another suggestion was for someone from the ADL speak about antisemitism. Ruth volunteered to first contact congregant Joseph Bendahan to recommend a speaker. Joeshph had secured a grant for Beth David to have a program on antisemitism, which we don't want to duplicate.

**Scholar in Residence (SIR):** There will be a Zoom meeting on Monday, July 24 at 1:30 p.m. with both Rabbi Kunin and Dr. Louis Newman to decide on a topic for the scholar-in-residence program (for the weekend of December 2, 2023).

**Jewish Cookbook Series:** Dori will contact the author of *Budmo* to do a program on a Sunday night in February 2024 (except February 18).

**Oscar Israelowitz:** Oscar has not replied to Dori's email concerning the contents and length of his talk on Jewish California and suggestions of other topics that he could present.

## **New Business**

**Fall Brochure:** July 31 is the deadline for synagogue brochure with the fall events (distributed at the High Holidays). Sheryl and Miriam will prepare a list, which might include events in early 2024.

**Israel hike Slide Show:** Michal Strutin has suggested that she and other congregants who went on a long hiking trip on the Israel National Trail last May give a presentation. Miriam will contact Michal about scheduling an in-person or Zoom event possibly in 2024.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, August 17 at 2:00. p.m.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 3:15 p.m.

**Minutes Submitted** by Ginny Baird.

# **Appendix E**

## **“Ritual Reports”**

## Ritual Committee Report, August 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023

The Ritual Committee, at its meeting earlier this month (Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>) focused its discussion on the use of online technology at Beth-David's Shabbat and Yom Tov services. The introduction of online technology into our services was a stop gap measure, early during the pandemic, to allow the congregation to continue to function as a community during times of emergency (Pikuach Nefesh). The two-way zoom services were introduced earlier in the pandemic. As we reopened, a digital display was added to the Bimah to allow participation of home-bound members. In recent months, online participation has dwindled and no more than 4-5 participants turned on their cameras while viewing the zoom broadcasting<sup>1</sup>. At the same time, in-person participation has recovered and we have shifted the focus of our services back to the sanctuary. With that, we have eliminated online Torah reading and reduced online Aliyot to minimal (only exceptions as allowed by the Rabbi). Thus, in reviewing the use of the display on the Bimah the Rabbi recommended that we remove the display from the Bimah. With that the question before the committee was one of supporting the Rabbi's recommendation.

The implications of accepting the Rabbi's recommendations go beyond the removal of the display from the Bimah. Without the display, there is minimal benefit to the congregation from the costly employment of the Torah Cam technician (which will be visible only to the handful online participants), so that will be discontinued as well. The last part of the online technology use during Shabbat and Yom Tov services, which imposes burden on the congregation, is the two-way zoom which required moderation. All these were part of the discussion.

We tried to notify many in the congregation about the upcoming discussion, but due to time pressure did not reach everyone. Still, we had a very lively participation of over 30 guest members in the committee discussion.

Time was allowed for anyone that wished to comment to do so, with everyone being respectful of each-others' comments. Many focused on the benefits to various constituencies from two-way zoom rather than one-way.

After listening to all the comments, the Rabbi recommended that we limit our decision to the removal of the display from the Bimah as of September 1st, 2023. The question of the one-way vs two-way transmission was deferred to later date. Until such date, we will continue with both two-way zoom and streaming to YouTube, however all participants in the service are required to be present in-person (except where special dispensation will be granted by the Rabbi).

The Ritual Committee voted to adopt the Rabbi's recommendation and the display will be removed as of Shabbat, September 2nd (Parashat Ki-Tavo). With it, the Cam Technician engagement will also be discontinued.

---

<sup>1</sup> Zoom participants that do not turn on their cameras are not counted in the minyan!

A second issue that came up in the Ritual Committee meeting was the security of our zoom services.

Up until Saturday, July 29, even though we have had open Zoom links not requiring pre-registration or logging into Zoom, we were fortunate not to have been Zoom-bombed. Due to the Zoom-bombing that did occur on Shabbat, July 29, we are implementing both pre-registering requirement and logging into Zoom in order to join a session. That applies both for Shabbat and minyan services. Complete directions have been sent out in separate email announcements, as well as in our weekly announcements and on the website. Again, the option to view the service as it is live-streamed, will continue to be available on our YouTube channel. With that – we may be able to do away with our zoom moderator whose main task was to prevent unfamiliar parties from joining our zoom sessions. Uvah LeZion Goel!

# Ritual Report to the Board

June 2023



# Mask Policy Change

- Ritual Committee Reviewed the proposed changes to the Mask Policies at Beth-David
- In general - welcomed changes
- Proposed location for Mask Required area in the rear right (near Scully) of the sanctuary was reviewed. Some viewed it as exiling members to the remote margins.
- It was agreed that a quick response to members input in that regard was desired with appropriate rapid adjustments.

# High Holy Days Preparation

- In May meeting the question of having the TV screen on the Bimah was raised and deferred to Rabbi Kunin for decision
- Rabbi Kunin decided not to make any changes in Beth David's ritual practices before this year's High Holy Days.
- As such, the TV monitor will be on the Bimah at all HHD services except for the 2nd Day of RH.
- To accommodate members who are uncomfortable with the TV screen the Kehilah Ketanah services will be reinstated and offered for: RH day 1, Kol Nidrei and Yom Kippur morning.

# HHD - Honors

- The HHD Honors committee will be headed again by Madelyn Isaacs.
- We are collecting names of members who, through their generosity in giving their time or other resources, contributed to our lives as a community in the last year.
- Honors for the HHDs will be only in-person.

# HHD - Board Members

- Traditionally, we have had a board member honoree sitting on the Bimah throughout the HHD services.
- Originally, these honorees were tasked with making the announcements at the beginning and / or end of the specific service part.
- During the pandemic, we have reduced the # of participants that travel through the congregation to and from the Bimah,
- The result - streamlined, shorter services!
- Permanently adopted - Board member honoree on the Bimah help with opening and closing of the ark as needed or requested.
- Sign-up sheet for Bimah seating during HHD is posted online. Sign early and often!