

**EMANUEL BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**2-21-23**

**ATTENDANCE:** Andrea Goldenberg, Reesa Olins, Hilda Slivka, Hanna Zwiebel, Meredith Smith, Tammi Kraushaar, Jeff Adler, Gail Adler, Marc Resnick, Ken Simon, Rona Gollob, Fred Spaeth, Tamar Margolis, Faith Helene, Mickey Libbin, Don Miller, Sheila Silverman, Mel Simon, Rick Lasker, Howard Smith, Barbara Fink, Kobi Benita, Thomas Mastronarde

meeting called to order at 7:34pm

Thank you for BOT donations for gift baskets for Barbara Fink, Faith Helene, Regina Miller, and Anita Mancoll following their losses

Should be receiving certificates of appraisal from Sofer on Site shortly; Holocaust Torah in good shape.

Rona Gollob talks about trip to Moldova.

Minutes from January BOT meeting, adding Howard Smith to regular session attendance, passes unanimously

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** Kobi Bonita

**Life Cycle**

**New Members:** Jenny & Eliad Shmuel with Doni, Maya and Ariel  
Pam Meridy  
Ed Greenbaum & Anne Riener

*motion to accept new members passes unanimously*

**Resignations:** Viktor & Dora Shipilin  
Michael & Lilya Golub

*motion to accept resignations passes unanimously*

**Mazal tov:** Susan Kurtis & Craig Weinstein on the birth of a grandson, Bradley Peter Kurtis, son of David & Tara Kurtis

**Nehamas:** Rosalyn Darefsky, mother of Elyse Darefsky, sister of Estelle Freed  
Dr. William Mancoll, husband of Anita Mancoll  
Sandra Meridy, mother of Pam Meridy  
Helene Scheff, sister of Regina (Don Miller)

**ISRAEL75**

Met with Alan Lazowski and incorporating some of his suggestions

Mel Simon and Ken Malley head Steering Committee. Working on marketing materials for each event. Save the dates to be sent in mid March. Marc Resnick worked up a "perk" chart for different levels of contributions. Will be honoring some people in the community with ties to Israel. Looking for BOT participation as well as suggestions for fundraising. A portion of the monies raised will go to support an Israel lecture series over the year. Making a push for corporate giving; will investigate possibility of "matching" gifts.

motion made by Mel Simon

**MOTION: Use a portion (whose percentage will be determined at a later date by BOT) of the ISRAEL75 fundraising to support a lecture series**

*motion passes unanimously*

**SOFER ON SITE** Kobi, with Tamar Margolis

Launch at end of summer, into Simchat Torah, and beyond. Using it as the major fundraiser for next fiscal year. Thank you to all who came out to roll scrolls to the beginning before Sofer arrived. What will we do with all our scrolls? Consideration as to who donated it, as well as continued use of new torah covers. Need permission from Trust to work on Holocaust torah.

Reported on facility rentals, as well as monies and expenditures for FEMA 1 (\$50,000), 2 (150,000), and 3 (\$100,000), including cameras, intercom system, etc. Monies must be spent before reimbursement occurs. Looking at what we will use 3 for: generator? outdoor design?

Installed Ring doorbell and Echo Show to assist in seeing those ringing bell at front door.

Rabbi Small is looking for people to assist in giving out parts for second night seder.

**DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY LEARNING** Barbara Fink

**First, I want to thank you all for your love and support when I lost my mom last month. It means the world to me to have such a loving and supportive community here at the Emanuel.**

Since I have not given an oral report since the annual meeting, I will update you on everything that's been going on with our Religious School, Early childhood, teen, and family programming.

I spent the summer working on clearing out space in our closets and library. If you haven't had the opportunity to walk down the hall to see our Jewish children's library, it really is a treat. I updated the curriculum for the religious school, and hired a few teachers to cover those who retired.

While we do not have a kindergarten class this year in religious school, we gained 6 new families (1 was already a member) with 10 kids plus younger siblings who did not enroll in religious school. This was mostly due to our new member incentive program. We welcomed back a family who was not comfortable being here in-person since the pandemic began and one of our Religious School families moved their child to SSDS!

We began our Religious school year with a breakfast prepared and sponsored by our Brotherhood. It was the first one since 2019! Families were so appreciative to be back together and for the delicious food.

Our Religious School classes have been hard at work learning about holidays, prayers, torah and working on Hebrew reading. They all eagerly volunteer to lead parts of t'filah each week. We continue to meet on Sundays and Wednesdays, in person, and offer tutoring to grades 2 and up.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will lead parts of the main service in a few weeks at the Matan Siddur ceremony.

Our 6<sup>th</sup> graders have each read torah in our family service in January and in March they will read again- not just the religious school 6<sup>th</sup> graders, but the ones in day school as well. Our 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be reading for the first time in April and May.

On the High Holy Days we offered an early childhood service, a family service for families with children in k-7 and a teen service. All of them went really well. We made use of our outdoor spaces on Rosh Hashanah and needed to be inside for Yom Kippur due to weather. When one

our leaders had a family emergency after services on the first day of Rosh Hashanah I had to step in a lead the services for the remainder of the High Holy Days.

We did Tashlich at SSDS where families participated in 5 self-guided activities. Then we gathered by the water to perform Tashlich. Rabbi Small spoke and explained the ritual while Cantor Risman sang a few songs. Josh Cohen secured the Kona ice truck to be there for a treat at the end.

We had pizza in the sukkah during sukkot and we danced with torahs on Simchat Torah! The highlight was seeing so many adults with flags while the kids danced with stuffed torahs.

Rabbi Small, Cantor Risman and I facilitated seminars for our b'nai mitzvah classes. 7<sup>th</sup> graders and their families learned about Coming of Age, Healthy communication and our relationship with God. We've begun the 6<sup>th</sup> grade seminars on putting the mitzvah back in Bar/Bat mitzvah and we will be doing one on Taking hold of the torah in March.

In the fall we brought back the Haunted Shul! With the help of parents we decorated Koret and made it spooky. We started the program in the lobby where the Witch from Endor conjured up the spirits of all of Israel's enemies. The kids were given hero cards that were used to fight 9 different biblical enemies of the Israelites. At each station, a teacher became the enemy- they told the story, but left out how the enemy was defeated. Some stations had an activity that helped the kids to figure out who the hero was, while others they just had to use the clues in the story. We ended the program with the story of the Rabbi and the 29 witches. While this was during Wednesday religious school time we had a few day school school families and younger kids join us for this fun, but educational program.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and their parents and decorated siddur covers for their new siddurim and our 4<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents learned about the importance of l'dor vador by sharing artifacts that have been passed down from one generation to the next in their family and created time capsules of different things that are important to them Jewishly for them to open at a later date.

We celebrated Chanukah together. With the help of Josh Cohen, the clergy and the arms we put on a wonderful party. The kids were able to create their own Chanukah art and decorate cookies while they were there. JTConnect sponsored a Chanukah Olympics of sorts for our religious school. They created stations of fun games all related to the Chanukah story and miracle for our kids to participate in. I led Bagels, Blocks and Beyond for our preschool families to learn about Chanukah.

We hold tot Shabbat and a family service each month and began a new Shabbat program for our early childhood families called Shabbat Jams, which has been on hiatus while the leader is on maternity leave.

We hold Shabbat Babayit each week on Zoom, led by Sass Brown, Rabbi Small and me. Sass sings Shabbat songs and tfilot, while Rabbi Small tells a Shabbat story. We ask families to lead candle lighting, kiddish, hand washing and motzi. While I lead them in blessing their children. While this was a program originally intended for preschool families during the pandemic, it has become a staple in some of our grade school families' homes. We have seen kids who barely knew the brachot learn to lead them and it has been a great addition to our Shabbat programming.

With the help of Cantor Risman and Josh Cohen we continue doing Kibbitz and Nosh every Thursday in the lobby. It has become a highlight of many families. Each week we get about 5 moms and their kids ages 0-4 who come to eat lunch and play. The kids who come each week have made a special connection with both me and Cantor Risman. In fact, this past Thursday when the Cantor was on vacation, one of the boys curled up in my lap and asked me, "Where's Cantor Daniella?" While they may not have joined yet, these families are making a home at the Emanuel.

On Superbowl Sunday we celebrated the world wide wrap with our 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade families. Rabbi Small taught them about the history of tefillin, and why we wear them. Together, with the help of volunteers from the Brotherhood we taught each kid (and some adults) how to put them on. Brotherhood once again sponsored and prepared breakfast for us.

A few weeks ago, we went to Build a Bear Workshop in Westfarms mall. There we made 15 bears that sing the shema. While most of the families that attended were perspective members it was a great way to have our name out there. At the program I read a book about the shema, taught the kids how to sing it and then they (or their parents) sang the shema into a voice recorder that was placed into a bear that they stuffed, cleaned and named. Kids also decorated pillowcases with the shema and the Emanuel logo on it. They took their bears home to cherish. Several of the parents told me that had to remove the bear from their child's bed, because when they rolled over at 2 in the morning the shema was very loud.

Our USY advisor, Cara Levine moved back to NY in the fall. We hired Max and Merissa Beade to become the next advisors. They have been actively reaching out to our teens to encourage them to join more regional programs and we had a nice number attend the last regional convention at Camp Ramah. They continue to do the monthly Shabbat dinners here and at Beth EI.

JTConnect continues to thrive and meet here on Sundays, and we have a nice number of teens who also attend at the JCC on Monday nights.

I have been working with the Federation, CBI, Beth EI, Sinai, and Beth Hillel to create a mitzvah project fair. This will take place this Sunday morning, here at the Emanuel. The goal of the program is to teach our kids that a mitzvah project is more than "I volunteered 2 times playing piano at the Hebrew home or collecting money to send to an organization" but that it is lifetime opportunity to advocate, educate and donate. 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> graders and parents will come and learn about different opportunities in our community and beyond that they can use to jump start their lives of mitzvot.

I am working with Marcus Fink, of JTConnect to create a Purim character breakfast for preschool families. Marcus also works at a children's theater and will be bringing costumes for teens to dress up in. Brotherhood will make breakfast and preschool kids can meet their favorite characters- just like at Disney World.

Purim plans are underway for another special family megillah reading and party on Monday night. We are also gearing up for our annual mishloach manot fundraiser. The theme is "Seas the Day" and all the items will beached theme! We have already raised over \$4200- if you haven't ordered yours yet, please do!

For Pesach we are planning to create a matzah factory for nursery school aged kids and our religious school kids will be learning different parts of the seder so they can lead at their own.

Our 6<sup>th</sup> graders are working on creating a pretend trip to Israel for our first and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class. Our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades are learning Israeli dances to show off at the Israel 75 party in April.

I continue to work with Michalee, Josh and Reesa on membership and engagement strategies.

And we are also planning another community wide lag b'omer field day. Also, I am beginning to work on curriculum for next year's calendar, including some new curriculum for the school. Hoping to get some new iPads for the school.

Overall, life as your Director of Youth and Family Learning is great and busy.

**OUTDOOR PROJECT** Reesa Olins and Tom Mastronarde

Committee members include: Reesa, Tom, Howard Smith, Tamar Margolis, Gail Weinstein, Hilda Slivka, Josh Cohen, Barbara Fink, Rabbi David Small, Hazzan Daniella Risman, Kobi Benita. Working with a landscape architect (Laureiro Engineering Associates) to present two proposals based on our wish list for our outsider courtyard space. Also incorporating FEMA for security measures (fencing and gates). We want it to be a multi purpose use space, with green spaces too, and some shading. Have \$2,778.83 in the Garden Maintenance Fund to be used towards paying for their proposals, with the rest of the funding to come from operating fund. We know we will need additional engineering studies in the future if we decide to proceed.

**MOTION: Spend \$4800 for two designs for outdoor space with monies to come from funds delineated above.**

***motion passes unanimously***

**SHABBAT BATHROOMS** Howard Smith

Issues with lights turning on and off, tearing toilet paper, mechanical soap pumps in bathroom: not shomer shabbos and have received some complaints. There is an installable switch, that is programmable, that will override the motion detectors on Shabbat. Howard has already had two installed in bathrooms off lobby; need three more.

**MOTION: Spend up to \$1800 to make bathrooms shomer shabbos, with monies to come from general budget**

**YES 17 ABSTENTION 1**

***motion passes***

adjourn to executive session at 9:15pm