

MINUTES
Temple Beth Or
Annual Meeting
June 13, 2021 @ 10:30 a.m.
Via Zoom invitation

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus issues and based on the recommendations of Temple's Reopening Task Force, we will continue to employ social distancing and limit in-person meetings.

Attendees: Rabbi Judy Chessin, Rabbi Ben Azriel, Karen Lindsay, John Granby, Mark Gruenberg, Susan & Joe Gruenberg, Renee Peery, Stephanie Kirkland, Sharon Lindquist-Skelley, Jerry Weckstein, Marc Siegel, Marni Flagel, Gary Holstine, Ira Segalewitz, Eva Claire, Ron and Sue Nelson, Paula Gessiness, Lorraine Fortner, Scot Denmark, Bill and Claudia Fried, Gary Youra, Jake and Kate Elder, Ellen Holroyd, Andrea Abrams, Annette Nathan, Beverly Farnbacher, Mary Mahira Rogers, Alex Pearl, Gina and Neil Kahn, Helen Markman, Wendy Rachlin, Roger Pankake, Melissa Guadalupe, Steve Taylor, Arlene Graham, David and Deb Char, Caryl and Scott Segalewitz, Martin Jacobs

1. Call to Order

Karen Lindsay called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

Karen introduced the Board: Co-Presidents Karen Lindsay & John Granby, VP Jake Elder, Secretary Caryl Segalewitz, Treasurer Marc Siegel, Jessica Simpson, Jane Briskin, Dan Sweeny, Marni Flagel, Stephanie Kirtland, Scot Denmark. Special thanks to Rabbi Chessin. Hope all have met Rabbi Azriel, who is completing his first year with TBO and staying another year. Thank you to our staff: Donna Brodnick, Gayle Jenkins, Craig Seige. Encouraged everyone to review committee reports and donor thank yous on Temple website. Thank you to all for participating in the annual meeting.

2. Introduction and Presidents' Greeting

John Granby gave a President's greeting. Good morning. 36th year. We will be in person next year we hope. Thanks to Karen Lindsay and Jessica Simpson for their dedication and service. The Temple has not only survived, we have thrived. We've learned how to change and be creative.

Highlights:

Twelve Committee reports available. Thanks to all chairpersons.

Makor – TBO has a stellar Education program. Rabbi Azriel did a stellar job. On a fly completely reorganized for virtual learning. Challenged students and made it interesting to hold attention. He's also helped to bring services and special programming, especially with technology assist. Rabbi Ben is staying another year.

Adult Ed – has been one of the most active committees this year. More to come.

Fundraising – kept spirit of fundraising alive and well. Will get back to in-person with a gusto.

Life & Legacy – met all its goals through the year. Thanks to Dan Sweeny.

Safety and Security – thank you for keeping us safe with (just a sampling):

- Lighting in parking lot
- Safety doors
- New PA system
- Heightened security measures around and in the building
- 3 federal and state grants.

Dave Williams has resigned for a full-time position. We are looking for a new security person.

Administration – thanks to Ira for getting bids, proposals and vendors, and for his continued watching over our entire facility.

Many more committees doing outstanding work.

Religious Committee – Rabbi Chessin has guided us, through this difficult year, has brought us services, high holiday services, thank you for her service through this very, very difficult year.

Thank you all for your service, dedication and hard work.

Thanks to Board, members and all who have helped with everything.

3. Approval of June 28, 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes

Karen Lindsay asked for approval of last year's minutes of the annual meeting. Anyone have any amendments? No one.

Bill Fried moved to approve, Marni Flagel seconded, all in favor said yes. No one opposed.

4. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report – Marc Siegel gave the Treasurer's Report. Pointed out member support has been strong. We received some larger contributions above sustaining level. We truly appreciate those members stepping up. Contributions are down this year, member support has covered that.

Last year we received a PPP loan, covered payroll and benefit expenses. The PPP loan has been forgiven.

Overall this year, we've brought in \$325,000 in income. Looking to have a positive year, with no deficit financially.

Expenses – administration is down (building because we weren't there).

Education – expenses are down with change of Makor to virtual (primarily for teachers, which was down)

Currently showing budget surplus for the year. Surplus will decline, but we should remain in the black for the rest of the year.

Cash wise we have unrestricted funds of \$90,000. In previous year, we had borrowed from Ameriprise account to purchase cemetery plots. We've repaid that money to Ameriprise from cemetery plot sales.

We had about \$50,000 in security grants. We've used about half.

Endowment – Because of stock market changes, the account has done very well because of market gains.

Receivables balances -- Approximately \$300,000 pledged in member support, we collected about \$280,000 through April. Pledges are based on what members can contribute. We are asking in support for what families/individuals can give.

On behalf of the Board and Staff we appreciate the entire membership support.

And, we have several new members.

Overall financially we came through the Pandemic strong. We hope to keep that going next year as well.

Next year's "sustaining level of support" is slightly lower due to expenses down and grants received. We strongly urge you to give what you can.

Karen Lindsay said thank you to Marc Siegel. Motion to approve the Annual meeting treasurer report. Scot Denmark moved first. Ellen Holroyd seconded. All approved.

5. Review of Candidates for the 2021-2022 Board of Directors:

Karen Lindsay read the list of new candidates for a vote:

- a. Caryl Segalewitz, for a second term
- b. Jake Elder, for a second term
- c. Mark Gruenberg, first term
- d. Shara Taylor, first term

36 members submitted votes prior to the meeting, all in favor of the slate of candidates.

Lorraine Fortner motioned to approve slate by acclamation. Paula Gessiness seconded. All in favor.

6. Reopening Update

Scot Denmark gave the update. It's been an honor to serve and be chosen to be chairman of reopening task force. The committee formed a little over a year ago, when we were closing down. We took Friday night Shabbat service of people most vulnerable, in mind, when making the decision to take services virtual. With Rabbi's expertise, we were able to switch. Developed some clever and engaging solutions to maintain the congregation be in contact with each other. Drive in and drive through events. Multiple Shabbat services on Zoom and Facebook live. Vaccines are available. We monitor numbers of cases, hospitalizations and deaths to make decisions. Most of our zip codes surrounding the temple have shown good rates of vaccinations and low rates of disease. It's given us the confidence to reimagine for reopening in a welcoming and safe way.

Summer – outdoor 6/25 picnic, Shabbat service in parking lot and green space. ToGo Neg. Prepackaged items.

Guidelines for use of food. Use of hand sanitizers, prepackaged meals, face masks encouraged, and seating minimized for large groups (6 at an 8 top table).

Meeting can conduct in-person meetings according to guidelines. 6/25 and 6/26 lecture series at the Temple. Bat Mitzvah on Labor Day weekend. After Labor Day, services will be held in the sanctuary, more briefly and Onegs will follow guidelines. Key to safely reopen as many people as possible, get vaccinated. Not vaccinated, follow basics of masking, social distance and masks. No exclusions based on vaccination status. Won't question people about vaccinations. Way to move forward is through vaccination, Scot stressed.

Questions – Bill Fried – are we planning to have a streaming option for high holiday services – Scot Denmark – yes there will be options for all services.

Sue Nelson – Avi Gilbert's Bar Mitzvah was last week, has a little feedback to the committee, but it works when told what to do. Thank you to everyone who helped make it safe.

7. Rabbis' Remarks

Judy – story about Shimon Bar Yohai. We ask people to continue to use safety measures so we can be fit for a new generation – that's why our congregation has been trying to be safe with reopening. We've found a way to be a loving, caring, congregation but also to be safe. We are working with the science of this event. We must do what's best for our congregation. We don't know what September/October will look like. We will find a way to have hybrid, services. We've created a virtual community all over the world. We want to keep this too. Miss our live interactions. We miss the music and breaking bread with friends. We'll emerge carefully.

I look forward to a new way of being. Thank you to all who have tended to our Temple while in quarantine.

Thanks to Mary Mahira Rogers for our music. For our choir. Kudos to exec committee and board. Co-presidents, Karen Lindsay and John Granby.

We are coming out of our cave and into our Brave new world.

Special thanks to Karen Lindsay for it all!

Song by Mary Mahira Rogers, words by Marty Moody Jacobs

Rabbi Ben Azriel –

Thanks to the Education Committee, and teachers. The Ed committee turned Makor into an online version. To teachers we weren't able to hire, thank you for taking a break. I had to layoff over half of our staff. Thank you who took the year off for the betterment of our community to balance our budget. We look forward to having you back next year! For a new normal year 2021-2022. Thanks to Rabbi Chessin.

8. Open Discussion

Arelene Graham – has the Gilbert Bar Mitzvah been recorded. Sue Nelson said it was recorded by videographer and will be posted.

Rabbi Azriel – a congregation of the new future, can integrate both in-person and online audiences.

Arlene Graham – are we looking into wheelchair seating? Not in front row or obstructing exits. Bill Fried – we've been discussing options. We will revisit those discussions soon.

Talked about removing some pews. Ira Segalewitz and the committee will be discussing in the future.

Marty Jacobs – are summer services going to be blended? Rabbi Chessin – we will keep these on Zoom. We don't have the capability to offer both. Zoom 6:30 service. We will communicate if that changes. As we step out of the cave, we will move it along. First service to move hybrid will be Rosh Hashanah services.

9. Adjournment

Karen Lindsay – Thank you to everyone for participating. Asked for a motion to adjourn.

Lorraine Fortner moved to adjourn. Ellen Holroyd seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.