

BALTIMORE HEBREW CONGREGATION ANNUAL REPORT 17-18



188
YEARS





BALTIMORE HEBREW CONGREGATION

Progressive. Dynamic. Diverse.

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My two years as President of our wonderful congregation has flown by. BHC continues to prosper. Here are some of the highlights for this year:

We have been blessed this year with our interim Cantor, Sharon Kohn. Her presence and superb musicality during services has been appreciated by the congregation. And then we have succeeded in the search for a permanent Cantor when we hired Cantor Ben Ellerin. Under the leadership of Bobbi Perlman, the Search Committee found this young, dynamic, and extraordinary Cantor, and we were able to bring him from New York to continue our tradition of being a leader in Jewish liturgical music. We all look forward to getting to know Cantor Ellerin and his wife Lily this coming year.

The "Vision Plan" has gone through a thoughtful process as we have considered various affordable options for modernizing our facility and campus for the next several decades. Richard D. Gross has been leading a small steering group working with the architects who worked with us last year. This first phase of a multi-year effort will change the entrance and access to the temple, and make major improvements to the main sanctuary. The excitement will build as we unveil these plans in the next three months.

With our incredible clergy team we have seen a steady increase in attendance at Shabbat services and other events. The staff of BHC led by our extraordinary Executive Director, Jo Ann Windman, is superb as they deal with BHC's everyday functioning and also with the weekly, and sometimes daily, crises with the aging facility. Membership is strong and will grow in the coming years, I believe.

I attended the Union for Reform Judaism Biennial this year in Boston and was struck by the vibrancy of the Reform movement in our nation. I am grateful for the opportunity of leadership, have made many new friends and have learned so much. To you, our congregation, thank for this opportunity and for your support.

Steven S. Sharfstein, President

A snapshot of BHC's truest energy is not to be found in our Annual Report. Rather, you can capture BHC's essence and energy by conversing with another BHC member; by attending a service; or by volunteering together with other congregants. However, I am thankful to read through the Annual Report each year and to be reminded of all the amazing work and commitment that goes into making BHC buzz and thrive. And we were buzzing and thriving during this past year.

BHC had a great year of learning, be it Adult Education courses (PEP, Hebrew and more), or Family Education (Geshet for example), or Youth Education. Our youngest learners enjoy their days at the E.B. Hirsh Early Childhood Center. This year, we were particularly proud to have successfully launched NextGen: The Millie and Alvin Blum 8th-12th Grade Teen Program, which saw our engagement in that age group increase greatly. Kudos to our youth for hosting a regional NFTY-MAR event.

BHC also had a great year of social justice work, across a range of causes, opportunities, and challenges. I am especially proud of how much learning is interwoven in our action. For example, I appreciate that Tracie Guy-Decker has been leading a BHC Justice Reading Group. Our actions should be preceded and deepened by learning and discussion.

BHC is at a vibrant and exciting moment in our congregational journey. Please take a moment to learn about what happened last year and how. Then please take more than a moment to dive into BHC's essence and energy in the coming year.

Rabbi Andrew Busch

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Even this extensive list does not fully capture the life of BHC. We acknowledge that the ongoings of our vibrant community are not all represented here.

ADULT EDUCATION

Brad Cohen, Director of Education

We had a great year in Adult Education. We had four successful current events discussions during Summer Nights on Park Heights, and another four during Winter Nights on Park Heights. Run by our clergy and educators, these current event discussions again featured a themed atmosphere, snacks and lively conversations. We co-sponsored the Hoffberger Foundation for Torah Study Scholar-in-Residence, featuring Rabbi David Ruderman, Ph.D. on "Four Debates That Shaped Judaism." We also hosted the 12th Annual Herbert H. and Irma B. Risch Memorial Program on Immigration. We continued to offer Pursuing Educational Possibilities (PEP) classes on Sundays. This year's topics included exploring Current Trends, Challenges and Issues In Israel, The Secret Book of Kings, The Israelite Woman, and The Rabbis Said...Who Are Those Rabbis Anyway? (Continued). Shabbat morning Torah Talk continued to provide meaningful discussions. Brotherhood Breakfasts and Sisterhood Triple Treats provided many interesting learning opportunities. We continued to offer Adult Hebrew courses as well.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Robert L. Waldman, Chair

The Audit Committee met during the past year with the congregation's independent auditor, the CPA firm of Ellin & Tucker, Chartered. They reported on the financial condition of the congregation as of June 30, 2017 and found the congregation to be in good financial health. Ellin & Tucker issued an "unqualified" opinion of the financial statements of BHC, as well as the internal controls employed by the congregation. The Audit Committee thoroughly reviewed their report. The annual Audit Report is available for members of the congregation to review by contacting our Executive Director, Jo Ann Windman.

BHC CARES

Carol J. Caplan, Chair

The purpose of BHC Cares is to create a warm, caring, inclusive and accessible atmosphere in the congregation, and to reach out to congregants in a supportive and helpful manner. It is through this philosophy of congregational in-reach that a powerful and positive message can be sent to the entire congregational family. The committee, which is lay-led and diverse, is ably served by its director, Rabbi Sachs-Kohen. Congregants participating in BHC Cares this past year helped and supported other congregants with the following programs:

In addition to the support that is always available from our clergy, BHC member Robert Cohen, Ph.D., helped members move through their grief in the company of others who have also experienced loss. This year we had two groups, fall and spring. Through "Meal Makers" we delivered meals to those recovering from illness, celebrating a birth, or mourning a loss. This program is coordinated by Sharon Edlow, and we could not have been successful without our volunteers who cook, deliver and provide the meals. "Phone Connection" continued to call congregants who are unable to participate in worship and events as they may have done in the past. This is ably coordinated by Lynette Berman. "Sharing Shabbat" volunteers led services at various assisted living facilities. In the fall and spring, holiday visits were made to our congregants in independent and assisted living facilities. Our clergy, Executive Director, Director of Development and BHC Cares volunteers take turns making these visits.

Twice this year we hosted STAY Shabbat (Shabbat That's About You) and kiddush, which allowed us to come together and make

our community more intimate through convivial conversation and connection. In November we shared a kiddush with lively conversation, listened to special music from a Peabody quartet, and shared a meal together. Our second STAY Shabbat was held in February during Jewish Disability Awareness Month. Our guest speaker was Rabbi Edythe Mencher, URJ Faculty for Sacred Caring Community Director. She spoke on "Creating A Culture of Inclusion and Mutual Support."

We had several Azure Concerts thanks to Maria Lambros Kannen coordinating, and funding from the Lambros Family and the Peggy and Yale Gordon Trust. These concerts are for young people with autism and related challenges, and their families. We continued to provide books on pertinent topics for caring and disabilities, located in the Disability Awareness Collection of the Julius & Doris Myerberg Library. BHC Cares provided LifeLights pamphlets located in the Dalsheimer Lobby. These are on various topics of caring, and can be read there or taken home. BHC continued to be the home of several twelve-step anonymous programs that met on Tuesday evenings.



BHC JUSTICE

Tracie Guy-Decker, Chair

In the past year, our congregation continued to build upon its long history of pursuing justice. As a part of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism's (RAC) "urgency of now" campaign, we joined over 150 other Reform congregations in signing a Brit Olam—a covenant with the world—in which we committed to acting intentionally for a more just world. We also partnered with the RAC to bring one of their organizers to BHC for a public conversation about the ways our Reform Jewish values inform and obligate us to work for social justice.

Our BHC Justice lay-led Working Groups facilitated bystander training in the event of ICE operations; provided a seminar for lawyers interested in giving pro bono help to immigrants facing deportation; participated in a court-watching program designed by the Office of the Public Defender to collect data on bail hearings; hosted more than 150 people during a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend screening and discussion of Ava DuVernay's film "13th;" and held letter-writing events inviting community members to write to their elected officials. We also continued work on a jobs pipeline project with Center for Urban Families, and the confirmation class attended the RAC's L'Taken Seminar in Washington, D.C.

The congregation maintained our direct service efforts—from collecting for food drives, to creating kids' care packages, to baking casseroles.

BROTHERHOOD

Sid Bravmann, President

Brotherhood had another successful year, with great attendance, interesting speakers and meaningful volunteer opportunities. Our Opening Dinner featured a performance by cabaret singer Wendy Baird and pianist Jonathan Jensen, of the Baltimore Symphony. Our well attended Breakfast Series hosted six speakers who spoke on a variety of engaging topics that included Steve Gimbel Ph.D., "Einstein: The World's Most Famous And Most Reluctant Jew," Jeff Goldstein Ph.D., science educator, "A Voyage That Will Forever Change Your Perspective Of Home," Judy Rousuck, Hippodrome Theater, "You Won't Succeed On Broadway...If You Don't Have Any Jews," Gavin Witt with professional actors from Baltimore Center Stage, "Love, Laughter and L'Chiam," Dr. Tom Hall, 88.1 FM, WYPR midday host, "From Polarity To Peace: Finding Common Ground In A Divided Landscape," and finally Mike Preston, Baltimore, "The Ravens Season And Recent Draft." Brotherhood was also happy to help sponsor the Sunday portion of the Hoffberger Foundation for Torah Study Scholar-in-Residence. We enjoyed our annual seder, which was open to all. The meal was catered by Zeffert and Gold; the Haggadot was created by Cantor Sacks and Brotherhood, and the program featured music led by Erika Schon and HaZamir. In June, Brotherhood will enjoy a day out at the ball game at Camden Yards. We will finish our year with our Closing Dinner, "Highlights from Opera and Broadway," with pianist Jim Harp and vocalists Kimberly Christie, soprano, and Jason Buckwalter, baritone.

Brotherhood members continued supporting our congregation through volunteer efforts. The Traffic Squad provided safe direction on Sunday mornings, the Chicken Flickers cooking team provided meals for synagogue functions, and Brotherhood volunteers served food at Manna House during the holidays.



BUDGET COMMITTEE

Benjy Dubin, Assistant Treasurer

The Budget Committee was appointed by the President to prepare a balanced budget, dues recommendations, fee schedules and a capital improvement plan. The committee solicited budget projections from leadership and staff from all of the sectors of BHC operations. The committee evaluated options and considered both short- and long-term impacts on the financial plan. The annual budget and capital plan for 2018-19 was presented for approval by the Board of Electors at the April meeting. For the 2017-18 budget, see page 11.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Richard A. Fishkin, Chair

The Cemetery Committee continues to supervise the operation and maintenance of the congregation's cemeteries at Berrymans Lane and Belair Road. In fiscal year 2017-18, as of April 1, 2018, services were provided for the sale of 120 cemetery plots. For that same period, burial rites for 159 people at Berrymans Lane and 22 people at Belair Road occurred.

Members of the BHC staff and the committee continue their visits to both of our cemeteries. Our cemetery contractor is at the Berrymans Lane Cemetery daily and is diligent about checking and reporting back to the Temple Office. Staff has continued their contacts with the Baltimore City and Baltimore County Police about continuing their patrols.

The cemeteries continue to be maintained in a way befitting the members of the congregation and community, while at the same time, we operate within our budget. Our contractor continues to meet our needs in a timely manner.

Memorial Services were held on Mother's Day, Father's Day and during the High Holy Days. The members of this committee continue to be dedicated to the service of our cemeteries.

In addition to the above, we are preparing to introduce "Green Burials." A "Green," or "natural" burial is one which allows a body to return as naturally as possible to the earth. The key elements of Green Burial are not embalming the body, using an unfinished pine casket, and burial in a "Green" plot without an outer burial container such as a concrete vault. This is an environmentally friendly option in which the land remains in a natural state without extensive landscaping. The gravesite will be marked using natural un-sculpted stone that allows engraving of the names and dates. These will take place in the Green Burial section at the Berrymans Lane Cemetery. The Belair Road Cemetery rules already allow for Green Burials.

CHAI LIFE

David Castine and Andrew Haines, Co-Chairs

Chai Life is the 20s and 30s group of BHC. Over the last year we have organized social and religious programming for millennial Jews. Each month our committee has planned at least two events ranging from Shabbat dinners at BHC or someone's home, weekly trivia night for the spring season, elegant Chai Society dinners, and Happy Hours to name just a few. We've also gone to see Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at Toby's Dinner Theatre, and participated in BHC events like Rosh Hashanah Under the Stars and Chanukah Around the World.

In addition to the social networking, our group has partnered with Repair the World Baltimore, a millennial Jewish Volunteer Organization, to take part in volunteer planning we've called "Helping Hons." From cleaning up Patterson Park, to serving meals at Weinberg Housing and Resource Center, to creating care gift packages on Mitzvah Day, we've collaborated to bring Jewish service to our community at large.

Our committee of six people: David Castine, Marc Grossblatt, Andrew Haines, Shira Moskowitz, and Melissa Weisman, and advisor Nicki Barrett, have worked together to plan so many events over the past fiscal year. As we look ahead this year, we hope to continue this same momentum. If you or someone you know would like to connect with us, please reach out to Nicki Barrett or connect with us on our Facebook page.

COMMUNICATIONS AND DESIGN

Tracy Ringel, Director of Communications and Design

This year we continued to deepen congregational engagement via social media and other electronic communication. We continued our popular "Time for Shabbat" videos on Facebook, which gave congregants a chance to share their Shabbat plans with other BHC members and with the larger Facebook community. We continued to send our weekly "Briefly BHC" to update congregants on our events and Shabbat Services. Additionally, we continued to create moments-to-share stories, such as our "BHC Faces" featured in the Temple Bulletin, and personal sharing by those giving the announcements at Shabbat Services. We will again participate in the annual JCC Community Block Party, which attracts hundreds of people each year. Finally, we continued to advertise in media press such as JMORE: Baltimore Jewish Living Magazine and The Jewish Times, and explored new advertising opportunities in local newspapers and websites.

DUES RELIEF COMMITTEE

Jo Ann Windman, Executive Director, on behalf of the committee

BHC is committed to compassion for our congregants and confidentially waived dues payments for those in the most difficult financial circumstances. BHC also offered assistance in the form of a reduction in dues to members who experienced financial adversity. Through the support of full dues paying members and donors, we were able to assist a number of members with dues relief this year, which was approved by the committee.

BHC values its congregants and strives to be inclusive and to accommodate all who require support. The committee, under the auspices of the Board of Electors, also considered the financial responsibilities of running this institution. BHC truly relies upon those who are able to meet their dues payments to do so, in order to support the costs of maintaining each member. The Dues Relief Committee works with the Executive Director.

E.B. HIRSH EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Jill Eisen, Director

E.B. Hirsh Early Childhood Center provided wonderful learning opportunities, which increased the children's exposure to the following educational domains: math, science, literacy, community, reading and Jewish values. Our special programs included: A Celebration of Reading, co-sponsored by The Ivy Book Shop, that highlighted the confidence-building book, "Only One You" by Linda Krantz; Morah Jen Morris's Afternoon Adventures with the 4-year-olds; and field trips to Port Discovery, The Walter's Art Gallery with Morah Sharon Edlow as our guide, and the Gordon Center to see "Annie" in Hebrew. We were fortunate to learn about Israel with the Shinshinim - Israeli young adults who come to Baltimore to teach all our students about Israel in fun and interactive ways. This year Morah Irina Minevich began teaching our children Hebrew twice per week through song, dance and stories. We celebrated the Jewish and American holidays in unique ways. For Tu B'Shevat, the Jewish holiday to celebrate nature, we held a birthday party for the trees. The children planted parsley for Passover, and they taste-tested seven different foods and made a like/dislike chart. On our playground, we worked on expanding our vegetable garden with the help of parents, students, and faculty. The garden will be the source of our afternoon snacks over the summer. Learning through play allowed our children to build fine and gross motor skills, learn how to socialize and share with other children, and allow their imaginations to run freely. All of what we do, learn, and teach is child-interest driven so that the children are excited and invested in the learning.

Seven faculty members have been nominated by parents for their excellence in teaching through the Center for Jewish Education Teacher of Excellence Awards. We have a waiting list for our youngest infant class. The growing trend seems for parents to select full-time infant care. We had 73 families and 88 students enrolled this year. Did you know that we have students and faculty from 5 different countries? We thank all of our supporters who served on our Advisory Committee and PTA. We send a big Shabbat Shalom and thank you to Rabbi Busch, Rabbi Sachs-Kohen, Cantor Kohn, Cantor Sacks and Brad Cohen for leading our inspiring and energizing Kabbalat Shabbat services every Friday morning. Faculty and students leave dancing and singing all the way into Shabbat.



ENGAGEMENT AND PROGRAMMING

Nicki Barrett, Coordinator of Engagement and Programming

This year has been an exciting year for programming and engagement. We have kept old favorites, like Summer Nights and Winter Nights on Park Heights, which brought people together to have discussions about current events led by our clergy. The summer months saw Tour de Torah, a morning bike ride with Torah study, and Beach Shabbat, where congregants spending the summer at the beach joined together for a BHC Shabbat service.

Later in the year we held our first interfaith dinner with Baltimore Jewish Council and the Islamic Society of Baltimore, which brought over 100 people together to learn and get to know one another. Our annual Purim Carnival was a big hit and brought in close to \$3000 despite the power outage that changed the date last minute. We co-hosted a community Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration with over ten Baltimore Organizations for Israel's 70th. BHC congregants volunteered to work booths and lead activities. We also started three Wise Aging groups led by congregant volunteers, the groups continue to meet and explore aging together. We look forward to another great Shavuot Scoop to close out the programming year.

FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT

Annette Saxon, Director of Development

Thanks to you, 2017-18 was a strong year for fundraising and development at BHC. Annual Giving 2017 kicked off with 100% participation of our Board of Electors. Led by Chairs, Jason Brandt and Carol Sandler, we have exceeded our goal.

The L'Dor V'Dor Society, BHC's Planned Giving program led by Allan Richmond, added new legacy holders with gifts that make them a part of BHC forever. In addition, congregants started new BHC Funds to provide scholarships and programs.

The 7th annual Night of the Stars fundraiser was a great success featuring THE BEST OF The Second City who entertained a full house crowd. Chaired by Richard Peterson and David Berenhaus, the event honored and wished a warm farewell to our own Cantor Emeritus Robbie and Helen Solomon, and benefited BHC's Youth Community including the E.B. Hirsh Early Childhood Center and Youth Education. We surpassed our goal in dollars raised. This year, with David Berenhaus and Linda Litofsky as Chairs, we expect another great success as we look forward to the 8th annual Night of the Stars featuring Bebe Neuwirth in "Stories with Piano" honoring long-time congregants and community leaders Harriet and Jeffrey Legum.

Thank you to the Annual Giving, Planned Giving and Night of the Stars Committee members that worked so hard, and to all who supported BHC this year through generous gifts.



HOFFBERGER GALLERY

Marcia Bornfriend and Lauren Loran, Co-Chairs

Our 2017-18 calendar of exhibits included a few very talented BHC congregants beginning with paintings by Harriet Stulman. Ilene Gold wowed everyone with her collage "paintings" made entirely with pages from National Geographic magazines, and Joel Cohen made us all smile with his take on life with his abstract, mixed media works.

Other exhibits were oil paintings by Pat Dillon and live event paintings by Patricia Bennett. We are looking forward to laser cut paper creations by Blake M. Conroy in May/June during our annual Night of the Stars fundraising event.

We are happy to announce that along with Joel Cohen, our Hoffberger Gallery Committee has welcomed two new members:

Ilene Gold and Susan Weinstein. We encourage anyone in the BHC family who is interested in promoting and supporting local artists to join our committee in the coming year.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Roger Katzenberg, Chair; Robert Brodsky and Beret Dickson

The House Committee oversees the building and property work at the Park Heights Avenue campus, as well as buildings, roads and grounds at our two cemeteries. BHC leadership has been diligent in making gradual contributions to a Building Fund so that we will be able to take on inevitable future maintenance needs, such as replacing the roof.

Major activity in 2017-18 included:

- Continued augmentation to the Autani System, an energy control system.
- Repairs to heating/plumbing
- Continue relamping inefficient lighting with more energy efficient LED lighting.
- Repair and repaving of roads and driveway areas
- Replacement of the Straus Social Hall curtains
- Major repair of the Multi-Purpose Room roof

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Charles Klein, Chair

The Insurance Committee decided to keep our existing Broker in renewing our property and casualty and health coverages for the coming year as we have been happy with the pricing and service. We will continue reviewing the pension plan by trying to lower employees costs.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Marc P. Blum, Chair

The Investment Committee oversaw the investment of BHC's Restricted Fund assets. 99.5% of BHC's \$18,819,985 invested assets are in the JCIF, which is The Associated's investment vehicle for its and many local Jewish institutions' funds. The small remainder is invested with Commonfund Partners 2000. The Investment Committee Chair follows the performance results and consults with BHC Treasurers and reports annually to the Board of Electors.

A summary of investment performance for the calendar year ending December 31, 2017 is as follows:

- JCIF: Trailing one year 15.3%
- Annualized trailing three years 6.1%
- Annualized trailing five years 7.6%

These values are consonant with standard benchmarks for endowments.

Commonfund Partners 2000:

- Trailing one year 5.38%
- Annualized trailing three years 5.76%
- Annualized trailing five years 8.72%

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

Edward Perl and Michael Saxon, Co-Chairs

The Landscape Committee works with staff to monitor and maintain our 17-acre campus. This includes walking the property periodically to identify issues and develop responses, as well as

overseeing the work of our landscape contractor. This past year we continued our engagement with a landscape contractor who is proactive and effective in meeting our needs. We maintained the removal of vines and other undesirable growth on the property. We continued plant replacements as needed.

MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Sharon Edlow and Jen Kordonski, Co-Chairs

Each year we invite our new members, those who joined BHC after the previous year's High Holy Days, to spend a warm and lively evening getting to know our clergy and their new synagogue. What a perfect way to spend an evening of camaraderie as we all share in the warmth of Havdalah. This year we welcomed fifty new members. As people entered they had a chance to mingle while the children in attendance were encouraged to dabble in some Shabbat art. After enjoying snacks and conversation, everyone set out on a tour of our building. A few of our long-time members served as tour guides, walking our new families through BHC and sharing bits of our history. After building up an appetite, we had a dinner with lots of time to get to know each other. A spirited Havdalah Service followed in the Sanctuary. It was truly a warm and meaningful introduction to all that BHC has to offer.

MUSIC PROGRAMS

Cantor Sharon Kohn

2017-18 has been a year to reflect on and to enrich the musical heritage of BHC. A diverse group of singers and instrumentalists, plus our cantors, led the musical portions of the 11th annual Rosh Hashanah Under the Stars at Oregon Ridge. Kol Rinnah, the adult volunteer choir, anchored the music for Selichot services and participated monthly in Shabbat services, including the Classical Reform Shabbat featuring the music of Michael Isaacson's service Hegyon Libi for choir, strings, organ and cantor. Further, Kol Rinnah joined with nine other choirs in a concert at Temple Sinai, Washington, D.C., to celebrate the 80th birthday of composer Simon Sargon. Additional congregants added their talents to our monthly Family Shabbat, to Music and Meditation on Yom Kippur afternoon, to Yom Kippur Evening, to concerts, and to vibrant Sunday mornings inspiring our young people.



RENTALS

Francie Gill, Facility/Event Coordinator

Baltimore Hebrew Congregation offers a variety of rooms for weddings, funerals and life-cycle celebrations. A rental brochure with descriptions for several of our rooms is available.

We have had many rentals this year including the Shriver Hall Concert Series while their building is being renovated. The Baltimore Opera Company performs each year on New Year's Day for the community. Our soccer and baseball fields are used by Beth Tfiloh Congregation's sports teams, and The Auburn School uses our Dalsheimer Auditorium for their school play.

ROSH HASHANAH UNDER THE STARS

Carol Noel and Joel Simon, Co-Chairs

This year was our 11th Annual Rosh Hashanah Under the Stars (RHUS) at Oregon Ridge Park. More than 6,000 people attended the service, which remains the largest Reform High Holy Day service in the United States. Within the Baltimore community, RHUS has become a tradition for many families. Attendees were BHC members, people who are affiliated with other area congregations and those who are unaffiliated. With inclusive music, an inspiring and accessible sermon, and a warm, welcoming atmosphere, BHC continued to provide a Rosh Hashanah experience unlike any other in the country and perhaps the world. The evening was generously sponsored by the John J. Leidy Foundation and the Herbert Bearman Foundation, and we also received significant contributions from the attendees. We look forward to our 12th Rosh Hashanah Under the Stars on Sunday, September 9, 2018.

SECURITY COMMITTEE

Marc Plisko, Chair

The Security Committee was formed in August 2017. Its mission is: To promote a safe and secure environment for congregants, staff, and visitors while maintaining a sacred holy space - our mishkan - that is both warm and welcoming. Since inception in August, the Committee has 1) commissioned a security audit of the facility, 2) reviewed and prioritized the findings of the security audit, 3) and issued its recommendations to the Executive Committee and Board of Electors.

SERVICES

Nicki Barrett, Coordinator of Engagement and Programming

This year has been an exciting year for services. This was the first year of Family Shabbat, a service geared towards families, with opportunities for our youth to participate. Family Shabbat has been held on the second Friday of every month and has been followed by a free Shabbat dinner and activities for kids while parents connect. The service is different than all other services each month; we use visual t'filah, and incorporate songs we don't normally hear at services. Each month, over 100 people have come to celebrate together. PJ Shabbat has continued to be a draw to our youngest families with a short service including a story, and is followed by an Oneg Shabbat.

We also had our Sukkot and Chanukah dinners. Both holiday dinners were held following Shabbat services. At the Chanukah service, the community was invited to bring their own menorahs to light up Park Heights. We lit the menorahs together in the sanctuary before the service. Special speakers at our Saturday morning Shabbat services included a special Martin Luther King Jr. Day speaker from the Center for Urban Families. BHC also hosted a Sunday morning breakfast for the Reform Synagogues of Baltimore's Hoffberger Foundation Scholar-In-Residence weekend and welcomed Rabbi David B. Ruderman, Ph.D.

SISTERHOOD

Deborah Shpritz, President

Sisterhood took a major step in strengthening the voice of women by changing its name to the Women of Baltimore Hebrew Congregation (WBHC). Sisterhood supported our congregation, its clergy, youth and activities over the past year through a variety of events.

Once again our two Shred Events were a success. Over the years, our Shred Event has become a much anticipated BHC and community activity. Outstanding programs characterized Triple Treat Thursdays, held on most Thursday mornings from October

to April. The sanctuary Sukkah was beautifully decorated with fall harvest vegetables, fruits and flowers. Other touches of the harvest festival could be found outside the Hoffberger Chapel and in the Goodwin Center. One of the highlights of the year, the annual Interfaith Institute presented the very timely topic, "The Opioid Epidemic: Community Impact and Response" a serious national crisis affecting public health, social and economic welfare featuring keynote speaker Dr. Leana Wen, Health Commissioner for Baltimore City. We also reached out to the community through subsidizing and packing bags of food at the Weekend Backpacks for Homeless Kids.

Other successful activities included: Non-Event Donor Program supporting Youth Education, Joint Temple Luncheon, Annual Holiday Boutique and Silent Auction, Shabbat Shelanu honoring Sisterhood, collecting cell phones for CHANA, and a Passover Cooking Demonstration with The Classic Catering People Chef Brian Davis, which proved to be a delicious addition to our programs.

Carole Wilder was recognized with the "Builder for Tomorrow" award at the 102nd Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland Convention at BHC, and Sisterhood's own Helene Waranch completed her two-year tenure as President of the Federation. We replaced the flatware used at all BHC events with a new pattern in a heavier stainless steel that should withstand the rigors of continuous use for many years to come. Additionally, we contributed to the purchase of a new convection oven.



SOCIAL ACTION

Nicki Barrett, Coordinator of Engagement and Programming

This year BHC has kept the tradition alive of giving back to our community by participating in social action opportunities. We have spent the year collecting food for GEDCO, as well as clothes for CHANA. During the High Holy Days and Rosh Hashanah Under the Stars, we collected hundreds of bags of food. On Christmas day, we had two volunteer opportunities, one at BHC making casseroles, gift bags, and crafts that were donated to Paul's Place, as well as a chance to serve a Christmas meal with Our Daily Bread. Throughout the year, our youth have participated in multiple family mitzvah projects during family mitzvah days. Families spent a morning together making casseroles, cookies, and crafts.

VISION PLAN

Richard D. Gross, Chair

The Vision Plan Committee has had a busy year refining the architectural plans for the campus. Working with our architects, Ziger Snead, the committee has attempted to achieve a new vision for the building, an exciting new entrance and welcoming

lobby, and most importantly, a plan for the re-invigoration of the Sanctuary. The committee has tackled these plans in a way that adheres to the core values and principles outlined in our sacred spaces workshops, our online surveys, and our focus groups. We believe that the new vision plan meets BHC's needs for the future and addresses our requirement for a secure, accessible structure. The plan has been presented to the Board of Electors at the April Board Meeting, and we look forward to sharing the Vision Plan with the Congregation in the near future.

YOUTH EDUCATION

Brad Cohen, Director of Education, and Lauren Offermann, Assistant Director of Education

The education program ran full steam ahead. In 2017-18 our Youth Education program grew in numbers as we continued to offer a program that is engaging, exciting, and intentional in all our offerings. Some highlights of the year: We were nationally recognized for our Hebrew program. We are part of a community of congregations striving to make 21st century Judaism relevant. This program "#OnWardHebrew" has garnered national attention towards changing the methodology of learning Hebrew in Congregational settings. We also participated in an international competition hosted by the Jewish Museum of MD which enables students to create art projects that focus on telling their family story.

Family Education continues to be a strong component of Youth Education as we are grateful to use The Leah and Morton Kemper Family Education Enrichment Program to help fund different family initiatives. Geshet, the 1st-2nd grade family program established connections between our Rabbis and young families. It provided a space for adult learning, community building and family projects. Family Shabbat Education, our alternative model was taught this year by Mikey Hess-Webber our Rabbinic intern. It gave families an opportunity to explore the weekly Torah portion and Jewish values. We continued our other programs as 7th graders and their families traveled to the National Holocaust Museum as well as 6th grade families gathered for a B'nai Mitzvah Retreat.

Our 1st-7th grade youth group program nearly doubled in participation since last year with an average attendance of 60 people. Last year, the program shifted so that all youth group activities for 1st-7th grades happened on the same date and time with age appropriate activities. Each month, BHC youth group attendees enjoyed a pizza lunch together, and then separated into their grade-based activities. This year our youth enjoyed a bowling night out, Olympic games, and 6th-7th grades also enjoyed an overnight at BHC focusing on a Shark Tank program.

NextGen: The Millie and Alvin Blum 8th-12th Grade Teen Program, launched this year at BHC, and has seen great success. NextGen was designed so teens could choose from innovative programs such as: Making a Mosaic Hamsa, Bioethics and Judaism, Cultural Fluency, Hike the MD Appalachian trail and more. It met teens where they were, and has provided them with many exciting opportunities. This new program has been very successful as it reaches teens with a wide-range of interests and breaks the once a week mold, allowing teens to sign up for one-time sessions, trips, 3-course classes, social action opportunities, and social experiences. In addition, NextGen teens helped take the lead with NFTY-MAR (the North American Federation of Temple Youth) to envision, create, and execute a weekend-long program at BHC for over 200 teens from the Mid-Atlantic Region on Mental Health and Wellness.

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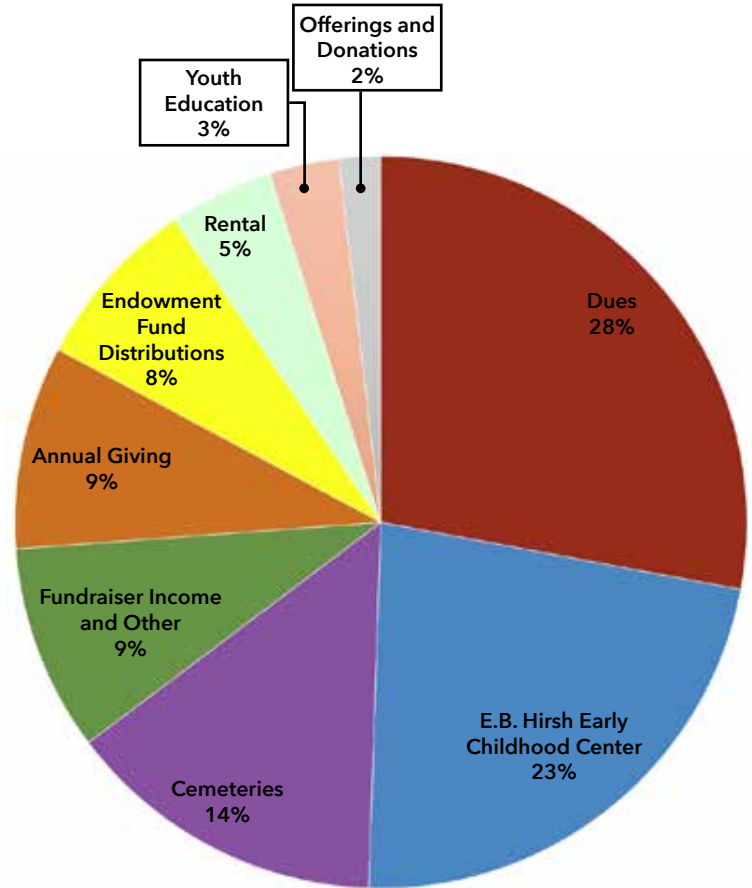
Cover (Top Left, clockwise): BHC and Youth Education host over 200 Jewishly engaged teens at NFTY TheVent "Spark Your Soul;" Our Clergy and staff take a moment to experience the eclipse; E.B. Hirsh Early Childhood Center celebrates Sukkot and Simchat Torah; BHC congregants volunteer during Mitzvah Day. **Page 1:** Rabbi Sachs-Kohen speaks with congregants during our BHC Cares Clergy Visitation program. **Page 2:** Congregants pose with speaker after another successful Brotherhood Breakfast. **Page 3:** E.B. Hirsh Early Childhood Center students enjoy Truck Day. **Page 4:** The Second City are excited to entertain the audience with an evening filled with laughter. **Page 5:** Kol Rinnah performs with Simon Sargon in Washington, D.C. **Page 6:** Our Sisterhood Interfaith Institute speakers, co-chairs, and clergy are ready for an educational day.

2017-18 EXPECTED YEAR END RESULTS

2017-18 INCOME EXPECTED

Income	Expected \$	Expected %
Dues	1,363,000	27.94%
E.B.Hirsh Early Childhood Center.....	1,102,417	22.60%
Cemeteries	692,443	14.19%
Fundraiser Income and Other.....	445,010	9.12%
Annual Giving.....	438,000	8.98%
Endowment Fund Distributions	372,547	7.64%
Rental.....	225,596	4.62%
Youth Education.....	150,065	3.08%
Offerings and Donations.....	89,750	1.84%
Total.....	4,878,828	100.00%

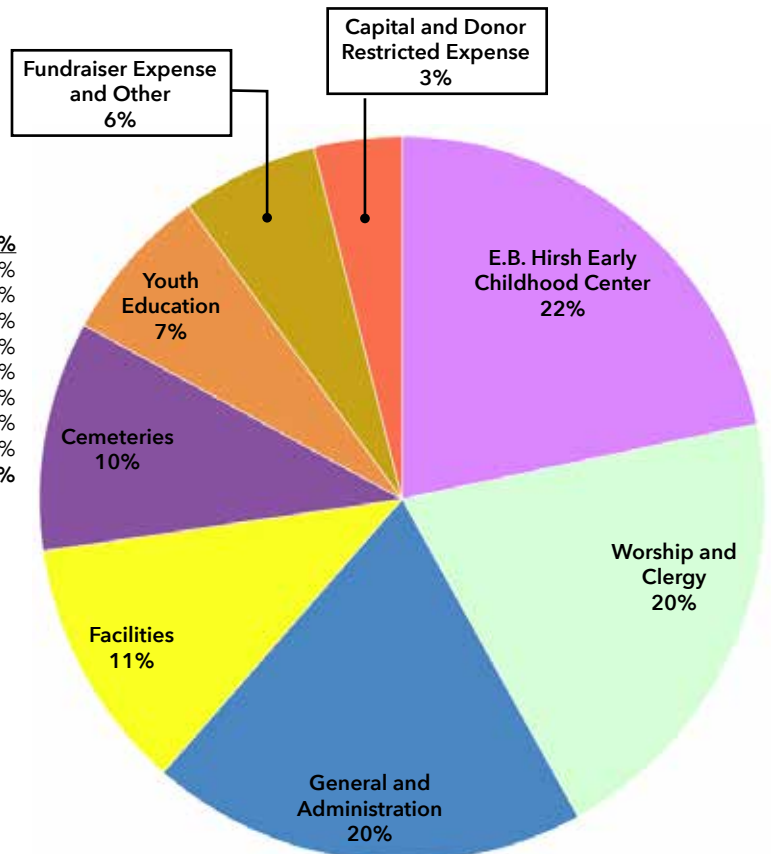
Estimates as of April 16, 2018



2017-18 EXPENSE EXPECTED

Expense	Expected \$	Expected %
E.B. Hirsh Early Childhood Center.....	1,055,650	21.7%
Worship and Clergy.....	987,839	20.3%
General and Administration	949,533	19.5%
Facilities.....	549,428	11.3%
Cemeteries	499,853	10.3%
Youth Education.....	341,207	7.0%
Fundraiser Expense and Other.....	297,259	6.1%
Capital and Donor Restricted Expense.....	191,114	3.9%
Total.....	4,871,883	100.00%

Estimates as of April 16, 2018



OFFICERS

Incoming

Richard D. Gross, **President**
John Elias, **1st Vice President**
Linda R. Nathan, **Vice President**
Amy Sponseller, **Vice President**
Benjy Dubin, **Treasurer**
David Castine, **Assistant Treasurer**
Brett Cohen, **Secretary**
Steven Sharfstein, **Immediate Past President**

Outgoing

Steven Sharfstein, **President**
Richard D. Gross, **1st Vice President**
Bobbi Perlman, **Vice President**
Marc Plisko, **Vice President**
Linda R. Nathan, **Treasurer**
Benjy Dubin, **Assistant Treasurer**
Amy Sponseller, **Secretary**
Martha Weiman, **Immediate Past President**

BOARD OF ELECTORS

Incoming

Jean Fedder
Leslie Glickman
Andrew Hahn
Marc Plisko
Amy Seldowitz
David I. Tossman

Continuing

Jeannie Abramson
Marc Cohen
Sharon Edlow
Ross Goldstein
Brian Katzenberg
Jennifer Lew

Howard Libit
Jordan Loran
Drew Pate
Carol Sandler
Janice Strauss
Robert L. Waldman
Carl S. Silverman, Esq., **Counsel**

Outgoing

Brett Cohen
M.L. Doff
Deborah Lieberman
Roman Meytin
Howard Mirvis
Caren Pozanek
Brian Rubin
Lindley Weinberg

AUXILIARY PRESIDENTS

Incoming

Suzanne Strutt, **Sisterhood**

Continuing

Sidney Bravmann, **Brotherhood**

Outgoing

Deborah Shpritz, **Sisterhood**

CLERGY

Rabbi Andrew Busch
Rabbi Elissa Sachs-Kohen
Cantor Sharon Kohn, Interim
Cantor Ann G. Sacks
Rabbi Rex D. Perlmeter, Emeritus
Rabbi Gustav Buchdahl, Emanuel Emeritus
Cantor Robbie Solomon, Emeritus
Rabbinic Intern Mikey Hess-Webber

STAFF

Nicki Barrett, **Coordinator of Engagement and Programming**
David Bielenberg, **Administrative Assistant and B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator**
Ed Chittum, **Facility Operations Coordinator**
George Clark, **Housekeeping**
Brad Cohen, **Director of Education**
Tyler Colbert, **Administrative Assistant E.B. Hirsh Early Childhood Center**
Jill Eisen, **Director, E.B. Hirsh Early Childhood Center**
Jimmy Galdieri, **Music Director**
Francie Gill, **Facility/Event Coordinator**
Ebony Jackson, **Bookkeeper**
Sunil Jaikaran, **Housekeeping**
Mikhail Kogan, **Housekeeping**
Lauren Offermann, **Assistant Director of Education**
Jen Platt, **Assistant Director, E.B. Hirsh Early Childhood Center**
Iris Powell, **Assistant to Senior Rabbi**
Tracy Ringel, **Director of Communications and Design**
Annette G. Saxon, **Director of Development**
Dottie Smith, **Housekeeping**
Gina Swinnen, **Receptionist**
Jane Theodore, **Evening and Weekend Receptionist**
Brian Weaver, **Housekeeping**
David K. Weis, **Controller**
Jo Ann Windman, **Executive Director**
Lauren Yetter, **Assistant to the Executive Director**
Celina Young, **Housekeeping**

ANNUAL MEETING

Welcome & President's Remarks Steven Sharfstein

Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes

Treasurer's Report Benjy Dubin

Nominating Committee Report Martha Weiman

Elections

Release of Board of Electors Members..... Rabbi Andrew Busch

SHABBAT SERVICE

Installation of Officers and Board of Electors Members..... Rabbi Andrew Busch

President's Remarks..... Richard D. Gross

The Carol J. Caplan Service and Commitment Award..... Rabbi Andrew Busch and Carol J. Caplan
Recipients, Shane Morris and Phyllis G. Lederman, Amy Sponseller and the Get Swabbed Team

SHABBAT SERVICE

Comments Ray Reed, President , Beth David Reform Congregation Gladwyne PA

Rabbi Andrew Busch
Rabbi Elissa Sachs-Kohen
Cantor Sharon Kohn, Interim
Cantor Ann G. Sacks
Rabbinic Intern Mikey Hess-Webber
Rabbi Rex D. Perlmeter, Emeritus
Rabbi Gustav Buchdahl, Emanuel Emeritus
Cantor Robbie Solomon, Emeritus



BALTIMORE HEBREW CONGREGATION

Progressive. Dynamic. Diverse.

© Friday, May 4, 2018 | 19 Iyar 5778