BALTIMORE HEBREW CONGREGATION

ANNUAL REPORT 18-19

189 YEARS
It has been a very full year for our Congregation, both for extreme joy and for sadness. We welcomed Cantor Ben Ellerin and his wife, Lily, to our family. We are so delighted to have them both in our midst. Our liturgical music has been so inspiring, and our entire worship experience has been so positive. The rave reviews we received from our community for all of the High Holy Day Services was exceptional. Cantor Ellerin’s installation night was filled with joyous music and amazing performances. Those lucky enough to attend were moved by the beauty of the evening, and we thank our entire clergy team for making it happen.

As a community of committed Jews, we reached out to the entire Baltimore community when we heard of the tragic shooting at Pittsburgh’s Tree of Life Synagogue. Our rabbis and cantors, in less than twenty-four hours, created a memorial service attended by over 900 people in our sanctuary. We were joined by clergy from varying faiths and by fellow Jews from across the religious and non-religious spectrum. It was a remarkable service followed by the next weekend’s Shabbat Memorial Service for remembrance of the victims. Both of these services highlight the values and mission of BHC in giving our community a place to “repair the world” and to “repair our own souls.” As a lay leader, I am so proud of the work our clergy team and our members did in leading us through those difficult times.

We have had a very successful year in our Youth Education programs. Our Youth Education under Brad Cohen’s excellent stewardship, has continued to grow, and it has created quite the buzz both throughout Baltimore and across the Reform movement. We continue to be a leader and a model in post-Bnai Mitzvah education with our successful NextGen: The Millie and Alvin Blum 8th-12th Grade Teen Program.

I want to thank all of our clergy, staff and teachers for their hard work in making BHC so strong. I also thank the lay leaders and volunteers who spend so many countless hours in guiding this historic congregation. Thanks to all of our congregants for their support and for allowing me to serve you.

Richard D. Gross, President

It is impossible to sum up a year’s worth of activity in a few pages, especially for a community as vibrant and busy as BHC. The Annual Report is instead a way of taking stock, of recognizing how we are engaged in creating a kehila kedosha – a holy community.

We create a kehila kedosha through established programs that continue to serve the needs of our members and the larger community, like Brotherhood Breakfasts, Yom Kippur Music and Meditation, or the fantastic Purim Shpiel and Carnival, this year including a Star Wars theme and life-sized Hungry Hungry Hippo game. We do it through new initiatives like PJ Approved Events and one-time programs like Circles of Voices (engaging the places of intersection and friction between Baltimore’s Black and Jewish communities).

Throughout the past year, BHC has responded to the events of the world, bringing our members comfort, opportunities to live our Jewish values, and at times creating space to experience our grief. We gathered the community after the horrific murders at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh and gave voice to our dismay after the shootings at mosques in Christ Church, New Zealand. We reached out to aid immigrants in our city and affirmed our commitment to Torah through learning.

And of course, in the past year, BHC has been a source of healing and comfort for families and individuals. When our members experienced a death in the family, mental or physical illness, loss of a job or myriad other life challenges, BHC clergy and fellow congregants brought meals, a listening ear, and the wisdom of our ancient tradition. We celebrated life’s joys as well, from births to B’nai Mitzvah and weddings. In these ways and so many more, BHC was and is a kehila kedosha - a holy community. And may we go from strength to strength.

Rabbi Elissa Sachs-Kohen
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
It has been a full year for Adult Education at BHC. The Sunday morning PEP class continued to go strong. This year Rabbi Busch, Rabbi Amy Scheinerman, Dr. Susanna Garfein, and Dr. Neil Rubin taught classes. Our Summer and Winter Nights on Park Heights current event discussions were well attended as they moved into their fifth (summer) and fourth (winter) year of existence. Our weekly Torah Talk continued to be a consistent and intentional group for study and discussion. This spring we launched an Adult Education Task Force that is helping BHC revitalize and rejuvenate all of its adult education offerings. We are proud of the year we had and look forward to new, engaging Adult Education programs in the coming year.

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, 2018 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
BHC Cares seeks 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:

BHC member Robert Cohen, Ph.D., helped members move through their grief in the company of others who have also experienced loss. Sharon Edlow headed up “Meal Makers,” coordinating members providing meals to other members who have experienced illness, a loss, or the birth of a child. Volunteers cook, deliver and provide the meals. Lynette Berman coordinated “Phone Connection,” which allows members to call other members who are unable to participate in worship and events as they may have done in the past. “Sharing Shabbat” volunteers led services at various assisted living facilities. Our clergy, Executive Director, Director of Development and BHC Cares volunteers take turns making visits to various assisted living facilities where many of our members live. A new project we began this year was Pastoral Visit Training for congregation members. Recommended BHC members attended training for volunteers interested in learning how to make effective visits to those who are suffering. From time to time our clergy will be asked to visit members of the congregation who are facing health challenges. This service will augment Clergy Visits, not replace them.

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 friendly conversation. In March our Stay Shabbat was a discussion on volunteering, and how it helps the recipient as well as the volunteers. Our speakers were Nicki Stratford, BHC’s Coordinator of Engagement & Programming and volunteer Karen Singer, Jewish Vocational Services.

Maria Lambros Kannen continues to coordinate Azure family concerts with 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 and Leisha Bell, Co-Chairs
BHC Justice carried on the long tradition of (Reform) Jewish work to encourage full participation in the American democracy. In the past year, with the support of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC) nationally and Baltimore Votes locally, BHC Justice convened and spearheaded a coalition of synagogues, churches, a mosque, and grassroots organizations such as Jews United for Justice and Communities United in a multi-faceted voter engagement and voter turnout initiative.

We led and hosted the second year of a community-wide MLK-weekend movie screening and talkback that saw more than 250 people in the Straus Social Hall.

We also reinforced and deepened an important relationship with Immigrant Outreach Service Center (IOSC) through our Refugee Shabbat, a winter coat drive, and ongoing conversations about ways we can connect with, learn from, and support immigrants and refugees.

BLOOD DRIVE
Phyllis Zimmerman and Betty Fink, Co-Chairs
Our annual Blood Drive, held through the American Red Cross, was on June 11, 2018. We had 34 registered donors, and collected 29 units of blood, falling just short of our goal. The Blood Drive was run with the generous help of ten BHC volunteers who checked
participated as ushers during Shabbat services and holidays. Volunteers served food at Manna House during the holidays and the team provided meals for synagogue functions. Brotherhood members continued supporting our congregation through volunteer efforts. The Traffic Squad provided safe driving at BHC.

BROtherHOOD
Sid Bravmann, President
Brotherhood had another successful year with great attendance, interesting speakers, and meaningful volunteer opportunities. Our Opening Dinner featured a wonderful program of Yiddish music and learning with Hazzan Sara Geller of B’nai Shalom, accompanied in “Yiddish Songs We Love” by the pianist James Harp. Our well-attended breakfast series hosted five speakers on a variety of engaging topics, including David London, a storyteller and magician who creates and presents original interactive magical experiences; an enlightening talk by Maryland’s 46th State Attorney General, Brian Frosh; a return visit by Jeff Goldstein Ph.D., science educator, on “Human Exploration—Celebrating the Past, Embracing the Present, and Inspiring the Future;” and finally, Congressman Elijah E. Cummings, our representative in Congress for Maryland’s Seventh Congressional District. As part of the series, Brotherhood was also happy to help host the Sunday portion of BHC’s participation in the Baltimore Jewish Literary Fair, featuring Dr. Marc Dollinger, Chair of Jewish Studies and Social Responsibility at San Francisco State University, discussing his recent book, “Black Power, Jewish Politics: Reinventing the Alliance in the 1960s.” We enjoyed our annual Seder, which was open to all. Services were led by our wonderful Cantor Ellerin and the Brotherhood, who also collaborated on a special new Haggadah that we distributed to attendees. Again this summer, Brotherhood will sponsor a day out at the ball game at Camden Yards, and we will finish our year with our Closing Dinner, featuring a wonderful young soprano, Sarah Baumgarten, who will be performing Jewish songs, and songs by Jewish composers, accompanied on the piano by Joseph Krupa.

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

BUDGET COMMITTEE
David Castine, 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 will be presented for approval by the Board of Electors at the May meeting. For the 2017-18 budget, see page 11.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE
Richard A. Fishkin, Chair
The Cemetery Committee supervises the operation and maintenance of the congregation’s cemeteries at Berrymans Lane and Belair Road. In fiscal year 2018-19, as of March, 2019, services were provided for the sale of 113 cemetery plots. For that same period, burial rites for 114 people at Berrymans Lane and 12 people at Belair Road occurred.

Members of 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. 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.

We have designated a Green Burial section at Berrymans Lane with lots already sold and to date, one burial. As a reminder, “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 is marked using natural un-sculpted stone that allows engraving of the names and dates. The Belair Road Cemetery rules already allow for Green Burials.

CHAI LIFE
Shira Moskowitz, Chair
Chai Life is the 20s and 30s community of BHC. Over the last year we have organized social and religious programming for millennial Jews. Each month Chai Life hosted at least two events. Some of the favorites this year were Shabbat dinners, both at BHC and at a group member’s house. Our “fiesta potluck” was a hit, with everyone bringing their favorite part of a taco bar. Chai Life also took advantage of a few seasonal favorites. We went fruit picking in the late summer to gear up for Rosh Hashanah, as well as ice skating in winter. We joined BHC for large community events like the annual Chanukah Service and Dinner and Rosh Hashanah Under the Stars. We look forward to welcoming more millennial Jews to our community and showing them everything Baltimore and BHC has to offer.
Committee works with the Executive Director.

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 adjustments 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.

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 strived to post at least once a week. Typical posts included “Shabbat Shalom” wishes, upcoming events, and photos from past events, which gave congregants an opportunity to find out what was going on at BHC, even if they could not always make it into the building. Our biggest addition was posting videos of sermons from the previous week’s Shabbat and Holiday Services. We created a YouTube channel to upload videos and then shared them across our social media platforms so that congregants could access them in a way that was easiest for them. This was our first full year using Streamspot, which allowed us to stream services in a more reliable way. Congregants were able to view services live from home, or watch them later. Streamspot also enabled us to store a hard copy of each service and upload the videos to our YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter pages. We updated our Twitter account and Tweeted about the happenings at BHC a few times a month. We continued to send our weekly “Briefly BHC” to update congregants on our weekly events and Shabbat Services.

We increased our marketing to reach young families in a more playful and vibrant way with the creation of our “PJ Approved” seal. In the beginning of the programmatic year we mailed a friendly toy penguin to all of our families with children aged five and under, along with a magnet and letter, letting families know about all our “PJ Approved” programs. We continued to promote this throughout the year with posters in the building and placing the “PJ Approved” seal on family-friendly event flyers, emails, and Bulletin articles. We participated in the annual JCC Community Block Party, which attracts hundreds of people each year.

Additionally, we continued to put out an eye-catching and informative monthly Temple Bulletin, which has now been printed in full-color for a year. We continued to connect with our congregants and the greater Baltimore community through our online and print presence. Finally, we continued to advertise in media such as JMORE: Baltimore Jewish Living Magazine and The Jewish Times, local newspapers, websites and eblasts. We explored new advertising opportunities in theater playbills including Toby’s Dinner Theater, The Hippodrome, Center Stage and Everyman Theater. A large push in our out-of-building advertising this year was the addition of Cantor Ellerin to our BHC family, our membership dues, and Youth Education.

ENGAGEMENT AND PROGRAMMING
Nicki Stratford, Coordinator of Engagement and Programming
This year has been another exciting year for engagement and programming. We 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 and congregants. The summer months saw Tour de Torah and Beach Shabbat, where congregants spending the summer at the beach joined together for a Shabbat Service led by Cantor Ellerin.

Later in the year we welcomed Marc Dollinger as scholar-in-residence as part of the first annual Festival of Jewish literature. We hosted our traditional holiday meals, and celebrated together
as a community. Family Shabbat continues to be valued by our families with school-age children, as well as by our congregants who don’t have young children. Our Wise Aging series continued to be a success, and another group was led by BHC congregants Phyllis Kolman and Jon Shorr.

FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT
Annette Saxon, Director of Development
Thanks to you, 2018-19 was a strong year for fundraising and development at BHC. Annual Giving 2018 kicked off with 100% participation of our Board of Electors. Led by Chairs Carol Sandler and Janice Strauss, the L’Dor V’Dor Society, and 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, both congregants and non-congregants started new BHC Funds to provide scholarships and programs.

The 8th annual Night of the Stars fundraiser was a great success, featuring Bebe Neuwirth who entertained a full-house crowd. Chaired by David Berenhaus and Linda Litofsky, the event honored BHC congregants and community leaders Harriet and Jeffrey Legum and benefited BHC’s Youth Community including the E.B. Hirsh Early Childhood Center and Youth Education. We surpassed our goal in dollars raised with the highest net amount in the history of the event. This year, with Linda Litofsky and Brett Cohen as Chairs, we expect another great success as we look forward to the 9th annual Night of the Stars featuring Susie Essman, Live and Unscripted, honoring long-time congregants and community leaders Peggy K. and Fred Wolf III.

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

HOFFBERGER GALLERY
Marcia Bornfriend and Lauren Loran, Co-Chairs
It is becoming a tradition for the Gallery to host exhibits by our talented congregants during the summer months. Stan Weiman graced our walls with his paintings that left us wondering what other “hidden” talents might he have.

Cynthia J. Brower got our season off to a fabulous start with her breathtaking, large abstract landscape canvases, and Ricki Baker delighted us with her Broadway Musical inspired works. Other exhibits included a juried group show from the Baltimore Watercolor Society; amazing fiber art by Susan Levi-Goerlich; and stunning photographs by Paula Reynolds in May/June during our annual Night of the Stars fundraising event.

We are looking forward to some new signage to identify The Hoffberger Gallery as you enter heading toward the sanctuary. As always we invite 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
The House Committee oversees the campus at Park Heights Avenue, 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. The Committee has been working directly with the Vision Plan Committee.

Major activity in 2018-19 included:
- Repairs to heating/plumbing
- Continue re-lamping inefficient lighting with more energy efficient LED lighting
- Replacement of the Straus Social Hall curtains
- Replacement of the Dalsheimer Auditorium stage floor
- Replacement of Dalsheimer Auditorium side panel curtains
- Found source and repaired persistent leak in Rabbi Busch’s Study
- With contributions from Brotherhood and the Women of BHC, two ovens were replaced in the Straus Social Hall kitchen

INSURANCE COMMITTEE
Charles Klein, Chair
For the first time we purchased Cyber Coverage and added it to our other coverage. We also had our 10-year “Physical On Site Appraisal” for all of BHC property to keep our coverage up to date.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE
Marc P. Blum, Chair
The Investment Committee oversaw the investment of BHC’s Restricted Fund assets. 99.6% of BHC’s $17,754,000 invested assets are in the JCIF, which is The Associated’s investment vehicle for its own and many local Jewish institutions’ funds. The small remainder is invested with Commonfund. The Investment Committee Chair follows the performance results and consults with the Treasurers and reports annually to the Board of Electors.
A summary of investment performance for the calendar year ending December 31, 2018 is as follows:

- JCIF: Trailing one year (-7.2%)
- Annualized trailing three years 4.9%
- Annualized trailing five years 2.8%

These values are between 0 to 2.6% less than standard benchmarks for endowments.

Commonfund Partners 2000:

- December 31, 2018 values are not available yet.
- IRR since inception is 9.3%

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE
Edward Perl and Michael Saxon, Co-Chairs
The Landscape Committee, as needed, works with staff to monitor and maintain our 17-acre campus. This past year we renewed our agreement with Ruppert Landscape for another three years. They have been responsive to our requests and are meeting our needs. BGE has upgraded the gas lines that service our building. Members of the Landscape Committee, along with our House Committee Chair, have consulted with BGE to outsource the installation of a screening around the equipment that is located near the Adalman Lobby circle.

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 their clergy and new synagogue. On Saturday evening, October 13, we welcomed twenty new members. Upon entering the cozy, fall-decorated Library, people had a chance to mingle and meet other new members while their children were encouraged to dabble in some Shabbat art. Next, 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 shared 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. What a perfect way to spend an evening of camaraderie as we all shared in the warmth of Havdalah.

MUSIC PROGRAMS
Cantor Ben Ellein
2018-19 has been a tremendous year for our music program here at BHC. The 12th annual Rosh Hashanah Under the Stars may have encountered bad weather, but the music and enthusiasm have never been more inspiring. This year, Jimmy Galdieri and our clergy were joined by a new music group, our Rosh Hashanah Under the Stars Multigenerational Choir, infused with singers of all ages. The same choir reunited in December to help us celebrate Shabbat Chanukah with beautiful music and communal singing. W are gearing up to build on last year’s success and working to make this Rosh Hashanah Under the Stars even more beautiful and inspiring in 2019. Kol Rinnah has flourished this year, as we are happy and excited to welcome many new members. We have worked hard on not only building our roster but also on building a beautiful core sound that inspires our monthly Shabbat, Yom Kippur, and Selichot services, as well as this year’s Classical Reform Shabbat. In addition, I was humbled and honored to share my installation service with our community and to build a musical worship experience with the amazing help of our talented community and special musical guests. I look forward to this coming year as we continue to build on the momentum and energy of this first year.

PJ PROGRAMS
Nicki Stratford, Coordinator of Engagement and Programming
There are things that pull our families with young children in many different directions. It is hard to decipher what is the best suited program for our children, or, the many things BHC offers, what will be specifically engaging for these children. This year, we have expanded upon our popular PJ Shabbat and turned it into a “PJ the Penguin Program.” PJ Shabbat remains on the first Friday of the month. We have included PJ Havdalah, which is held on the third Saturday of every month. The afternoon includes a short service, activities, and a snack. We have also made it easier for families to decide which events to bring your young ones to. While families are welcome at all BHC events, we have created a “PJ seal” to include on marketing. This seal is seen on all our marketing for events that are engaging for our youngest. We look forward to creating more ways for families to easily identify the programs that will interest their children.
Committee, and pursue additional grant opportunities.

We have had many rentals this year, including the Shriver Hall Concert Series, Baltimore Jewish Council, the Women’s Giving Network and The Associated. BHC’s soccer and baseball fields were used by Beth Tfiloh Congregation’s sports teams. The Auburn School used our Dalsheimer Auditorium for their school play.

**ROSH HASHANAH UNDER THE STARS**

Amy Baum & Cathy Piven, Co-Chairs

For the first time in the history of Rosh Hashanah Under the Stars, the service was moved inside because of weather. The service was held in the Straus Social Hall, which was filled. The rain may have changed our plans but spirits were still high. We had a wonderful “Rosh Hashanah Under the Roof.” The social hall was filled with Rosh Hashanah Under the Stars regulars as well as some of those that regularly attend services at BHC. There was an inspiring sermon, wonderful music by the Rosh Hashanah Under the Stars choir, and a warm, welcoming atmosphere. We look forward to another year under the stars at Oregon Ridge State park on Sunday, September 29, 2019.

**SECURITY COMMITTEE**

Marc Plisko, Chair

During the past year, the Security Committee has continued to evaluate the needs of the congregation and the facility and make recommendations to the Executive Committee. We have added several new members during the past year, each with his/her unique skill set and resources. Through the guidance of Jo Ann Windman, we have applied for and received funds through two security grants. The first, through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), will enable us to make facility improvements related to access control, lighting, sensors/alarms, and exterior doors. The second, through a grant received from the Maryland Center for School Safety, will allow us to devote resources for additional security personnel, improved lighting, and upgrades to our video surveillance and electronic monitoring systems. During the next fiscal year, the Security Committee will continue to evaluate the needs of BHC, provide recommendations to the Executive Committee, and pursue additional grant opportunities.

**RENTALS**

Francie Gill, Facility/Event Coordinator

Baltimore Hebrew Congregation offers a variety of rooms for weddings, funerals and life-cycle celebrations. Our rooms are rented for parties, dinners, and other events by members and non-members. A rental brochure with descriptions for several of our rooms is available.

**SERVICES**

Nicki Stratford, Coordinator of Engagement and Programming

It’s been a wonderful year for Shabbat and holiday services. Our meaningful High Holy Days concluded with Sukkot and Simchat Torah educational opportunities, a wonderful service, and a community dinner. We welcomed Dr. Marc Dollinger as a Scholar-in-Residence, when he joined our clergy on the bema to discuss his book “Black Power Jewish Politics.” BHC also hosted the Baltimore URJ Shabbat where all Reform congregations in Baltimore gathered for Friday night services to welcome April Baskin, the URJ’s former Vice President of Audacious Hospitality.

This has been our second full year of Family Shabbat, and the program has continued to grow. We welcomed close to 200 of our families for shorter, more musical services, followed by a free dinner and activities for kids each month. The opportunity for families to gather has been wonderful for all. PJ Shabbat has continued to welcome our youngest congregants for a short Shabbat service each month. PJ Havdalah has been added to our monthly offerings for our families with young children.

**SOCIAL ACTION**

Rabbi Elissa Sachs-Kohen

This year BHC has kept alive the tradition 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, and the other 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. We also cooked and served a holiday meal for SPARC.

**VISION PLAN**

John I. Elias, Chair

In 2018-19, the Vision Plan Committee worked closely with our architects Ziger/Snead to refine the great work that had been produced under the direction of our former Chair, Richard D. Gross. As you know, our intent is to produce an exciting new entrance and lobby on Slade Avenue that will make for a welcoming and more accessible entry to our property. It is being designed to make our sanctuary the focal point while creating a new parking area (without sacrificing the existing parking) that will be available for all occasions. Though we are still in the design phase, the Board of Electors has been presented with this dynamic new presentation, and we look forward to the next presentation to the Congregation in the near future.

**WOMEN OF BHC**

Suzanne Strutt, President

Women of Baltimore Hebrew Congregation (WBHC) 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, it has become a much-anticipated BHC and community activity. Outstanding programs with the theme “Everyone Has a Story” characterized the Thursday Study Group, 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 Hoffsberger Chapel and in the Goodwin Center.

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**Vision Plan**

John I. Elias, Chair

In 2018-19, the Vision Plan Committee worked closely with our architects Ziger/Snead to refine the great work that had been produced under the direction of our former Chair, Richard D. Gross. As you know, our intent is to produce an exciting new entrance and lobby on Slade Avenue that will make for a welcoming and more accessible entry to our property. It is being designed to make our sanctuary the focal point while creating a new parking area (without sacrificing the existing parking) that will be available for all occasions. Though we are still in the design phase, the Board of Electors has been presented with this dynamic new presentation, and we look forward to the next presentation to the Congregation in the near future.

**Women of BHC**

Suzanne Strutt, President

Women of Baltimore Hebrew Congregation (WBHC) 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, it has become a much-anticipated BHC and community activity. Outstanding programs with the theme “Everyone Has a Story” characterized the Thursday Study Group, 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 Hoffsberger Chapel and in the Goodwin Center.
One of the highlights of the year, the 59th Annual Interfaith Institute, presented “Evangelical Christianity, American Politics, and Israel,” a serious look at the economic and political roles of the Protestant far-right in the United States and the religious far-right in Israel. The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Matthew Taylor, newly appointed Protestant Scholar at ICJS, with Rabbi Jeff Basik, founder of Congregation Kol HaLev, Responder. We also supported the community through making financial contributions, collecting pajamas, and packing bags of food at the Weekend Backpacks for Homeless Kids.

Other successful activities included: Donor Non-Event Program supporting Youth Education, the annual Holiday Boutique and Silent Auction, and collecting cell phones for CHANA. We added substantially to the new flatware used at BHC events that we donated last year. The program “Evenings With the Lights Who Guide Us,” a series of activities, launched with Cantor Ellerin’s tour through Jewish music from the classic cantorial repertoire through modern show tunes. Marcia Bornfriend received the “Women Who Empower” award at the 103rd Federation of Jewish Women’s Organizations of Maryland Convention.

This report includes gifts from April 1, 2018–March 31, 2019

ANNUAL GIVING

$10,000+
Leonor & Marc Blum
Ralph Brunn
Cathy Neuman & Richard D. Gross
Harriet & Jay Kramer
Susan & Edward L. Perl
Rosenthal-Statter Foundation
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Margaret & Steve Sharfstein

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Deborah Lieberman & David Cornblath
Sylvan Cornblatt
Suzanne & Dan Crane III
Amy Deutschendorf
Sonya Dillon
Rabbi Andrew Busch
Discretionary Fund

We launched a Torah and schmooze for parents that was highly successful this spring. We have taken this year to re-examine our family programming and are moving forward with grade-level family programs for almost all of our classes. Our teachers had four professional development days this year, and the creativity and collegiality they brought to those mornings fueled the in-depth creative learning that our students do on Sundays. The BHC Youth Education program is the top congregational school in Baltimore, and families are thrilled with the experience they are having as part of the BHC community.

Our 1st-7th grade Youth Group program has remained strong. The program successfully operates with all activities for all ages on the same date and time, with age-appropriate activities by grade. Each month, BHC Youth Group attendees enjoy a pizza lunch together and then separate into their grade-based activities. This year our youth enjoyed a reptile show, fun and games with a magician, and many creative art activities.

NextGen: The Millie and Alvin Blum 8th-12th Grade Teen Program, in its second year at BHC, continues to see great success. NextGen was designed for teens to choose from innovative programs such as Movies and Mussar, Music and Judaism, Cooking Club, and more. It meets teens where they are and has provided them with many exciting opportunities. This 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 a one-time session, trips, 3 course classes, social action opportunities, and social experiences.

YOUTH EDUCATION

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

This year Youth Education was fantastic. Our program grew to 265 students in our pre-K–7th grade Sunday program. We have an average of 60 students coming to Youth Group events, which is up from an average of 35 attending last year. Families are forming connections and are looking for ways to be engaged. We launched a Torah and schmooze for parents that was highly successful this spring. We have taken this year to re-examine our family programming and are moving forward with grade-level family programs for almost all of our classes. Our teachers had four professional development days this year, and the creativity and collegiality they brought to those mornings fueled the in-depth creative learning that our students do on Sundays. The BHC Youth Education program is the top congregational school in Baltimore, and families are thrilled with the experience they are having as part of the BHC community.

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Lauren Schnaper & Sharon & Dale Buchbinder
Stacey Mink & Geoff Brown
Barbara Korenblit & Susan Wolman
Diane & Jay Weiss
Donna & Mark Wasserman
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Charles Silverman
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$500–$999
Barbara Korenblit & David Beller
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Lauren Schnaper & James Carlton

$181–499
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Rothschild Charitable Fund
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Martha & Stanley Weiman
Diane & Jay Weiss
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Jeff & Scott Eisen
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Laura & Andrew Hahn
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Karen & John Singer
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Lenore Meytin & Mark Sugarman
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Up to $180
Susan & Philip Abraham
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Sandra & Marc Appel
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Marcia Snyder
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Susan & William Spivey

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Marcia Snyder
Shirley Snyder
Ellen Sizemore
Jane & Brian Sims
Ellen Sizemore
Shirley Snyder
Nancy Sonnenfeld
Susan & William Spivey

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Bobbie Dunn
Marlyn O’Mansky

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Women of BHC

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Katherine & Frederic Gordon
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Kemper Family Foundation

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Estelle Moses Trust

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Gohn Preschool Endowment Fund
Kimberly & Todd Jacobs

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Victoria & Ethan Hertz

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Jerry Katz
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Tess & Drew Pate
Lilja Solnes & Rawn Salenger
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Meira & James Shapiro
*Heber Watts, Jr.

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The Millie and Alvin Blum 8th-12th Grade Teen Program at BHC Fund
James Blum
Leonor & Marc Blum
Caire Stampfer

Oneg Sponsors
David Gedansky
Jerry Katz
Sharon & Woody Libit
Marty & Rabbi Rosalin Mandelberg
Tess & Drew Pate
Cindy & Marty Roberge
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E.B. Hirsh Early Childhood Center Playground Renovation
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In Honor of Peggy K. Wolf’s Bat Mitzvah
Mahela & John Wolf
Peggy K. & Fred Wolf III

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Valerie Binder
Lois Feldstein
*Elaine Finkelstein
Gwen DuBois & Terry Fitzgerald
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Susan Katzenberg
Susan Krouss
* Judy Lippman
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Springwell
Ruth Taubman
Madeline & Justin Thaler
Amy Wexler
Carol & Melvin Winer
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Barbara Yolken

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Hannah Buchdahl

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Debbie & Louis Shpritz
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Deb Gordon & Joel Simon
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Shirley Snyder
Ruth & Chuck Spivak
Helen & Buzzy Stofberg
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Carole Wilder
Peggy K. & Fred Wolf, III
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Sherrie & Dan Zlotowitz
Susan Zuckerman

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Amy Deutschendorf
Valerie & Norman Dubin
Jackie & Jerry Fleishman
Pam & Robert Friedman
Vivian Garfin
Lorraine Goldberg
Susanna Garfein & Ross Goldstein
Carol & Barry Goldstein
Cathy Neuman & Richard D. Gross
Allison Nobelmann

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Bunny Bernstein
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Katherine & Richard Tschiegg
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Susan & Hamilton Whitman, Jr.
Thommie & Ted Williams
Peggy K. & Fred Wolf, III
Ziger/Snead Architects
Zoetic Workshop
Zolet Lenet Group
Dr. Robert Berry, Village Vet
Dr. Robert Berry, Village Vet
Women of BHC

*z”l, deceased
2018-19 EXPECTED YEAR END RESULTS

2018-19 INCOME EXPECTED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expected $</th>
<th>Expected %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dues</td>
<td>1,368,000</td>
<td>27.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E.B. Hirsh Early Childhood Center</td>
<td>1,061,354</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cemeteries</td>
<td>692,139</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Fund Distributions</td>
<td>536,744</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraiser Income and Other</td>
<td>438,872</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Giving</td>
<td>360,000</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental</td>
<td>211,046</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Education</td>
<td>171,857</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offerings and Donations</td>
<td>84,725</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4,924,737</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Estimates as of March 27, 2019

2018-19 EXPENSE EXPECTED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E.B. Hirsh Early Childhood Center</td>
<td>1,100,535</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship and Clergy</td>
<td>1,009,481</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and Administration</td>
<td>928,601</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities</td>
<td>597,452</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cemeteries</td>
<td>448,811</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Education</td>
<td>361,233</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraiser Expense and Other</td>
<td>284,367</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital and Donor Restricted Expense</td>
<td>195,005</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4,925,484</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Estimates as of March 27, 2019
### ANNUAL MEETING

Welcome & President’s Remarks .......................................................................................................................... Richard D. Gross

Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes .............................................................................................................. Benjy Dubin

Nominating Committee Report ......................................................................................................................... Steven Sharfstein

Elections

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

### SHABBAT SERVICE

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

President’s Remarks ............................................................................................................................................... Richard D. Gross

The Carol J. Caplan Service and Commitment Award......................................................................................... Rabbi Andrew Busch, Rabbi Elissa Sachs-Kohen, and Carol J. Caplan

Recipients, Tracie Guy-Decker and Jordan Loran

Honoring Rabbi Busch ........................................................................................................................................... Edward Perl and Peggy K. Wolf

### PHOTO CAPTIONS

Cover (Top Left, clockwise): Congregants share in our special Beach Shabbat over the summer; Young adults take part in our Access Shabbat Dinner after Friday night service; NextGen teens hike the Appalachian Trail; BHC congregants volunteer during Mitzvah Day.

Page 1: BHC Cares visit congregants in independent and assisted living facilities over the holidays. Page 2: Brotherhood members and their families volunteer at Manna House. Page 3: E.B. Hirsh Early Childhood Center students enjoy dressing up and learning.


Page 6: Rabbi Sachs-Kohen and Cantor Ellerin are excited to picnic on our Rosh Hashanah Under the Stars blankets.

Page 7 (left): Women of BHC, speakers, clergy, and educators are ready for and educational day, learning during the Interfaith Institute.

Page 7 (right): BHC youth are ready for teamwork, learning, and fun.