

TBE 2022 – 2023 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL REPORTS
TEMPLE BETH EL
April 23, 2023

President's Report

With COVID-19 mainly on the sideline, Temple Beth El is ready to complete the first normal year since 2019. I want to thank all of our members for hanging in there with us during the challenging times. I also want to thank Reb Tuviah and Nancy for keeping us spiritually connected throughout the year and for making a difference with everything you do but want to highlight our Kabbalat Shabbat services which have truly been amazing with Albert and Maxx providing such beautiful music, not only for our existing members but for all the visitors and guests which has attributed to our survival and growth.

I want to thank all of the Executive Board members for keeping us focused on the right path during the year. Joel Auerbach, Executive VP, Robyn Spirtas, Vice President, Howard Hammerman, Treasurer, Ken Handelman. Secretary, and last but certainly not least, Sandy Clark, Immediate Past President. All of you have worked very hard and given a lot of your time to help. I also thank all of the other board members for their service to Temple Beth El. I thank Ken Handelman and all the volunteers that gave their time and support to the mitzvah projects that carried on throughout the year along with all the volunteers that helped prepare and clean up after our oneg and kiddush celebrations and social activities.

We have accomplished many things over the last year at Temple Beth El. First and foremost, I would like to say that the state of our Temple is in good health. I have had frequent discussions with our Executive VP and Treasurer, regarding our Temple finances, improving our systems and processes to give us more accurate information while maintaining a fiduciary responsibility to our organization.

Rather than go on in a narrative format, I thought it might be easier to use a bulletized representation of our accomplishments during the last fiscal year:

- Held in-person High Holiday Services for the first time in 3 years.
- Purchased all new HHD prayer books MISHKAN HANESFESH which are transliterated from Hebrew to English.
- Successfully negotiated an affordable membership fee of \$1000 with the URJ for the foreseeable future.
- Held a successful outside/inside Chanukah Program with many vendors.
- Changed our Philosophy on Membership encouraging prospective members to join us at services and our social activities, without pressing them to become members.
- Demonstrated Improvement with our hybrid model-Membership/Pay “as You Go” Services.
- Have offered ongoing Adult Education classes.
- Adopted new policies on Bar/Bat mitzvah Learning Requirements including a new Fee schedule.
- Introduced a new curriculum for our religious school students called Shalom Learning.
- Introduced Shabbat School of Learning on Saturday morning for pre-Bar/Bat Mitzvah students in place of our Sunday school program.
- Have created an active social program that provided additional revenue to Temple Beth El.
- New Temple Branding was rolled out and will be used in all TBE advertising and communication.

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- Refreshed our monthly Newsletter providing excellent communication to our members as well as our contact database of over 500 unaffiliated Jews.
- Revitalized the Men's Club and Sisterhood.
- Started a Work in Progress to modernize our Tree of Life Program.
- Security Committee-growing to meet the needs of our shul.
- Dedicating certain activities to help fundraise for local charity organizations.
- Continue to be an active force with the Meals on Wheels Mitzvah project.
- Participated in Lakewood Ranch Farmers Market to provide TBE visibility to the community.
- Grew TBE membership by 30% over the last fiscal year.

Our vision for the fiscal year 2023-2024 is to continue increasing Temple Beth El's visibility to our target market and grow our membership by using new creative tools, activities, and programs that retain our current members and attract the unaffiliated Reform Jewish population.

In closing, I want to thank the entire congregation for allowing me to serve as your president for the past 4 years. It has truly been both an honor and a very humbling experience for me. Also, I am so proud of all the amazing people in this Temple that have come together to worship, to make our sabbaths feel very special, and to all the men and women that volunteer and demonstrate teamwork when you were called upon to help out our shul, and for all the outstanding progress this special temple called Temple Beth El has achieved. I fully support the new executive officers and I know that the new leadership team is ready for the challenges we face on an ongoing basis. I will remain on the executive board and will assist Joel and the rest of the new team to ensure there is a smooth transition.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Eiseman
President

The Ritual Committee

1. The Ritual Committee is comprised of the following members: Neil and Sandy Clark, Cantor Emeritus Alan Cohn, Marlana Johnsky, Susie Konicov, Kate Richmond (Chair), Albert Rosenstein, and Maxx Smith.

2. The mission of the committee is to support the Rabbi in order to make sure uplifting and spiritually meaningful Shabbat, Festival, and special services are available to the Jewish community at TBE and the community at large. We do this by:
 - Taking responsibility for setup of the sanctuary for Shabbat and Festivals. In this we have been assisted by several volunteers, including Ishmael Baal-Shem, Marcie

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Cohen, Ken Handelman, Ira Kramer, David Meier and Kai Sacco, and we are grateful for their help. The Rabbi and Rebbetzin also “pitch in,” and we thank them for going beyond the call of duty in this respect. Thanks also to the Men's Club for assistance with setup for High Holy Days and Sukkot.

- Maintaining supplies (such as candles) and furnishings (Ark, book rack/prayer books, yahrzeit board with the correct plaques). We thank the Rabbi and Rebbetzin for the floor coverings, and express our appreciation to Joel Auerbach for the embroidery and “custom fitting” of the music-stand drapes.

 - Providing lay leadership at services. Albert Rosenstein (bass guitar) and Maxx Smith (flute) are also on the bimah with the Rabbi and his guitar on Friday nights; and the Ritual Committee is responsible for conducting Friday and Saturday services and deliver d'verei Torah in the absence of clergy. Rise Bausch also assists with leading services, for which we thank her.

 - Coordinating with other arms of the Temple, such as Men's Club and Sisterhood for their respective Shabbatot.

 - Organizing for High Holy Days, including but not limited to organizing honors for all the services, doing the mailing of High Holy Days information, coordinating paper registration with computer registration, providing input and proofreading the Yahrzeit Book.
 - Being available to TBE and visiting clergy for any requested ritual assistance on Shabbat, Festivals, or other occasions.
3. Except for the organizational meeting for High Holy Days, the committee meets on an ad-hoc basis. Our committee has never had to take a vote – we have done all business so far by coming to consensus, and expect that this will continue to work for us.
4. Highlights since last year:
- Attendance at services has increased noticeably. It is not unusual to have between 30 and 50 people on Friday night, and 15-20 on Saturday mornings.

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- The children of the Religious School regularly take part in the Torah service on Saturdays.
- TBE had our second annual Tu B'Shevat seder in January and will be having our first Lag Ba-Omer celebration in early May. We are available to help in any way needed.

- The Temple was able to purchase new High Holy Days prayer books for the 2022 High Holy Days; thanks go to Howard Hammerman and Joel Auerbach for their efforts in this endeavor and to all who purchased/sponsored books. We have 378 copies of the old HHD prayer books to donate to anyone who needs them.

- Last year, our previous Cantor, Deborah Bard, was contracted to assist the Rabbi with High Holy Days services. Maxx Smith, a professional flutist, played for the High Holy Days and has been playing for Friday night services ever since. This year, the Board has contracted with Chazzan Miriam Blau for the High Holy Days. Dr. Blau is a dear friend of Maxx, and they have worked together on many Shabbatot and High Holy Days in Seattle.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Richmond
Ritual Chairperson

Publicity Board Report

TBE continues to seek a publicity chairperson to oversee publicity. Throughout the year, articles have been submitted to the Jewish News, the East County Observer and The North River News (which does not exist any longer). Has submitted events to many online publications and calendars including “Nextdoor” and Patch.com. Facebook continues to be our most effective way to communicate and posts have been made to both the temple’s page as well as the “Jewish Community of Manatee” page. Events were created in Facebook as well. Throughout the year publicity for the temple itself, holidays and events were posted on many group pages. Recently, the temple Instagram page has been utilized as well.

Paid advertisements in several newspapers including the Jewish News were done, and a post card campaign was also tried. We continue to do all that we can to promote TBE. A big thank you to ChrisAnn Allen and Christina McIntyre for their time. If you are interested in writing articles, posting on social media, submitting to patch, etc. please contact Robyn Spirtas at 941-962-0884 or by email at roblyntbe@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted,
Robyn Spirtas

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Treasurers Report

Our fiscal year starts June 1 and ends May 31 each year. Through the end of March this year our revenue was almost 165,000, our expenses were about 144,000 yielding a net revenue of 11,000 or 6.7 percent. I predict that we will end the fiscal year with revenue of 188,000, expenses of 178,000 and a net revenue of \$10,000. 2. Even more encouraging is the fact that for the second year in a row we showed net revenue for all but two of the ten months so far this year. 3. As of April 9, we had just \$145,000 in cash assets mostly invested in conservative Vanguard funds and a one-year CD yielding 5.15%. I am looking for one or two persons to join me in the investment committee. 4. We are an official 801c3 non-profit LLC. If you are over 72 years old and taking a minimum required distribution from your IRA you can arrange to pay your dues directly from your IRA thus avoiding including that amount in your taxable income. It is a way around the difficulty in taking charitable gifts as itemized expenses on your income taxes not that the standard deductions are so high. 5. Those members who like to pay their dues once a year are reminded that our fiscal year starts June 1. Please mail or drop off your checks or pay by credit card on the web site. Dues for families remain at \$1500 per year, for single persons it is \$1020, associate members pay \$900 and for students it is \$25. Thanks to the other board members, all volunteers, Reb Tuviah and everyone else that have contributed to a successful year

Respectfully submitted,
Howard Hammerman

Men's Club Report

The Men's Club started this year with a new president. Because of his inexperience a club member he needed and was able to rely on the other members to set the tone for the club. Members were invited to suggest agenda items prior to every meeting. This helped create an open and inclusive environment.

The club was able to take advantage of the general increase in Temple membership. Several of those new members became regular attendees at Men's Club meetings. Although they have not yet become paid dues members, several have indicated their intent to do so.

In terms of supporting the mission of the Club, I believe we have been able to fulfil all 3 objectives; to serve and support temple activities, and to participate in fun activities to promote comradery.

Members of the Men's Club have provided essential support for both regular and special events such as setting up and breaking down after Shabbat Services, a memorial service, the Chanukah party, bingo, and the farmer's market. We also have a Men's Club Shabbat planned for May 5.

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Ken Handelman continues to champion Tikun Olam with the regular produce packing. He also created a new relationship with the Manatee Literacy Project.

The Club also has 2 fun activities planned. The first is an evening of baseball at LECOM park to watch the Bradenton Marauders on June 10. The second is an event we will be co-sponsoring with the Sisterhood. This will be an outing to the Myakka Elephant Farm. The date has yet to be determined.

In closing, I believe this has been a productive year for the Men's Club, and I look forward to building on those successes in the year to come.

Respectfully submitted,
Mitch Rubinstein

Annual Sisterhood Committee Report

The mission of the TBE Sisterhood is three-fold: (1) to provide opportunities to perform Mitzvot for our congregants and for the larger community; (2) to raise money for the Temple, and (3) to organize fun events for the ladies of TBE that promote bonding and sisterhood and joint event with the TBE Men's Club.

This year, Sisterhood had a wine tasting at Bunker Hill Winery, a natural FL winery (joint with Men's Club). In Dec, we had a Ladies Chanukah pot luck and exchanged Chanukah presents. In Jan, we went to the Neil Diamond concert at the Sarasota Classic Car Museum (joint with Men's Club), and in March, we went to the Marietta Museum of Art and Whimsy. Our Annual Spring Fling luncheon is in May, and lastly, joint with Men's Club we are planning a trip to the Elephant Sanctuary in Mayaka City. We also do Mitzvot for the Temple such as assisting with special TBE events such as Reb Tuviah's one year anniversary party this past January, and Sisterhood volunteers made delicious Charoset for the recent TBE Seder and assembled the Seder plates for each of the 16 tables. This year, with Sisterhood funds, we also donated Temple decorations for the front of the Sanctuary, and we sponsored the wine for the Seder. We are also starting a Mah Jongg club. We do a lot!

TBE Sisterhood is an official 809(a)(2) public charity. Our fiscal year runs 1 June 2023 through 31 May 2023. Sisterhood dues for the upcoming fiscal year are \$25.00 per year and are due by 1 June 2023. Note that if you paid your dues earlier in 2023, you are covered through 31 May 2024. Dues can be paid by check leaving the check in the Sisterhood folder in the TBE office. Check with your tax advisor, but Sisterhood dues should be tax deductible. Our current checking account balance is \$2581.45 (31 March 2023).

This year, the Sisterhood Board has been comprised of the following members: Meg Weinberg (President), Bonnie Krasik (Vice President), Helen Hammerman (Immediate Past President), Ginger Manas (Treasurer), and Bayla Kolton (Secretary). For the upcoming year, the Board members will be Meg Weinberg (President), Marla Pearlstein (Vice President), Helen

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Hammerman (Immediate Past President); Beverly Jacobs (Treasurer), Cheryl Kramer (Secretary), and Ginger Manas (Board Member at large).

A huge Thank You to all the ladies of TBE for their support over this past year. Every email requesting help or participation was always answered enthusiastically and without hesitation. The TBE ladies are fantastic! Thanks to the current Board members for their diligent work over the past year. And lastly, welcome to the incoming Board members and look forward to working with you all next year.

Respectfully submitted,
Meg Weinberg, President TBE Sisterhood

VP Report

This past fiscal year has been filled with many new ideas and projects. One of the most prominent was the Spiritual identity of our temple to help people discover or rediscover their Jewish path. Our Ritual Committee did a phenomenal job doing this, all covered in Kate Richmond's Ritual Committee report. Many new and updated items were brought to life from a more visual perspective. Our website's new look is a constant "work in progress" as it keeps up with the ever-changing happenings of TBE. Weekly Parshah's are displayed along with a link to gather a more in-depth commentary on multi-age levels. Upcoming informational flyers are posted, many with direct links to customized forms to RSVP. Currently, we have 38 online forms that accommodate anything from signing up for an activity to performing secure financial transactions. Donations, dues, and many other financial interactions may be accomplished via our website and forms.

We also have a new logo as part of our new rebranding effort. It is modern and has been designed with open interpretation in mind. We are very proud of it and invite you to develop your own interpretation.

As the President's report mentioned, we participate in the Lakewood Ranch Farmers Market, where our new Temple Beth El tent houses lots of information and occasionally some challah to share with the market's attendees. We have always received positive feedback and have a few new members due to our presence. We will continue to promote TBE in this and many other ways.

Respectfully submitted.
Joel Auerbach

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Security preparedness physical/health preparedness committee

As chair of our TBE Security Preparedness Committee, I respectfully submit the following summary of our last year's activities and projected next FY's goals.

This past year has provided a maturing in Security Policy and Procedures.

We established increased technological means of protecting entrance to, and the identification of attendees to our Religious Services, and to both our educational and social activities.

We have identified and secured paid Security Contracts for specific religious events.

Our committee has recently replied to an RFP for Security Preparedness funding from the Federal Government. These funds, if awarded to us, would help provide paid security guards to assist preventative security and surveillance for TBE religious, educational and social activities for up to three years.

We have continued to be a vital member of Sarasota's Jewish Federation's key Security Team.

We have recently provided our first Security Preparedness training workshop, and the health side of our Security Committee is planning to provide a second training program which will be advertised soon.

Our goal is to utilize best practices in a continuing battle to restrict and deny injury or harm to our congregants, family, and friends from those that would do harm to us.

Respectfully Submitted.
Dr. Gary L. Weinberg, Chair

Mitzvah/Community Affairs

Thank you for selecting me to be your Mitzvah/Community Affairs representative. As a member who became Bat Mitzvah at the temple in 1991, it is great to be back as an adult and supporting our community. I look forward to helping our congregation, as well as other people in the area, thrive. I plan to foster initiatives that will represent tzedakah and goodwill for people in Manatee County through our efforts. I will continue with the mitzvah programs already in place, as well as add additional ones. Please feel free to call or email me with any suggestions for engagement within my position.

Respectfully Submitted.
ChrisAnn Allen