

## **President's Report**

- The Board has decided to suspend our mandatory mask policy. Individuals are free to wear a mask when attending events if that is their choice, but it will no longer be required in the building.
- We reduced our annual URJ dues for this year by about \$5,000.
- We had a security visit from the Director of Community Security for the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh. They provided us with an emergency backpack kit.
- Thanks to our departing members of the Board: Emily Fogel Conway (VP Social Action) and Eleanor Schiff (Treasurer) and Becca Thorsen (VP Education). Also thanks to our departing Building Trustees: Herb Lipowsky, Carey Eckhardt, Nancy Chiswick and Renee Marks

## **Treasurer's Report** (from Jens Thorsen and Eleanor Schiff)

This memo provides an update on the financial position of Congregation Brit Shalom since our fall congregational meeting in November of 2022.

### Update

The spring is an easier time for the synagogue financially as many members pay their dues in part or in full during the 1st quarter of the year. This artificially inflates our cash on hand that we have to draw down until the end of the year, which is a lean time for us as an institution. In order to cover operating expenses at the end of the year we transfer money over from the gift checking fund and then 'reimburse' those accounts at the beginning of the year.

### Financial Status

- The bulk of our assets (our endowment) is managed at Mariner Wealth Advisors. As of 3/31/23 (the end of Q1) we have \$1,071,392 being managed, which is a 1% increase since 12/31/23.
- Centre Foundation – as of 4/30/23 – we have \$1,171,405 under management consisting of the Building Fund, the Building Our Future Fundraiser, and 3 endowment accounts held in trust for us.
- Our total assets (Centre Foundation, Mariner, Checking accounts, misc) total \$2.3 million.
- We will continue to address the deferred maintenance and security upgrades of the building in the upcoming year under the leadership of Scott Daggs.
- Our budget this year is generally tracking our projected income and expenses. As with all households in the US right now, we are facing increasing utility costs such as gas and electric. Additionally, our maintenance costs for snow removal, mowing, etc. is also higher

than expected. We have institutional responsibility to care for the Bellefonte cemetery and, unlike the Clearfield cemetery, it does not have an endowment account to cover those expenses.

- As of April 30, 2023, we have 158 billed membership units with 69% of dues collected for the year thus far.

If you would like to see a detailed report or have questions about the non-confidential aspects of Congregation Brit Shalom's finances, please feel free to contact me by email or phone: [eleanorschiff@gmail.com](mailto:eleanorschiff@gmail.com) (814) 441-1238

## **Religious Affairs**

Since the Fall meeting we celebrated Chanukah together, thanks to Michelle Katz for leading the Megillah reading for Purim, thanks to Lynn Petnick for coordinating the seder and Shavuot will be celebrated 5/25 with blintzes and reading. Michelle Katz is coordinating a Pride Shabbat celebration on June 9th. We welcome your input as we begin preparations for the High Holidays.

## **Membership**

As of the beginning of May, we have 168 member units. Since our last Spring Congregational Meeting in May 2022, we have gained 7 member units and lost 9.

The membership committee has been busy planning and executing our Spring Meet and Greet which was held on Sunday evening, May 7<sup>th</sup> at Holmes Foster Park. We had over 50 guests in attendance. This included new, prospective, and long-standing members. In December, the membership committee also planned a rugelach baking class taught by Esther Siegfried. It was well attended, and everyone enjoyed it. Finally, we also organized an outdoor event for Sukkot. This was attended by 80 people. We will be planning next year's events this summer.

## **Programming**

A range of programs have taken place in the past several months through collaboration among education, programming, and membership. These programs have included the Sunday movie series organized by Jim and Deena Ultman, a Purim celebration, and a new member meet and greet. On April 2, the congregation gathered for a musical program at which a few community members shared their talents through singing and performances on various instruments. Approximately 50 people attended this event, and there have been requests to organize a program of this nature on a recurrent basis. We are currently considering some options for intergenerational summer programs.

## **Social Action Committee Report**

Contact: Emily Fogel Conway ([emilyfogelconway@gmail.com](mailto:emilyfogelconway@gmail.com))

Committee Members: Naomi Altman, Rabbi Rob Gleisser, Rich Kalin, Ezra Nanes, Ann Pangborn, Jennifer Norton, Josh Wretzel, Lindsay Walsh

- Centre County Interfaith Council for Gun Safety
  - Newly formed, broad coalition of interfaith groups to host events on gun safety
  - “Movie, Discussion, and Action Night: Addressing Gun Safety in Our Communities”
    - Viewing of *Armor of Light* documentary, followed by discussion and postcard writing
    - Childcare provided
    - Where: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Centre County
    - When: Sunday, May 21, 6:30 p.m.
  - Book club in the fall on *The Persuaders* by Anand Giridharadas
  - **Contact:** Josh Wretzel ([jwretzel@gmail.com](mailto:jwretzel@gmail.com))
  
- Pride Month
  - Pride Shabbat
    - Special Pride Shabbat and oneg
    - When: Saturday, June 9, 7:00 p.m.
    - **Contact:** Michelle Katz ([michelle\\_katz@mac.com](mailto:michelle_katz@mac.com))
  - Pride Month
    - Participating as a sponsoring organization of Centre LGBTQ’s Pride Month festivities
    - Congregational presence in the Pride Parade on Saturday, June 10
  
- State College Interfaith Group (SCIG) – Congregation Brit Shalom, University Baptist and Brethren, University Mennonite Church
  - Interfaith collaborative focusing on Afghan refugee resettlement
  - Jalali family settled in State College through SCIG over a year ago
  - Storai Jalali’s mother, Sharifa, moved to State College in January through CWS Harrisburg
    - Continued resettlement supported through SCIG
    - Current needs: transportation and English language/discussion partners
  - Kraus Immigration Justice Mini-Grant
  - **Contacts:** Naomi Altman ([nsa1@psu.edu](mailto:nsa1@psu.edu)) and Jennifer Norton ([jsn4@psu.edu](mailto:jsn4@psu.edu))
  
- Additional thanks...
  - Hadassah
  - Interfaith Human Services
  - Jewish Federation
  - Rabbi Ostrich
  - Religious education program

- Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) and the Religious Action Center (RAC)
  - **Contacts:** Emily Fogel Conway ([emilyfogelconway@gmail.com](mailto:emilyfogelconway@gmail.com)), Josh Wretzel ([jwretzel@gmail.com](mailto:jwretzel@gmail.com)), and Lindsay Walsh ([linds345@gmail.com](mailto:linds345@gmail.com))