

Meeting Called to Order: 11:00 am

Present: Howard Silver, Mike Greenberg, Esther Greenberg, Fredrick Machado, Irene Pursel, Ivan Schaefer, Carol Schaefer, Ariel Sarafian, Fabian Glazer, Hugh Suhr, Debbie Launer, Julie Ostravitch, Dian Olmstead, Neftali Santos

Board Members Absent: Oscar Rudnick, Jeff Anderson

Dvar Torah: Howard spoke about what lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us

Opening Remarks: Carol welcomed everyone to the annual general meeting and spoke about our new welcoming future at CBJ

Approval of the Minutes from June 2014

On a motion by Dian and 2nded by Debbie, it was moved that the minutes of June 2014 be accepted as proposed. **Approved**

Regarding the addition of **new business**, Ivan asked that “Kashrut of synagogue” be added.

Religious Practices Report

Howard reported that we began New Year 5775 with Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services lead by Ben Zion Kogen of Los Angeles. We built and had meals in our Sukkah. Ben Zion continued to lead services twice every month. Rabbi Diaz continued adult education and conversion class. The Rabbi taught twice a month in Bakersfield and on the other weeks she conducted the class on line. During her weekends in Bakersfield she led Shabbat evening services accompanied by a musical trio. In March we had a fabulous Purim party. Kudos to prepared the food and showed up in costume. Our community Seder was led by Ben Zion and we had over 65 attendees. Many thanks to Irene Pursel and Dian Olmstead and others for the tremendous job of preparing the food and handling all the arrangements. The Jewish Community celebrated Yom Hashoah in April at Temple Beth El with the speaker being a holocaust survivor. Unfortunately because of a lack of attendance, we did not have many Saturday morning services but focused on Friday evening and had a minion the majority of the time. Thank you to Eva Goldman for teaching a beginners Hebrew class in March.

All of us need to make an assessment of ourselves and reaffirm our commitment to Judaism and Congregation B'nai Jacob.

Respectfully,

Howard Silver

Rabbi Search Committee Report

The rabbi search committee has received five applications for a part time pulpit leadership at CBJ for the year 2015-16.

We have expanded our search for suitable candidates to include contacting the Academy for Jewish Religion California and retired rabbis in the LA area along with dealing with Rabbi Cheryl Peretz of the Ziegler School for Rabbinical Studies in LA.

A discussion ensued about the High Holidays pulpit leadership. Howard elaborated that Ben Zion Kogen had been hired for only three days (2 days Rosh Hashanah and 1 day Yom Kippur) The part time rabbi that we hire will begin after the High Holidays.

Respectfully submitted

Ivan Schaefer, Member of Rabbi Search Committee

Cemetery Report

Two service were performed at our cemetery this year. Both services were for non-members. Your Chevra Kadisha was involved in both instances. Rabbi Schlanger officiated at both graveside services.

Many thanks to the members of the Chevra Kadisha for their response and assistance over the years. It is a privilege to work with all the members who treat this honor with such respect.

Howard mentioned that more men were needed to participate in Chevra Kadisha. Fabian and Neftali volunteered. It was also agreed that the cemetery map be updated.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Silver

Membership Report

Kenneth and Wendy Kirsner **have moved and relocated** to Pennsylvania.

We have two new memberships. Steve & Adrienne Klein and Sam & Naty Wright.

Seema Cook and Carol Durst have moved out of Bakersfield; they continue to maintain their membership. During the discussion, it was agreed that a membership committee be formed.

Please continue to encourage your friends and associates to become part of our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Silver

Fundraising Reports

Pastrami King Fundraiser September 2014

Carol reported that it was a banner year for the Pastrami King Booth for 2014. Despite the increase in food and beer costs from the suppliers, plus the pre-fair expenses involving new signage and a new food item machine, we were still able to show a **net profit**. Our new product, the potato tornado, was a big hit.

We were vigilant of our costs and set up procedures to keep our system in check. There is no doubt that the efforts of all our volunteers made for another successful year for the synagogue. We celebrated our success with a BBQ for all volunteers in October.

Plans are now being discussed for the September 23rd 2015 opening of the booth. Some changes that will be implemented based on the new policies by Kern County Fair are:

1. Cost of beer will increase back to \$7. This will apply to all beers.
2. We will not sell Limeritas this year since they require a cash register tape tally
3. Fair entrance prices remain at \$10 for an adult ticket.
4. The 1st day of the Fair is Yom Kippur. Arrangements will be made to use auxiliary volunteers
5. We look forward to your commitment during the 12 days of the Fair.

Respectfully,

Carol Schaefer, Chairperson

Hot Rod Weekend Fundraiser

Carol reported that we participated in the annual 3rd day Hot Rod Weekend fundraiser opening the Pastrami King Booth for the April 24-26th 2015 event. We always have a limited menu and a limited time frame, but always have a dream team of volunteers. Unfortunately, for the 2nd year in a row, the Hot Rod Show, profits were very disappointing. Yet, what made the event so awesome, as the camaraderie, the positive atmosphere and laughter as we all came together as a family to enjoy seeing the old and classic cars. Thank you again to all the participants for your support in this project.

The Board will decide at a future meeting if we should continue supporting this fundraising event.

Respectfully,

Carol Schaefer, Chairperson

Ad Book

Our High Holiday ad book was an excellent fundraiser. 95% of the ads were obtained by three people. If all members participated we could double the amount of ads.

In a discussion Howard mentioned that we will be using a new printing company, *Icon Printing Solutions* and that the rates will be the same. A yasher koach was given to Howard for his excellent work

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Silver

Joint Activities with Beth El

This year, Carol reported that we have had several joint social and religious programs with Temple Beth El. Semiannually, the boards of both synagogues meet to devise new joint activities and programs to encourage participation of members and appeal to those outside of our synagogue communities. Our next meeting is July 21st at CBJ at 6:30 pm.

In January, we experienced the outstanding success of our Rabbi Bob Alper comedian evening which brought in a profit which was split between the CBJ and TBE. This money will be used to cover future joint events.

We also had a successful 3 part series on Jewish movements lead by Rabbi Rosenstein. We hope to continue this focus in the coming year. We also had a joint Yom Hashoah program held at TBE.

The next major joint event will be the Jewish Food Festival on October 25th from 12-5 held in the outside area of CBJ. There will be a klezmer band, folk dancing, a kiddie area and a food sale. All CBJ is encouraged to volunteer to join one of the sub committees. There will be a planning meeting this Tues. at TBE at 6:30 pm

We continue to inform each other of our respective programs encouraging everyone to attend.

Respectfully submitted

Carol Schaefer

Sisterhood Report

Shalom, this year has gone by so very fast. We weren't very active this year as far as planning events but we did put on an amazing Break the Fast meal with the community's assistance.

We had a successful Seder again this year; we received two monetary donations for the Seder and did something different. We hired food servers/cleanup crew that enabled everyone to just sit and enjoy the holiday. It turned out wonderful; we will definitely plan on this again. In the ensuing discussion, it was suggest that we have different pricing for non-members for our Passover Seder.

We will be scheduling a Sisterhood meeting in August to make plans for the coming year. We look forward to planning events to bring the community together.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Pursel, Sisterhood President

House and Building

Ariel reported that our kitchen remodel is just about completed. We will be having a ceremony to kashrut the kitchen in the near future inviting Rabbi Schlanger. A Yasher Koach to Jeff Anderson for all his time and effort to do a fantastic job. Ariel spoke about the change in the lawn care company that the synagogue is now using as a cost saving measure. Ariel asked for volunteers to help repair the holes in the ducts and change the filters of the air conditioning system.

Respectfully submitted,

Ariel Sarafian

Treasurer's Report

Ariel went over the proposed budget (Attached) for 2015-2016. On a motion by Esther and 2nded by Julie, it was moved to approve the budget. It was passed with one abstention.

Approved

On a motion by Irene and 2nded by Ariel, and on behalf of the people at the annual general meeting, it was moved that we send a big thank you note to Janet with a gift card for her assistance and help in the preparation of the budget and the information that allowed us to know the budgetary process. **Approved.**

New Business

Survey Results and Planning for our Future

Carol shared the survey results and discussed the major issues that the synagogue is facing. She gave an overview of the roadmap asking for participation and help from all. Everyone needs to give their input. Esther suggested that we must think about all the issues and make some strategic choices

Debbie mentioned that Judaism is in a state of flux and that synagogues have less and less members all over the United States.

Ivan asked what are we doing to keep Judaism alive today and what legacy do we want to have for the future? We are open to new ideas and just need people to bring them forth. We welcome people to come forth with positive suggestions to keep CBJ vibrant.

Board Members for 2015-2016

I. The resignations of Rolinda Hodson and Jeff Anderson were accepted. Ivan Schaefer and Julie Ostravitch nominated themselves to serve on the Board for 2015-2016. All other Board members agreed to stay on the Board.

II. On a motion by Debbie and 2nded by Irene, it was moved to approve the names on the board for 2015-2016. Approved

The following members will serve on the Board for 2015-2016:

Oscar Rudnick
Carol Schaefer
Howard Silver
Irene Pursel
Ariel Sarafian
Ivan Schaefer
Mike Greenberg
Julie Ostravitch

On a motion by Ariel, and 2nded by Ivan, it was moved that Board members must attend synagogue services a minimum of 15 times throughout the year which could include High Holidays. **4 against, 1 abstention. Motion approved**

Kashrut

Carol shared the rules of kashrut that had been discussed at the May 31st meeting of the Board. These guidelines will be shared with the membership. Ivan suggested that we create a packet of information for our members.

Dead Sea Scrolls

Ivan mentioned the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit in La at the California Science Center until September 7th. This would be a great joint activity to plan for a Sunday.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm. Debbie thanked this year's Board for all that they have done and are planning to do this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Schaefer, Secretary