



February 2021

board update

From the President



February's Board meeting was packed full of operational updates, a recap of the successful Shalach Manot project, and a discussion with Charlie Dibner from the Endowment Committee. Please read more below, and note the updated format through which we plan to provide monthly updates to the congregation.



Jonathan Gelchinsky
President
president@tbemaine.org

Executive Summary for February 23, 2021

Jon Gelchinsky opened the meeting with a discussion of voting procedures, and the Board voted to ratify an earlier vote that was conducted by email, and approved prior meeting minutes. Going forward, the Board will distribute to members an executive summary of each Board meeting rather than the meeting minutes themselves, though the latter will be available for review upon request.

Kate Shalvoy updated the Board on the task force being developed to work on the playground project being led by Levey. Matt Tzucker will be the Board representative and co-chair of the task force, with the goal of representing TBE's interests in the project.

The Shalach Manot project was another big success this year, with 27% of the congregation participating, and roughly the same income as last year (~\$13,000 before costs). The distribution process has been smoother than ever thanks to volunteers and management! TBE will make a \$300 donation to [Maine Needs](#).

Kate is working on the lobbies with Heidi Kendrick (who designed and installed the Edible Garden), to make them feel more warm, homey, and functional, such as including plants and creating new conversation areas. Some items have been purchased with money from the Strategic Project fund, and others have been repurposed.

Rabbi Braun proposed transitioning most services from the small chapel to a section of the large sanctuary. This would entail adapting the sanctuary to create a warmer and more intimate space that is comfortable for a smaller group of people. The proposal includes removing the first four rows of mounted seating, filling in the carpet, and getting moveable chairs that can be rearranged however is needed. Davening would still be one level. Kate estimated the cost for the project to be \$10,000-\$12,000, and suggested that we try to complete the project by the time the building reopens post-Covid. There was general consensus by the Board to move forward with the project.

Josh Rosen provided an update on Social Kashrut. A group of about 10 people (staff and congregants, new and old members, wide age range) met earlier this month to discuss three main ideas: defining Social Kashrut, what it means for TBE, and what resources we need to implement. The group determined the need for a community standards document outlining how members should relate to one another and guests, and will begin working on this.

Kate and others discussed numerous other projects, initiatives, and developments, including: Keshet (action plan is now in motion, with conversations about LGBTQ inclusion in various rituals), membership (5 new members since Jan. 1), Edible Garden (project on track), branding and website (in progress), signage (preliminary sketch complete in the same style as pergola and Edible Garden, getting quotes), A Company of Girls (returning as a temporary tenant through March), NSGP Grants (implementing plans for approved funds, and new applications), and ideas for Passover.

In Josh Filler's absence, Jon provided a brief financial update based on Sherri's data, noting that she is predicting a \$37,733 surplus.

Charlie Dibner joined the meeting from 7-8pm to provide his annual update to the Board about the TBE Endowment and other funds that he manages under the auspices of the Endowment Committee. Having heard interest in discussing ethical approaches to investing, Charlie offered to bring someone in to talk with those interested in the topic.



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