BROOKLYN HEIGHTS
SYNAGOGUE

Annual Report

Thursday, May 14, 2020

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Brooklyn Heights Synagogue

Annual Meeting

May 14, 2020

Opening Blessing:

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם	*Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech haolam*
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו	*asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav*
וְצִוָּנוּ לַעֲסוֹק בְּצָרְכֵי צִבּוּר:	*v'tzivanu la'asok b'tzorchai tzibur.*

Praised are You, Adonai our God,
Ruler of the universe, who sanctifies us through *mitzvot*
and has commanded us to engage in the needs of the community.

Agenda:

i. Reports:
   - President
   - Treasurer
   - Clergy
   - Executive Director
   - Early Childhood Education Director
   - Interim Assistant Director of the Religious School
   - Member Engagement Director

ii. Voting on the FY21 Budget

iii. Voting on renewal of Rabbi Lippe's contract

iv. Voting on Nominating Committee's proposed slate of Board Officers and Trustees

v. Voting on two amendments to our Bylaws

vi. New business

President's Report

As my second and final year as President draws to a close, I am proud of the phenomenal partnership between lay leadership and clergy/staff that has enabled the tremendous growth and advancement that BHS has experienced. We have worked together to manage that growth, such that BHS – as an institution and community – is bigger, stronger, and as cohesive and warm and welcoming as ever. Here are some highlights of our journey over the past two years:

FROM	TO
476 congregants	515 congregants
$3.6M budget	$4.2M budget (just prior to COVID-19)
600-800 attending High Holiday services	Nearly 1000 attending High Holiday services
Quiet beginnings of our Capital Campaign	$7.2M in pledges for our Capital Campaign
Concept drawings for our new building	Final plans approved by Landmarks & DOB
Part-time cantor	Full-time Cantor
No formal Membership & Engagement team	Membership & Engagement team & sub-groups
No formalized social justice committee	Vibrant Social Justice Committee
Chesed chair(s)	20-person Chesed Committee
Security as needed	Security Task Force plan implemented
Ad hoc social media activity	Social Media plan based on policy/guidelines
Strong community embracing – literally and figuratively — one another	Strong community finding increased connection and meaning through virtual programming and engagement

My amazing sacred partnership with Rabbi Lippe and Executive Director Sue Gold is the foundation of 'working together'; as important is the partnership in which our broader lay leadership – as embodied in the Executive Committee, the Trustees-at-large, the committee chairs/members – has worked with Rabbi Lippe, Rabbi Kane, Cantor Ayelet, Sue Gold and Pam Karlin and their staffs, all with enormous dedication and the deepest levels of commitment. Specifically, I wish to also acknowledge Director of Member Engagement Amy Leszman, Office and Operations Manager Rebekah Kendall, Executive Assistant to the Clergy and Development Liann Herder, and our facilities staff as led by Erik DiFrisco.

As COVID-19 has presented us with unprecedented challenges in a strange and sometimes scary new world, it should be no surprise that I wish to elaborate first on the last item: our community's strength in this era of physical distancing.

CONNECTING VIRTUALLY

The last year comprised 75% of what I call our 'normal' operations (June through February), then 25% of operating under the strain of COVID-19 (starting in March). We adapted swiftly, nimbly and creatively to ensure that our community could continue to be as meaningfully and richly connected as possible in this new world of virtual communications. Physically, distant; yet, socially and emotionally close. So, what does that mean?

- Our ritual services have seamlessly migrated to livestream on the BHS website and Watch Parties (hosted by Jonathan Kopp – thank you!) in our new Facebook Group, with Rabbi Lippe at the pulpit and Miriam Daly at the piano, enabling us to continue to worship 'together' in familiar and meaningful ways although we are apart. Our BHS Facebook Group has grown from 29 members on March 25th to 225 members on May 4th, and our livestream viewing has increased over 400% since the end of February. A huge note of appreciation to Rabbi Lippe and Miriam Daly.
- Our clergy-led adult ed has expanded to include new Zoom offerings, e.g., Cantor Ayelet's Jewish Music Session, intergenerational Kabbalat Shabbat, Rabbi Lippe's text reading/discussion group, and Student

Rabbi Healy Slakman's Israeli movies discussion. Many thanks to Rabbi Lippe, Cantor Porzecanski, and Student Rabbi Healy Slakman.

- Our Religious School, under the leadership of our Interim Assistant Director Katie Rein, and supported by our Education Program Administrator Céline Alderman, not only migrated our RS learning online, but also created relevant and thoughtful curricula — complete with a committed and organized teaching staff and lesson plans, direct outreach to parents, and, perhaps most importantly, engaged religious school students.
- Our Early Childhood Education offerings transformed to enable our little and littlest ones to remain connected and learning with classmates, and even one-on-one with their teachers. One parent said to me *"the BHS preschool has been a lifesaver!"* Thank you to our Early Childhood Education Director Pam Karlin, supported by Jen Kendall, Lisa Kopel, Melis Bromberg, and our extraordinary teachers.

As one family said, *"We do BHS religious school and preschool via Zoom and it structures our week!"*

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

"New Heights" Capital Campaign

Co-Chaired by Susan Chadick and Dave Smetana, we now have pledges of $7.2M from 154 donors and the determination and commitment to continue with the Campaign as soon as is appropriate. Anne Landman serves as the Campaign Secretary, as the critical bridge between the Campaign Committee and the Finance Committee. Jonathan Kopp serves as the Campaign's Communications Chair.

Project Management Committee

This committee, co-chaired by Alan Schiffres and Rachel Loeb, with committee members Marcia Bellows, Justin Elghanayan, Barbara Zimmerman, and Sue Gold continued to work closely with our owner's rep Seamus Henchy Associates, architects Sage & Coombe, key staff, the Capital Campaign Committee, Finance Committee, Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees to finalize the construction drawings and project costs so that our vision for our combined building will be delivered on budget and with the high quality we expect. We took the preparatory step of vacating 127 Remsen and moving our clergy suite to One Pierrepont Plaza. However, because construction projects like ours were required to pause during the COVID-19 shutdown, we were unable to start the project as planned this Spring. As a result, we missed the important summer-work window this year. Given this, and the ongoing uncertainty over the next few months, we decided to delay construction until Spring 2021, with project completion now scheduled for summer 2022, a year later than originally planned.

Finance Committee

This Committee, chaired by Treasurer Diego Crasny, with committee members Harry Greenwald, Anne Landman, David Salpeter, Leslie Schultz, and Sue Gold, is building our future as they continue to work diligently on our financing options for our construction project; forecasted, reforecasted and provide oversight for our budget; and, prudently manage our assets and expenses in this new world.

ONGOING MAJOR COMMITTEE EFFORTS

Membership & Engagement Team

Led by Alycia Zimmerman and Helene Fuhrman-Gold, with Lisa Kopel and Amy Leszman as staff liaisons, this team has continued to leverage its extraordinary enthusiasm and creativity to develop strategies and provide engagement opportunities to sustain BHS as a welcoming community for all current and prospective members. Until early March, those opportunities continued to include: Sipping in the Sukkah, Pizza in the Hut, Pop-Up Park Playdates, Shalom Shabbat for our young families, Eat, Pray, L'Chaim, Rabbi Kane's Cooking by the Book, our BHS Men's Group, and, of course, our annual Getting to Know You Dinners. More recently, our virtual engagement has included Trivia Night (with 60 members playing!). Two subcommittees have continued to contribute to our engagement success: the Young Family Committee (Deborah Baruh,

Amanda Miller-Burg, Melissa Dincher, Samantha Hite, Samantha Miller, Kim Rittberg, Dory Weiss, Alycia Zimmerman) focused on the needs and interests of young families, and the Welcoming Committee (Erika Abelon, Deborah Baruh, Joyce Raskin, Kim Rittberg, Vanessa Sussman, and Alycia and Helene), dedicated to ushering new families into our community with intention and attention, with more rigor and vigor.

Lifelong Learning Until March

We offered (and continue to virtually offer) a rich array of lifelong learning opportunities:

- Our *Wise Aging* course, led by Jeffrey Gold, helps participants grow in wisdom, resilience, and spirit through reflective discussions, Jewish text, poetry, and mindfulness practice.
- *Open Heart, Open Mind*, offered by Chair Karen Brody, focuses on addressing family, friendship, health, and thriving as we age.
- BHS at the Movies launched in the Fall, led by former president Melissa Benson. We enjoyed *King: A Filmed Record…Montgomery to Memphis* and *Twelve Angry Men*.
- Tai Chi, taught by member Sandy Wertheimer, had a waiting list to get in!

Social Justice Efforts

Over the last year, the BHS Social Justice Team was led by co-chairs Barbara Arky and Jane Meyers, joined by Linda Feldman, Andrea Feller, Fran Gottfried, Michelle Kaminsky and Stephanie Neville. That team organized our 'Trip to the Border' and our advocacy work with URJ RAC NY.

- BHS 'Trip to the Border:' Led by Rabbi Molly Kane, Barbara Arky and Linda Feldman, a group of 14 people (of all ages, as young as 13), flew to Brownsville, TX and crossed the Mexican border to assist the more than 2,000 asylum seekers living in an outdoor plaza in Matamoros. Thanks to the generosity of the BHS community, sufficient funds were raised to provide dinner and snacks each of the two evenings the group was responsible for meals, as well as provide much needed supplies, clothing and children's books. The BHS group prepped and served the meals, read to, and did art projects with, many of the children, assisted in the medical tent and provided legal guidance. Our gratitude to Sheryl Buchholtz, Bobye List, Roy Walter, Margie Peerce, Matt Rosenzweig, Hallie Rosenzweig, Cliff Fonstein, Lori Hiller, Emerson Hiller, David Arky and Abby Johnson for being our BHS presence in this important work. Also, in support of that effort, Phyllis Starkman and Maureen McLeod led 30 congregants in creating stuffed animals to send to the children in those asylum-seeking families.
- Advocacy with URJ RAC NY: Jane Meyers, along with Fran Gottfried and Andrea Feller, led us in our work with URJ's RAC NY, which each year, with the input of many NY State Reform congregations, selects a state legislative issue which reflects our Jewish values and where we think we can make a difference. This year's bill was the Protect Our Courts Act, which would prohibit ICE agents from detaining immigrants or their relatives in and around NYS courthouses. This year's Social Justice Shabbat featured a speaker from the Immigrant Defense Project who addressed this important issue. Unfortunately, our advocacy on this issue was cut short due to the outbreak of COVID-19.
- BHS Homeless Shelter: We have long been involved in social action, providing assistance to those who are homeless, hungry, or otherwise in need. We run a coat drive, toy and food drives, and participate in other service initiatives. Our homeless shelter, led by congregants Anne Landman and Sasha Burgansky, began its 38th consecutive year of operation, but was temporarily suspended in March. However, we are donating masks, sanitizer, etc. to the social service agency CAMBA – evidence of our ongoing commitment to the homeless.
- Solidarity March Against Anti-Semitism: We marched together as a community on January 5 in the New York City rally expressing solidarity against anti-Semitism, after the numerous anti-Semitic attacks that occurred at the end of 2019.
- Support of an Asylum-Seeking Family and a Refugee: As part of a consortium with Kane Street Synagogue and Congregation Beth Elohim, we are helping support an asylum-seeking family from Chad that has settled in Washington Heights and a refugee from Afghanistan who has settled in Queens by contributing to their living expenses and donating some necessities. Thank you to Judith Winn for her leadership here.

Chesed Committee
Led by Lauren Smetana and Justine Block, this nearly 20-person committee supports community members who might need some extra attention during this COVID-19 crisis as well as those who are home-limited or struggling through other difficult moments. Whether it's ongoing phone check-ins, a meal, a card, a tree planted in Israel, an errand taken care of – the Chesed Committee is on it.

Outreach Call Effort
Led by Interim Board Secretary Monica Elias and member Stephanie Neville, this outreach effort had the objective of reaching every BHS member unit to be a touchpoint and connector during these unprecedented times. As of today, thanks to our 29 callers–Trustees and other volunteers– **100% of our member units have been called.** As one congregant said, '*How lovely to be checked in on.'* That summed it up!

ENGAGING WITH OUR BROADER COMMUNITIES

Interfaith Clergy Service of Remembrance on 9/11
Led by more than a dozen clergy from about ten Brooklyn Heights' houses of worship, we joined in remembrance with our broader Brooklyn community and heard Cantor Ayelet share her moving voice with our neighbors as she led us in *America the Beautiful*.

MLK Weekend with Grace Episcopal Church
Together we commemorated the weekend with our choirs united in song and our communities worshipping together in services held in our sanctuary on Friday night and the church's sanctuary on Sunday morning.

My overarching goal as President was to continue to strengthen the fabric of our community, in large part because I had long felt on the periphery of our community before experiencing more and more 'threads of that fabric.' What I've learned is that these 'threads' are amazing individuals and rich engagement opportunities. Especially now, as we each try to thrive as best as possible in these challenging times, I hope that our BHS community can provide you some grounding now and in the future. You are part of the fabric…and thus make stronger.

In closing, I hope that I am *'leaving this place a little better than I found it.'* What an incredible honor and a privilege to have served this extraordinary community. I cannot overstate my appreciation.

And, I am enormously grateful to my husband Bob and our sons, Matthew and Adam, for being supportive of the time and energy that I devoted to the many facets of this role and our community over the last two years.

With hopes for ongoing meaningful connection within our community and with the sincerest of well wishes to you and those dear to you,

Karen Gordon
President

Senior Rabbi's Report

Our 61st program year was marked by the crisis and turmoil of the global novel coronavirus pandemic. Without doubt, the synagogue has never experienced such a challenge. And yet, rather than panic or throw our hands up, thanks to the combined efforts and vision of lay leadership and professionals, we have been continuing to respond in real time to the needs of our community.

The report I offer divides between our regular offerings from July 2019 thru February 2020; a review of events in the month of March 2020, and our efforts and offerings from March/April 2020 through May.

I am grateful amidst all that is happening to mark twenty-three years of service as the spiritual leader of the Brooklyn Heights Synagogue. Thank you all for the privilege of service.

We have seen constancy in our staff as well as additions and departures.

Sue Gold, our indispensable Executive Director, returned from a brief mini-Sabbatical in June 2019. In addition to resuming all her regular administrative tasks and oversight, Sue also presented her research and discoveries about her family's Romanian Jewish roots and history.

Our Director of Early Childhood Education, Pam Karlin, continues to guide the school, its faculty, students, and parents with an expert hand and, along with Assistant Preschool Director Jennifer Kendall and Assistant Director of the Parenting Center Lisa Kopel, continues to strengthen and expand our program of family engagement. Thank you to Melis Bromberg, our Coordinator.

Rabbi Molly G. Kane, our BHS Associate Rabbi-Educator, continued in overseeing record enrollment while reviewing, renewing, and expanding our religious education programming. In addition to guiding our religious and adult education programming, Molly brings unbridled energy and vision to our program and community. She also oversees BHS's The Other Friday Night -- a Shabbat Experience for Young Professionals in their 20s and 30s. Lena Eson Roe departed from BHS and Katie Rein joined us in March as our Interim Assistant Director of the Religious School. Abby Johnson also departed as our BHS Education Program Manager and Céline Alderman joined us as Education Program Administrator. Both Katie and Céline hit the ground running at full speed and have done an extraordinary job in unplanned for circumstances.

Our Religious School and Preschool once again participated in the UJA Israeli *Shinshinim* (*Sh'nat Sheirut* – gap year) Program until returning to Israel in March.

Cantor Ayelet Porzecanski joined us in July of 2019 as BHS's first ever full-time Cantor, bringing years of professional experience, strong chanting skills, a pedagogical background, and her beautiful voice to our community. Cantor Porzecanski has maintained and grown our Adult Choir's opportunities to perform for us and in the larger community. She has done a masterful job teaching our 7th Grade as well as providing individual one on one tutoring for all of our upcoming b'nai mitzvah students.

We are blessed that Miriam Daly continues to serve as our Accompanist/Musical Director. Miriam creates and accomplishes tiny unnoticed musical miracles every time she is at the piano. She leads a terrific band and has been a talented rehearser for the choirs.

Rabbinic Student Healy Slakman continued in her role providing introductory prep tutoring for our many students, teaching in the religious School, and leading grade services, as well as our young professionals The Other Friday Night services.

Liann Herder continued as our Executive Assistant to Senior Clergy and Development and has made an outstanding impact upon our synagogue community and organization.

From November through February, we saw packed family attendance and participation once a month at our

Shabbat B'yachad grade family service and dinner thanks to Rabbi Kane's planning, Lena Eson Roe's attention, Abby Johnson's excellent execution of planning, Student Rabbi Healy Slakman's leadership, vision, and energy, Cantor Porzecanski's willingness to jump in, and thanks to the assistance of Miriam Daly providing her musical talents.

At weekly worship services, we announced the coming of the new Hebrew moon each month, continue the custom of Counting the Omer, and blessed congregants' numerous simchas and publicly recognized good tidings on one Friday of each month. And we have named numbers of infants, children of members, and our neighbors on many Friday evenings. We celebrated festivals and holidays, minor and major. We celebrated births, namings, birthdays, conversions, weddings, anniversaries, and other simchas in our sanctuary and elsewhere. We worried and prayed through sickness and adversity.

Saturday morning Chavurah continued to grow and prosper under myself, Rabbi Molly Kane, Rabbi Daniel Lehrman, Rabbi Sue Oren, Rabbi Sonja Pilz (a new gem of a find!) and Student Rabbi Healy Slakman, our rotating pool of facilitators. Thanks to lay prayer leaders and facilitators David Hirschland, Ken Roff, and Laura Szapiro.

BHGSY, under the leadership of the BHGSY Board, its co-presidents Maya Kendall and Zoe Mardiks, and Advisor Jenny Singer, offered wonderful programming to our youth and the congregation as a whole.

BHS is held together by the regular ongoing and outstanding work of committees like the Chesed Caring Committee that touches so many of us individually (thanks Justine Block and Lauren Smetana), the Ritual Committee (thank you Jeremy Primer), the Religious School Committee (thank you Liz Mayer), and the College-In-Touch Committee (thanks Ross Brown and Lisa Securo), and the Preschool Committee, the Shelter Committee and THANK YOU to all the members whose names aren't printed here but are the glue that we depend upon.

The Social Justice Committee has been hard at work under the leadership of Barbara Arky, Linda Feldman, and Jane Meyers.

Judith Winn, and others have been supporting our involvement with the Brownstone Brooklyn Synagogue Coalition for Refugees. We are participating right now in work with HIAS to support a local asylee from Chad.

A great deal of my time, attention and energies before March had been devoted to the planning and oversight and individual solicitations for our "New Heights" Capital Campaign. Many thanks to co-chairs Susan Chadick and David Smetana, and to Anne Landman, our Campaign Secretary, as well as to all our solicitors, and to Liann Herder whose long title only hints at her work for Development at BHS. Many thanks to Project Management Committee Chairs Rachel Loeb and Alan Schiffres and all the members of that extraordinarily hard working and important committee.

We call to mind the passing since last year's annual meeting of BHS members Martin "Marty" Adelman, Alexander Berger, Claire Pemstein, Sylvia Rosenberg, Edward "Ned" Sack, Philip "Phil" Schneider, and Marvin Starkman. A loss of a generation and of communal memory.

Far too many of us lost a parent, sibling, or close friend in this past year.

Both in adversity and in celebration, we at BHS have buoyed each other up and offered the hand of comfort.

Our youngsters learned in our religious school, and at Parenting Center programs and family education programs. Our well-attended Tot Shabbat program continued to be led by Lauren Demby.

My Welcoming Shabbat program on Friday mornings continues to bring young families and potential new members into early affiliation.

Under the leadership of Alycia Zimmerman, co-chair of our Membership and Enagagement Team, we have introduced a new brief Shabbat Evening service entitled Shalom Shabbat: Young Family Fridays at BHS at 5:30pm each quarter.

Early Childhood Education Director Pam Karlin and Assistant Parenting Center Director Lisa Kopel coordinated a variety of holiday and life-cycle related programming (Bagels & Blocks) for this youngest age range that is open to the entire community.

Programmatically, through February, it had been a remarkably busy and exceptional year.

Thanks to Cantor Porzecanski, Rabbi Kane, and David Jaroslaw who along with me led summer services in 2019.

Tisha b'Av was organized by Rabbi Kane and Cantor Porzecanski on August 10, 2019.

On September 11, we gathered on the Promenade with Brooklyn Heights Interfaith Clergy Association to mark this day of tragedy and memorial.

We prepared for the Days of Awe with Selichot services on Saturday evening, September 21. We gathered for Rosh Hashanah eve at Plymouth on Sunday evening, September 29. In between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur on Sunday, Sue Gold organized our efforts to beautify the synagogue's cemetery section and bury our tattered sacred texts at Maimonides Cemetery. Many thanks to our volunteers.

On Yom Kippur, Tuesday evening October 8, we were again inspired by our choir. And we heard moving Spiritual Journeys from our fellow members on Yom Kippur morning: Jennifer Epstein, Matt Baer, and Cantor Ayelet Porzecanski.

We celebrated Sukkot with our outdoor sukkot, including the large Sukkah in the backyard of 127 Remsen Street, as well as in the sukkot of many of our congregants. We consecrated new students in our Religious School program. We danced on Remsen Street with the Torah Scrolls accompanied by our Klezmer band, Klezmer Connection, once again on Simchat Torah.

On Friday evening, November 15, we observed the first anniversary of the tragedy at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh and gathered as a community for #ShowUpForShabbat. We saw the support of our neighbors and all the other Houses of Worship in our community to stand fast against anti-Semitism and hate.

Rev. Brett Younger (of Plymouth Church) and I swapped our pulpits for sermons over the summer, and we also had a number of interviews on radio and video, addressing the surge in antisemitism around the world, USA, and here in NYC and in Brooklyn.

Even before the pandemic, the world around us had turned darker and stormy, but we endeavored to remain both confidant in our Jewish commitments and ever vigilant.

Both on the High Holidays at Plymouth and in our own sanctuary on Shabbat, we worshipped and celebrated with those present and those not present, through the livestreaming of our services over the internet. We continued with visual *tefillah* on most Friday evenings, projecting the words of the prayers up on the front wall of the Sanctuary during most Friday evening *Shabbatot* from September through early March.

I also offered and taught a number of Adult Education classes as well as Adult Intermediate and Adult Advanced Prayerbook Hebrew.

Our BHS Homeless Shelter continued to meet the unfortunate need and reality of NYC for its 37th year, until the coronavirus pandemic forced us to suspend our shelter services in March. Thanks to all our lay coordinators and volunteers. It is one of our most significant undertakings and it is all done by the laity of the

congregation. You inspire me and the rest of the clergy team and staff!

In December, I and many members attended the URJ Biennial in Chicago. I was privileged to join our incoming President Marcia Bellows as part of a panel presentation on Mutual Review thanks to our efforts here at BHS.

On December 20, we celebrated our 60th year of worship services (December 25, 1959/1st Eve Chanukah was our first ever service as a congregation over at First Unitarian!). We kindled a beautiful Shabbat Menorah and members of different generations recounted our congregation's unfolding and on-going history!

In January, Rabbi Kane led a truly remarkable trip of our members to Brownsville, Texas to assist the asylum-seekers trapped on the other side of the border in Mexico. *Yesharkochachem*!

On Sunday, January 5, BHS participated in the Solidarity March Against Antisemitism "No Hate, No Fear," marching over the Brooklyn Bridge and gathering as a congregation at the World War II Memorial at Cadman Plaza Park.

Once again, we celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday weekend with joint choir performances and sermons, this year with Grace Episcopal Church. Rev. Allen Robinson preached on Friday evening at BHS and I offered a sermon at Grace on that Sunday morning at their worship service. Thank you to Cantor Porzecanski and Grace Church's Paul Olson and all the members of both choirs for very powerful presentations at those services.

On that Saturday, January 18 we screened the film KING: A Filmed Record in our sanctuary for both congregations – thanks to Melissa Benson and Robert Boyd.

We re-met each other at the hugely successful Getting to Know You Dinners at the very end of the month on Saturday evening, January 25.

In February, we were once again joined by Israeli Rabbinic Student Osnat Eldar, a Gold Fellow from HUC-JIR Jerusalem who lead a number of classes and our Tu B'Shevat Seder on Monday, February 10.

In February we also undertook efforts that resulted in our hiring Katie Rein as our Interim Assistant Director of the Religious School and Céline Alderman as our Education Program Administrator starting in March. Little did they or we know what would be asked of them as they stepped into their new roles with us at BHS.

On Thursday March 5, the Preschool held its 18th annual Spring Benefit at the "other" BHS – the Brooklyn Historical Society. It was an amazing and energetic success!

On Sunday, March 8, I lead our annual Tot Megillah reading followed by an absolutely terrific Carnival, with many, many thanks to all the volunteers for the fun!!!

Later that evening, Rabbi Molly Kane and her wife Michelle Citrin welcomed their son Avishai Lev Citrin-Kane to the world! Rabbi Kane is on a well-deserved maternity leave through early June.

The next evening, Monday, March 9, a large contingent of members once again chanted from the Megillah aloud followed by our Purim Shpiel created by the Cantor from the hit movie "Frozen."

On March 11, the World Health Organization declared the novel coronavirus a global pandemic.
We had already begun to pivot our programming a week prior. On March 12, our Executive Director Sue Gold emailed the first of several detailed updates about our plans moving forward in the new circumstances, including an initial two-week hiatus that began on March 15. By our March 18 Board of Trustees meeting, the difficult decision was made to close the homeless shelter. We either rescheduled, delayed, or cancelled

programs as appropriate. We quickly adopted a professional tier and secure version of Zoom for meetings, programs, and educational programs to continue. Our very last bat mitzvah was held in the Sanctuary on March 21 with the bat mitzvah, her sister, mother, father, Miriam Daly and me. Following the Mayor's directive to stop worship in Houses of Worship in NYC, all other spring b'nai mitzvah were put on hold and have been rescheduled for the fall.

Although we cancelled the annual Women's Seder, we decided to host a congregation-wide Zoom second-night seder that saw about 75 families participating. In addition to live-streaming festival services on the first morning, seventh evening and seventh morning (with Yizkor) and creating all the various PDF services to download or screen share, the Cantor also offered a Zoom Yizkor at noon on the seventh day of Passover.

The week after Passover, we observed the community-wide Yom HaShoah via Zoom with Park Slope Jewish Center and Kolot Chayeinu and all of the synagogue cantors leading us. At BHS we observed Yom HaZikaron (Israel Memorial Day to Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terror) as part of the shiva minyan for Sue Gold's dad, Len Greenberg. We have become adept at Zoom shiva minyanim, generating the necessary PDFs for downloading or screen-sharing.

In addition to offering a sermon each Friday evening addressing both Torah and current concerns during the pandemic, I have offered several independent video messages to the congregation on the homepage of our website.

As a professional team, we have organized and offered a remarkable set of continuing education offerings on a daily basis via Zoom, from meditation and yoga, to Jewish music and movies and cooking, to sacred texts and Hebrew. Every member of our team has stepped up repeatedly to connect and engage with our community. *Yesharkochachem*!

On Zoom, I continued to mentor a number of students (some congregants) seeking to become Jews by Choice, a tremendously time intensive but rewarding process.

In addition to my regular 10th Grade/Confirmation Class teaching role, I continue to offer 11th and 12th Grade over Zoom twice a month, which sees our students continue on beyond Confirmation in their studies.

It is with heartfelt regret that the URJ recently decided to suspend our nationwide summer sleep away camps including Crane Lake and Eisner. Likewise, the URJ NFTY in Israel travel program is suspended this summer. We hope and pray that all these programs will be restored for the summer of 2021. Likewise, our BHS 9th grade class trip to Israel in May has been cancelled with the hope and expectation that we will be able to take both our 9th and 10th graders next year.

A big shout out THANK YOU to the special group of congregants who stepped forward previously to help the congregation and Board keep its commitment to this program by donating the dollars to keep this program afloat over the next several years. It is an extraordinary pledge of dedication!!!

From September 2019 thru March 21, 2020 we celebrated 24 B'nai Mitzvah students being called to Torah: Molly Appelbaum, Ezekiel Wise, Jolie Weinstein, Alexander Kramer, Zoe Benjamin, Francesca Siskind-Holgersen, Henry Brown, Parker Lapidus, Braydon Kaplan, Noah Cutler, Zara Gelbman, Theodore Cogan, Sophie Larson, Gianna Gordon, Emily & Sophie Landis, Alexander Smetana, Talia Dickinson, Bora Bromberg, Hallie Rosenzweig, Solomon Block, Teddy Basner, Milo Zaks, and Sarah Radnay.

Nine of our students have been forced by the pandemic to delay their service and ceremonies and we are now double booked for most Shabbat mornings and early afternoons this Fall: Addison Scott, Alexander Chesin, Elle Smiley, Nathaniel Weinberger, Aiden Shap, Kayla Sirefman, Naia Neuman, Jordan Strohmenger, and Sara Cocco.

And Still Upcoming:

Friday evening, May 15, we will celebrate Trustee Installation Shabbat and thank out-going officers and trustees including Karen Brody, Monica Elias, David Jaroslaw, Lisa Melmed Cohen, and Leslie Schultz.

Welcome to our new President Marcia Bellows and to our new BHS trustees: Andy Ball, Julie Irwin, Miriam Katowitz, Jennifer Richardson, David Salpeter, and Alan Schiffres.

On Thursday evening, May 28, at 7:30pm, our 10th Grade Confirmation class will lead Shavuot evening services along with Cantor Porzecanski and myself. Please plan on joining us on Zoom!

Thank you to Katie Rein who stepped into our Religious School mid-stride and who has made (along with Céline Alderman) the transition into remote learning such a success!

My personal thanks to Amy Leszman our Director of Membership Engagement and to Rebekah Kendall our BHS Office Manager, Céline Alderman our Education Program Administrator, and Liann Herder, Executive Assistant to the Senior Clergy and Development. Thanks to our Facility Manager Erik DiFrisco, and the Parish Property Management crew for all their hard work. And thank you to our security guards from Security USA for keeping us safe and warmly welcomed.

To all the members of the Executive Committee, and most especially to my partner in all things BHS - our out-going President Karen Gordon, who offers not only hours upon hours of her time and attention, but also her enthusiasm, professional expertise, dedication, and vision to the leadership and governance of our congregation. Karen, it has been my privilege and pleasure to get to really know you and partner with you over these past two years. May you be blessed with good health and well-being and move from strength to strength!

Thanks to Sue Gold for ably guiding the operations of the synagogue. Our program and our commitments, like our building, look smaller from the outside. Many thanks for your professionalism and commitment, your personal warmth and collegiality. You have taken the synagogue to a new and far improved level of service and operation. A special note of thanks to you, Sue, along with Anne Landman and our incoming Treasurer Miriam Katowitz, for the remarkable effort and achievement in securing our Small Business Administration/Payroll Protection Plan loan!

To my colleagues Rabbi Molly Kane and Pam Karlin whose dedication inspire me daily, thank you!!! To my partner in liturgy and on the bimah, Cantor Ayelet Porzecanski; welcome aboard and thank you!

To my wife Deb, who is the not-so-secret foundation of my religious and spiritual commitment: I love you. To my children – Michael, Alex and Risa, you are my greatest inspiration in all that I do!

Lastly, I give thanks to You, Eternal God, the Foundation Place of Existence, for blessing me, and my family with health and well-being, and for finding Your Presence manifest every day in serving this congregation and community.

Rabbi Serge A. Lippe
May 4, 2020/ 10 Iyyar 5780

PS. - Erev Rosh Hashanah is Friday evening, September 18, 2020.

Executive Director's Report

"We are all in this together" has become the message of the day, it seems, and rather than use this opportunity in the Annual Report to the Congregation to reflect upon the past year as I typically do – all the programs, events, life cycles, administrative improvements, security grants awarded, campaign initiatives, building project updates – or to imagine what the coming year will be like and to share some of our plans and expectations – I am living very much in "this" moment. I think many of us are.

This. This life we are all currently living in the era of COVID-19, struggling with it, suffering, too. Juggling work life, home life, school life -- all under one roof. Worrying about our children and what is ahead for them, concerned about screen time and loss of summer camp plans. Working hard in our home offices or concerned about sustaining our work, possibly losing our work. Worrying about our parents and other elders and our friends, and our friends' parents and elders. Being completely isolated if we are living alone and not well. Stressing over supermarket runs and endlessly washing our hands and our face masks. Trying to stay hopeful and careful. Navigating Zoom and joining in social and educational gatherings and joining in for virtual Shabbat. Trying to get some fresh air each day. Wondering when "this" will end and what "that" will look like. For right now, we are all in "this" together. Living with "this."

And, yet, there is another "this" that we are all in together, and that is the BHS community. It has been remarkable – and palpable, even remotely – how strong the BHS community has been through this crisis. As Rabbi Lippe's report shares here, this has been a busy and successful year at BHS, and our community continues to come together in vitally important ways to learn, to worship, to support, and to begin to plan for the time when we will be together again physically. Our Chesed Committee, under the extraordinary leadership of Justine Block and Lauren Smetana, have kept in regular touch with our homebound seniors and single members with health issues, making sure they have what they need to get by, calling to say hello, to send virtual hugs and support, to shop for medicine and food. Members of our Board of Trustees, along with many dedicated volunteers, coordinated by members Monica Elias and Stephanie Neville, have been calling and checking in with every other household in our BHS community, and – to date – 100% of the community has received a call – truly astonishing. Our dedicated Religious School Education team and teaching staff and our creative Early Childhood Education team and teachers took almost no time at all to transition both schools to virtual platforms, creating a schedule of interactive and stimulating curricula for our students and providing support, as well, to our young parents, whose homes have become virtual satellite early childhood centers. Read their reports and be proud, as I am. Our Administrative team and key lay leaders (shout out to Jonathan Kopp for hosting the Friday Night Watch Party each Shabbat on Facebook!) nimbly finessed all of the technological complexities required to build and promote our virtual gathering spaces for worship and learning, all while continuing routine business office operations. Our Clergy team – superheroes all – have reimagined and delivered Shabbat and holiday services in this virtual world, and have created new educational and gathering opportunities for children, families, adults of all ages, all while continuing to provide extraordinary care and attention to the many lifecycle needs of the congregation. And, while all of "this" life goes on virtually, our physical facility has been thoroughly disinfected and cleaned, top to bottom, repairs and inspections completed, so that we can return the moment we are able – to school, to worship together, to our treasured community gatherings.

When my father became gravely ill and passed away on April 20, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, my greatest fear was that his suffering and my family's grief would be solitary. Instead, the message I heard from the BHS community was "We are all in this together, with you." And you were. This BHS community showered me with calls and cards, texts and tributes, Facebook messages and food in such abundance that I could actually feel your embraces tighten around me, holding me up, helping me through. I received cards from young children, with their beautiful drawings and words of love splashed across the colored paper. This is who you are; this is what you teach your children; this is what you do – not just for me, but for each other. I see it all the time. You are present when it matters most of all. "*Hineynu*," you said. We are here. We are all in this together.

As we look forward to the coming year, aware that much uncertainty still lies ahead, let me encourage you to redouble your commitment to BHS, renew your membership, sustain your support so that we can continue on the amazing trajectory we have been on, even through this most challenging time. And, just as you have been here for each other and for us, we will be here for you. *Hineynu*.

I'd like to extend my deepest gratitude to Karen Gordon, the Executive Committee, and the Board of Trustees for their extraordinary leadership over these past two years. Karen, it has been a profound honor to serve as one of your sacred partners in advancing your creative and transformational agenda. Your report reminds us of how much has been accomplished and BHS will be forever grateful. I look forward to serving alongside Marcia Bellows whose love for and commitment to BHS runs deep and strong. Thank you, as well, to Rabbi Lippe and Rabbi Kane, to Cantor Porzecanski, to Pam Karlin (and Jen Kendall and Lisa Kopel), and Katie Rein (and Céline Alderman), and to Liann Herder, Rebekah Kendall, Melis Bromberg, and Miriam Daly. Finally, thank you to my comrades in facilities and administrative leadership Erik DiFrisco and Amy Leszman, without whose efforts we all know nothing would be possible.

And to the entire community of BHS members: May the year ahead keep us close in spirit and soon allow us to be together actually once again. Thank you for all you are and all you do to keep this community strong.

Sue Gold
Executive Director

Treasurer's Report

Overview of the Current (2019-2020) Fiscal Year

On March 31, 2020, we had cash balances in operating accounts totaling $1,795,568. The capital campaign account balance was $1,593,035. Restricted fund account balances totaled $146,002. The outstanding balance on the mortgage is $719,814.

As of March 31, 2020, the end of our third quarter, using cash basis reporting, revenues were $2,886,161 and expenses were $3,049,240 leaving us with a deficit of $163,079. This compares to a surplus of $166,062 at the same time last year. Before the COVID-19 crisis hit, our initial reforecast for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 showed a surplus of $46,000 vs. our original FY 2019/20 budget surplus of $3,000. This forecast is now in question and unlikely to be met, given the possible impacts of the current COVID-19 situation on our revenues. Meeting our forecast and our FY 2019/20 budget will depend on the collection of Membership Dues and Tuitions (Preschool and Religious school) during the period May to June 2020.

The primary reasons for this year's weaker performance vs budget and vs last year are:

- Revenues for the Preschool are lower than a year ago and also below budget. Since we are still reporting on a cash basis, significant prepayments received in the prior year for this school year were booked last year. This has not happened to the same extent as of March 31, 2020.
- Revenues for the Hebrew School are at 54% of budget, when they should be at 75% at this time of the year. This is due to lower enrollment than projected and to a slowdown in collections.
- Although expenses are on budget as of March 31, 2020, they have increased significantly compared to last year, mostly driven by higher personnel expenses.

Capital Accounts and Capital Campaign

As of March 31, 2020, the cash balance in the Capital Campaign account was $1,593,035 and the balance in the Weissler endowment fund was $450,609 (which has been designated by the Board for building expansion).

Capital campaign donations and pledge payments received through March 31, 2019 totaled $1,926,944 and expenses were $922,235.

As of today, we have commitments totaling $7.2 million for our New Heights Capital Campaign against our goal of $9.5MM.

Budget for FY 2020/21 (July 1, 2020- June 30, 2021)

Starting with the FY 2020/21 operating budget, we will report and budget on an accrual basis rather than on a cash basis.

An initial budget prepared and presented in draft form to our Board of Trustees showed a very small surplus and included assumptions about growth in membership, dues and tuition increases as well as fundraising goals, and expense increases that are no longer realistic or possible. A revised budget was prepared to include the potential impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. This revised budget was approved by the Board and is being presented to the congregation tonight even though there is still much uncertainty surrounding the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on our revenue stream. It is our best attempt to predict the financial performance of BHS, when there are still so many unknown factors.

The current FY 2020/21 budget shows revenues of approximately $3.8MM and expenses of $4.1MM, for a potential deficit of ~$300K.

The key assumptions in this FY2020/21 budget are:

- Donations and Fundraising are shown as lower than in FY 2019/20

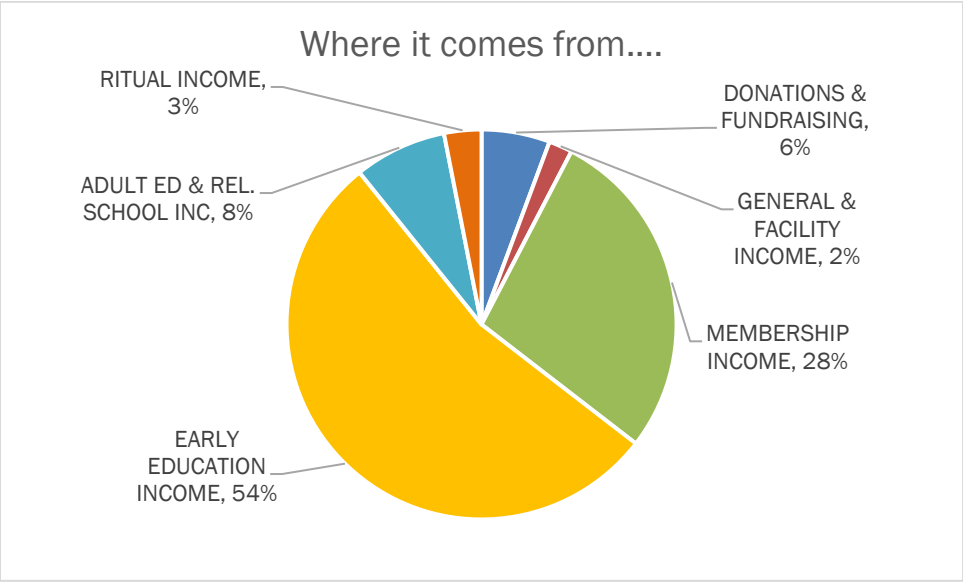
- No increase in membership dues (as opposed to a 4% increase in prior year) and the number of membership units remains constant
- The Preschool would be open at current tuition levels, but we show a reduction in revenues from Summer Camp and other preschool programs
- No increase in Hebrew School tuition and we show a decrease in the number of students
- No reduction in staff and no salary increases for staff

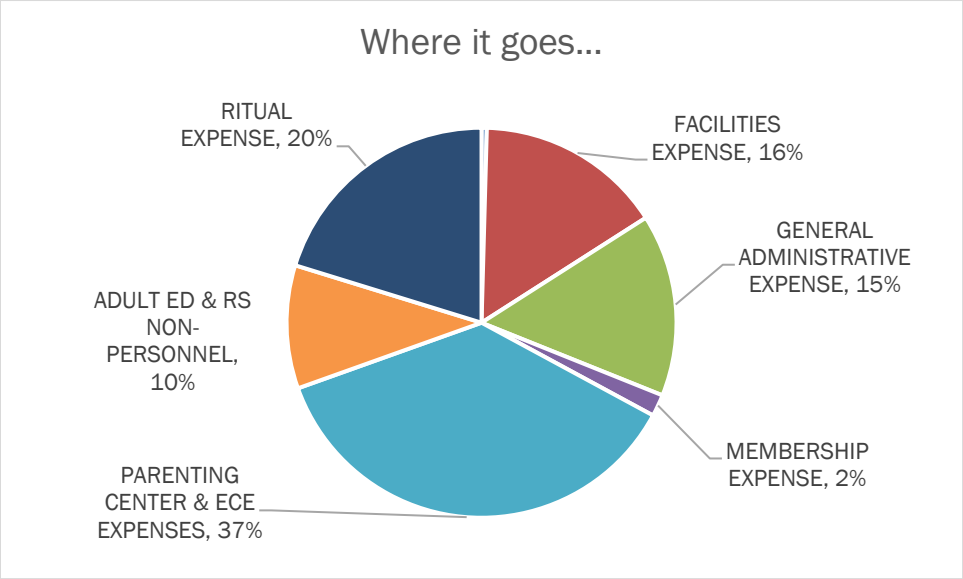
A loss of $300K in FY 2021 is not a desirable outcome for BHS. Efforts will be made to reduce or eliminate this deficit, by applying very strict cost reduction measures that go above those reflected in this budget, possibly by increasing dues by a nominal amount, and by asking those members who are still financially able, to continue their very generous support of BHS not only by paying dues and tuition, but also by making additional donations as you have done in the past. We recognize that many members are experiencing financial distress from lost jobs and/or salary cuts. We will continue our longstanding policy of providing financial accommodations for members in need.

The FY2021 budget is shown below (as well as the FY 2020 budget, for comparison purposes):

	FY 2021 Budget	**FY 2020 Budget**
Revenue		
DONATIONS & FUNDRAISING	$216,280	$265,300
GENERAL & FACILITY INCOME	$74,520	$123,200
MEMBERSHIP INCOME	$1,060,758	$1,162,900
EARLY EDUCATION INCOME	$2,049,280	$2,001,623
ADULT ED & REL. SCHOOL INC	$292,461	$366,000
RITUAL INCOME	$117,900	$128,600
Total Revenue	**$3,811,199**	**4,047,623**
Operating Expenses		
DONATIONS & FUNDRAISING EXPENSE	$17,840	$22,740
FACILITIES EXPENSE	$636,410	$617,159
GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	$620,353	$623,134
MEMBERSHIP EXPENSE	$74,340	$85,900
PARENTING CENTER & ECE EXPENSES	$1,503,101	$1,462,660
ADULT ED & RS NON-PERSONNEL	$419,238	$446,157
RITUAL EXPENSE	$830,115	$786,380
Total Operating Expenses	**$4,101,397**	**4,044,130**
Operating Income (Loss)	**$(290,198)**	**$3,493**

The following graphs illustrate the source of our funds (Income) as well as how funds are expected to be used (Expense), according to our 2021 budget:





Withstanding the COVID-19 Crisis

As always, our focus will remain on our strong community of members and on our wonderful clergy and staff. Together, supporting each other, we will weather the financial impact of this storm. With that in mind, we applied for and received a Paycheck Protection Loan from the Small Business Administration in the amount of $449,000 at 1% interest. We will do everything we can to fulfill the ever-changing requirements established by the government to obtain forgiveness of this loan.

Other matters

The FY 2019/20 financial statements will be prepared in accordance with US GAAP, and following the accrual basis of accounting. This will allow for a more appropriate presentation of the BHS financial data this year and going forward. In addition, our financial statements will be audited this year.

Diego Crasny
Treasurer

Associate Rabbi – Educator's Report

Traditionally, each year I write a formal annual report, but this year our Annual Meeting falls during my maternity leave so I have chosen to write my reflections from this past year as well as thoughts and prayers during these unprecedented times.

First, I write to you while my son Avishai Lev Citrin-Kane rocks nearby in his baby swing. When you read this letter, he will be just over two months old. Michelle and I feel incredibly blessed that Avi is healthy, strong, and growing every day. We love his sweet sounds, the look in his eyes as he takes in his surroundings, and his adorable smile. Since he was born, we have developed the ritual of tuning into BHS Shabbat services, singing to Avi the prayers and melodies that are so familiar to us, and then Michelle and I have the privilege as parents to bless Avi at our Shabbat table…it is one of the holiest moments of our week.

As I reflect on this past year, I realize so much of my life was building up to Avi's birth. I found out I was pregnant in June, Michelle and I got married in August, and then our school year and holiday season began. During this time, I also began meeting with the Social Justice Committee Chairs Barbara Arky and Jane Meyers to begin brainstorming whether BHS could make a trip to help asylum-seekers at the border. Soon thereafter, with the support of my fellow BHS staff and our President, Karen Gordon, we were able to say, "We are going!" The trip, under the leadership of Linda Feldman and Barbara Arky, was one of the highlights of this past year. The 14 of us who went to the border in January were able to help those in need and then return and inspire others; I look forward to continuing our congregational social justice work as when I return from leave.

This year, our Religious School welcomed students and families to celebrate Jewish life together. Our teachers, *madrichim* (post-b'nai mitzvah helpers), and our full-time Religious Education Team created community in our classrooms, developed and nourished our student's spiritual lives, and conceived of dynamic and engaging lessons and programs. Mid-year, we said goodbye to our full-time team and said goodbye to Abby Johnson and Lena Eson Roe. I am pleased that our new, current team of Katie Rein and Céline Alderman is doing so well given all they had to create and do in my absence. I look forward to hearing more about their success and I am grateful to Rabbi Lippe who is supervising them in my absence.

It was an honor to serve the BHS community on the *bimah* this past year. From Shabbat B'yachad to B'nai Mitzvot, during the *chaggim*, and our other holiday celebrations. The Other Friday Night@BHS, our Shabbat service for young professionals, is now in its sixth year. It has been an honor to supervise Student Rabbi Healy Slakman, who among other things, coordinates this service.

With gratitude to Karen Brody, we have offered a robust Lifelong Learning program this past year, and I am aware that our offerings online are going well.

Finally, I am thrilled that I will be continuing to serve BHS as your Associate Rabbi-Educator for another three years. I am grateful to Karen Gordon and the entire Executive Committee for their partnership and support as we created a new contract and covenant for the next chapter of my time at BHS.

I think of you all often and pray that each one of you is finding strength and resilience as we weather the COVID-19 pandemic. Avi was born the day before Purim -- our holiday of costuming -- where we wear masks for fun and joy. We now find ourselves in a time where we wear masks for the sake of safety and responsibility to one another's health and care. Perhaps we can find comfort knowing when we place a mask over our face it is a *mitzvah*, a commandment from the divine to *shmirat hanefesh,* to *protect life*.

I look forward to connecting with you all when I return from leave. Until then stay strong, stay safe, and may you be surrounded by comfort and love.

Rabbi Molly G. Kane
Associate Rabbi-Educator

Cantor's Report

It is hard to believe that almost a year has passed since I joined Brooklyn Heights Synagogue. It has been an exciting, fulfilling year. Becoming part of this lovely, vibrant community continues to be a blessing.

My first year at BHS began in the summer of 2019. I met the Saturday morning chavurah when I lead Torah study, I shared hugs and memories at *shivah minyanim*, had many lunches and coffee with members of the BHS choir, and met the 2019-2020 b'nai mitzvah both at a meeting hosted by Michael Lasky and over the phone, as we connected while many of them were at summer camps. I also had the pleasure of meeting members in larger groups at "get to know you" parties. Thank you to Marcia Bellows, Karen Gordon, Gail Ressler, Jonathan Kopp and Nancy Cohen, and Karen Brody for hosting, and Natalie Green Giles and Eve Hall for organizing! And, of course, hours spent with our wonderful music director, Miriam Daly, singing through all of the BHS repertoire!

I used the summertime to make updates to the music recordings on the website, recording all the prayers for the B'nai Mitzvah, and a cantillation practice sheet, with recordings of the melodies for chanting Torah. A highlight of my summer was a Tisha b'Av service with Rabbi Kane, where we shared the traditions of the day, thoughtful readings, and music from across the Jewish experience.

September came with a roar, as tutoring for the year's large b'nai mitzvah class began in earnest as did choir rehearsals twice weekly for the High Holy Days. Miriam Daly and I recorded songs of the High Holy Days to put on the website for everyone to hear and familiarize themselves with.

In early September, Rabbi Lippe and I joined other faith leaders of Brooklyn Heights to collaborate for a 9/11 service on the promenade.

The High Holy Day season began with a Selichot service using an ancient traditional *piyut* (liturgical poem) to supplement the BHS service. Rabbi Kane, Rabbi Lippe, and I shared the *bimah*, with musical support from Miriam Daly.

With careful attention to detail, the High Holy Day services felt seamless, spiritually uplifting, and meaningful. The efforts of the volunteers and the staff allowed me to concentrate on the instrumentalists, the choir soloists, small ensembles, the Torah readers, and the cues from both Rabbis. The excellent work of our sound engineers made certain our efforts would be communicated in the best way possible. Many thanks to Jeremy Kinney for providing what we needed.

My deepest appreciation to the irreplaceable Miriam Daly, who conducted the choir and kept the musicians together, all while accompanying me with superior musicianship. I want to also thank our cellist, Jodi Beder, and clarinetist, Jay Rattman, for their beautiful playing.

The choir really outdid itself, tolerating 10 rehearsals, and singing with beauty and *kavod* throughout the High Holy Days. My gratitude to Margaret Bary, Karen Brody, Jessica Brown, Barbara Deinhardt, Mark Fuerst, Eve Hall, David Hirschland, David Jaroslaw, Ann Jernow, Sharon Kosakoff, Babette Krolik, Dorothy Lahm, Michael Lasky, Billie Pivnick, Linda Rapchik, Ellen Rittberg, Dan Rosenbaum, Rita Schwartz, Olivia Sohmer Laura Szapiro, Stefanie Teiltelbaum, Liesje ten Houten, Barbara Underwood, Bob Weiss, Sandy Wertheimer, and Jennifer Zaslow.

I would be remiss if I did not also thank the Torah and Haftarah readers by name, who chanted High Holy Day cantillation beautifully, some for the first time! Thank you to: Matt Baer, Leo Gordon, Naomi Jaroslaw, Miriam Katowitz, Jack Kramer, Rachel Landman, Michael Landman, Mark Landman, Michael Lippe, Risa Lippe, my son Rafael Piatigorsky, Jeremy Primer, Sam Richardson, Ben Schak, Rachel Schnoll, Ariel and Flora Schwartzman Miles, Jennifer Zaslow, and Alycia Zimmerman.

Thank you also to my son Rafa for blowing shofar for the children's service.

Other highlights in September include blowing shofar for the Preschoolers and helping one of their classes install a *mezuzah* on their classroom door!

October saw the completion of the High Holy Days. There had been a bar or bat mitzvah every Shabbat since the first week of September, and in October the celebrations continued! Each Shabbat welcomed an accomplished and confident youngster to our *minyan*.

Rabbi Lippe and I launched our program for incoming b'nai mitzvah families, including a mock shabbat where parents could ask questions throughout the "service" and upcoming b'nai mitzvah stepped up to help lead the "service". I began teaching in the Hebrew school, teaching 7th grade cantillation and Hebrew. The 7th graders were divided into three classes to accommodate their numbers.

Our festivities continued with *Sukkot* services and *Simchat Torah*. I shared some of *Megillat Kohelet* - and found willing volunteers to chant Torah. Many thanks to Mark Landman, David Jaroslaw, Deb Speyer, Risa Lippe, and Matt Baer for ending our Torah, and beginning it again!

Another highlight of October was collaborating with the 7th graders for their Shabbat B'yachad service.

In **November,** the Shir Shabbat band began joining us for Friday night service. They played every third friday, and their first for the year was in November. It was #ShowUpForShabbat night, followed by a community dinner. They adapted to the service changes needed to welcome several guest clergy to the *bimah*, and greatly helped to make the service moving and joyful. Many thanks to the members of the Shir Shabbat band: Eve Hall (flute), Dan Shacknai (clarinet), Roy Walter (guitar), and his son Jason (violin) who joined us when he was home from college.

Also in November, I taught a *Zemirot* class in 3 parts, about the songs sung around the dinner table on *Shabbat*. It was well attended and received. I shared some of the material from the class with the Friday night community on Thanksgiving *Shabbat* when I gave a *"d'var shir."*

A highlight of November was the first meeting for the cantors, rabbis, and educators of the downtown Brooklyn area, and our new *Shlichut*, Tomer Gekler, that I hosted at BHS to kick off planning for community Israel events in the spring.

In **December**, I was privileged to experience the URJ Biennial for the first time. I am grateful to have been sent, and grateful to Rabbi Lippe for splitting the time with me so that I could attend over Shabbat. I was able to spend some quality time with our synagogue leadership and hear the newest music and ideas that URJ cantors have to offer. A change that came out of the convention is that we licensed all the music we use for services so that composers get the compensation they deserve for their work. Deep gratitude to Fran Gottfried for underwriting this expense!

The third Shabbat in December I gathered some willing members of the choir and the Shir Shabbat band to help us celebrate 60 years of BHS, Chanukah, and the parshah (the Joseph story). The choir and band collaborated thanks to Miriam Daly arranging the choir's music for the band. During the service we shared songs of Chanukah, community milestones, and Joseph!

I wished my Hebrew school class a sweet Chanukah with songs and a parting gift of gelt!

The highlight of **January** was the Rev. Martin Luther King Junior weekend. This year, First Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn had alternate plans for their celebrations. On Rabbi Lippe's suggestion, I approached Grace Episcopal Church who were thrilled to share MLK weekend with us. Our choirs rehearsed separately then together for the occasion, joined together on Friday and Sunday, sharing music from both our repertoire. I was thrilled to be honored at Grace Episcopal Church by also being asked to sing for their service. Our Shir Shabbat band joined again for Friday's service, and we had a packed house and joyous

community dinner. Once again, Miriam Daly wrote arrangements of all the music for the band, which played beautifully.

Miriam and I recorded all the songs of the Saturday morning service, and I created a page with the music, Hebrew, transliteration, and translation for families to familiarize themselves with the service music. Thank you to Michele Jaslow for her work to make this all real on our website!

The b'nai mitzvah celebrations picked up again weekly after a break during the school holidays, and there were more than 27 children coming through my office for lessons each week. Many thanks to Healy Slackman who teaches the children their prayers. She added extra time to her already busy schedule to help with the volume.

In February, Prohibition came to BHS in the form of a Havdalah Speakeasy night! I collaborated with Andy Akers and Jennifer Wilkov to host the evening and recruit artists to perform. Visiting Rabbi Osnat Eldar from Israel co-lead Havdalah with me, and congregants performed music, poetry, and theater for each other while Jennifer emceed and shared about the history of speakeasies. A fun night was had by all!

I completed my semester of teaching the 7th grade and began teaching 6h graders with upcoming b'nai mitzvah. Other highlights include the Shir Shabbat band once again on the third Friday of the month, rehearsals for our Purim Shpiel began as I recruited *Megillat Esther* readers, and we packed up 127 Remsen and moved out!

In **March**, we learned how to turn on a dime!

The month began with Purim: I coordinated and supported the readers of the Megillah, some who were chanting this special cantillation for the first time! Many thanks to the chanters: Bette Birnbaum, Jessica Brown, David Jaroslaw, Rabbi Sonja Pilz, Jeremy Primer, Dan Rosenbaum, Student Rabbi Healy Slakman, Laura Szapiro, Vanessa Wise, and Zeke Wise.

The Purim *Spiel* was "A Very Frozen Purim" starring Ross Brown, David Hirschland, Max Leighton, Ellen Rittberg, Tobin SecuroBrown, Olivia Sohmer, and Sandy Wertheimer! It was replete with favorite song parodies from both Frozen movies and Miriam accompanying on piano.

Our ranks grew by one as I hired HUC rabbinical student Peter Young to supplement teaching prayers on Sundays to our B'nai Mitzvah in response to the volume of children in the spring. We are thrilled to have him on board helping us out.

Another highlight of March was being a guest at the annual Preschool Benefit at the "other BHS" (Brooklyn Historical Society). I was thrilled to be able to welcome parents and thank Pam for her amazing leadership.

Shortly after Purim we became remote overnight - I began offering a Wednesday music class, featuring yiddish song, sephardi song, songs of Israel highlighting composers such as Naomi Shemer. I offered a Friday service for families of all ages with music and a parshah sermon at 5pm with over 30 families connecting on Zoom, and the help of my son, Rafa, and accompanying myself on guitar.

We had to postpone (date TBA) a Cantor's concert that was to be held at the end of March, where the choir would have sung, and the Women's Seder, which I was set to lead in collaboration with Michelle Citrin and Rabbi Sonja Pilz. In addition, all the plans for several joint Israel events across Brooklyn (including a cantors' performance of Israel songs on *Yom Ha'atzmaut*) were put on hold.

I continued to meet with b'nai mitzvah over the phone and supervise the tutoring of them under Healy and Peter. I track the attendance and the progress of over thirty individual weekly appointments.

In **April** Passover came, and the advent of the Zoom seder! Our offerings for the community for Passover were many and rich. I led a Passover morning service with Rabbi Pilz, including the special blessing for dew (*Tal*). On the second night of Passover Rabbi Lippe, Rafa and I led a seder that was attended by over 70 families. It was very well received, full of song and joy.

On the seventh day of Passover, I supplemented Rabbi Lippe's morning service by offering a musical *Yizkor* service.

Another highlight of April was collaborating with Cantors and Rabbis across Brooklyn for a Zoom *Yom Hashoah* (Holocaust remembrance) service.

May-June:
The rest of the spring I have intentions to continue my current offerings, bring together those who wish to learn Torah for Zoom classes, and connect visibly with more musical Videos. I hope to continue to support the Rabbis in their tireless work as we plan for the fall.

I cannot finish this report without thanking the BHS staff (in addition to the wonderful Miriam Daly). I want to be sure to mention specifically our Executive Assistant to the Senior Clergy and Development, Liann Herder, whose help to me is so vital. Thank you also to Amy Leszman for talking me through the membership list and events to help me know BHS better. Thank you to Sue Gold without whom none of this would be possible, and to Rebekah Kendall for her support. My gratitude to Rabbis Lippe and Kane for their collaboration, good humor, and wisdom. And, of course, to all the lay leadership who have made me so welcome here. Among them are the members of the Cantor Search Committee, chaired by Michael Lasky, and members of the board, especially Karen Gordon, who's incredible leadership has been a gift.

Most importantly I want to thank my family - my children Rafa, Anatalya, Jordan, and Chloe who work hard at their own endeavors and pursue their own dreams with passion, and my husband, Aric, who keeps the entire boat afloat. Thank you to the BHS community for welcoming me - I look forward to what we can create together!

Ayelet Porzecanski
Cantor

Interim Assistant Director of the Religious School's Report

The Brooklyn Heights Synagogue Religious School (BHS RS) welcomed 30 teachers, 235 students, and 162 families to its program this year to celebrate Jewish life, rituals, and family engagement. Together with a staff of 30 Teachers, 12 Madrichim, 2 Musicians from Tkiya (participatory Jewish music experience program,) and 1 Israeli *Shinshin* (Israeli emissary for the year,) the BHS RS created an enriching program around classroom *Brit Kehilah's* (policies) and *Kehilot Kadashot* (holy communities).

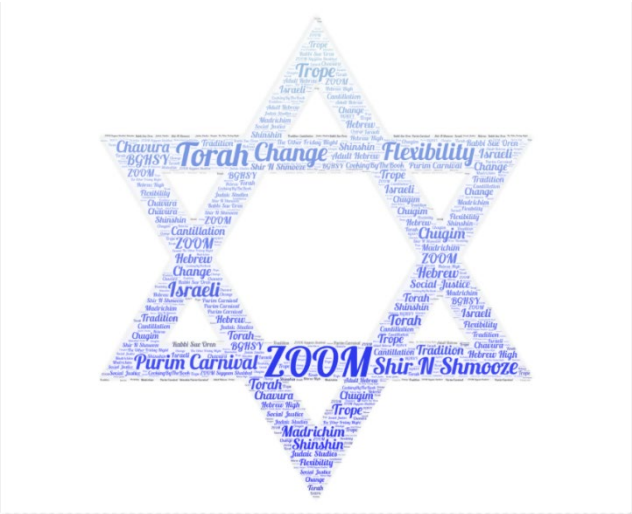
RS Enrollment 2019 - 2020

- 235 students total
- 57 students in K-2
- 30 students in 3rd grade
- 76 students in 4th-6th grade
- 30 students in 7th grade
- 42 students in High School
- 12 *madrichim* (post b'nai mitzvah Religious School helpers)

The BHS RS ran in person learning Sundays - Wednesdays from September 2019 until March 2020, and virtual programming from March 2020 - May 2020 due to COVID-19. The BHS RS transitioned to virtual learning starting on Sunday, March 15, 2020. From Sunday, March 15, 2020 to Sunday, March 22, 2020, teachers created lesson plans which students could implement individually at home. Beginning on Monday, March 23, 2020, the BHS RS was fully online, supporting students on virtual Zoom classes. Virtual classes were held at the regular RS times (Sunday 10-12, M/T/W 4-6PM and Hebrew High on Tuesdays from 6-8pm) and split up into four sections:

1. Schoolwide music/*tefillah* lead by Healy Slakman, our Student Rabbi and Ran Livneh, one of our Friday night musicians
2. Check-in's with the students
3. Judaics
4. Hebrew

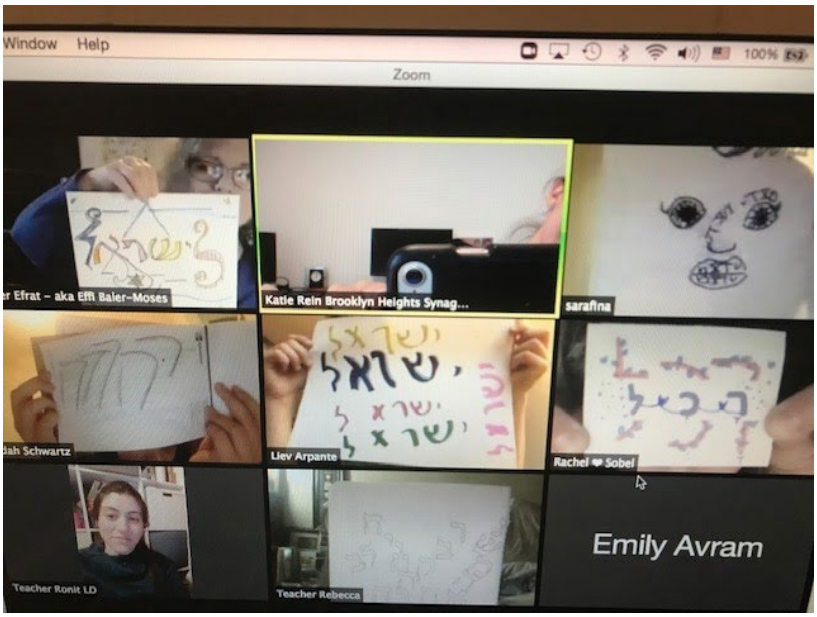
Over the course of the year, Rabbi Kane and the Assistant Directors (Lena Eson Roe and Katie Rein) worked closely with the Religious School Parent Committee, Brooklyn Educators Network, and teaching staff to create engaging programs, incorporating feedback from parents, families, and teachers.



<u>Curriculum</u>

The curriculum weaves together several strands of Jewish learning at each grade level:

Ritual: holidays, prayer, tradition, and modern meaning spirituality and exploration of theology
Hebrew: comfort participating in progressive Jewish settings by decoding Hebrew and understanding Jewish terms
Israel: the people, the land, the state, the culture, and Hebrew as a living language
Social Justice: *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world) as collective action and *middot* (personal good deeds) as internal practice
Arts and Exploration: exploring Jewish ideas and life through visual arts, dance, text, and hands-on exploration of New York City's Jewish heritage
Imagination and Creativity: envisioning a Jewish future together in our nesting communities: family, class community, synagogue, Israel, and *K'lal Yisrael* and the world.



Both the Judaics and Hebrew curriculums included differentiated lessons to meet student's needs. This year we had two native Hebrew resource teachers, Shiraz and Yechiel, providing Hebrew help to teachers and pulling students out of the classroom to work one-on-one both in person and virtually. Hebrew curriculum includes Hebrew Through Movement, "a language acquisition strategy in which students learn Hebrew by hearing and responding to Hebrew commands," *Mitkadem*, "a self-paced Hebrew prayer and ritual program designed to empower every child to learn Hebrew" from Behrman House Publishing and Shalom Hebrew Workbook.

Madrichim

Our madrichim program, where students serve as teacher assistants in our religious school classrooms, included 12 students who earn an Amazon gift card as compensation for each semester they work. BHGSY flourished under the leadership of our students with supervision and mentorship from our Youth Advisor Jenny Singer.

Lifelong Learning

- The Other Friday Night: Led by Student Rabbi Healy Slakman and Rabbi Molly Kane, 15-35 people when celebrating Shabbat in person, when celebrating virtually over Zoom in April there were 15 people.
- Karen Brody's class, Open Heart, Open Mind, has 10 members
- Jeff Gold's Wise Aging class had 12 participants
- Sue Oren's Introduction to Judaism begins early May for Spring/Summer session, Virtual Meditation on Tuesday mornings
- Adult Hebrew: Continues to meet virtually with Rabbi Lippe
- Chavurah: Continues to meet virtually with a host of our leaders!
- Cooking by the Book: Student Rabbi Healy Slakman successfully hosted a virtual Cooking by the Book Shabbat lunch in March after Rabbi Kane led a Cooking by the Book session earlier in the year
- Movie Discussions with Student Rabbi Healy Slakman: An article in The Jerusalem Post recently identified the Top 10 Israeli Movies of the Decade. The movie changes weekly, then all tune in together to discuss culture, identity, history, aesthetics, and more.

We, Katie Rein, Interim Assistant Director and Céline Alderman, Education Program Administrator joined the team full time at the end of the February and beginning of March and are a grateful dynamic duo leading the Religious School through this new era.

Katie Rein
Interim Assistant Director

Céline Alderman
Education Program Administrator

Director of Early Childhood Education's Annual Report

THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR

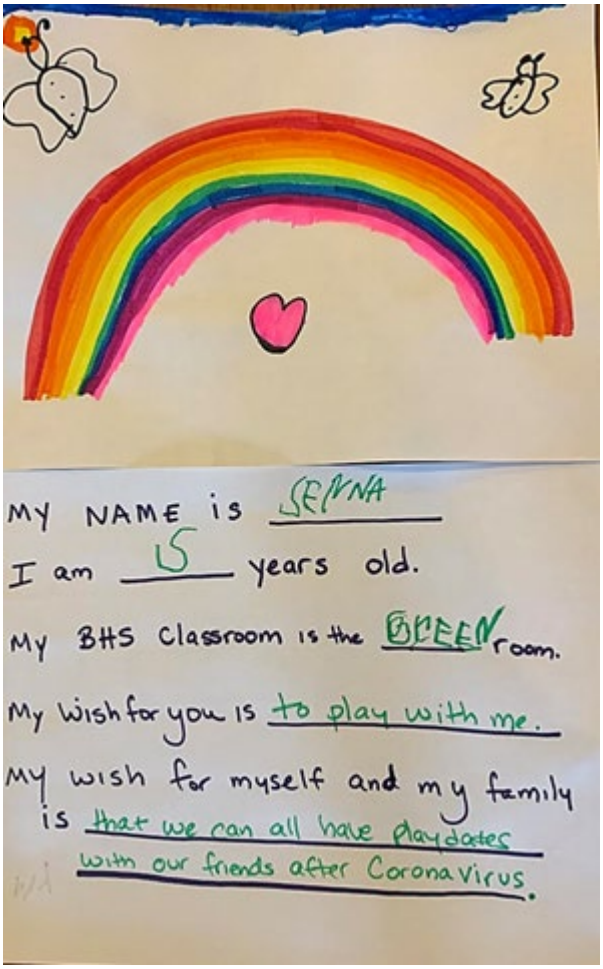
This year the Preschool had 102 students in seven classes and celebrated its eighteenth year of working with children and their families in the Brooklyn Heights community. From September to early March, we enjoyed our usual calendar of meetings, emergent curriculum that followed the interests of our children, celebrations, and a bevy of choices and electives for children and their parents. While this year is likely to be defined in our memories by the changes required because of COVID-19, we also cherish this year and its accomplishments for what came before!

AN EXPERIENCED STAFF

Continuing our trend for good teacher retention, we began the year with an experienced and gifted staff. Importantly, our most qualified teachers – our head teachers – all stayed on from last year. The classrooms rang with the voices of happy friends and our curriculum was lively and effective. In the Preschool, we tend to measure our success by the quality of experience of our children. Still, it is worth noting that our acceptances at competitive private schools are excellent as we provide both an organic learning experience and strong preparation for kindergarten. Several of our Pre-K children also qualified for Gifted and Talented programs, which must be determined through testing. Our qualified and creative staff has never been more able to ensure that every child is joyfully meeting their potential.

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

While the demographics in our school were very similar to last year, the family relationship to BHS shifted when we offered a free year of membership to new Preschool families. Our percentage of children from member families went from 30% to over 50% and we saw that, as hoped, these families were highly engaged in community activities and religious services. We had hoped to evaluate the success of this program in several ways – one of which was the tendency of these families to begin a paid membership in their second year. It will be necessary to recalibrate considering the upheaval (both financial and geographical) of COVID-19. But the initial experience of offering this opportunity to call BHS "my synagogue" instead of "the synagogue" showed that families with young children are often eager to engage in Jewish community and need only some encouragement to begin their membership sooner.



FUNDRAISING

The annual Book Fair was not only financially successful in meeting its goals, but was truly an enjoyable family event! Our Spring Fundraiser "BHS Preschool Is Blooming" met the challenge of a March date with aplomb! Our usual date is May, which allows us to invite new families enrolled for the next school year and get them involved. Our committee offered reduced tickets to these new families who had only enrolled within a few days of the event and their turnout was high. We were able to come quite close to the levels of giving in a year we hold the event in May, as a result.

MORE FOR YOUNG FAMILIES

The Parenting Center also had excellent enrollment in its on-going classes, the Boker Twos and Shalom Yeladim. With the addition of a full-time Assistant Director, Lisa Kopel, we have also been able to meet the strong interest in community-building activities in creative collaboration with

our Families Membership Committee. Park meet-ups, the Rosh Hashanah apple picking event, Pizza in the Hut Sukkot celebration, family-oriented Shabbat services, and community dinners and much, much more all were highly attended. At times, our only limiting factor was the number of days in a week! With interest in attendance high and volunteers always ready to put their full effort in, BHS's role as the-place-to-be was assured. There are too many volunteers to mention here – which is testament to the leadership of Preschool parent Alycia Zimmerman, who created a working model that not only drew participation but the development of new leaders.

Our Enrichment program was fully enrolled this year, which allowed us to expose children in our school to everything from yoga to soccer. These classes also give parents a chance to extend their child's school day – something we know is important in a time when parents tend to want more hours of school for their children. We had fully enrolled our camp – located at St. Ann's to allow for construction in the summer months here at BHS – when we were forced to vacate our buildings in March.

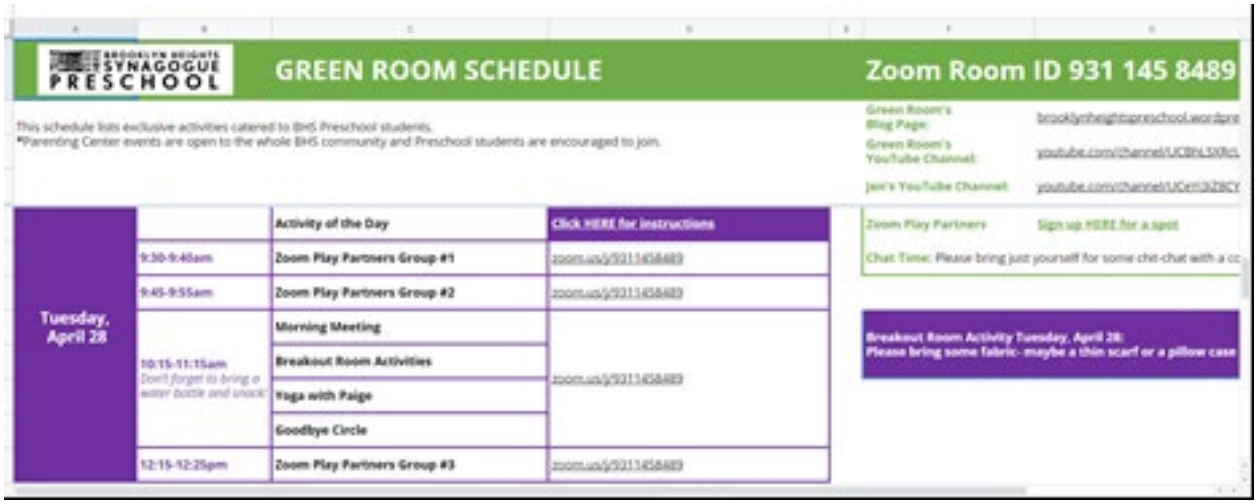
ADMISSIONS

Preschool admissions for 2020-21 were strong with 102 admitted and a waiting list, as well. The Parenting Center was also fully enrolled as we looked ahead to next fall.

TOGETHER AT HEART

The Preschool and Parenting Center had their last day of in-person school on March 11. Preschool Assistant Director Jen Kendall provided steady and caring leadership in an unusual time as parents and children were informed of our decision to put health and safety before all other considerations. Pam Karlin, Director of Early Childhood Education, had major surgery on March 10 and was back for full time remote work six days later. The administrative team then orchestrated a three-phase program to begin remote learning for our Preschool and our on-going Parenting Center classes.

Surveying our parents, we learned that many had relocated, and that stress was high around working from home while parenting full time. Our initial offerings were entirely based on what they could manage, and teachers made videos to share and scheduled FaceTime calls with our students so that parents could use what they felt ready for. We then moved to a period of Zoom skill-building in which children were invited to small and large group meetings to learn this new way of interacting. As of this writing, children are now enjoying continuous periods of school – transitioning from morning meeting to break out groups for small group play and work, to specialists (we offer yoga, music, movement, Shabbat time, and more) back for snack time and other activities. We are gradually extending the time children are with us as they adjust to this new normal. With seven classes to schedule, Preschool Operations Coordinator and Registrar Melis Bromberg's organizational ability has been invaluable.



A sample page from the Preschool remote learning schedule.

The Preschool is also offering evening parent support groups and held a Curriculum Night to inform parents about how to get the most from these new classes. The Parenting Center is also Zooming with its students and offering the usual schedule of parent/child events like a Pajama Havdalah, Tot Shabbat, and a parent-only Trivia Night.

The Preschool also worked with the Chesed Committee to create a Book of Rainbow Wishes for BHS members who were isolated by COVID-19. Both parents and children embraced this chance to share their wishes of caring and support.

COVID-19'S IMPACT AS WE LOOK AHEAD

Sadly, we have had to cancel our summer programming as the purpose of summer is quite different from school and the hours of fun, physical recreation we generally provide are not practical in a remote format. However, we are in the process of developing a Summer Subscription option so that our children can stay in touch with one another over the summer, our new students can begin to meet one another and their teachers, and we can provide a menu of fun summer-at-home options like "Sock-er" (safe indoor soccer time), arts and crafts, drama, gymnastics, etc. Teachers will guide Zoom playdates and meet-ups, too.

There is no doubt this is an extraordinary time for the families we serve in the BHS Early Childhood Department. It has been challenging to meet the highly individual needs of so many families enduring a time of upheaval. Through creativity, sensitivity, and tremendous hard work, we are striving to provide not only connection, but continued growth and education to our dear children. While we can responsibly provide fewer hours of programming, teachers' hours have nearly doubled. They have learned new technology and re-created their professional practice in a matter of days. They are meeting both the educational and emotional needs of children and parents with a level of professionalism and care that is every bit as extraordinary as these times.

At present, we are waiting for word from parents who are enrolled for the 2020-21 school year as to their plans. We have informed them that the Preschool plans to move forward with a September opening in whatever form we can. We will be there for their children remotely or otherwise!

When Rabbi Lippe led our two Zoom Preschool Seders, the resonance of the final words of these bittersweet events was clear. "Next year in Jerusalam!" has never been so relevant a statement. We all look forward, with great longing, to the time we can be together again as a community in health and happiness.

Pam Karlin
Director of Early Childhood Education

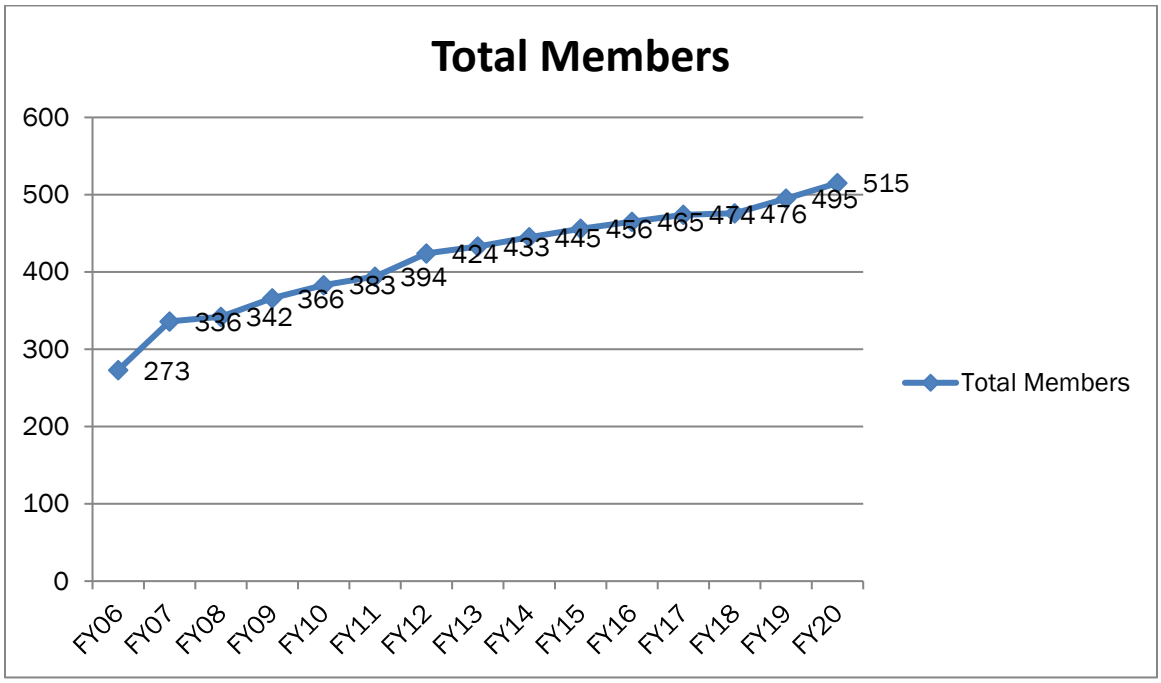
Membership Statistics

Current Member Families*: 515
New Members Families: 46
Resignations: 18
Suspensions**: 12
Growth (Decline): 20 families

*As of Shulcloud reporting on April 27, 2020. The discrepancy in the total current member families plus the new members, less the resignations in comparison to last year's final count due to date variance from when the data was pulled.
**Families that abstained from membership for this year, but fully expect to return next year

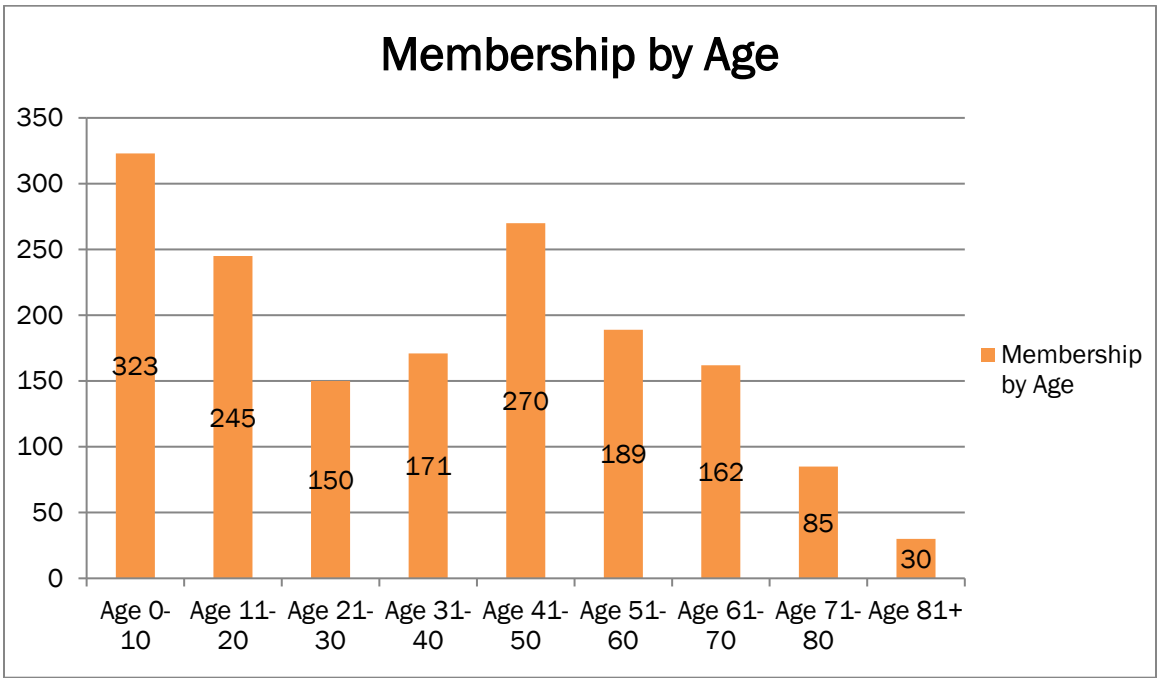
Membership Growth from FY06 – FY20

Fiscal Year	TOTAL MEMBERS	Fiscal Year	TOTAL MEMBERS
FY06	273	FY13	433
FY07	336	FY14	445
FY08	342	FY15	456
FY09	366	FY16	465
FY10	383	FY17	474
FY11	394	FY18	476
FY12	424	FY19	495
		FY20	515



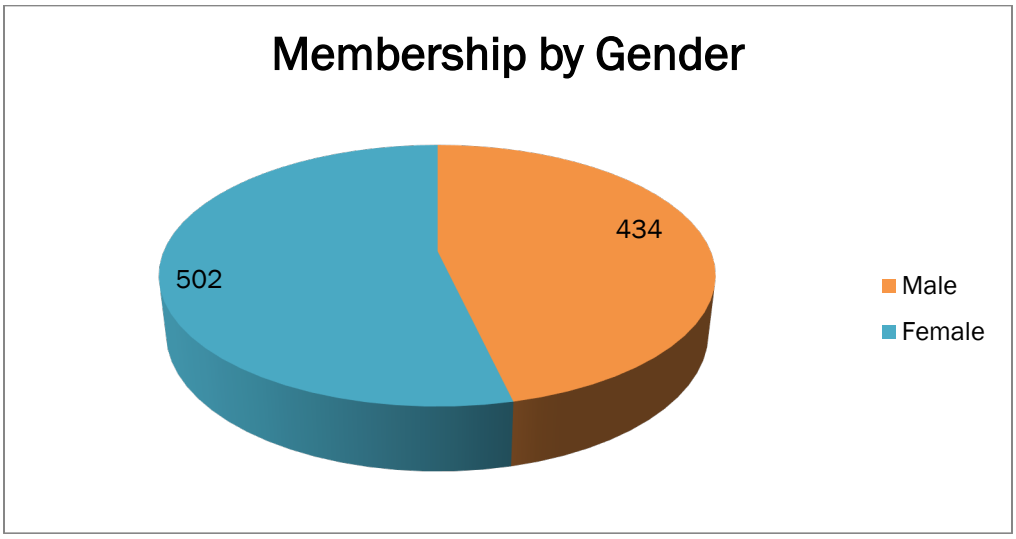
Membership by Age

The below graph breaks down the entire congregation, including children, by age. The largest age cohort in our congregation is children aged 0-10, noting our vibrant young families population at BHS.



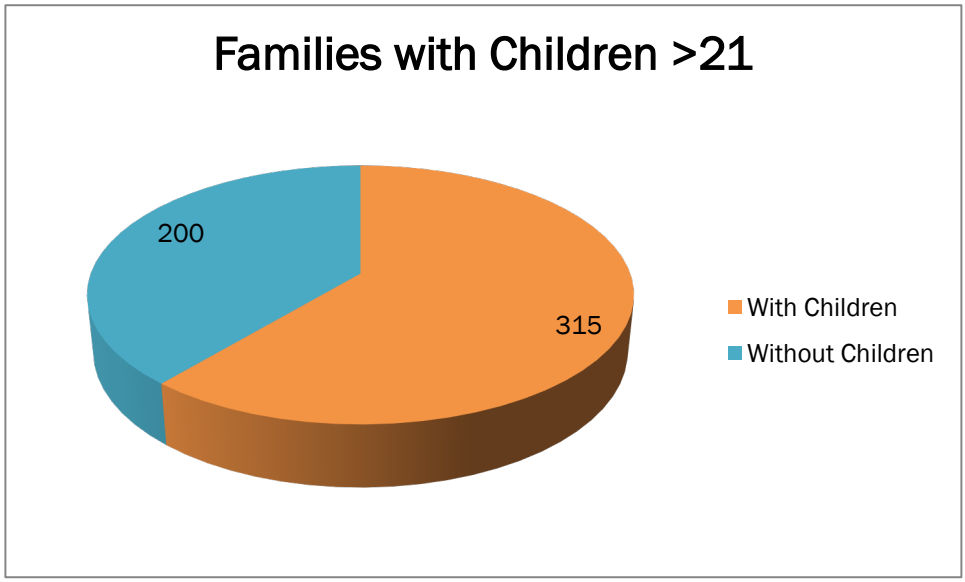
Membership by Gender

54% of the BHS adult membership is female and 46% of the adult membership is male. The below graph depicts individuals and not member units.



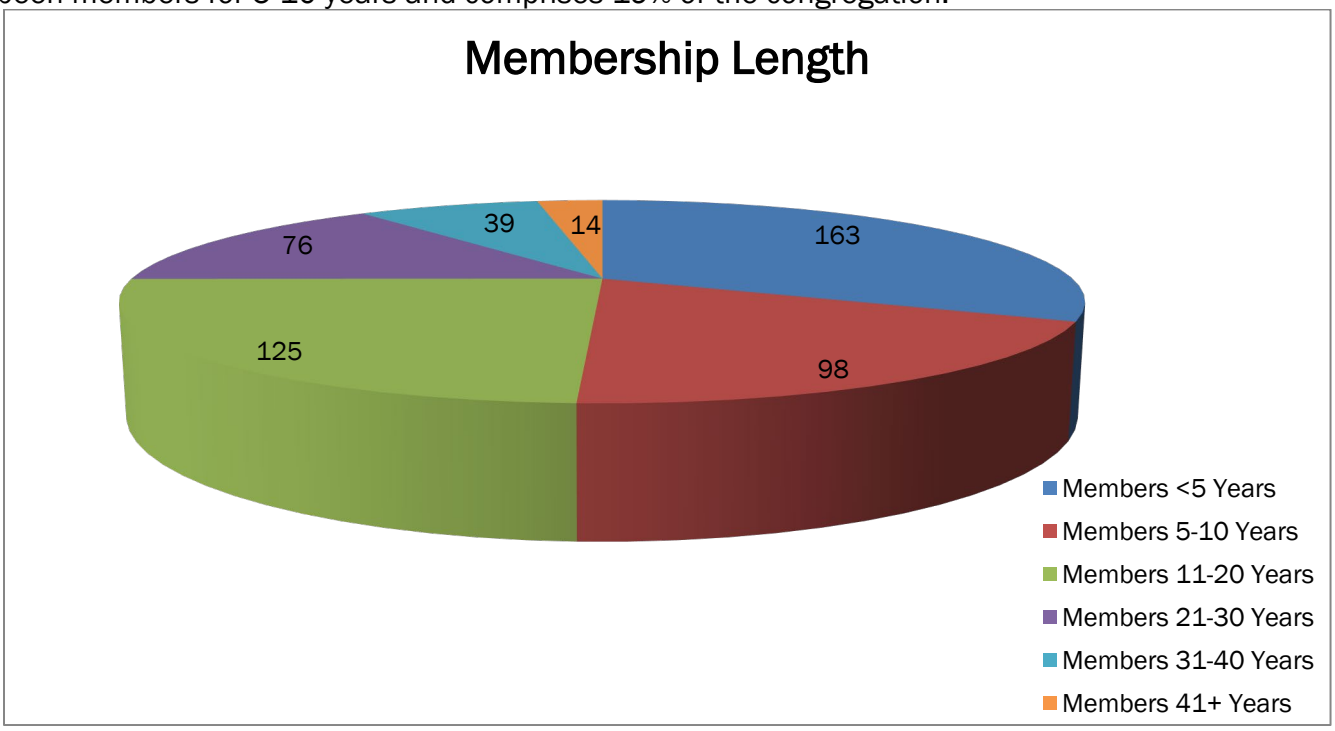
Families with Children Under 21

61% of the BHS congregation has children under the age of 21. The below graph depicts member units.



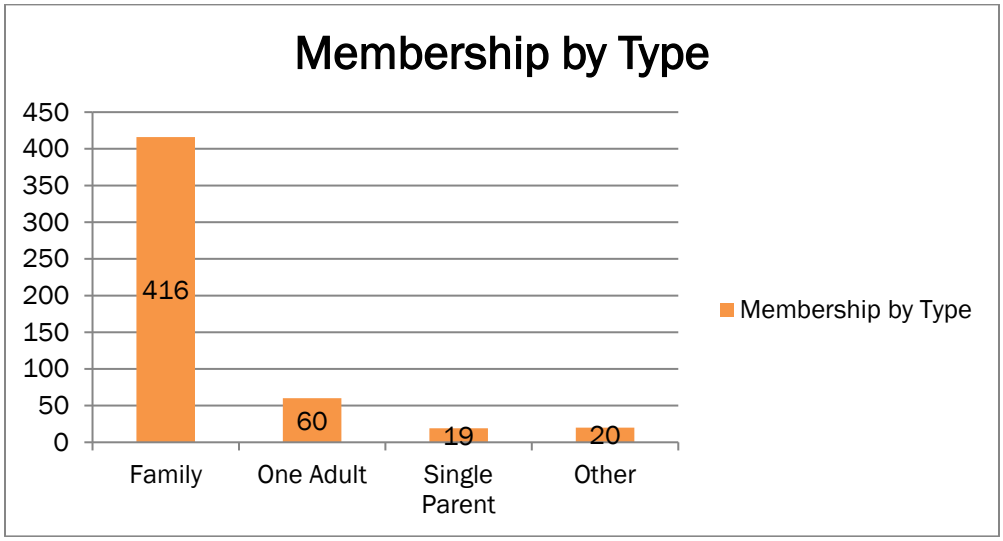
Membership by Tenure

The below graph details how long member units have belonged to BHS. The largest group, members for less than 5 years, comprises 32% of the congregation. The second largest group has been members for 11-20 years and comprises 24% of the congregation. The third largest group has been members for 5-10 years and comprises 19% of the congregation.



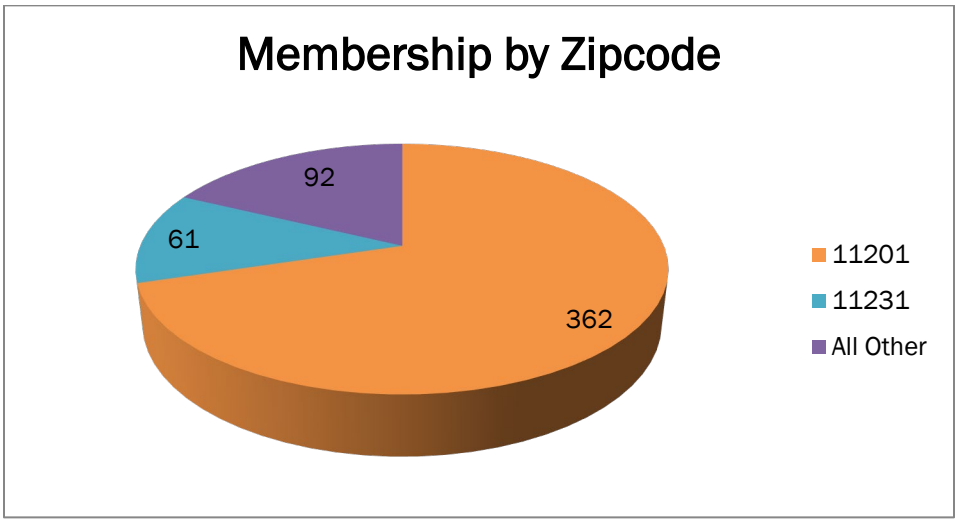
Membership by Type

The BHS membership encompasses various compositions of member families or two adult households with or without children. As the below graph depicts, 81% of the congregation is comprised of member families.



Membership by Zip Code

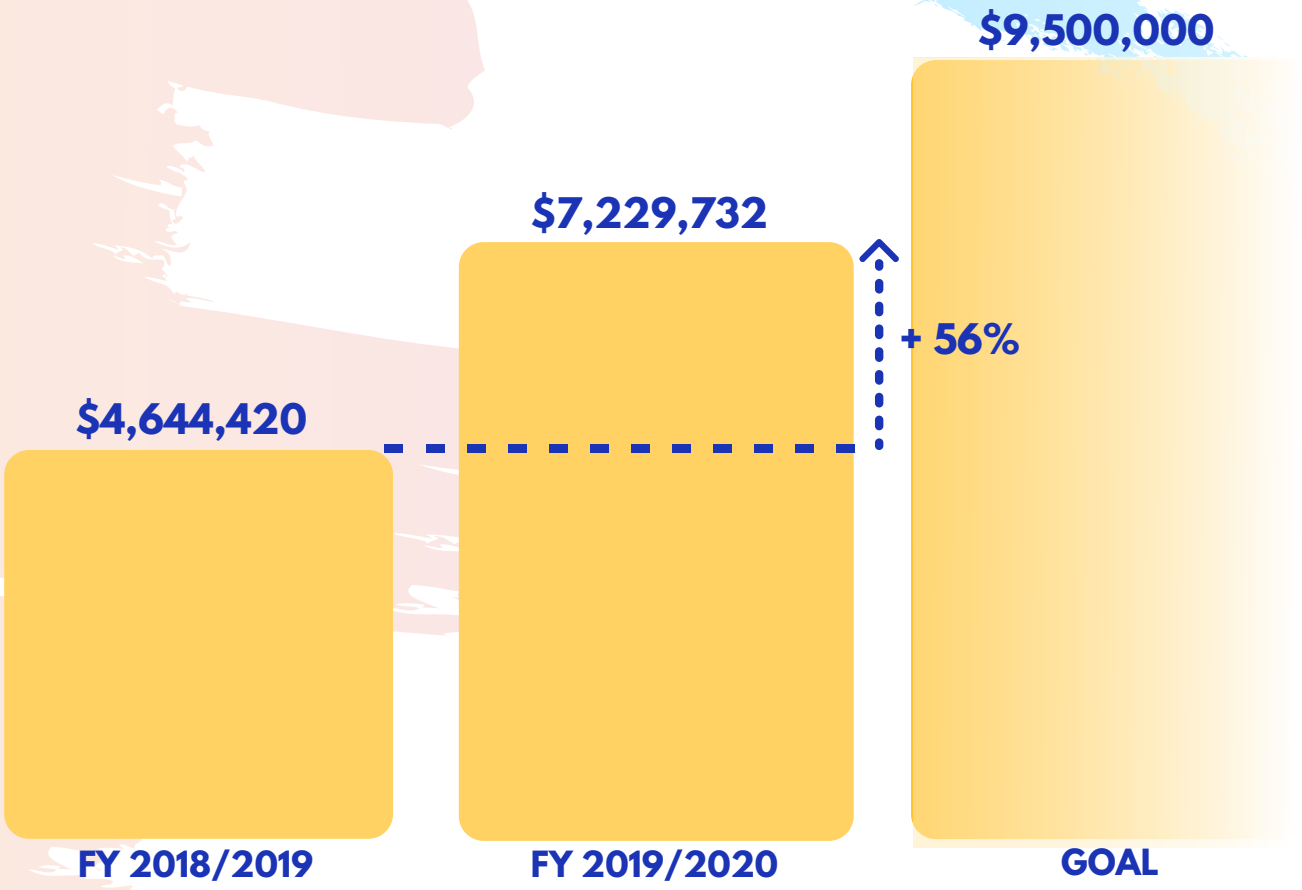
362 member units, or 70% of the congregation, reside in the 11201 zip code which covers Brooklyn Heights, Downtown Brooklyn, DUMBO, Vinegar Hill, and parts of Fort Greene and Cobble Hill.



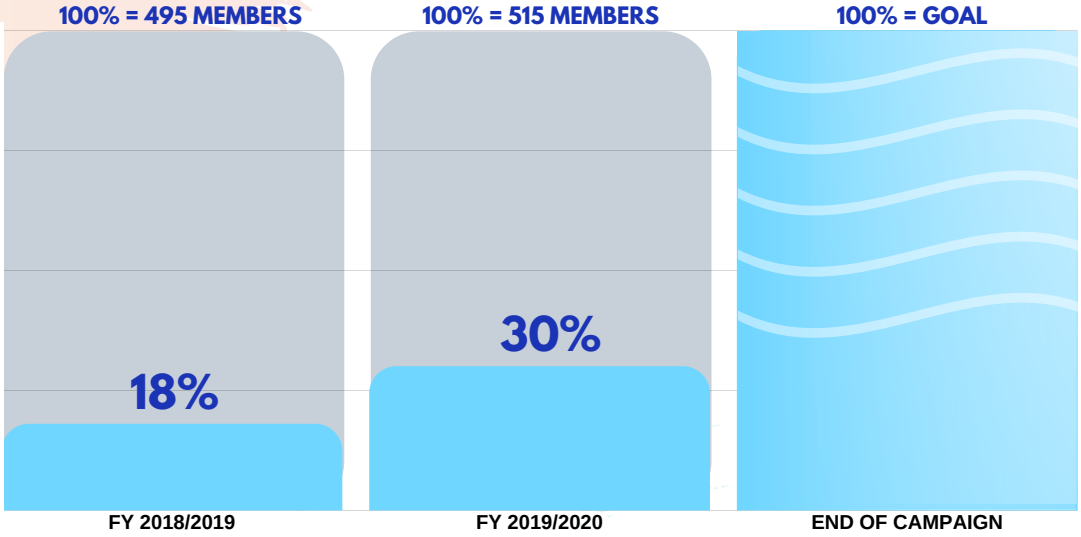
Compiled by Amy Leszman
Director of Member Engagement

BHS NEW HEIGHTS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Campaign Progress: Amount Raised



Campaign Progress: Participating Congregants



Our Donors Joined BHS in...

- 1960-1969 - 3%
- 1970-1979 - 5%
- 1980-1989 - 12%
- 1990-1999 - 20%
- 2000-2009 - 31%
- 2010-2019 - 28%

All Board Members are participating

COVID - 19 and the CAMPAIGN

We are not deterred by the forced pause on our construction due to COVID-19. We will rebound and fulfill our vision. Our BHS spirit evidenced by all we are doing as a community during this crisis will propel us to the finish line. Much appreciation to all who have already joined the New Heights campaign. We are in a "pause" in physical terms, but by no means is our commitment to completion diminished.

- Due to COVID-19 restrictions, physical aspects are postponed for a year.
- We will continue working with banks and subcontractors to ensure we get the most favorable terms upon resumption of the project.
- We will continue our work as fast as circumstances permit. Much is unknown.
- We appreciate all the hard work already done, and the accomplishments of the members of the Capital Campaign, Project Management and Finance Committees. We have an excellent foundation in place which will put us in position to move quickly once we get a "go."
- We would not be where we are today without countless hours spent by our clergy and administrative teams. The time, energy and support have been remarkable.

Our Goal Remains: $9,500,000

- 2,300 square foot social hall with capacity for 200 people
- Larger space for preschool consolidated on one floor
- Outdoor garden more than 2.5 times its current size
- More religious school rooms and spaces for adult learning
- Creating a fully accessible building for those with mobility challenges and for strollers

New Heights Leadership

Campaign Steering Committee
Susan Chadick, Co-chair
David Smetana, Co-chair
Anne Landman, Secretary
Marcia Bellows
Jennifer Germain
Karen Gordon
David Jaroslaw
Jonathan Kopp
Michael Lasky
Rachel Loeb
Alan Schiffres
Aaron Zimmerman
Sue Gold
Liann Herder
Karen Bloom, Heller Fundraising Group
Peter Heller, Heller Fundraising Group

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Anne & Mark Landman
Rachel Schnoll & Stephen Yankauer
David Smetana
Allan Brilliant
Rhonda Epstein
Fran Gottfried
Jeffrey Powers
Aaron Zimmerman
Rabbi Molly Kane
Rabbi Serge Lippe

Campaign Launch Committee
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Maggie Ball, Co-chair
Lauren Smetana, Co-chair

Communications Committee
Jonathan Kopp, Chair
Eve Hall
Kerri Lyon
Lauren Young

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Rabbi Serge Lippe & Deb Speyer
Rachel Schnoll & Stephen Yankauer
Aaron & Alycia Zimmerman

New Heights Donor List 2019-2020

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Lewis Lieberman & Ina Ratner
Rabbi Serge Lippe & Deborah Speyer
Bobye List
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Thank you to our supporters – July 1, 2019 through May 1, 2020

2017-18 Annual Congregational Appeal
Mark Lenetsky & LouAnn Smith

2018-19 Annual Congregational Appeal
Andrew Akers & Jennifer Wilkov
Kenneth & Sherry Cohen
John Herzog
Arthur & Judith Keller
Stephanie Neville
Paul & Stefanie Teitelbaum

2019-20 Annual Congregational Appeal
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Martin & Ellen Adelman
Amy Appelbaum
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Morrell & Maria Avram
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Alex & Emily Bellos
Allan Brilliant & Marcia Bellows
Harvey & Ellen Berenson
in honor of our children
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in memory of Leonard Greenberg
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in memory of my father, Michael Lazar
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in honor of the birth of Sidney Asher Rosenfield Mallin
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in memory of Leonard Greenberg and Mel Solomon
Liesje Ten Houten
in memory of Leonard Greenberg and Jonathan Stewart Simon, and in honor of Eileen Dirnfeld and Sue Gold
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Jonathan Lonner & Lauren Young
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Douglas & Natalie Giles
David Black & Melissa Glass
in memory of Leonard Greenberg
Jeffrey Gold & Helene Fuhrman-Gold
in memory of Leonard Greenberg
Michael & May Goldberg
in celebration of our anniversary, in memory my father Leonard Goldberg, in memory of Leonard Greenberg, in appreciation of Andrea LoPresti, and in appreciation of the honor of reading a prayer at Rosh Hashanah services and for the new member cocktail reception
Reva Golden
Frances Gottfried
in memory of Alexander Berger, Dr. Bernard DeHovitz, and Marvin Starkman
Shirel Guez
Cindy Hochman
in appreciation of livestreamed services
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in memory of my father, Eugene Jacobs
Seth Kurn & Barbara Harris
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in memory of Dr. Bernard DeHovitz
Jane Meyers
in memory of Leonard Greenberg and Mel Solomon
Judith Miles
in memory of Dr. Bernard DeHovitz
Kenneth Olshansky & Margot Owett
in celebration of our anniversary
Sharon Polli
in memory of Priscilla Zaontz
Jeremy Primer & Sandra Wertheimer
in memory of Leonard Greenberg
Carrieann Reilly
Ellen Rittberg
in appreciation of yizkor services
Maxine Rockoff
in memory of my mother Hilda Kahan, my father Arnold Leo Lieberman, my sister Mary Ellen Nerlove, and in honor of Rabbi Molly Kane
Eryn Rosenblum
Susan Sacco
in memory of Alexander Berger
Andrew & Leslie Schultz
in memory of Leonard Greenberg
Dan Silverman & Barbara Deinhardt
in memory of Alexander Berger
Charlotte Simon
in memory of my son, Jonathan Stewart Simon
William & Sarah Sobel

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Paula Stern
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in memory of my son, Simon Johannes Maurits Ten Houten
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in celebration of Solomon Block becoming a bar mitzvah
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in memory of Alexander Berger, Leonard Greenberg, Sookie Jacobs, and my husband Allen Schwartz
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in honor of our Chai anniversary
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Brian & Joy Gelbman
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Andrew & Jennifer Gordon
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Helen Hockney
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Evan Benjamin & Mallory Kasdan
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Joshua Lapidus & Tara Consi
Bobye List
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Lenore Cooney
in memory of Priscilla Zaontz
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in celebration of Abby Wiener becoming a bat mitzvah

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in memory of my father, Sidney S. Goldstein
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in memory of my grandmother, Elaine Schain
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in appreciation of Shabbat evening services
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in honor of Barbara Deinhardt
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in celebration of our anniversary
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in memory of our daughter, Abigail Brodsky
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in memory of Alexander Berger
David & Lisa Dince
Jeffrey Ginsberg & Jane Smith
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in memory of Mel Solomon
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in memory of my brother, Stanley Itkin

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Marsha Rimler
in memory of Leonard Greenberg

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in celebration of the wedding of Max Lebowitz-Nowak and Melody Sachmechi
Joel Nowak & Wendy Lebowitz

Rabbi Kane's Discretionary

Hilary Ackermann & Paul Goldberg
in celebration of the birth of Avishai Lev Citrin-Kane
Amy Appelbaum
Jan Erica Bertisch
in celebration of the birth of Avishai Lev Citrin-Kane
Cliff Fonstein & Nadia Burgard
in celebration of the birth of Avishai Lev Citrin-Kane
Frances Gottfried
in celebration of the birth of Avishai Lev Citrin-Kane
Lynn Harmon
in celebration of the birth of Avishai Lev Citrin-Kane
Peter Heller
in celebration of Rabbi Molly Kane and Michelle Citrin's wedding
Miriam Katowitz
in memory of my husband, Arthur J. Radin
Ellen Lippmann
in celebration of the birth of Avishai Lev Citrin-Kane
Jane Meyers
in celebration of Rabbi Molly Kane and Michelle Citrin's wedding
Andrew Moshman

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in celebration of the birth of Avishai Lev Citrin-Kane
Lale Odekon
in celebration of the birth of Avishai Lev Citrin-Kane
Kenneth & Sandra Roff
and in memory of my mother, Beatrice Roff
Susanne Sack
Howard Schain
in appreciation of my daughter, Lori Hiler
William & Sarah Sobel
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in celebration of Rabbi Molly Kane and Michelle Citrin's wedding

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Jack DeHovitz & Lisa Goldfarb
in memory of my father, Dr. Bernard DeHovitz
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Richard & Anita Inz
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Miriam Katowitz
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in memory of my mother, Georgette Kodsi
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in memory of Leonard Greenberg
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Alan & Karen Neuberg
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Michiko Neufeld
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in appreciation of Rabbi Serge Lippe
Christopher Lyon & Debra Pearlman
Helen Pearlstein
in memory of Arthur Radin
Claire Pemstein *z"l*
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in memory of Arthur Radin
Raymond Raskin & Rosary Morelli
in memory of Leonard Greenberg
Gail Ressler
in memory of Claire Pemstein

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in memory of my father, Michael Lazar
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in appreciation of Rabbi Serge Lippe and the BHS community
William & Sarah Sobel
Laura Solomon
in appreciation of Rabbi Serge Lippe
Alex Gelinas & Linda Sosnowitz
in celebration of the marriages of Dov Lebowitz-Nowak and Amber Bloom and Max Lebowitz-Nowak and Melody Sachmechi, and in memory of Marvin Starkman
Richard & Susan Sporer
in appreciation of Rabbi Serge Lippe
Richard & Joan Stern
in appreciation of Rabbi Serge Lippe on the occasion of our son's marriage
Robert & Susan Teich
in memory of my father, Norman Kalt and my mother, Loretta Teich
Doris Versh
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in celebration of the marriages of Dov Lebowitz-Nowak and Amber Bloom and Max Lebowitz-Nowak and Melody Sachmechi
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Brian Stein & Jessica Toonkel
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Matthew Fishbein & Gail Stone
in memory of Edward and Ruth Fishbein, and Francis Stone
Benjamin & Elizabeth Fishman
in honor of Anne Landman
Steven & Susan Gold
in honor of Alexander Smetana becoming a bar mitzvah and in celebration of our anniversary
Bruce & Cheryl Goldhirsch
in honor of Anne and Mark Landman's anniversary
Karen & Bob Gordon
in memory of Leonard Greenberg
Frances Gottfried
in honor of Rabbi Ilana Schachter and in memory of Priscilla Zaontz
Dan Haft & Ellen Pemstein
in memory of Leonard Greenberg
Charles Critchlow & Cecile Hanft
in memory of Leonard Greenberg
Richard & Anita Inz
in memory of Leonard Greenberg
Jeffrey Brown & Amy Jaffe Brown
in honor of Henry Brown becoming a bar mitzvah
Amy Leszman & Dan Garwood
in memory of Leonard Greenberg
Diane Person
in memory of my husband, Stanley Person
Raymond Raskin & Rosary Morelli
in memory of Harold Hiller
Gail Ressler
in appreciation of Chavurah leaders

If we have inadvertently omitted you from this list or listed your name incorrectly, please accept our sincere apologies. Please contact the office to remedy this error.

THE CHESED COMMITTEE

JUSTINE BLOCK & LAUREN SMETANA, CO-CHAIRS

JESSICA APTMAN
MAGGIE BALL
DEBORAH BARUH
JENNIFER BASNER
BETTE BIRNBAUM
ISABEL BLOOM
JAMIE BLOOM
RACHEL BOYMAN
JULIE COHEN
JENNIFER GERMAIN, TRUSTEE
KIM GLICKMAN
JENN GORDON
DANA GRUBIN
ANN JERNOW
KERRI KAPLAN
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DAHLIA RADLEY-KINGSLEY
JENNIFER RICHARDSON
ELLEN RITTBERG
RACHEL SCHNOLL
LARA SELIGMAN
LAURIE SOLER
RHONDA WEINER

THANK YOU

TO OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

COMMUNITY IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

CONGREGATIONAL CALLERS

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MARCIA BELLOWS, 1ST V.P.
ANDY BERGER, TRUSTEE
BETTE BIRNBAUM
KAREN BRODY, TRUSTEE
GALE CANTOR
VICKI EASTUS
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First Name	Last Name	Executive Committee
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Andrew	Berger	
Karen	Brody	
Diego	Crasny	Treasurer
Monica	Elias	Secretary
Jennifer	Germain	
Karen	Gordon	President
Scott	Grubin	Vice President
David	Jaroslaw	Imm. Past President

First Name	Last Name	Executive Committee
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Lisa	Melmed Cohen	
Jeffrey	Powers	Vice President
Leslie	Schultz	
David	Smetana	
Lisa	Smith Dince	
Lauren	Young	
Aaron	Zimmerman	

The following individuals have completed their Board tenure this year:

- Monica Elias, Secretary
- Karen Brody, Trustee
- Lisa Melmed Cohen, Trustee
- David Jaroslaw, Immediate Past President
- Leslie Schultz, Trustee

The following individuals are nominated by the committee to become Trustees and/or Officers:

- Marcia Bellows, President
- Jeff Powers, First Vice President
- Scott Grubin, Vice President
- Aaron Zimmerman, Vice President
- Miriam Katowitz, Treasurer
- Julie Irwin, Secretary
- Andy Ball, Trustee
- Jennifer Richardson, Trustee
- David Salpeter, Trustee
- Alan Schiffres, Trustee

The Nominating Committee makes no further nominations of either Trustees or Officers.

2020-21 Board of Trustees

First Name	Last Name	Executive Committee
Andy	Ball	
Marcia	Bellows	President
Andrew	Berger	
Diego	Crasny	
Jennifer	Germain	
Karen	Gordon	Imm. Past President
Scott	Grubin	Vice President
Julie	Irwin	Secretary
Miriam	Katowitz	Treasurer
Jonathan	Kopp	
Jeffrey	Powers	1st Vice President
Jennifer	Richardson	
David	Salpeter	
Alan	Schiffres	
David	Smetana	
Lisa	Smith Dince	
Lauren	Young	
Aaron	Zimmerman	Vice President

David Jaroslaw
Chair, BHS Nominating Committee

Brooklyn Heights Synagogue

ANNUAL DUES & FEES 2020-2021

Dues may be resolved by check, e-check, cash, or credit card through ShulCloud.*

Membership **Dues & Fees** *Membership dues are the backbone of the Synagogue's annual budget. Included in your dues is $140 per member household that we pass on to the Union for Reform Judaism, as an affiliated congregation. To learn more about the URJ, visit www.urj.org.* *The synagogue's operating expenses are not entirely covered by membership dues. Our fundraising efforts throughout the year help us to meet those operating needs. We thank you, in advance, for your generous support.*	**Two Adults** *Household consisting of two adults with or without children*	**One Parent** *Household consisting of one adult living with children*	**One Adult** *Household consisting of one adult living without children*	**Amounts Due**
Security Fee (for non-PS families)* *If this is a burden, please contact Sue Gold.	**$190**	**$190**	**$190**	
Annual Membership Dues	**$2960**	**$2220**	**$1965**	
Special Membership Dues for new members under 30 years of age **OR** with children under 6 years of age, and for children of the congregation beginning at age 30 *Please contact our Executive Director to activate this special dues schedule.*	*1st Year* **$1080** *2nd Year* **$2035**	*1st Year* **$825** *2nd Year* **$1490**	*1st Year* **$800** *2nd Year* **$1425**	
Maintenance Fund Required of all members. Payment may be made in annual installments over a period of ten years, or sooner if possible. *The Maintenance Fund keeps our landmark building repaired and periodically refreshed. Additional contributions to this fund are always welcome.*	$2000 (or *$200 per year)*	$1000 *(or $100 per year)*	$1000 *(or $100 per year)*	
ARZA *(optional contribution; visit www.arza.org for more info.) This is the Association of Reform Zionists of America*	$36	$36	$36	
Subtotal for Membership Dues & Fees:				$
Subtotal for Religious School & BHGSY (see over)				$
TOTAL Amount Due for 2020-2021				$

If you would like to arrange for a payment schedule or other special financial consideration, please contact our Executive Director at 718-522-2070 x122 or executivedirector@bhsbrooklyn.org.

I (we) hereby apply for 2020-2021 membership in BHS. I (we) agree to abide by the by-laws, rules and regulations of the congregation, including the payment of all dues, tuition, and fees per the payment schedule, unless we have made special arrangements with the Executive Director of the synagogue.

Date: _____ Print Name(s): _____ _____

Signature(s): _____ _____

***For assistance logging on to ShulCloud, contact office@bhsbrooklyn.org or call 718-522-2070 ext. 121.**

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS SYNAGOGUE

Brooklyn Heights Synagogue

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Register by 6/15 to get the early bird rate!

Religious School and High School Tuition & Fees *(for early-bird registrations; a late fee of $75 applies after June 15)*	**Tuition**	**Number of Children**	**Amounts Due**
Kindergarten *Sundays 10am to noon OR Tuesdays 3:45pm to 5pm* *Tuition waived for 2019-20 BHS Preschool Grads starting Kindergarten in Fall 2020*	**$1020**		
Grade 1 *Sundays 10am to noon OR Tuesdays 3:45pm to 5:15pm*	**$1115**		
Grade 2 *Sundays 10am to noon OR Tuesdays 3:45pm to 5:30pm*	**$1115**		
Grade 3 *Mondays 4pm to 6pm*	**$1325**		
Grade 4 *Monday & Wednesday 4pm to 6pm OR* *Sunday 10am to noon & Wednesday 4pm to 6pm*	**$1575**		
Grade 5 *Monday & Wednesday 4pm to 6pm OR* *Sunday 10am to noon & Wednesday 4pm to 6pm*	**$1700**		
BAR AND BAT MITZVAH PREPARATION AND BEYOND			
Grade 6 *Monday & Wednesday 4pm to 6pm **OR*** *Sunday 10am to noon & Wednesday 4pm to 6pm*	**$1700**		
Grade 7 *Tuesdays 4pm to 6pm; invited to 6pm dinners with 8th to 10th graders*	**$1340**		
Bar/Bat Mitzvah Fee (for 2021 students) – billed 2/2020 **Bar/Bat Mitzvah Fee (for 2022 students) – billed 2/2021**	**$1800** **$1850**		
HEBREW HIGH SCHOOL: Grades 8-10 *Tuesdays 6pm to 8pm (dinner at 6pm)*	**$1035**		
HEBREW HIGH SCHOOL: Grades 11-12 *Wednesday evenings 7:30pm to 9:30pm twice a month at Rabbi Lippe's home*	**$1035**		
High School Israel Trip Fee *for our class trip in late May 2020*	**$1250**		
B. Subtotal for Religious School & BHGSY (Transfer to Line B on reverse side of page)			**$**

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS SYNAGOGUE

Mazel Tov to Our
2019, 2020, & 2021
5779 & 5780 & 5781
B'nai Mitzvah!

Molly Appelbaum	September 7, 2019
Ezekiel Wise	September 14, 2019
Jolie Weinstein	September 21, 2019
Alexander Kramer	September 28, 2019
Zoe Benjamin	October 5, 2019
Francesca Siskind-Holgersen	October 12, 2019
Henry Brown	October 19, 2019
Parker Lapidus	October 26, 2019
Braydon Kaplan	November 2, 2019
Noah Cutler	November 9, 2019
Zara Gelbman	November 23, 2019
Theodore Cogan	December 7, 2019
Sophie Larson	January 4, 2020
Gianna Gordon	January 11, 2020
Emily Landis	January 18, 2020
Sophie Landis	January 18, 2020
Alexander Smetana	February 1, 2020
Talia Dickinson	February 8, 2020
Bora Bromberg	February 15, 2020
Hallie Rosenzweig	February 22, 2020
Solomon Block	February 29, 2020
Teddy Basner	March 7, 2020
Milo Zaks	March 14, 2020
Sarah Radnay	March 21, 2020
Zoe Dovas	September 12, 2020
Ella Richardson	September 26, 2020
Leah Sapp	October 3, 2020
Elle Smiley	October 3, 2020
Elena Marquez	October 10, 2020
Nathaniel Weinberger	October 10, 2020
Jordan Perlman	October 11, 2020
Kayla Sirefman	October 17, 2020
Alex Chesin	October 17, 2020
Abraham Riss France	October 18, 2020
Ryan Turner	October 24, 2020
Jesse Turner	October 24, 2020
Aiden Shap	October 24, 2020

Dahlia Sussman	October 31, 2020
Naia Neuman	November 7, 2020
William Oliner	November 7, 2020
Emily Oliner	November 7, 2020
Addison Caruso Scott	November 14, 2020
Ryan Soler	November 14, 2020
Jordan Strohmenger	November 21, 2020
Max Korhammer	November 21, 2020
Jack Poppleton	December 5, 2020
Joshua Avram	December 12, 2020
Emily Avram	December 12, 2020
Brianna Wilson	January 23, 2021
Evan Goldoff	January 30, 2021
Aaron Shacknai	February 6, 2021
Leo Roth	February 20, 2021
Emma Arden	February 27, 2021
Jacob Wolfson	March 6, 2021
Alexander Leighton	April 10, 2021
Genevieve Hafter	April 17, 2021
Rylie Kaplan	April 24, 2021
Sawyer Conovitz	May 1, 2021
Shiloh Parnass	May 8, 2021
Zoe Melnick	May 15, 2021
Savion Roven	May 22, 2021
Turley Lipton	June 5, 2021
Nathaniel Hyman	June 12, 2021
Max Silber	June 19, 2021
Rachael Weiss	September 4, 2021
Samuel Rapoport	September 18, 2021
Phoebe Barowitz	September 25, 2021
Rachel Sobel	October 2, 2021
Reid Weinstein	October 9, 2021
Mason Kaplan	October 16, 2021
Ezra Cooper	November 6, 2021
Ari Melnick	November 13, 2021
Soleil Cohen	November 20, 2021

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS SYNAGOGUE

Join us for the High Holy Days 2020/5781!
See below for list of services.

SELICHOT	**Saturday, September 12**	
	7:30 pm:	Selichot Evening Program and Service
EREV ROSH HASHANAH	**Friday, September 18**	
	6:30 pm:	Evening Service
ROSH HASHANAH	**Saturday, September 19**	
	9:30 am:	Morning Service
	9:30 am:	Services & Activities for Grades Pre-K-7 & BHGSY Activities
	2:30 pm:	Community Family K-3 Service
		Community Tot (0-5) Service
	6:30 pm:	Evening Service
ROSH HASHANAH - 2nd Day	**Sunday, September 20**	
	9:30 am:	Morning Service
SHABBAT SHUVAH	**Friday, September 25**	
	6:30 pm:	Evening Service
	Saturday, September 26	
	9:30 am:	Chavurah followed by Study Lunch
KOL NIDRE	**Sunday, September 27**	
	6:30 pm:	Kol Nidre Service
YOM KIPPUR	**Monday, September 28**	
	9:30 am:	Morning Service
	9:30 am:	Services & Activities for Grades Pre-K-7 & BHGSY Activities
	Study Session following Yom Kippur Morning Service	
	2:00 pm:	Community Family K-3 Service
		Community Tot Service (0-5
	3:00 pm:	Afternoon, Yizkor & Closing Service

For further information, please call Amy at 718-522-2070 x124, or email amy@bhsbrooklyn.org.

Additional Materials

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BHS BYLAWS for May 14, 2020 Annual Meeting

Approved by BHS Board of Trustees on March 18, 2020

EXISTING BYLAW	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	COMMENT
Section 2. Special Meetings. (a) Special meetings shall be called by the Secretary of the Synagogue upon written request of: (i) The President of the Synagogue; or (ii) One third of the membership of the Board of Trustees; or (iii) Thirty voting members of the Synagogue, who shall state the purpose of the proposed meeting.	**Section 2. Special Meetings.** (a) Special meetings shall be called by the Secretary of the Synagogue upon written request of: (i) The President of the Synagogue; or (ii) One third of the membership of the Board of Trustees; or (iii) **One hundred or 10% (whichever is less)** of voting members of the Synagogue, who shall state the purpose of the proposed meeting.	One hundred voting members would be approximately 20% of our member units (not members), commensurate with the thirty voting members which was likely 20% of our member units (not members) around the time that this bylaw provision was written originally. The 10% is in keeping with Section 603(c) of the N.Y. Nonprofit Corporation Law.
Section 3. Books and Accounts Financial Reporting The Synagogue, to the extent possible, shall maintain its books and accounts in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles or another comprehensive basis of accounting acceptable in the United States. Annually an independent certified public accountant shall issue a compilation report of those books and accounts to be supplemented by an internal audit of the Synagogue's income and disbursements by qualified individuals as designated by the Board of Trustees.	**Section 3. Books and Accounts Financial Reporting** The Synagogue, to the extent possible, shall maintain its books and accounts in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles or another comprehensive basis of accounting acceptable in the United States. Annually an independent certified public accountant shall issue a **compilation, review or audit report of those books and accounts. The Board of Trustees shall approve the audited annual financial statements.**	We now have audited financial statements, which should be approved by the Board of Trustees as part of their fiduciary responsibilities.