# Table of Contents

- **Opening Prayer** .................................................. 3
- **Agenda** .................................................................. 3
- **President's Message** ............................................. 4
- **Senior Rabbi’s Report** ........................................... 5
- **Executive Director’s Message** .................................. 7
- **Treasurer’s Report and Fiscal Year 23 Budget** .............. 9
- **Cantor’s Report** ................................................... 11
- **Early Childhood Education Report** .......................... 13
- **Religious School Report** ......................................... 15
- **New Heights Capital Campaign Status Report** ............. 17
- **Nominating Slate for Board of Trustees** ..................... 18
Annual Meeting
May 23, 2022

Opening Blessing

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech haolam
asher kidshanu b’mitzvotav
v’tzivanu la’asok b’tzorchai tzibur.

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

Agenda

I  President’s Welcome

II  Voting on Nominating Committee’s Proposed Slate of Board Officers and Trustees

III  Voting on the FY 2023 Budget

3
President’s Message 2022

As I come to the end of my term as Board president, I reflect upon these past two years which have been like no other in the life of Brooklyn Heights Synagogue. When I took office as president in May of 2020, the Brooklyn Heights Synagogue was in lock down, but still working to fulfill our goals of prioritizing the connecting and caring for one another, promoting the health and safety of our community, and coming up with creative ways to facilitate worship and support community engagement. During this uncertain time, the Chesed Committee worked to ensure that our most vulnerable members were cared for; our Preschool, Religious School, and Adult Education programs operated remotely; spring b’nai mitzvahs were rescheduled for the fall; and the Building Project and Capital Campaign efforts were paused. Under Rabbi Lippe’s firm guidance — clergy, lay leaders and administrative staff worked together in Sacred Partnership to overcome the barriers we faced because of the pandemic; and we accomplished much over these two years. I am so proud to have been a part of this group leading the way.

When we learned that we could legally operate our Preschool in person, we immediately took steps that led to the successful and safe reopening of the Preschool in the fall of 2020. Soon thereafter, the Board of Trustees adopted a resolution to enter into a contract with our construction company, Archstone Builders; and the renovation project was, once again, underway. The Capital Campaign Committee regrouped, and is now less than a million dollars away from our goal of $9.5 million. Our committees, notably including the Social Justice Committee, remained active and pursued their various missions to care for our community and the world. When Sue Gold announced her retirement, we formed a search committee and found the incomparable Linda Harvey to serve as our new Executive Director.

We replenished lost income with a variety of initiatives, including grant writing and special appeals to the congregation who generously stepped up their donations to support the synagogue. Despite ongoing uncertainty, we booked a large event space for a Gala Fundraiser in honor of Rabbi Lippe’s 25th Anniversary at BHS. Due to the commitment and hard work of lay leaders and staff, the Gala was a resounding success with over 300 members of our community attending and supporting BHS.

I want to extend my gratitude to our clergy and staff for guiding us through these extremely unusual and challenging two years. Through rich and meaningful worship services and intellectual offerings, Rabbi Lippe and Cantor Ayelet sustained us spiritually throughout this time. I am grateful to Pam Karlin and her superb staff who continue to operate their exceptional early childhood programs while navigating lingering COVID safety issues, and the inconveniences caused by the construction schedule. I am especially thankful to Linda Harvey who has worked tirelessly to improve and streamline all aspects of our administrative affairs, including the management of our renovation project.

Guided by our Jewish values, and our commitment to care for each other and the world around us, we confronted our vulnerabilities and prevailed in keeping our community and institution intact. As the threat of COVID declines, and we move toward the end of our ten-year project to create a facility that meets the needs of this community, I look forward to seeing what comes next in the life of Brooklyn Heights Synagogue.

Thank you for the privilege of serving this extraordinary community.

L’Shalom,
Marcia

Marcia Bellows
President
Senior Rabbi’s Report

During our 63rd program year we continued to respond to the challenges of the global COVID-19 pandemic while moving toward a new ‘normal’ in fits and spurts. 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 with dedication, ingenuity and resilience.

We returned for the High Holy Days to Plymouth Church while continuing to offer remote options via Zoom and livestream. We celebrated Sukkot, Simchat Torah and Chanukah, then Purim (special mention of the Cantor’s efforts putting together the Muppets Take Shushan!) and our annual Carnival. We prepared for Passover and held our PS Seders on-line. We look forward to Shavuot with our Confirmands on Sunday morning, June 5.

And our Chesed Committee continued to check in by phone with our older, home-limited or pandemic isolated members. Members of the committee volunteering to make food purchases and to transport members to the doctor, and to make special deliveries on Jewish holidays and occasions. The Committee touches so many of us individually! Thanks to Lauren Smetana and Justine Block and our Social Worker Rabbi Adam Huttel.

The Social Justice Committee deserves kudos for all their efforts and activities. Thank you to Andrea Feller and Cliff Fonstein and the many dedicated hard-working members of the committee.

My heartfelt thanks to Rhonda Epstein and Melissa Kubin, our Silver Celebration Gala co-chairs and the score of committee members that created a truly once in a life-time experience as we celebrated 25 years of relationship!

This year saw the slow return of baby-namings in the BHS Sanctuary including Dov Lebowitz Nowak and Amber Bloom’s daughter Amira. And Robyn daughter of Nina Robbins and Arkell Weygangd (Marsha Rimler’s granddaughter.)

We celebrated the B’ni Mitzvah of Rachel Weiss, Samuel Rapoport, Phoebe Barowitz, Rachel Sobel, Reid Weinstein, Mason Kaplan, Nanoush Rubin, Ezra Cooper, Soleil “Ace” Cohen, Gabriel Sherman, Asher Gelbman, Jack Glickman, Madison Powers, and upcoming this June Miles Soler and Sofia Ryzowy.

I was honored to officiate several weddings this year, including David Freedman and Isabelle Bachrach, and my bat mitzvah Rachel Landman and her beau Max Weinberg.

We mourned many deaths, especially of our members Sylvia Frank, Arthur Keller, Gabriel Rissman, William ‘Bill’ Gutman, Helene Furman-Gold.

We also tried to fill the vacuum created by the departure of Rabbi Molly Kane last year. Thank you to Aaron Zimmerman and Jennifer Zaslow, chair and vice-chair of the absolutely remarkable Rabbinic Search Committee; members Maggie Ball, Marcia Bellows, Nancy Cohen, Cliff Fonstein, Jennifer Germain, Jeff Powers, Ken Roff, Martine Smidt. We will resume our efforts in the early Fall.

Thanks also to our “New Heights” Capital Campaign Committee, co-chairs Susan Chadick and David Smetana and to Anne Landman, our Campaign Secretary, as well as to all our solicitors, and to Channa Marx, whose long title only hints at her work for Development at BHS. As of this writing we have just tipped over $8.5 million on our way to our $9.5 million goal!

Cantor Porzecanski has proven a remarkable colleague and partner over the course of the last three years and throughout the pandemic. Kol HaKavod on being re-elected co-president of the Brooklyn Heights Interfaith Clergy Association. Deepest gratitude also to Miriam Daly our music director extraordinaire!

Pam Karlin proves her dedication and value far beyond precious gems every day, keeping our ECE program running amidst a pandemic for which we still do not have a vaccination for the age group of children she looks after. She has also demonstrated remarkable flexibility as we have had to deal with the approaching realities of being out of 131 Remsen Street for an extended period over the coming summer and fall.
Our Director of Religious School, Katie Rein, has continued to develop, improve upon and expand our program. She has been a remarkable addition to our team!

Welcome onboard to Elana Ayalon, our new Director of Membership Engagement and Programming.

I want to formally acknowledge and thank our Rabbinic Intern Healy Slakman who took a year off from HUC and worked full-time at BHS this year. We wish her every success as she finishes up at HUC in the coming year and moves on to a new internship. We are lucky that she will continue to facilitate our 20s/30s group – The Other Friday Night!

This past year saw Linda Harvey join our synagogue and team as our new BHS Executive Director. Words alone are insufficient to praise or describe the Herculean efforts she has put in to address all of our needs as we have dealt with Federal PPP loans, the bank construction loan, our massive construction project, and an almost entirely new administrative staff. And that’s just the stuff that stands out!!! Linda is an awesome partner and a deeply dedicated professional. January 2023 is coming!!!

A heartfelt and joyous ‘Welcome on Board’ to our nominated (and hopefully soon to be elected) BHS President Lauren Young. It is so exciting to have already started discussing BHS projects and plans with you. I look forward to our partnership over the next two years!

And finally, my deepest gratitude and appreciation to and for Marcia Bellows. Marcia did not sign up to be BHS President through a world-wide pandemic, but that is what she got! As Alice James opined: “Truly nothing is to be expected but the unexpected.” And Marcia that’s what you found in buckets! Throughout the last two years you did not flinch from your responsibilities as BHS President. I have found with you a Sacred Partner who always, always! put the well-being of our Synagogue in the forefront of her thoughts and actions!

To my wife Deb, who is the foundation of all that I do: I love you. To our children – Michael, Alex and Risa: Oh! The Places You Are Going!!!

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 23, 2022 / 22 Iyyar 5782

P.S. Erev Rosh HaShana is Sunday evening, September 25, 2022.

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*Officiating Rachel Landman and Max Weinberg’s wedding*

*Preparing Madison Powers for her Bat Mitzvah*
Executive Director’s Message

Nearly one year ago I joined Brooklyn Heights Synagogue as the new Executive Director. From the onset I recognized that one of the great attractions of this position is the opportunity to engage with the vibrant community that has long been a mainstay of BHS. I was also so impressed with the lay leadership and colleagues I met during my interviewing process who showed such care and warmth in the way they conducted the search. It seemed evident that I was joining an exceptional community. And I can now say with assurance that my first impressions were spot on.

Frankly, it is hard to believe that I have only been affiliated with BHS for barely a year. I feel as if I have known so many of the members for years. I was quickly immersed in so many projects covering a wide breadth of Synagogue operations and activities that enabled me to work with members who are deeply involved in the construction, development, membership engagement, and personnel committees, to name just a few. I quickly learned how deeply committed BHS members are and what a special community this is.

By necessity I needed to get up to speed fast and delve into the work that was required to move these projects and activities forward. It has been a challenging year – with construction on the two buildings moving fast and the need for our programs to keep adjusting as we moved around to accommodate work being done; an entirely new administrative staff was learning on the job as I was; and overlaying all of this was the continuation of Covid-19, which had a daily impact on our operations at every level. With the High Holidays exceptionally early this past year, we were immersed from day one in the thorough planning and work that go into making the holidays so meaningful to all who attended in person or watched remotely. Despite all these challenges, I am proud to say that we forged ahead and kept our programs intact and flourishing, began new initiatives, and continued to ensure that our members could connect with BHS in a myriad of ways that was important to them.

I am so grateful to have had the strong support of the Board of Trustees all along the way, as well as my sacred partners President Marcia Bellows and Rabbi Serge Lippe. They both have shown great patience with my endless questions about the way things are done at BHS, and their dedication and commitment to the Synagogue have been inspirational. It has been a pleasure to work with our Treasurer Miriam Katowitz, who has deep knowledge of all things financial and has been a true partner as we dealt with a variety of issues related to construction financing, our audit, payroll matters, developing the budget, and administrative procedures to ensure a more efficient process in our financial decision-making. Additionally, so many past presidents reached out to me to offer guidance and assistance throughout the year. They never hesitated to help me navigate difficult decisions, and they provided me with a wealth of useful information. That is a true testament to the dedication that each has for their institution.

Here are a just some of the highlights of this past year:
- Listening to Rabbi Lippe’s thought-provoking sermons for the High Holidays, but also every week; the melodious voice of Cantor Porzecanski; and the beautiful singing of the choir.
- Walking into a building each day to the joyous sounds of preschool children and knowing they are cared for by an exceptional staff.
- Hearing a loud and enthusiastic group of children on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons when our Religious School students are in person and knowing that these students are being guided in their religious education by outstanding teachers.
- Opening our building this past spring to in-person activities for our members of all ages for family programs and adult learning experiences.
- Helping the Social Justice Committee with a variety of drives that benefitted refugees and other marginalized communities and calls to action on other important social justice issues and activities.
- Working with outstanding professionals every day – Pam Karlin, Katie Rein, Karen Epstein, Lisa Kopel, Mellis Bromberg, and Céline Alderman — who are great collaborators and who demonstrate such commitment to their work.
• Developing a new administrative staff who are eager to learn, expand their responsibilities and help in any way they can. A special thanks to Elana Ayalon, Lauren Broggini, Channa Marx, and Mikhail Schevenko, who are my partners in every respect.

It was especially inspiring to see the community come back together in person or by Zoom for the Purim Megillah Reading and Spiel. The sanctuary was overflowing, and the streets were packed with the gleeful sounds of children for the Purim Carnival. I was particularly proud that we were able to successfully host the esteemed Rabbi David Saperstein over three days as our Scholar in Residence and, for the first time in nearly two years, host a dinner in our space open to everyone in the community. Due to the perseverance of our dedicated volunteers, we even managed to have Sipping in the Sukkah in the fall and Getting to Know You Dinners in the spring. This is certainly a testament to the strong bonds of this community.

As many people know, my year has been filled with overseeing multiple facets of our construction project. I entered this phase of the project after years and years of hard work and planning by countless members to bring this project to a reality. So it is with great pride that I have been entrusted to work with the Project Management Committee to ensure that the years of anticipation and planning are executed as envisioned. I am particularly thankful to be working side by side with Alan Schiffres, a seasoned, knowledgeable partner in all things construction. We have had a lot to contend with this year for sure, but it has been amazing to see the progression of the construction each step of the way and to know we are close to the finish line. When this is over, we will have one unified building that befits the needs of the community and will help in the recruitment of new members and preschool and religious school families.

Finally, as I write this, we have just concluded our gala in celebration of Rabbi Lippe’s 25 years of service to BHS. What a glorious night it was. More than 300 people in attendance came together to honor our remarkable Rabbi. The feeling of being together physically once again as a community was palpable, and because of the generosity of so many members who sponsored tables, took out ads in our journal, donated auction items or helped secure them, we surpassed our fundraising goal for the evening. A true success on every level!

There is much to be grateful for as I look back on the past year. I am truly looking forward to working with our charismatic, thoughtful, and number one cheerleader for BHS, soon-to-be elected President Lauren Young. I know that we will accomplish great things in the years ahead.

Thank you all,
Linda

Linda Harvey
Executive Director
Treasurer’s Report

Reporting for Fiscal Year 2021 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021)
An audit report was issued using accrual accounting for the results of Fiscal 2021 showing total revenues (capital campaign and operating) of $3,995,000 and expenses of $3,717,000 with non-operating activity of $729,000. The change in net assets is an increase of $956,000. Assets were $16,443,000 and liabilities of $3,579,000. Net assets without donor restrictions totaled $6,070,000 and with donor restrictions as to purpose totaled $6,802,000.

The audit was performed by PKF O’Conner Davies in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The audit has an unmodified opinion. The audited financial statements are available upon request to the Director of Membership to all members.

Overview of the Current Fiscal Year (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022)
On April 30, 2022 we had cash balances in the operating accounts totaling $3,345,000.

The capital campaign accounts were $1,200,000. Restricted fund account balances were $190,000. The outstanding balance on the mortgage payable was $689,000. Construction Financing totaled $3,370,000.

As of April 30, 2022 revenues are $4,251,000 which cover the entire year and expenses incurred through April 30, 2022 were $3,084,000. There is additional revenue from contributions (Serge’s Silver Celebration) that will come in May as will expenses for May and June.

Similar to FY 2021 BHS has been dealing with challenges from the pandemic. Religious School registration is at 175 children, the Preschool is at 88 children and our membership numbers are currently at 440 member units.

During FY 2022 the preschool received a special grant of $25,000 a month for seven months and the Employee Retention Credit was received providing $317,000.

Capital Campaign
As of April 30, 2022 the cash balances in the capital campaign accounts were $1,200,000 and the balance in the Weissler endowment fund was $491,000. The Weissler endowment fund has been designated by the Board to be used in building expansion.

As of April 30, 2022 total commitments received total $8.6 million for our New Heights Capital Campaign compared to the goal of $9.5 million.

Budget for FY 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)
The budget approved by the board shows a breakeven budget. There are increases for membership, religious school, preschool and several fees of approx. 10%. The assumptions include increases in the member units for a total of 460 member units and in the number of religious school students from 175 to 200. The Preschool is budgeted for 93 children.

The budget shows operating revenues of approximately $4,330,000 and expenses of $4,331,000 resulting in a break-even budget.

The key assumptions in the FY 2023 budget are:
• Donations and Fundraising are showing $315,000 compared to $567,000 in FY 2022 as there will be no gala in FY 2023
• The Early Childhood Center is projected to have 93 students and approximately $600,000 in additional income and $250,000 more in expenses.
• Religious School is predicting an increase of students and showing revenues of $2,238,000 compared to $1,883,000 reflecting an increase in the number of students
• Our membership is projected to grow by approximately 20 member units (to 460 member units) and bring in nearly $200,000 more in income.
• Salary increases are budgeted for all staff.

Financing of Capital Projects
The construction financing with Webster Bank (formerly Sterling National Bank) closed in July 2021. As of April 30, 2022 the construction costs for the project are running $2 million over budget and $2.3 million over the fundraising goals. Under the terms of the construction financing BHS is obligated to cover the overages over the approved budget. These are both the change orders for the project as well as all soft costs. It is likely during FY 2023 that the Weisler funds will be needed to pay for the increased costs and that funds that would have paid down the borrowing amounts will be needed to complete the project. The current estimate is that the construction financing will close out into a mortgage by the end of FY 2023.

Budget Summary

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<th>FY 2023 Budget</th>
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Cantor’s Report

This year we settled back into BHS and collectively put a toe back into more normative behaviors. We began holding services as normal in the building – albeit masked and distanced at first – while keeping those who weren’t ready to come back connected via Zoom and livestream.

The summer of 2021 was dedicated to staying connected via Zoom services while construction began in earnest. I had the pleasure of leading Shabbat morning services in person on several occasions for the community children. Thank you to Pam Karlin and Lisa Kopel for organizing this lovely opportunity to celebrate Shabbat with our preschoolers on the street outside BHS. B’nai Mitzvah were finally able to return to summer camps and travel. We welcomed a new clergy assistant, Channa Marx, who dove into making the impossible task of tracking and teaching all the students during the summer seamless. She continues to be an invaluable member of the staff.

The planning for High Holy Days this year was exceptionally challenging, as shifting COVID levels forced us to plan for every eventuality, and the holy days came very early. When we were at last able to commit to in-person High Holy Days at Plymouth Church, our intrepid choir was able to return as well. My deep gratitude to them for agreeing to take PCR tests before each service, wear masks to sing, stand far apart and in a dimly lit space while tolerating the heat of early fall in the Plymouth Sanctuary. Their dedication to elevating our services with their voices and spirits was felt and appreciated by all. Although it was a valuable exercise to learn and chant all the Torah and haftarah readings this year (for the sake of safety) I look forward to the return of Torah readers next year! Thank you once again to our music director, Miriam Daly, and our cellist, Jody Beder, for their musicianship and partnership.

The High Holy Days were closely followed by Sukkot and Simchat Torah. We were grateful to be able to hold those services in person in the BHS sanctuary. Although rain forced us inside on Simchat Torah, we were still able to celebrate with a live band, and dance around our pews. Rabbi Lippe and I read the Torah together, as I chanted, and he spontaneously translated each line!

In the fall I resumed Hebrew school classes, in person, teaching Hebrew and Cantillation to seventh graders. Our B’nai Mitzvah returned to Saturday mornings, and we were slowly able to welcome more and more guests into our Sanctuary space. We formed a committee that met regularly, consisting of Religious School Director, Katie Rein, Rabbi Lippe, Shiraz Biggie, our Hebrew learning specialist, and myself, to address Hebrew learning loss from the pandemic, and craft better Hebrew learning resources going forward. Shiraz’s wonderful Hebrew resources will be launched soon on our BHS website.

With the arrival of Thanksgiving, I gave my traditional d’var shir (sermon in song) about Sefardi Art Song. As is customary for me, I then taught a three-part class through December entitled Jewish Music 101: Sounds, Settings, and Significance, which had over 30 registrants and was well received.

With Chanukah came more opportunities for in person music-making and celebration. Rabbi Lippe and I lit candles with the Preschool and gave an outside concert from our front steps. We welcomed new members at Rabbi Lippe’s home on another night of Chanukah, and I also visited the Watermark Senior Residence to light candles with the residents and sing Chanukah songs.

Winter of 2022 arrived, and with it another COVID surge. We joined First Presbyterian Church in spirit to observe Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Day by welcoming some of their choir members and their pastor to our Friday night service. Thank you to Amy Neuner and Miriam Daly for collaborating, and to First Presbyterian choir members Richard and Michael Arriaga for sharing their music and voices with us.

In January and February, I taught another three-part class: Jews, Jazz, and Jewish Jazz. In the third class we welcomed Misha Piatigorsky, a Russian Jewish Jazz Pianist who played for us and shared his life journey. The class was well received and had over 50 registrants.

Purim brought us another wonderful opportunity to come together and celebrate in person. I wrote a Muppet Themed Purim Spiel, and everyone got into the spirit by coming as characters from the Muppets. Thank you to the hilarious cast: David Salpeter, Josh Goldberg, Max and Daphne Leighton, Olivia Sohmer, Dan
Rosenbaum, Ross Brown, Mark and Anne Landman, and Sandy Wertheimer. Thank you also to the Megillah readers: Nanoush Rubin, Phoebe Barowitz Alycia Zimmerman, Rachael Weiss, Laura Szapiro, Mark Landman, Healy Slackman, Dan Rosenbaum and Olivia Sohmer. It was a wonderful, multigenerational event. The Sanctuary was filled, and children were eager volunteers to read translations and hold prompting signs during the megillah reading. It was a raucous and joyful evening. Thank you again to Channa Marx for providing all the support I needed to pull off the evening!

I transitioned to teaching the 6th graders in Religious School, focusing on Cantillation and remedial Hebrew. We continue our schedule of Saturday morning B’nai Mitzvah. We turned the library into a Zoom room where I shared in the responsibility of leading Chavurah Torah Study.

**Spring of 2022** brought back the beloved Women’s Seder at Grace Church, which I have now inherited as my responsibility. I was assisted in the leading by Healy Slackman, and in the planning and execution by our wonderful new Membership Engagement Director, Elana Ayalon, and of course, our clergy assistant, Channa Marx. The event was a wonderful evening, attended and celebrated by 60 of BHS’ women. Many thanks to the staff that assisted, and to our wonderful volunteers who enhanced the evening with flowers, cocktails, and thoughtful additions to our seder text: Rachel Wolfson, Willow Locke, Natalie Green Giles, Laura Edidin, Rita Schwartz, and Laura, Caroline, and Julie Korman. Passover services moved back to Zoom as we made room for some intense construction progress in the building.

In April and May I taught another three-part series, this one entitled: When Words Alone Fail; Music and the Shoah. This class was well received and attended as well. It culminated in a joint Brooklyn Synagogue Yom HaShoah service at Congregation Beth Elohim, where I sang beautiful music with my colleagues Cantor Josh Breitzer (CBE), Cantor Lisa Segal (Kolot Chayeinu), and Cantor Sarah Myerson (Kane Street Synagogue).

It has been a full year and exciting year, all with one foot in-person and one foot in Zoom. I want to thank all the staff at BHS, new and old, who have made all these challenges manageable. I want to thank my partner in Service, Rabbi Serge Lippe, for his thoughtfulness and dedication.

Most importantly I want to thank my husband, Aric, and children, Jordan, Anatalya, Rafael, and Chloe for sharing me with this vocation, and making life easier for me.

May God bless us with health and peace, as we move forward together.

**Cantor Ayelet Porzecanski**

*Women’s Seder*
Early Childhood Education Report

Striking A Balance – Safety and Excellence in Education for Our Youngest Community Members

I could not be happier to say that this year we had a true opportunity to create classroom learning communities with relatively little disruption. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene relaxed some rules allowing even a class with an exposure to miss far less school. When compared to similar area programs, we navigated the school year with relatively few cases. Full vaccination and boosters for staff and parents (and many siblings) gave us some respite, and we continue to look ahead to a vaccine for Preschoolers which will further allow us to consider ways to return to pre-COVID routines.

Our curriculum, celebrations, and wonderful sense of classroom community were all high points in the year. Just last week, each child in the Preschool gave their family a “Kid-Led Tour” and proudly walked parents, grandparents, and siblings through their classroom. Jewish learning and holidays were lively, joyful, and meaningful – with parents sharing that they learned a lot about holidays from their children this year!

Our Numbers

The Preschool had 78 students as the year began. In the late winter, we received a call from a parent whose child was enrolled for the fall of 2022. Her child’s small school had planned to close after June but unexpectedly had to close far sooner. BHS Preschool offered 10 of these little ones a class and as the year ends, we have 88. So far, we have 93 students registered for the fall of 2022 raising the possibility that our school has fully recovered from the population drop during COVID’s peak in Brooklyn Heights.

Our Preschool tuition has generally been lower than many of our neighborhood peers and during COVID we kept our increases quite low. Next year our tuition is raised by 10% (for us a very large increase) and as we look to the fall of 2023 and a new building to show prospective families (and a larger, private outdoor space) we will be able to consider tuition more on par with peers. Interestingly, during COVID our peer schools raised tuition quite a bit, so we remain a less expensive option even with an increase that feels large to us. This year, we were able to meet our budget goals, but only with the help of a Childcare Stabilization Grant I was able to secure in the amount of $130,000 – which effectively allowed the department to actually exceed initial budget projections.

The Parenting Center’s on-going classes were full this year and will be again next fall. Our special reputation for excellence in this type of programming means that classes tend to fill rapidly. In fact, as we looked ahead to the fall of 2022, we had so much interest in toddler and young twos programming that we created a new class for this age group which begins as a Parenting Center class and transitions into the Preschool in the late fall. As far as I know, we are the only program offering this option.
Transitions
Happily, we will be able to have camp this summer after missing this last year (due to a lack of a space for it as construction moved forward). This year, with the support of a hard-working Swing Space Search committee (and of course, our own miracle-working Executive Director, Linda Harvey) we will be in a “swing space” so our families have a chance for fun and familiar summer programming! We have found a wonderful fall swing space so that regardless of construction timing, the Preschool and Parenting Center will be able to offer its classes as planned.

Our Staff
From a successful Preschool Benefit in March to curriculum like the creation of a bookstore stocked entirely with books written by our Preschoolers, to negotiating teaching in the din of occasional jackhammering, our staff of teachers and administrators have risen to the challenge of a year with both COVID and construction. Kudos to all! Heartfelt thanks, as well, to: Lisa Kopel who has brought cheer and stalwart support to the Parenting Center and all our Young Family Engagement events; Karen Epstein who shines in the role of Preschool Assistant Director while also teaching 3 mornings a week in the Preschool; our Registrar (and two morning a week teacher) Melis Bromberg who has added a new word to our BHS lexicon – “Melisify” – which means “what you thought might possibly happen is now going to happen far more smoothly and beautifully than you ever dared to hope.”

Our Greatest Assets
Thank you, as well, to the families and especially the children of the BHS Preschool and Parenting Center! It is a privilege to work with all of you, to learn beside you, and to watch you flourish.

Pam Karlin
Director of Early Childhood Education
Religious School Report

Our goals this school year were to re-build community and re-engage students in in-person learning as our students transitioned from a fully remote Religious School model to an in-person and hybrid programs.

Safety Protocol
All staff began the school year fully vaccinated and by the end of the school year all of our K-12 students and faculty were fully vaccinated and boosted. We followed the protocol of the Preschool and were able to run a successful in-person program with minimal closures due to COVID from October-May.

Overview of the Year
The 5782 Religious School year welcomed 175 students in grades K-12, 18 teachers, eight madrichim, one musician in person for K-2 classes from Tkiya (a participatory Jewish music experience program), and one Student Rabbi. We also held six in-person Shabbat B’Yachad Services and seven monthly teacher limudim (professional teacher development) sessions, including instruction from Shiraz Biggie, our Hebrew Curriculum Specialist; Karen Brody, BHS Member & Lifelong Learning Chair, Teacher, and Psychologist; Jewish Storyteller Shawn Shafner; and mindfulness expert Paige Gottheim.

The year began in September with the return of our in-person High Holiday Services at Plymouth Church, offering Kindergarten-3rd and 4th-7th grade Services in addition to art and yoga. Religious School teacher training began in September and our students returned to the classrooms at BHS in October for the first time since March 2020 masked, full of ruach and ready to learn! Our K/1/2/3/7/8/9/10/11/12th graders returned for a one day/week program in person on Tuesdays while our 4/5/6th graders joined us online via zoom on Sundays or Mondays and all together on Wednesdays in person where the last 30 minutes of class was dedicated to schoolwide T’filah together in the Sanctuary. Teachers created daily lesson plans which were then shared with families each Friday in our weekly “This Week at Religious School” email to recap what was covered for anyone who missed class. It also included weekly Hebrew resources for families to learn together at home.

2021/2022 Enrollments:
We had a combined 8th/9th grade and 11/12th grade class

- K ............. 13
- 1st ........... 19
- 2nd ........... 13
- 3rd ........... 18
- 4th ........... 37
- 5th ........... 18
- 6th ........... 20
- 7th ........... 16
- 8th ........... 5*
- 9th ........... 2*
- 10th .......... 4
- 11th .......... 5*
- 12th .......... 5*

Purim Carnival
**BHGSY**
The BHS Youth Group-Brooklyn Heights Group of Synagogue Youth (BHGSY) met under the leadership of Student Rabbi Healy Slakman. Highlights of the year included, ice-skating at Prospect Park, a Chocolate Seder, distribution of Mishloach Manote to community members, a talk at Rabbi Lippe’s home with Rabbi David Saperstein, Hanukkah latke delivery, leading a BHS community Shabbat service, and a Tu B’shvat Scavenger hunt.

**Madrichim**
Our Madrichim program provides students who are post-B’nai mitzvah with an opportunity to give back to our RS program and mentor younger students by serving as teacher assistants in our classrooms. This year 8-students participated. Students are given a stipend in the form of an Amazon gift card for each semester they participate in the program. Madrichim lead daily class check-ins, develop lesson plans with mentorship from our teachers, and create games for students to play to augment lessons.

We are looking forward to our 5783 school year commencing mid-September with many of our beloved teachers returning and an increased enrollment as we continue building our BHS RS community.

**Katie Rein**
Director of Religious School

**Céline Alderman**
Education Programs Administrator
Dear Friends and Supporters,

This past year, we have made enormous progress in reaching our New Heights Capital Campaign goal of $9.5 million. As of May 1, 2022, we have raised $8.6 million.

The charts below show the range of cohorts who have been instrumental in reaching the campaign’s goal. As you will see, we have longtime and new members, young families and older adults, and everything in between. Please know that every gift is greatly appreciated, and every gift brings us closer to our goal. Every gift ensures our future with a home to accommodate our community as it grows.

Thank you to those who have joined the New Heights Campaign. To those who would like to join now please contact us, the BHS office, or donate directly through our website. It is not too late to join us as we raise the last $900,000 of our campaign.

Please continue to follow the progress of the campaign and the construction in the News and Notes Construction Corner. We are in the final stretch, the last act, the finale... It has been a long journey and a wonderful opportunity to help make a sacred vision a reality.

Thank you for being such a special and committed community!

Susan Chadick, Dave Smetana, and Anne Landman

Our donors joined in:
1960-1969 . . . . . . . . 1%
1970-1979 . . . . . . . . 4%
1980-1989 . . . . . . . . 12%
1990-1999 . . . . . . . . 22%
2000-2009 . . . . . . . . 26%
2010-2019 . . . . . . . . 35%
Board of Trustees Slate as Proposed by the Nominating Committee

Below is a complete list of nominees for Executive Committee officers and Trustee-at-Large positions, including a list of continuing Trustees.

**Executive Committee**

President  
Lauren Young

First Vice President  
Aaron Zimmerman

Vice Presidents  
Nancy Cohen (new Trustee, term expiring May 2025)  
Alan Schiffres

Treasurer  
Miriam Katowitz

Secretary  
Alan Gertler

**Trustees-at-Large**

Immediate Past President  
Marcia Bellows

Continuing Trustees  
Andy Ball  
Lisa Dince  
Jennifer Gordon  
Scott Grubin  
Julie Irwin  
Melissa Kubin  
Jennifer Richardson  
David Salpeter

New three-year terms (expiring May 2025)  
Dan Rosenbaum  
Rachel Schnoll  
Dory Weiss

Respectfully submitted by the BHS Nominating Committee: Karen Gordon, Chair, Deborah Baruh, Bobye List, Joel Nowak, Jennifer Richardson, Adam Steinberg

The following Trustees have concluded their service: Jeff Powers, Jen Germain, Andy Berger, Karen Gordon
Mazel Tov to our Fall 2021 – Spring 2022 B’Nai Mitzvah!

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Phoebe Barowitz</td>
<td>September 25, 2021</td>
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<td>Ezra Cooper</td>
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<td>Gabriel Sherman</td>
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<td>Asher Gelbman</td>
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<td>Miles Soler</td>
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<td>Sofia Ryzowy</td>
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