

**Congregation Beth Elohim**

**148th Annual Meeting**

**June 14, 2010**





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Agenda**

Call to Order.....David Kasakove  
Opening Prayer.....Rabbi Dan Bronstein  
Moment of Silence for members of the CBE Community who have passed away since the last meeting  
Rabbi’s Report.....Rabbi Andy Bachman  
President’s Address & Acknowledgements.....David Kasakove  
Volunteer Recognition.....David Kasakove  
Report of the Nominating Committee.....Abby Everett  
Election of Trustees and Officers  
Installation of Trustees and Officers.....Rabbi Andy Bachman  
Benediction.....Rabbi Andy Bachman

## **Senior Rabbi's Report Rabbi Andy Bachman**

This past year has been another extraordinary year of activity and achievement for our community. As we prepare to celebrate our 150th year as a synagogue in Brooklyn, we are blessed with the opportunity to take note of continued growth and see it as a fitting response to the command God gave Abraham in their initial encounter in the Torah: "Be a blessing."

I would like to begin by thanking my family: my wife Rachel Altstein and my daughters Audrey, Lois and Minna, for affording me the privilege of serving this community.

Second, I would like to thank the Trustees of Congregation Beth Elohim, led by our President David Kasakove, for a unique partnership in leadership as we envision our work together in service to God and this community.

Third, I would like to thank my colleagues here at CBE: Elana Paru, Rabbi Dan Bronstein, Rabbi Shira Epstein, Bobbie Finkelstein and Jaci Israel--each of whom are a joy with whom to share this responsibility. This year we also bid farewell to our colleague Cantor Janet Leuchter, a dedicated artist and warm-hearted friend to so many families during her ten years of service to CBE. Thank you, Janet, for your devotion to our community.

Finally, I would like to thank our staff here at CBE for their work and their efforts on behalf of our mission to serve the congregants and participants in our diverse program.

In providing a sanctuary to serve as a house of prayer for those seeking a connection beyond the self, we are a blessing. In the increase of learning Torah, history, and culture, we are a blessing. In offering comfort and lovingkindness to those in healing or mourning, we are a blessing. In being present at sacred moments along the life-cycle spectrum, we are a blessing. In our support for Israel--as she struggles with great challenges from within and without--we are a blessing. And in serving our broader community as a destination point for building and maintaining that fabric of community for all who seek it--the open tent of Abraham and Sarah--we are a blessing.

During one of the greatest periods of economic dislocation and crisis, when synagogues across the nation were feeling the deep stress of the economic downturn, Congregation Beth Elohim continued to grow in members, fundamentally due to the work we are doing together to maintain the traditional connections to a meaningful Jewish life that was bequeathed to us by those who came before us; as well as by looking forward to new expressions of that Jewish life which creatively and successfully adapts to the ever-changing conditions of our Jewish existence here in Brooklyn.

On Rosh Hashanah we gathered in our Main Sanctuary for its 100th year since being built and a mere few days later, a large section of the ceiling collapsed, necessitating a great act of neighborliness and hospitality from Rev. Daniel Meeter and the leaders at Old First Reformed Church, who, without a moment's hesitation, offered their own beautiful sanctuary to receive our prayers on Yom Kippur. For that great act of lovingkindness and friendship, we thank them. "How good and how pleasant for us to dwell together!"

In the same week, during our most intensely introspective time on the spiritual calendar, we were paid a visit by the Westboro Baptist Church and their vitriolic hate for Jews, gays and lesbians. And on the Saturday morning between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, moments before our synagogue celebrated Shabbat with the robust activity of more than 400 people, our entire community stood with us on the steps of our synagogue and conveyed a message of welcome that was greater than any hate. We were joined by Rev Meeter, Boro President Marty Markowitz, State Senator Eric Adams, Assemblyman Jim Brennan, City Councilman Steve Levin, and countless others from the broader Brooklyn community. "How good and how pleasant for us to dwell together!"

As Jews we seem to have a special obligation to make life in the face of great challenges and so the ceiling collapse kick-started a planning process that has finally gained momentum and as we close the year, we prepare for a master planning process to undergo a deep analysis of our sacred, public and work-spaces in order to

create, for our next 150 years, the most beautiful, dynamic, welcoming and functional buildings we can for our growing community. This experience will require a harnessing of talent and resources the likes of which we have not seen since the founding of the synagogue and represents one of the greatest stories told about synagogue life today: while demographers and prognosticators wring hands about a shrinking Jewish people, we joyfully grow in size and creativity. And as we do so, we are blessed with the opportunity to define yet again how a Jewish community at the beginning of a new century ought to organize and configure itself in order to fulfill the timeless task of maintaining the world on Torah, Worship and Deeds of Lovingkindness.

We have been supported in this effort, not only by the generosity of our membership, but by individuals in the broader Jewish community who deeply believe in what we are doing in Brooklyn. Shifra Bronznick of Advancing Women Professionals, has been extraordinarily with her strategic advice and friendship, and because of it, our friends at the Charles H. Revson Foundation--Julie Sandorf and Nessa Rapoport have renewed and increased their foundation support to CBE for \$100,000 for the next two years. This support from the Revson Foundation will fund three Revson Fellows--our HUC rabbinic intern, a fellow to support social action projects in the community, and a fellow to organize the many unaffiliated Israelis living in Brooklyn. For this support we are very grateful. In addition, we again are the recipients of \$50,000 in support from the Samuel Bronfman Foundation and we are very grateful to Edgar M. Bronfman, Adam Bronfman and Dana Raucher for this support. The Bronfman Fellow serves as an outreach community liaison, as well as an in-reach staff support, to help bridge efforts of recruitment and retention here at CBE.

A recent analysis was done of our membership and we discovered that the greatest demographics consist of those members who have been at CBE for more than 20 years and those who have joined in the last five. In both of these efforts, we have been blessed by wonderful lay leaders. The Kehillah group, recently formed and led by Doris Traub and Esta Bigler, are doing excellent work supporting those in our community whose relationship to CBE has evolved beyond "kids and Hebrew school" to tailoring programming that suits the needs and demands of an evolving age demographic. A year ago we noted this as an important growth area for our community and Doris and Esta have done great work here. Thank you!

In addition, each Saturday morning at CBE more than 100 young families gather for a quick and easy Shabbat sing-a-long, Shir l'Shabbat, that is serving as the binding fabric of a developing Jewish communal identity for the countless young families that are moving to Brooklyn. Self-organized by several parents and ably led by Ron Lieber, Shir l'Shabbat has become the symbol of recruitment for new members, offering a free service that welcomes all to our community. Thank you!

Increasingly, our community is not, however, siloed but is in fact of multi-faceted expression of often four generations of those seeking a connection to Jewish life here in Brooklyn. On any given Friday night, for instance, we have members of CBE who range in age from birth to the mid-90s. Great-grandparents, grandparents, parents and children--all journeying together through our buildings, in service to God and community. The Jewish tradition teaches that it's a particular blessing to live to 120. Well, if we have the privilege of counting not three but *four* generations, than we are truly blessed.

With thanks to God and each member of our community, may we go from strength to strength in all that we do.

## **President's Report: Looking Back and Looking Forward**

**David Kasakove**

Looking back at this past year, I am truly amazed at the events that have occurred and the remarkable way in which our congregation has joined together to shape our future. While challenges of resource development and infrastructure have become a critical focus, as you will see in the pages that follow, this was also year also a year of great successes in all of our program areas, including several new initiatives. Judaism is lived day by day, and, in serving our members and our broader community, our clergy, professional staff, together with our lay leadership, have worked hard and with great commitment to strengthen the foundation of our lives through Torah and learning, service of the heart, and acts of loving kindness.

The year began with the usual bustle of activity: the beginning of the school year and preparing for the High Holy Days. With our new executive director, Elana Paru, at the helm, the Yamim Noraim, the Days of Awe began smoothly, with our Rosh Hashanah services bringing close to two thousand members of our community together to pray and study.

But then, on the evening of September 23, 2009, three days before Yom Kippur, a large chunk of plaster fell from the ceiling of the Sanctuary and crashed into pieces onto the balcony pews below. By the next day, it was clear that we would not be able to pray in the Sanctuary for Yom Kippur. Within less than an hour, Reverend Dan Meeter graciously offered that we pray at Old First Reformed Church, and we all let out a sigh of relief and thanks. As we make plans for the upcoming Yamim Noraim, which again will be held at Old First, we are grateful to Reverend Meeter and to the community of Old First Reformed Church for their warm and welcoming hospitality. Through the years, our communities have always worked closely, studying and celebrating together. The events of this past year have brought us even closer.

And so, on Yom Kippur, we joined together for a remarkable day of introspection, prayer, and repentance. We all felt the pain of our exile -- that on its 100th Anniversary, the Sanctuary stood alone and solitary. And each of us looked inward and answered this question for oneself: what can I do to bring the day closer that we can return to our Sanctuary?

After Yom Kippur, our leadership immediately focused on the challenges facing us. At its October 5th, meeting, the Board of Trustees decided to close the Sanctuary indefinitely. While initial engineer's reports determined that the Sanctuary building is structurally sound, it nonetheless suffers from decades of damage as a result of water infiltrating through the dome and roof. Thus, in order to make the Sanctuary wind and water tight, it became clear that we would need to restore the dome and roof of the Sanctuary, the stained glass windows (which are loosening), and repair, as necessary, the exterior of the building.

Yet, the Board determined that our work would not be complete if we also did not seize this moment to re-think how we use both the Sanctuary space and the Temple House. Over the last few years, particularly as our congregation has grown and our programs have multiplied, it has become increasingly clear that we are running out of space and that our spaces are not as accessible or as useable as they might be. The Board decided that this was the time to embark on a process of exploring and planning how we might repair, restore and rebuild our Sanctuary and Temple House so that they would at once reflect the beauty and heritage of their early 20th Century roots, but also meet the needs of an increasingly diverse and growing community never anticipated by CBE's founders.

The Board authorized the House committee, headed by its co-chairs Susan Doban and Rob Apfel, to develop a Request for Proposal for distribution to leading firms that would be qualified to provide architectural and engineering master planning services. Following a rigorous review process, on May 3, the Board approved the retention of Acheson Doyle Partners, among the top architects in the nation with expertise in the restoration and renovation of historic sanctuaries and educational/communal buildings. Acheson Doyle will begin its work in

mid-June and will proceed simultaneously on two related tracks. One track will be a buildings' assessment, focusing on the critical need to repair our buildings, and the development of alternative concepts for repairing, restoring and/or renovating our physical spaces. The buildings' assessment will be informed by the second track, in which we will explore the congregation's existing programs, future needs, and vision. These two tracks will move quickly with the goal that by late autumn, our congregation will have developed and adopted a recommended concept and implementation plan for moving forward with the repair, restoration and renovation of our buildings.

The culmination of the work of the master planning process will mark the beginning of a new fund raising effort that will make our vision into a reality. Last year, as part of my annual report -- before the events of September 2009 ever occurred -- I remarked that in the 2009-10 program year our development efforts would need to be dramatically strengthened if we were to meet the growing and changing needs of our community. Of course, this is all the more the case after our sanctuary ceiling collapse. I am deeply grateful that our congregation rose to the challenge this past year. Due to your generosity and commitment, our Yom Kippur Appeal raised 46% more than last year, as we raised \$304,000. In addition, we are particularly grateful to a community leader who offered a \$100,000 dollar-for-dollar matching grant. Likewise, our spring gala, which was chaired by Amy Bender and supported by the remarkable gala committee, raised more than double than last year, as we raised \$240,000. With these successes as a benchmark, and as we begin the new year with the hiring of Debbie Nelson as director of development, I am confident that as we move forward with the master planning process, we will make our vision into reality. Of course, the days ahead will require each and every one of us to deepen our commitment to our community. Through that increased commitment will come the blessings of lives of greater meaning, and bonds of community.

In closing, as I embark on my third year as your president, permit me to thank the many dedicated lay leaders, clergy and staff who played such an important part in making this year so noteworthy.

First, I would like to give the deepest thanks to my fellow members of the executive committee, treasurer Bruce Lovett, secretary Leslie Frishberg, vice presidents David Greenberg, Susan Klitzman, Lisa Lieberman, and Doris Traub, past president Jules Hirsh, and Dan Schwartz. Through the many challenges of the year, I was strengthened by their support and guidance. Special thanks to Doris and David for their combined years of service to our Congregation as officers and trustees, and to Bruce Lovett, who will be stepping down after having served the maximum five years as treasurer. Though David and Doris will be stepping down as officers and trustees, we are fortunate that David will continue as chair of the Jewish Learning Committee, and Doris, along with co-chair Esta Bigler, will continue leading the Kehillah Project. And I am heartened to know that Bruce will continue to serve our community as a trustee.

Special thanks, too, to those members of the Board of Trustees who will be stepping down: Emily Berger, Jules Hirsh, Nina Niemark, Leah Rosen, Nancy Rosenberg, and Joe Rosta. On behalf of the Congregation, I thank you for your many years of service on the Board, and look forward to continuing to work with you as you each find new ways to serve through our many committees and initiatives.

I look forward to working with the new Board of Trustees and officers, who will begin their terms on June 14, 2010, and continuing to work with the chairs of our many committees and initiatives. Indeed, it is the committee chairs and our committees that make our congregation truly come to life. I am grateful for their hard work.

I also look forward to continuing to work closely with our talented and devoted clergy and program staff, led by Senior Rabbi Andy Bachman and Elana Paru, which is one of the great blessings of being president.

Thank you all for your continued dedication to our Congregation. I look forward to joining with each of you in the year to come as we each help to make our congregation a sacred community, a house of God.

## **Executive Director's Report** **Elana Paru**

Three primary reasons why I was drawn to work at CBE as its new Executive Director commencing on July 2009 are that CBE membership is growing and is now more than 700 families strong (in contrast to the trend in many congregations which are currently losing members); CBE has a rich history and historic physical structures along with deep roots in its Brooklyn community; and CBE has a dynamic team of clergy led by Rabbi Andy Bachman.

Looking back on my first year as Executive Director, I remain committed to strengthening our membership, restoring and repairing the physical plant of CBE, especially the sanctuary, to its safest and most effective modern usage, and providing sustainable management and infrastructure to help the professional and lay leadership effectuate our mission.

This past fiscal year, 2009-2010, has presented both challenges and opportunities to the CBE community as it has begun the transition into a more sustainable professionalized, dynamic, and engaging center for Jewish life in Brooklyn.

### ***Sustainability includes...***

- Being in compliance with applicable laws.
- Understanding, monitoring and living within the means of fiscal reality and budgetary restrictions with an eye toward expanding available resources.
- Having protocols and procedures in place to promote consistency in message, fairness, clarity and data/record keeping integrity.
- Hiring, managing and developing the right personnel in terms of both quality & quantity to fulfill core tasks.
- Providing essential tools including sufficient office space, training and cross training for staff.
- Offering high quality programs and services that meet the genuine needs of our target population.
- Maintaining and improving our physical plant to ensure safety, cleanliness and aesthetic value.

Accordingly, I want to reflect on the following four areas in which I have seen both significant progress and ongoing obstacles. They are as follows: Facilities, Finance, Staff and Program.

### Facilities

The fact that our precious sanctuary has been and will continue to be out of commission is a huge source of sadness and concern. Restoring and repairing the sanctuary is a massive yet exciting undertaking. We are about to start working with an architectural firm to develop a master plan for how we can reconfigure our space in both buildings to better meet the needs of our growing community. This process will provide us with an important opportunity to examine our priorities and goals as a congregation and community center. We will need to think about the specific needs of our internal and external constituents and establish clear policies and priorities with regard to rental fees, contracts and criteria for using our space.

Also, we are working to make our facilities as secure as possible and are exploring the possibility of hiring a new security company to offer increased coverage and additional tools and strategies for maintaining a safer environment at CBE.

### Finance

Since February, Michael Fielman, President of MLF Consulting, has been helping CBE identify and resolve a host of challenges and glitches so that we can effectively and efficiently run the business components of our

congregation. Michael has already proven to be extremely valuable to CBE and is working closely with our staff and Finance Committee to get our financial operations on track.

### Staff

In our efforts to become a professionally managed institution serving over 700 families, hundreds of program participants, students and other constituents, our need to expand our staff and collective skill sets has become a top priority. This past year we wished a few of our devoted colleagues well as they left CBE to embark on new endeavors and we have also welcomed several new staff members. The newest additions to our team include: Amy Daly-Fisher, Assistant to our Senior Rabbi and Executive Director; Michael Fielman, Financial Consultant; Toby Rappaport, Facilities and Operations Director; Lauren Shenkman, Bronfman Fellow for Community Engagement; and Debbie Nelson, Director of Development. Additionally, we are currently looking to hire a full-time Bookkeeper and a Maintenance Supervisor. As our professional staff gets better and stronger we will continue to get closer to maximizing our potential and we will be far better positioned to provide outstanding customer service and congregant care.

### Program

Thanks to our devoted staff and committees, 2009-10 was another successful year of programming at CBE. Yachad, the ECC, Jewish Learning and the After School Center all provided meaningful experiences to their constituents. This was also a year in which greater collaboration took place interdepartmentally in terms of holiday celebrations, adult education opportunities and cross promotion and marketing of events. Our Senior Staff worked closely with one another to start to think through what it means to operate as a single congregation rather than as individual departments operating in silos. Moving ahead we can look forward to more information sharing among departments and even greater collaboration with regard to event planning, scheduling, use of space, program content, incorporating CBE membership recruitment into program recruitment, etc.

\* \* \*

Clearly, there have been a lot of developments in the areas of Facilities, Finance, Staff and Program at CBE during the 2009-10 year. Having just returned from a three-month maternity leave, I salute all of the wonderful efforts of this past year and I am gearing up to address the challenges and amazing possibilities that lie ahead for CBE. I look forward to leading our institution forward in a sustainable manner.

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### **Report of the Nominating Committee Abby Everett and Chuck Nathan**

February 25, 2010

David Kasakove, President  
Congregation Beth Elohim  
274 Garfield Place  
Brooklyn, NY 11215

Dear David:

The 2010 Committee on Nominations presents the following nominees to be voted upon at the next Annual Meeting of the Congregation. As you know, officers serve a one-year term. Accordingly, we are nominating each of the individuals listed below to serve one year as an officer. Nominees for the Trustee Class of 2013 are

each to serve a three-year term, and the one nomination of a Trustee to fill an open position in the Class of 2012, is to serve a two-year term.

The entire Board of Trustees is listed for your convenience. A single asterisk indicates a new nominee for the position and a double asterisk indicates someone being re-nominated.

**Officers**

President David Kasakove\*\*

Vice Presidents Bruce Bender\*  
Barbara Grossman\*  
Lisa Lieberman\*\*  
Susan Klitzman\*\*

Secretary Leslie Frishberg\*\*

Treasurer Emily Sachs\*

**Trustees**

**Class of 2013**

Bruce Bender**	Nick Pisano*
Greg Clayman*	Rob Raich*
Jonathan Fried**	Michael Ravitch*
David Kasakove**	Tom Rosenfeld*
Norman Levy*	Emily Sachs*
Michelle Lynn-Sachs**	Jill Savitt**

**Trustees**

**Class of 2012**

Esta Bigler	Barbara Grossman
Janice Cimberg	Lyn Hill
Jodie Corngold	Carol Korn Bursztyn
Susan Doban	Linda Loewenthal
Jan Goldberg	Jo-Ann Mort
Michael Glanzer	Simon Raykher*

**Trustees**

**Class of 2011**

Andrea Dobro	Lisa Lieberman
Susan Finkelstein	Bruce Lovett
Leslie Frishberg	Charles Nathan
Susan Klitzman	Victor Ney
Amanda Leath	Victoria Rosenblatt
Ron Lieber	Dan Schwartz

Respectfully submitted,

2010 Committee on Nominations

**Co-Chairs:** Abby Everett and Chuck Nathan

**Members:** Jonathan Fried, Sandy Hartog, Ron Lieber, Richard Levitt, Simon Raykher

**Biographies of Officers  
2010-2011  
2010 Nominees for Officers And Trustees**

**Officers [One-Year Term]**

**David Kasakove: President**

David Kasakove has been a member of Congregation Beth Elohim since 1999, when he and his wife, Yael, enrolled their daughter, Sophie, in the Early Child Center's Terrific Twos program. He served as the Chair of the Continuing Education Committee from 2003-2005, has been on the board of trustees since 2004, and served as vice president from 2005 - 2008. He chaired the rabbinic search committee, which led to the hiring of Rabbi Bachman. He has also served on various committees, including Rabbi/Educator Search Committee, the Executive Director Search Committee, the *Ba Derech* Governance Committee, and religious school committee. In addition, he currently serves as a Regional Board Member of the Greater New York Council of the Union for Reform Judaism.

David is a partner of the law firm of Bryan Cave LLP, practicing primarily in the areas of securities, class action, and commercial litigation. Prior to his legal career, David was a Jewish educator, serving the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (now the URJ), first as director of media and communications and then associate director for its national Department of Education (1984 – 1995).

**Bruce Bender: Vice President**

Bruce Bender manages the Government and Public Affairs department for Forest City Ratner Companies [FCRC]. In this capacity, he is in charge of all community outreach as well as overseeing all interaction with local, state and federal officials on all FCRC projects. Prior to joining FCRC, Bruce served over 25 years in The New York City Council in numerous positions, including as Chief of Staff for Council Speaker Peter Vallone. He received a Bachelor of Science from Baruch College, a Masters in Public Administration from New York University and a Masters in Public Policy from the New School for Social Research. Bruce has worked closely with the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty and its 25 local Jewish Community Councils to help poor, elderly and families in crisis.

Bruce and his wife Amy and their family have been members of Beth Elohim since August 2001. Bruce has just completed his first three-year term as a Trustee. In 2008, the Bender family generously donated a Torah to Beth Elohim.

**Barbara Grossman: Vice President**

Barbara Grossman is native of Philadelphia, a graduate of Bard College (BA) and the Writer's Workshop at the University of Iowa (MFA). After a twenty-five year career in book publishing, she has spent the last ten years working as a volunteer for several not for profit organizations. She is a Trustee of Bard College, the Feminist Press of CUNY, Congregation Beth Elohim and is currently President of the Board at the Berkeley Carroll School.

Barbara and her husband Michael Gross have been members of CBE for over thirty years; Max, Willa and Gilda Gross all attended Hebrew school and celebrated their B'nei Mitzvah at the congregation.

**Susan Klitzman: Vice President**

Susan Klitzman has been a member of CBE since 2000. Her contributions have focused on youth education through the Religious School (now Yachad) and B'nei Mitzvah Committees. She has also been a member of the Board of Trustees since 2008. Susan joined the Religious School Committee in 2002 and served as Co-Chair from 2005-2008. In 2006-7, she co-chaired the Search Committee for the Director of Youth and Family Education, which led to hiring Rabbi Shira Koch Epstein. That same year, she helped to lead the Religious

School Committee's efforts to learn about innovative models and trends in supplemental Reform Jewish Education. Their efforts, in concert with teachers and clergy, culminated in the development of Yachad -- one of CBE's most successful programs.

Professionally, Susan is Professor and Director of the Urban Public Health Program at Hunter College, City University of New York. She is helping to develop New York City's first *public* and *collaborative* school of public health, with a focus on urban health, health equity and population aging. She brings over 20 years of professional expertise in teaching, educational administration and program management to her work at CBE. She is honored to have the opportunity to work with CBE's many talented congregants, clergy and staff.

**Lisa Lieberman: Vice President**

Lisa Lieberman and her family have been members of Congregation Beth Elohim since 2000. She began volunteering first as a member of the Early Childhood Center Committee and was co-chair of that committee from 2004-2007. She has served as a board trustee since 2005, and as a vice president since 2007. In addition, she has volunteered on the Nominating Committee (2005), CBE/Brooklyn Jews Task Force (2006), Maintenance Supervisor Search Committee (Chair) (2007), Executive Director Search Committee (2007), and the House Committee (2008).

In her professional life, Lisa is a Hospital Administrator at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. She received her undergraduate degree from Tufts University and received an MBA and an MPH (Master of Public Health) from Columbia University.

**Leslie Frishberg: Secretary**

Leslie Frishberg and her family joined Congregation Beth Elohim in 1994. Leslie joined the Early Childhood Center Committee in 1996, and served as its chair from 1997 to 2003, where she focused on strengthening the ECC community outreach and connecting it to the CBE community. Leslie headed the ECC Co-Director Search, resulting in the hiring of Jaci Israel and she also served on the Cantor Search Committee, resulting in the hiring of Janet Leuchter.

Leslie has served as a Trustee since 2000, and on various committees, including the *Yachad* Committee, where she recently chaired the *Bnei Mitzvah* Sub-Committee. In 2008, Leslie became Secretary where she served as liaison to development efforts. Most recently Leslie served on the search committee for Director of Development.

**Emily Sachs: Treasurer**

Emily Sachs is Chief Financial & Administrative Officer at Safe Horizon, a 750-person NYC-based social services agency that provides services to victims of crime and domestic abuse. She joined Safe Horizon in 2008, and is responsible for the Finance, IT, Human Resources, and Facilities departments. Before joining Safe Horizon, Ms. Sachs filled a similar role for the Spence-Chapin adoption agency. Ms. Sachs has previously worked in leadership positions in various businesses and nonprofit organizations, including running her own consulting firm for eight years. She has been involved in evaluating and implementing many information technology projects and well as several significant real estate and construction projects.

At Beth Elohim, she and husband Mike Wetstone regularly attend Shabbat/Yachad services with their two children who are alumni of the ECC and the CBE day camps and are now enrolled in Yachad. The Sachs/Wetstone family joined Rabbi Bachman and other CBE families and friends for the 2008 trip to Israel. As a volunteer, Emily was active in bringing email and centralized computer services to Beth Elohim and more recently in working with Treasurer Bruce Lovett to expand the Finance committee and obtain a mortgage to pay for repairs to the Temple House building.

**Trustee Class Of 2013 [Three-Year Term]**

**Bruce Bender [See Bio Above]**

**Greg Clayman**

Greg Clayman is Executive Vice President of Digital Distribution and Business Development for MTV Networks where he does deals, develops products, and manages relationships to bring MTVN's content to cross-media platforms, websites, and digital services. Previously, he worked in several leading media and marketing firms. He is currently on the Digital Media Committee of the UJA which creates programming and fundraising activities to introduce media professionals to the UJA. He also serves on the Advisory Board of Care2.com, the largest online community empowering people to lead healthy and green lifestyle. Greg has also served on the boards of the Mobile Marketing Association, the Wireless Internet Caucus, the Open Authentication Technology Council and as an observer on the board of Amp'd, a youth-focused mobile operator.

Greg grew up in Brooklyn Heights and still lives there with his wife, Amanda, and young daughter, Alexandra. Amanda is in the process of converting and Rabbi Bachman has been guiding that process. The Claymans have been regular attendees of Shir L'Shabbat and Tot Shabbat and have recently joined CBE in 2010. Greg also has worked on the redesign of the CBE website.

**Jonathan Fried**

Jonathan Fried became a Trustee in 2007, a mere 30 years after starting in the CBE religious school in 1977, when he was in 5th Grade. Since those heady days of climbing to the Fifth Floor for instruction from Dr. Lieberman, punctuated by frequent trips to the Religious School Principal's office, he was a Bar Mitzvah, with Jules Baby's tutelage, and then a member of the first (revived) Confirmation Class under Rabbi Weider. He was an active member of the youth group and served two terms on the executive board of CRaFTY (now NFTY-NYC). After graduating from Wesleyan University he transitioned from being a family member to his own membership in 1989, and has since celebrated and mourned many life cycle events with the congregation. He served on a number of search committees in recent years and also did tours with the nominating committee in the last two years. He is most proud of his involvement with the Yachad Committee, which, in its prior incarnation as the Religious School Committee, completely redesigned and relaunched the religious education program in 2007, and which has enjoyed unprecedented growth and energy since then.

He is an associate with Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP and lives in Park Slope with his wife, Sharon Greenberger, and two daughters: Madelyn and Josie.

**David Kasakove [See Bio Above]**

**Norman Levy**

Norman Levy and his wife Tina have been members of Congregation Beth Elohim since 1976. Norman has served previously as a Trustee -- most recently in 2007. He and Tina have long been generous supporters of the Congregation. Norman is an attorney and a lobbyist.

**Michelle Lynn-Sachs**

Michelle Lynn-Sachs joined CBE shortly after moving to Ft. Greene in 2006. She is currently the co-chair of the Ritual Committee and a regular Shir L'Shabbat attendee with her husband Steve and their daughters, Phoebe and Hazel. Michelle is a professor of Jewish education at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

**Nicholas Pisano**

Nick Pisano is Vice President and Comptroller of the Greenwood Cemetery, where he oversees all the financial functions of the organization. He is responsible for an annual operating budget of \$25 million. Other responsibilities include, but are not limited to, financial planning, return on investment analysis for capital projects, cost transfer allocations, yearly and monthly sales forecasts, annual capital and operating budgets,

monthly financial statement analysis. He supervises day-to-day cash flow and oversees a \$250 million investment portfolio. Nick also manages all professional staff functions, including human resources, accounting and sales departments.

Nick and his family became members of CBE in 2000. His three children have attended preschool here and are now enrolled in Yachad. His sons, Preston and Maxwell, had their bar mitzvah in April.

Nick is also a member of Community Board 7 and PTA President of his daughter's school.

### **Rob Raich**

Rob Raich co-founded Spears Abacus in 2007. He serves as President, and functions as a portfolio manager, analyst and client advisor. In addition to portfolio management, he has extensive experience in tax strategy, corporate finance, trust and estate administration, and financial planning. Beginning his career at Price Waterhouse LLP, where he served on audit teams for a number of Fortune 500 corporations, Rob continued his practice in accounting as a Principal at Raich, Ende, Malter LLP from 1998-2000. Rob joined Abacus and Associates in 2001, and was named President and Chief Investment Officer in 2002.

Rob received a BS in Accountancy from Arizona State University in 1992, his CPA in 1994, and an MBA from Columbia Business School in 1998.

Living in Brooklyn with his wife Cara and their two children, Rob serves a number of charitable and community causes, and is a current Board Member of Toronto based Dignitas International, and Brooklyn based One Story.

Rob and his family have been active members of the Beth Elohim community over the last four years. Cara has served as Co-Chair of the Early Childhood Committee. Their daughter Eden attended the ECC and participates in the Yachad program. Younger sister Ariana looks forward to following in her footsteps.

### **Michael Ravitch**

Michael Ravitch was born and raised in New York City and graduated from Yale in 1989. He spent the next decade working in the AIDS world, volunteering and doing activism around research and treatment, including with the groundbreaking organization Project Inform. He is now a freelance writer whose work has been published in such places as The New Republic and the Yale Review. He co-edited an anthology of English literature called "The English Reader" that was published by the Yale University Press in 2006. He and his partner Daniel have a son, Elijah Lev, who attends the ECC. They moved to Park Slope at the beginning of 2008, and joined CBE at that time.

### **Tom Rosenfeld**

Tom Rosenfeld is the President and principal of CanAm Enterprises, LLC. Mr. Rosenfeld is both an attorney and certified public accountant. He obtained his undergraduate and law degrees from Temple University (Philadelphia) and was employed by Price Waterhouse (currently PricewaterhouseCoopers) in Philadelphia both before and after attending law school. During his tenure at Price Waterhouse, Mr. Rosenfeld had income tax and audit responsibilities for major clients and authored a number of the firm's educational publications. In 1983, Mr. Rosenfeld left Price Waterhouse to become a partner in a real estate syndication firm, where he remained until forming CanAm in 1987.

He and his wife, Debbie Goodstein, have been members of Beth Elohim since 2004. They have two children and are active members in Yachad and family events at the synagogue.

### **Emily Sachs [See Bio Above]**

**Jill Savitt**

Jill Savitt has been a Trustee of CBE since 2007. She is a human rights advocate with expertise in genocide prevention policy. Savitt is currently on the board of the Save Darfur Coalition and founded and directed Dream for Darfur, a public advocacy initiative. She is currently the Director of the Genocide Prevention Project. Jill has lived in Brooklyn since 1998. She graduated from Yale University in 1990.

**Trustee Class Of 2012 [Two-Year Term To Fill Vacancy]****Simon Raykher**

Simon Raykher is General Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer and Principal at Satellite Asset Management, L.P. He has been with the Firm since 2003. Previously, he was a Senior Associate with the law firm of Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP and, before that, was a prosecutor with the investigation division of the New York County District Attorney's office. Prior to joining the New York County District Attorney, Mr. Raykher was an attorney at the law firm of Brown & Wood and, earlier, was associated with the accounting firm of Coopers & Lybrand. Mr. Raykher holds a B.B.A./M.B.A. in Accounting from Pace University and a J.D. from Fordham University School of Law.

Rabbi Andy Bachman married Simon and his wife Emily, in 1997, and they have been associated with CBE ever since. The family joined in 2006. Their children were in the ECC and the oldest is now in Yachad.

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**CBE Singers**

**Joe Rosta, Judith Wild, Co-chairs**  
**Rose Moskowitz, Music Director**

Founded in 1997, the CBE Singers share with the congregation and the community a rich and growing repertoire of outstanding Jewish choral music from early Baroque to contemporary, and musical settings on Jewish themes. The Singers bring joy to Shabbat and holiday services and special occasions throughout the year. Adults of all ages deepen their spiritual connection through song, and new members are always welcome – you don't have to read music to belong.

In 5770, the Singers participated in the High Holiday services and various festive Shabbat services and Bar/Bat Mitzvahs. We also joined with other New York metro groups in the Festival of Choirs held at Rodeph Sholom; participated in a multi-shul Shabbat service held at the Brooklyn Marriott; performed at CBE's Shabbat Shira concert; shared music with patients at New York Methodist Hospital; and sang for—and with—residents at the Prospect Park Residence. Members of the group entertained at Kehillah's second Shabbat Afternoon Tea for CBE's oldest seniors. The Singers also performed at Cantor Leuchter's farewell party. We're planning many tuneful events for 5771!

The Singers meet on Saturday right after services and for some alternate Sunday morning and weekday night rehearsals. The group can work around your scheduling issues in many cases. Its members enjoy performing as well as leading congregational singing during services. If you like to sing, please call Music Director Rose Moskowitz, 718-788-5226, or contact Joe Rosta at [joseph\\_rosta@yahoo.com](mailto:joseph_rosta@yahoo.com).

**Chesed Group Report**  
**Andrea Dobro and Susan Miller, Co-Chairs**

The Chesed Group had another successful year. As we had decided last year, this year we concentrated on promoting awareness of the Chesed Group within the larger CBE community to attract additional volunteers and create more awareness within our community of the services offered by Chesed. As a result, we both increased the number of members who have volunteered to provide an act of Gemilut Chasadim (lovingkindness) as well as the number of people who have received help.

During the past year we provided meals to many members after the birth of a new baby. We sent meals to congregants who were ill and who were bereaved. Committee members were available to act as Shiva Minyan leaders in the homes of congregants. We organized our community to provide various services when needed, shopping, promoting blood drives, supporting family members whose loved ones were ill or hospitalized. We visited people in the hospital and kept in touch with members recuperating at home. In addition, members of our committee attended shivas and we sent cards to members who were ill and bereaved and to members who welcomed a new baby.

This year we reached out to the Early Childhood Center, Shir l'Shabbat, Tot Shabbat and Yachad communities to create ad hoc committees who could help members of those groups reach into their community when there was a new baby or when there was illness. There was an outpouring of kindness when both Rabbi Shira and our Executive Director Elana Paru had their babies, and those volunteers signed up to deliver meals to congregants through the use of our new designated meal volunteer email address [chesedmeals@cbebk.org](mailto:chesedmeals@cbebk.org). Our roster of members who want to volunteer for Chesed continues to grow.

We continue to partner with the UJA in the "Partners in Caring Program" and still have a social worker available to help elderly congregants and/or members with an elderly relative assess their needs and make referrals to appropriate agencies. We have also continued to partner with the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services and promote various resources on bereavement and coping with difficult economic times through programs run by the Shira Ruskay Center and the Rita J. Kaplan Jewish Connections Programs.

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**Development Report**  
**Leslie Frishberg, Executive Committee Liaison**

Development and fund-raising have become a priority for Congregation Beth Elohim. Because of the success of our cutting edge programming, diversity of worship options and engagement of myriad communities, Congregation Beth Elohim is beginning to receive financial support from not only our congregants but community leaders and foundations, as well.

Witness the 2009/2010 Yom Kippur Appeal Campaign which earned \$304,000, a remarkable 46% increase over the 12% increase in 2008/2009 which earned \$208,000. Through committed use of electronic communications and an early outreach with a clear appeal to the CBE community and beyond, we received a \$100,000 challenge grant that generated further support from more non-members and congregants this year than ever before.

Again, member and non-member financial support continued in the Spring when the Annual Gala raised a record breaking \$240,000 over last year's (also record breaking) \$93,000. Gala Chairman Amy Bender and her Gala Committee deserve our applause for creating an outstanding and memorable event whose financial impact will benefit many programs moving forward.

Finally, through the never ending work of Rabbi Bachman we have again secured funding from The Samuel Bronfman Foundation and the Charles H. Revson Foundation. We are grateful for the support of these foundations, which makes it possible for our congregation to serve our community through new, cutting-edge programs.

Looking forward, in recognition that a coordinated and focused development effort is a worthy and necessary investment in our future financial and capital success The Board of Trustees welcomes Debbie Nelson who joins CBE as our first Development Director. Debbie will focus on both connecting with our congregants and engaging with foundations, seeking grants and coordinating a thorough and organized outreach that will result in a reliable and steadily increasing development success.

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**Early Childhood Center (ECC) Report**  
**Samantha Slarskey, Chair**  
**Jacqueline Israel, Director**

This was an exciting year of new initiatives for the Early Childhood Center! From the start of this 2009/2010 school year, there was change, challenge and excitement in the air at the ECC and CBE. We began the year with Jaci Israel assuming the role of Director of the ECC after 10 years co-directing with Maura Lorenzen who left CBE to pursue other professional interests. Jaci was joined this year by beloved ECC teacher of 9 years, Pam Karlin. These two women stepped into their roles with professionalism and caring for the children, the program and the congregation at large.

This year brought some changes to our teaching staff as we said good-bye to Kate O'Brian and Juliana Diamond who are now pursuing their education full time in their respective master degree programs. Edith Bolt made the decision to leave Brooklyn for the greener pastures of Saugerties, New York and Jennifer Cordes returned to her full time teaching position at the Department of Education. At the same time we were delighted to welcome Tara Derris, Katie Mullins, Jill Silverstein, Hannah Sporer, Stephanie Tyberg and Tracy Inniss as they joined our talented teaching staff. Their energy and enthusiasm has been contagious!

The school year began by instituting a new tradition of "Welcoming Shabbat": every Friday a designated ECC class collaborates to create a unique Shabbat exhibit which is prominently displayed at our entrance. The goal was to ensure that every person entering the building was immediately greeted with the warmth and joy of Shabbat. The teachers and children have embraced this initiative with an enthusiasm that has surpassed our initial expectations. The response has been overwhelmingly positive and the rewards immense. Shabbat has become a participatory and extremely meaningful experience that the children take great pride in sharing with family and friends.

"When one door closes another door opens..." We could not have found this old adage to ring more true than this past year when we discovered our fabulous pool was out of commission. Luckily we had the great fortune of introducing a circus arts program designed specifically for our children by Jenny McGowan. Jenny brought her unique perspective as a professional hula hoop artist extraordinaire and drew from the circus big top to create an action packed and fun filled program.

This year the ECC celebrated our first ever "Family Day". Upon reflection as a teaching community we realize that the celebration of Mothers Day each year, while happy and heartfelt, fails to include all families. We strongly believe part of involving families is making sure that all families are included and embraced. We celebrated by helping the children to focus on the ones who care for and nurture them – their parents, grandparents, and the many grown-ups they love.

Our fundraising efforts this year were on par with or surpassed last year's numbers with a great number of our families participating. Our Scholastic Book fair grossed more sales than in past years and allowed the ECC to purchase new materials for our dramatic play areas which are a cornerstone of our curriculum. We tried a new vendor for our Original Artwork fundraiser which included Judaica items for the first time and was logistically easier for volunteers and staff to work with. This new relationship was successful and we intend to use them in the future. Contributions to our Teacher Appreciation Fund as well as highly competitive auction bidding for the teachers' time donations were a testament to the emotional and financial commitment ECC families have to the program and its personnel.

Chanukah, Purim, Passover and other significant Jewish holidays were celebrated with enthusiasm in the school. Arguably, the highlight was the ECC Hot Dog Purim Dinner prepared by our own Rabbi Bachman. As in years past, collaboration with Rabbi Shira Epstein and music teacher Debbie Brukman made these events meaningful for the children and provided them with many new songs and much knowledge to bring home to their families. The ECC directors strengthened the connection between the classrooms, the synagogue and the home by among other things sending a "parent page" information sheet for each holiday.

Another theme this year was partnership among programs CBE-wide. The ECC worked closely with Yachad for a tremendous Purim event, held an evening with Rabbis Bachman, Epstein and Bronstein discussing Jewish learning and Rabbi Epstein held a series of morning sessions discussing parenting issues through the eyes of Torah. These were all well received and we hope to continue and expand upon them.

Collaboration between ECC and Yachad brought Tot Shabbat to new levels of success! What started as a pot luck dinner including a couple dozen members of the community with some kids running at peoples' feet, now draws almost 100 people each month who come for a family-friendly Shabbat service followed by a catered dinner including music by Debbie, prayers led by Rabbi Epstein and a chance to share a communal Shabbat. Some of the highlights this year, were a Tot Shabbat in January honoring former ECC Director Maura Lorenzen and having Rabbi Bachman step in while Rabbi Epstein was on maternity leave. A key to Tot Shabbat's success was the implementation of a sponsorship program whereby each ECC class sponsors a Tot Shabbat which involves teachers picking a favorite Shabbat book with the children to be read aloud at dinner, Debbie preparing the class' favorite song to be sung that night and families buying tables and tickets for the dinner.

Enrollment for the 2010/11 school year is robust! Endless groups of eager families visited throughout the year to tour the school. The response to our vibrant classrooms from prospective families is overwhelmingly positive. We are happy to announce for the first time in 10 years we will begin the year with a full time three year old classroom as opposed to a mixed classroom population of part time and full time students.

We look forward to the continued success of the Early Childhood Center. Hopefully in the years to come there will be continued and greater collaboration among programs and fundraising efforts can be expanded with a goal of having 100% of ECC families being contributing members of the congregation.

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**Finance Committee Report**  
**Bruce Lovett, Treasurer, Emily Sachs, Co-Chair**

The Finance Committee is charged with oversight of the financial books and records of CBE, and producing an annual budget.

Our last two audits show that we operated at a deficit, although the deficit was manageable.

Major budgetary challenges facing us are our need for funds for the repair of our buildings and our desire to modernize and improve our human infrastructure. Both challenges have been addressed by the Board in the fy11 budget.

Major financial management challenges facing us are the need to improve our collections and to improve our expense controls. We hope to improve collections of dues by reviewing arrears more frequently and by improved communications to those members who are in arrears. We hope to improve our expense controls by more frequent reporting of expenses to program directors and other interested parties.

Like most institutions, we are concerned about the loss of revenues from members and customers who have been impacted by the economic downturn. Fortunately we are blessed with highly regarded programs, and well established and well diversified sources of revenue.

Members should contact either Emily Sachs or Bruce Lovett if they are interested in serving on this committee.

Following is a summary of the recently approved fy11 budget:

<b>Revenues</b>		
Early Childhood Center	\$2,461,104	
Youth Programs	1,426,017	
Yachad	337,281	
Membership Dues & Fundraising	2,067,626	
Other	104,991	
Total		\$6,397,019
<b>Expenses</b>		
Early Childhood Center	\$1,398,694	
Youth Programs	797,620	
Yachad	585,451	
Fundraising	213,000	
Occupancy	2,089,908	
Religious Activities	812,542	
Other	235,191	
Loan Interest Expense	42,141	
Depreciation & amortization	214,391	
Total		\$6,388,938
<b>Net</b>		\$8,081

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**History and Archives Committee**  
**Nancy Rosenberg, Chair**  
**Rabbi Dan Bronstein, Congregational Scholar**

The mission of this project is multi-fold involving the organization and cataloging of historical and archival materials for educational, development related and administrative purposes. We are happy to report that the History and Archives project has advanced on each of these fronts.

### Organization

Historical and archival materials which heretofore have been stored in various locations under varied conditions have been further consolidated in our archival space including inactive records from the Executive Director's files alongside archival records and artifacts from the Rabbi Bachman's office.

### Cataloguing

Under the expert eyes of CBE archivist Martha Foley, we continue to organize and catalogue all of our historical materials, including historic photographs, board meeting minutes, correspondence from lay-leaders as well as CBE clergy, liturgical materials, life-cycle information and much more. The completion of the cataloguing will facilitate efficient researching of CBE's historical materials by scholars and lay people alike, and will greatly simplify records management on matters including past renovations of the CBE physical plant including the roof and pool.

### Education and Development

Our historical materials are currently being used in preparation for our 150th anniversary, including articles and exhibits and are also formulating educational projects aimed at a wide age range and utilizing our archival materials.

Over the course of the year the History and Archives project presented two historical exhibits including "One Hundred Years of Sanctuary: The Creation of Garfield Temple" with the invaluable help of Dr. Nancy Rosenberg and "Happy are they who dwell in Thy house." Additionally, for a second year in a row we were delighted to assist the Gala committee in presenting an exhibit of photographs by CBE photographer Samuel Gottscho alongside photos of past Confirmation classes. We likewise assisted CBE member Jill Savitt in the production of a video on CBE history shown the night of the Gala.

Finally, in cooperation with the Brooklyn Historical Society and Brooklyn College we are continuing to build a small but rich library of oral histories of members of the CBE community. We are conducting these interviews not only to record our history but also to create educational materials for future generations.

Last but not least, we are privileged to be joined in our efforts by CBE members who have graciously agreed to donate their time, energy and expertise to our efforts including Jules and Julianne Hirsh, Kathy Harris and Nancy Spitalnick. Looking forward to the new year we are excited to further sharing all of our historical treasures with the CBE community.

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## **House Committee Report Susan Doban and Rob Apfel, Co-Chairs**

The house committee and its co-chairs are pleased to have had the support of the executive committee and the board of trustees in assisting CBE address the urgent and long-term needs relative to its two magnificent, old buildings. Working closely with the finance committee, the executive committee, and other leaders of our community, we have worked to clarify broad-brush long term budgetary needs, short term professional fee budget needs, and to help evaluate priorities as they almost literally fell upon us.

Our accomplishments this year and our anticipated activities for the coming year include:

### Sanctuary Building

In the past year, we assisted CBE in evaluating the building condition and weighing various courses of action when the sanctuary ceiling collapsed. The next steps of action, possibly involving some near term solutions, will be factored into the early stages of the master planning process described below.

### Pool

In the past year, we assisted CBE in evaluating the situation and in weighing various courses of action relative to the pool itself, which had significant leaking, and further evaluated related issues pertaining to subsurface piping, floor slab cracking, and egress. Temporary and long-term programmatic considerations were also weighed, and a preliminary master plan for the basement level was begun. The results of this process will be factored into the master plan process described below.

### Master Plan

We assisted CBE in preparing a request for proposal and soliciting responses, interviewing candidates. We recommended the selection of Acheson Doyle Partners as master plan architects for the master plan, which is anticipated to be under way in June 2010. A subcommittee was created for the evaluation and interview process, and will be led by David Abramson as we proceed with the master plan process. We look forward to involving the entire board and indeed the community in this process.

### Miscellaneous Smaller Issues

We provided input on issues ranging from toilet partitions, handicapped access, and assisted in dealing with the immediate neighbors and the Garfield Block Association.

### Liaison with Other Committees

We participated in joint meetings with the Finance Committee to build support for building-related activities and clarify our concerns, and assisted with preparation of a funding application for historic buildings.

### Building Brooklyn Award

This coming July, the façade project substantially completed at the Temple House in the prior year will receive a Building Brooklyn Award from the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce for historic preservation.

As exciting as our agenda was for this past year, we look forward to even more excitement and productivity involving the larger community in the master planning process for the coming year.

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**The Jewish Learning Committee**  
**David P. Greenberg, Chair**  
**Rabbi Dan Bronstein, Congregational Scholar**

Over the course of, 2009-2010, many hundreds have participated in CBE's adult learning program. Day and night, Shabbat and weekdays, adults of all ages, both CBE members and non-CBE members alike, have joined with us to learn, whether via traditional text study or more contemporary material. The ancient sage Shammai taught "Make your study of Torah a regular practice," and over the course of this last year the Jewish Learning Committee has endeavored to provide as many opportunities for our community to find their way to making study a regular practice. Perhaps most significantly, over the course of 5770, the Jewish Learning Committee has advanced learning partnerships throughout the CBE community, from the ECC to Brooklyn Jews, and from Yachad to the Kehillah initiative.

Ongoing courses incorporating modern outlooks alongside traditional text study have included Rabbi Bachman's "Current Ideas and Thinkers in Jewish Thought and Practice," Maimonides "Book of Love," Revson Rabbinic Intern Marc Katz's "Basic Judaism" class as well as his weekly Torah study group and the Midrash Mechilta class led by Rabbi Bronstein entered into its fourth year. Additionally, all three conducted special holiday learning sessions, most recently our Shavuot Tikkun.

Alongside the two Shabbat Torah study groups, led by Rabbinic Intern Katz and our own laity, special Shabbat learning events were offered on a monthly basis on topics spanning Jewish genealogy to contemporary Israeli politics. Indeed, our commitment to studying Israel, past, present and future has continued through our hosting of renowned Israeli journalists such as Akiva Eldar, Chaim Watzman and Gadi Taub, and quarterly meetings of the Israel Reading group, now finishing its third year of existence.

Rabbi Shira Koch Epstein initiated new daytime classes in conjunction with the ECC and Jewish learning on Jewish parenting and in partnership with the Kehillah initiative CBE has hosted successful “Lunch and Learn” sessions and hopefully the first of many historical tours of New York City Jewish life. We also continue to include more “secular” learning offerings including a mini-course on Jews and Opera led by Cantor Janet Leuchter and a discussion on the theology of the popular program “Lost.”

Lay leaders continue to play a crucial role in the life of Jewish learning at CBE. Gary Shaffer continues to lead the Mussar course and under David Kagan’s leadership, we have established an ongoing, lay-led Hebrew chug.

Finally, our commitment to forging partnerships with other communities outside of CBE has also continued via ongoing author discussions hosted by Rabbi Bachman including Lisa Miller and Mark Oppenheimer and we have continued to host a “Taste of Limmud, Brooklyn.”

Although this is not a complete listing of this past year’s learning opportunities we remain conscious of Rabbi Yohanan ben Zakkai’s admonishment “Do not give yourself airs if you have learned much Torah because it was for this purpose you were created.” While forging ahead with planning next year’s learning program at CBE, we remain conscious and humbled by the full potential we have yet to reach. As we approach 5771 we hope and believe that enhanced administrative functions at CBE in areas such as outreach, development, accounting and technology, will enable us to go from strength to strength.

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### **Kehillah Project Report** **Esta Bigler and Doris Traub, Co-Chairs**

“Kehillah” means “community” and the “Kehillah Project” was organized this year to bring people together in our congregation whose lives have become a little less child-centric over time. Our goal is to revive and foster a sense of CBE community for those who might not find themselves in our buildings as frequently as they once did when they were dropping off or picking up kids from our Temple. The focus has been on creating community among those in our congregation who now have the freedom and flexibility in their lives to connect in a different but equally meaningful way with our synagogue by together creating new programs and connections for this demographic - with each other and with Temple members of all ages.

Our committee is diverse. We have a large number of people working to make the Kehillah Project successful. We have organized into mini-committees to plan and implement the programs discussed below. We’ve agreed to work in several areas to reshape our relationship with CBE. Our programs have included:

- *Kehillah Cocktail and Dinner Parties* – These elegant potluck dinners are a fun way to share an evening with longtime CBE friends; as well as an opportunity to make new ones in the warm ambiance of a CBE member home.
  - o The first dinner on Saturday evening in February, was hosted by Toby and Ron Kleinhandler, Esta Bigler and Charles McCorkell at the Kleinhandler home and attended by over 50 people. The dinner was sumptuous and elegant as promised. The conversation was constant and the event exceeded all expectations.

- A Havadallah and Cocktail Party was held at the home of Rabbi Andy Bachman and Rachel Altstein in April to bid adieu to the Sabbath with a large crowd and lots of good things to eat. It was a beautiful and inspiring evening.
  - More dinners are planned for this summer and the fall. In June our dinner will be held at the home of Erica and Scott Scheinblum.
- Cultural Trips– A wonderful luncheon and tour to a fascinating Greek synagogue on the Lower East Side was organized by Janet Mann and Naomi Cooper and an architectural tour of Synagogues on the Upper West Side is scheduled for later in the month of June with Rabbi Dan Bronstein.
  - Educational Opportunities – A new series of mid-day and mid-week “Teach-ins” held by Rabbi Andy Bachman and Rabbi Dan Bronstein on such topics as “Finding a meaningful Role for the Temple in My Life – When It’s No Longer About the Kids” and Israel’s Independence Day. In addition, we added learning sessions to holiday celebrations such as the one co-sponsored with the Jewish Learning Committee with Rabbi Dan Bronstein exploring the topic “Male/Female/Insider/Outsider: A New Examination of Mordechai and Esther”.
  - Intergenerational Projects – Events designed to bring congregants together across generational lines have included a Friday night Chanukah service and festive oneg welcoming to parents with children. After all, what’s Chanukah without children! On the other end of the spectrum are our Shabbat afternoon teas for our oldest seniors. These Shabbat afternoon teas seek to bring together congregants and community members with parents in their 80s or 90s, so that the oldest seniors in our families have a chance to meet generational peers and have a lovely Shabbat afternoon experience. Teas were held at the homes of Janice Cimberg and Gloria Langsan.

Finally, since many in the Congregation are caring for aging parents close by or long distance and others are caring for spouses who are ill, the Kehillah Project has joined forces with a support group aimed at providing a warm and caring environment to learn from each other’s experiences and take comfort in knowing that they are not alone as they face these challenges.

The Kehillah Project has at its core the belief that our synagogue is a “home for all people” of all generations and at all the different stages of one’s life.

### **Membership Committee Report Joanna Steckman and Charlotte Wolovsky, Chairs**

The membership committee has spent the better part of the 2009-2010 year in a state of transition. During the summer of 2009, David Kasakove asked co-chairs, Joanna Steckman and Charlotte Wolovsky to shift the direction of the committee away from programming events towards “congregant care” – focusing on membership recruitment, membership retention and “exit interviews” following membership resignations. Lively and heated debates took place at our monthly meetings as we delved into the mission of the committee. In addition, the committee planned and executed a few successful initiatives and programs including:

- September Open Houses: resulting in 10 new members.
- A Chanukah Shabbat and festivities co-sponsored with Yachad and Kehillah
- Redesign and revision of the membership forms and materials including the “30 and under” membership rate Picnic Shabbat\* - scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup> in Prospect Park near 9<sup>th</sup> Street.

In moving forward, it is imperative that for the membership committee to succeed there must be a clear mission – even for the short term. Some important goals include:

- Learning about our members – through accurate surveys and data collection, we can then work with other committees to formulate appropriate programs and/or events

- Directed marketing and outreach – as there isn't a marketing staff person at CBE, it may need to fall partially on the membership committee to help create marketing materials and research opportunities for CBE to be visible in the community and beyond (participation at street festivals, advertising etc).
- Select only a small number of crucial program events to sponsor/co-sponsor and give those events ample planning and volunteer support.
- Create a "job description" for potential committee members, which includes responsibilities of calling new and resigning members.

Of import to note is the membership committee started an important precedent by inviting members and co-chairs of other committees to attend the meetings. It became clear that to break down the committee silos and to stop duplicating efforts, membership could act as a facilitator and supporter for the events and actions of other committees work. We would encourage or require that moving forward members or co-chairs of other committees and staff serve on the membership committee as we recognize that all of the work / events /programs/ classes are created for members.

### **The Moment Is Now Report Daniel Schwartz, Chair**

In response to a call from David Kasakove, CBE's president, a number of Executive Committee members and Board of Trustees volunteered to form a task force in November to begin the process of planning a way forward to address construction, fund raising and other requirements for repairing, restoring and rebuilding CBE's infrastructure. This task force evaluated and made recommendations to the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees for short and longer term fund raising options and to start the process by commissioning an architectural master plan. In order to provide transparency to the extent of the issues facing the Congregation, an informational meeting was organized in January with a series of targeted follow ups focused on Yachad and ECC families and members associated with the Kehillah Project. With acceptance of its recommendations by the Board of Trustees, the task force dissolved in May.

### **Ritual Committee Report Michelle Lynn-Sachs and Bruce Weiner, Co-Chairs**

#### Reviewing worship at CBE

At the 2009 Annual Meeting, CBE president David Kasakove noted the expanded variety of worship opportunities now available at our congregation. Taking this into account, he asked the ritual committee to engage in thoughtful conversation about worship at CBE, to identify our successes and our challenges, and to begin to develop an agenda and vision for the future of worship in our community. As co-chairs, we worked with Rabbi Bachman and the committee to develop a framework for our year that included both looking inward at ourselves and our congregation, and looking outward at the wider world for perspective and inspiration. The committee, whose expanded membership reflects the variety of worship opportunities at CBE, has been engaged in this process of inquiry since September and we are continuing our work into next year.

In the fall, after a review of High Holy Day services, we embarked on "Ritual Committee On the Road," a series of Shabbatot in which small groups of committee members traveled to other congregations around the city to experience Shabbat in different communities. We visited Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, and unaffiliated synagogues and minyanim in Chelsea, the Upper West Side, Riverdale, Park Slope, Gramercy, and the Upper East Side. Our purpose was twofold: to educate ourselves about different ways that communities try to create meaningful worship experiences, and to move beyond our own routines for a spell in order to come back and view CBE with "fresh eyes." In reflecting on our visits, we talked about aspects of the services that made us feel inspired, and aspects of the experience that contributed to a feeling of being in community. The impact of

physical space and of music were recurring themes in our comments, and we have revisited those themes throughout the year.

As we begin to think about how our practice might be further aligned with our vision of worship, we focus on these key elements:

1. Commitment to tradition *and* openness to change
2. Commitment to creating community amid diversity

Our work in this area continues and we will share results and recommendations next year.

### Musical leadership

Along with the rest of the congregation, the committee wants to honor and thank Cantor Leuchter for her years of dedicated service to CBE, and we wish her the very best. The Ritual Committee voted in favor of recommending the creation of a cantorial search committee, which will work in 2010-2011 to identify the cantor's successor. The Board of Trustees has accepted this recommendation.

The committee also welcomes the following musicians, who will provide musical leadership at services during the 2010-2011 program year: Galeet Dardashti (performing musician and scholar of Israeli and Persian music), Cantor Samantha Natov (CBE member and adjunct cantor at Brooklyn Heights Synagogue), and Toby Singer (Yachad faculty member). With the addition of these musicians and Rose Moskowitz continuing as music director, we are fortunate to have access to talented, committed musical leadership in 2010-2011.

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**Yachad Report**  
**Rabbi Shira Koch Epstein**  
**Linda Loewenthal, Deborah Iarussi Committee Co-Chairs**

This year was a successful year for the Yachad program. We had 299 children enrolled in the program. The Shabbat program was much larger than the weekday program--with 148 children enrolled in the Shabbat/weekday program and 66 children enrolled in the weekdays-only program. This year we also had 39 students enrolled in our Academy Program on Tuesday nights. This meant that we had robust attendance of children and families at Yachad Shabbat morning services, with well over 200 people attending services weekly and many parents staying for Chevreh Torah with rabbinic intern Marc Katz or Jewish learning opportunities facilitated by Rabbi Bronstein.

Shabbat mornings at Yachad this year were bustling. After morning "bagels and brachot," over 125 people attended services regularly. Our regulars frequently brought grandparents, aunts and uncles, and friends with them to services. We prayed, sang, and read Torah together, led by Rabbi Bachman or Rabbi Epstein, rabbinic intern Marc Katz, education intern David Vaisberg, and songleaders including Toby Singer. This year, we frequently celebrated B'nai Mitzvah and baby namings in the Yachad service. Though our sanctuary was unavailable, we filled the Ballroom and/or Social Hall each week. With over 65 children in grades pre-K to 2, we ran a service called Gan Shabbat for 4-7 year olds and their parents, which would frequently join the Yachad service through the Amidah and then have their own Torah service.

The full-time teachers, led by Director of Teaching and Learning Miri Wexler Yubank, and our part-time teachers, ably taught our students in Hebrew and Jewish Studies in grades Pre-K to seven and continued to lead our "Ruach" program, an arts- and culture- based elective program for our 4th-6th grade students. A new pilot program called Jewish Learning through Living was a success in the Third Grade. In this program, our Yachad students and their families came together to learn about a variety of home-based observances and participated in these experiences in each other's homes. In this first year, Third Grade families gathered together to build and dwell in sukkot at 2 homes, celebrated Shabbat together in 9 volunteer homes, sanctified Havdalah together in 8

volunteer homes, and cleaned and searched for chametz (leavened products) in one (good-natured!) family's home. This program was well-received by students and parents and next year, under the leadership of Director of Yachad Community Programs (and Third Grade Core Teacher) Lisa Rosenberg, we will roll this program out to include the Kindergarten through 3rd grade. Each grade will learn about and practice various Jewish rituals and activities and be given the tools they need to join other families in their grade in celebrating and observing together at home.

This year at Yachad we focused on bringing acts of Chesed into the regular practice of our students and families. In partnership with the Chesed committee, parents and teachers helped start this initiative. Yachad children and families cooked for families who just had babies or had a sick family member, made cards, baked cookies, and attended shiva for children who lost family members, and visited with seniors at the Prospect Park residence. This was a good start to what we hope becomes a more regular practice among our families and in our classrooms.

Full-Time Teacher Lena Eson, Rabbi Bachman, and Rabbi Epstein worked to revamp our 7th grade program this year. With over 50 children in the 7th grade, this program was called "Mitzvah Corps." Our focus was on bringing our children, who are nearing or have just become B'nai Mitzvah, into contact with Jewish ideas and experiences that will help them consider how Judaism is a part of their lives and how it influences their beliefs and behavior. Seventh graders attended on Tuesday evenings and joined Academy for dinner. In the first hour, students were offered three courses over the year: A text-based class on God and theology with Rabbi Bachman, a class on spirituality with Yehudit Feinstein, and a class on Torah Study and giving Divrei Torah with Rabbi Epstein and Rabbi Micah Kelber. In the second hour, students had classes with Yachad full-time teachers where they considered the meaning of mitzvah as responsibility, commandment, and good deed. They visited other congregations to see how mitzvot are interpreted in other movements and had guest speakers and artists who work in the Jewish social justice world, culminating the year by sharing their own Mitzvah Projects. A highlight of the year was the 6th-7th grade trip to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. Next year, we will continue the Mitzvah Corps curriculum into the eighth grade with a focus on social justice and Jewish culture in Israel, and take our first eighth grade trip to Israel.

Other highlights of the year included Kabbalat haTorah (consecration) in the Kindergarten and First Grade, celebrating Simchat Torah with nationally known song-leader and musician Dan Nichols, a congregation-wide Chanukah party ably led by Lisa Rosenberg and our Parent Committee, and a fantastic Purim celebration including Megillah reading, a puppet show by Full-Time Teacher Ora Fruchter and concert by ECC Music Teacher Debbie Brukman, and the carnival led by youth group advisor and full-time teacher Steven Buchalter and BESTY. Fourth and fifth grade parents each had celebrations of their children's learning, including a fifth grade ceremony where parents presented chumashim (Torah commentaries) to their children to use going forward in their studies. As a part of an oral history project in the sixth grade, students were honored to be visited by long-time members of CBE and to interview them. And throughout the school, students made great progress in their Hebrew reading and in playing immersion games with modern Hebrew.

Our congregation has been blessed by the addition of Sarah Jacobs Patulo to our staff, our new Yachad Administrator who is also our first B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator. With over 55 B'nai Mitzvah this year at CBE, Sarah helped with all of the details of organizing the ongoing study, tutoring, and preparation of our students and families, and the celebrations in our worship services. Congregants, clergy, and staff are all thankful for both the creation of this position and for Sarah's dedication and organization, which have allowed our incredible growth and our robust Shabbat celebrations and observances to be a time of joy for the many many people who join us each week.

This year we had two sections of the Yachad committee: the Yachad parent committee and the Yachad Advisory Board. The Yachad parent committee focused on the Chanukah party and other family events, while the Yachad Advisory Board focused its attention on special education this year. Working with Miri Wexler Yubank and

Rabbi Epstein, in partnership with committee member Gale Kaufman and parent Teri Horowitz, our committee undertook a study of our student population and needs, focusing on the special education needs of our students. We learned that 12% of our K-6th grade students have diagnosed/identified special education needs, and in our 3rd-5th grade, we have 20% of students with identified special education needs. Yachad staff have been hard at work adapting our curricula and creating individualized education plans for our students with special needs, and the committee and Rabbi Epstein have created a policy regarding how we will work with parents and special needs students, and which students we can serve within the Yachad program. We also realize that we are one of the few supplemental religious schools addressing these issues, and as the need is great we propose looking for outside funding in order to create an even more robust special education program.

The committee also undertook the task of restructuring itself and its function for the upcoming year. With the creation of the Yachad Advisory Board and the professionalization of the Yachad staff, the role of the Yachad parent committee was diminished. The primary role of the parent committee these past two years has been to help organize events, help with teacher appreciation gifts, and build community through meetings or get-togethers. These efforts do not need a standing committee, but small working groups or task forces of volunteers. On the other hand, the Yachad Advisory Board, created in the fall of 2008, has been available to Rabbi Epstein to discuss and address policy issues, staff changes, our growth, issues around services for different age groups, issues that arise around students with special needs kids, program evaluation, etc. The committee has chosen to expand this body to twelve members with a clear two year commitment with each member having a distinct role in helping contribute to the lay efforts in the school: eg. one person heads up teacher appreciation; another heads up the holiday event task force; another parent community building efforts; another helps with fundraising in concert with the Development committee; another outreach beyond Yachad to ECC parents and greater Park Slope parents to bring in new enrollees, etc. This Advisory Board will be representative of the needs and diversity our community, and will meet every 6-8 as a visionary and strategic group to discuss and work through ongoing issues.

In all, this was a year of tremendous growth and success for the Yachad program, and we look forward to the continued growth and learning of our children, parents, and entire community.

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**Youth Committee Report**  
**Bev Silver, Chair**  
**Bobbie Finkelstein, Director**

Last summer, the Elementary Division of Beth Elohim's Summer Day Camp and Movin' On Travel Camp had a total enrollment of approximately 450 campers. Our camps are based on very rich and exciting sports, nature, music, gymnasics, circus arts, swimming and arts programming. We also include other fun activities like karate, cooking, photography, and a camp newspaper. In addition to our wide variety of recreational activities, we also offer special trips that are always highlights of the summer season. The Movin' On campers participated in over night trips to Hershey, PA, White Water Rafting on the Delaware River, as well as our summer highlight—two nights/ three days at Club Getaway. Two of our campers came in first place as the best dancer and craziest dancer at the Club Getaway talent show. These are just a few of the wonderful trips in which the Travel campers participate. The Upper Day Camp also participated in an overnight camping experience at Ecology Village, located at Floyd Bennett Field. Last summer was fun and exciting for all. For the past two years, we have included Shabbat programming in our camp. Each group focuses on a universal theme (e.g. friendship, the environment, peace) and presents a song/reading to the rest of the camp. Rabbi Epstein then leads us through a reflection of the past week and the week ahead, followed by candle lighting, grape juice and challah. It is a special time for all our campers, regardless of their religion and ethnicity.

The After School Center continues to thrive by offering a wide variety of instructional classes and recreational activities to the community. We currently pick up children from PS 321, PS 282, PS 154, PS 10, PS 39, PS 230, Berkeley Carroll and St. Saviors. We also continue to coordinate and supervise the pick up for Yachad from PS 321 and Berkeley Carroll. We also meet After School children from PS 372 and Brooklyn New School in front of the Temple House. This past year there was an increase in the enrollment of CBE members in the After School Center. In addition, the demand for our program extends to other schools in the surrounding neighborhood.

Under Bobbie Finkelstein's experienced, thoughtful and creative direction, the After School Center programs provide quality care for school age children through enhanced education and enrichment, skill building and social interaction. Several new programs we started this year were: tennis, Bang on a Can—drum classes, guitar group and individual lessons. In addition, through the Youth Committee's desire for more instruction in Environmental Studies, a program was developed in coordination with the Old Stone House. We were given a grant with the Old Stone House for Environmental Education. Our children participated in classes that emphasized hands-on experiences in composting, gardening, learning about soil, as well as edible and non-edible plants. We also continued our relationship with the Prospect Park Residence for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. These children visit seniors to play cards, board games, and sometimes bowl with them. The emotional and social experience is extremely positive for all involved. A challenge for us this year was the loss of the pool for much of the year due to needed repairs. This affected After School enrollment and programming. However, most families remained committed to our Center. The loss of the pool was a major issue for our program, as well as the community at large. Fortunately, it is now repaired and ready for this upcoming summer session.

This past year the families of the After School Center participated in many other CBE-wide programs, for example Clean Up the Park, and Chanukah and Purim festivals. Their participation in these programs has increased from previous years. In addition, for the first time they were supporters of the Annual Gala and Auction. They donated both money and auction items. In addition, the vendors of the Camp and After School Center made major donations as well.