

Congregation Beth Elohim
149th Annual Meeting
8:00 p.m.
Monday, June 13, 2011
11 Sivan 5771

Agenda

Musical Welcome.....	Cantor Joshua Breitzer
Call to Order	David Kasakove
Opening Prayer.....	Rabbi Andy Bachman

Moment of Silence for members and staff who have passed away in 5770-71

Motions and Voting

Setting times for Friday night services.	Paul Levy
Renewal of contract for Rabbi Andy Bachman.....	David Kasakove
Report of Nominating Committee and Election of Trustees & Officers	Abigail Everett

Rabbi's Report.....	Rabbi Andy Bachman
President's Address & Acknowledgements	David Kasakove
Treasurer's Report.....	Emily Sachs
Update on <i>The Journey Home</i>	Barbara Grossman
Installation of Trustees and Officers	Rabbi Andy Bachman
Remarks by New President.....	Chuck Nathan
Benediction	Rabbis Bachman, Epstein, Bronstein and Cantor Breitzer

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A Message from 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. As David prepares to step down after three extraordinary years as President of our Congregation, we all owe him great thanks for his exemplary service to our community. Along with Leslie Frishberg and Lisa Lieberman, whose terms as Secretary and Vice President respectively will end as well, we have been truly blessed by their devotion, hours of hard work on behalf of CBE, and generous vision for continuing the work of other past leaders of our community. May they each go from strength to strength in their lives. And finally, a special word of thanks to their families, for their enduring patience as David, Leslie and Lisa have given so much to our community! I look forward to working with our new officers and incoming President, Charles Nathan, as we embark upon a new era of growth and achievement for our historic, sacred community.

Third, I would like to thank my colleagues and our entire staff here at CBE — each of whom are a joy with whom to share this responsibility. We are thrilled to welcome Cantor Joshua Breitzer, whose voice and artistic vision are sure to enlighten our synagogue with tradition and spirituality.

In thinking about our 150th anniversary as a synagogue community, we often have the opportunity to reflect on key dates or eras in our history, and make note of one of the constants among the members of CBE for the past century and a half — continual growth and change, while maintaining our core commitment to Torah, Worship and Deeds of Loving-Kindness.

- In 1861, during the American Civil War, Congregation Beth Elohim was founded by German-speaking Jews. Our original board minutes and financial ledgers were all in German.
- In 1909, the Main Sanctuary was built in the Classical Revival mode as dramatic worship space for nearly 1,400 people. Rabbi Alexander Lyons petitioned the Board for the right *not* to wear a yarmulke.
- In 1929, the Temple House was built, with four floors of classrooms, a Ballroom, Social Hall, Kitchen, Gym, Pool and Handball Courts, an example of the synagogue as “Jewish Center,” an idea in vogue during that time. By the 1930s, large numbers of Jews from Eastern European immigrant families were joining CBE and its German character was changing.

- In 1946, Rabbi Eugene Sack was appointed to CBE. A chaplain during the Second World War, from a traditional background, Sack proudly embraced Reform and initiated adult learning, youth programs, and active work in politics and civil rights.
- In 1978, Rabbi Jerry Weider became CBE's Senior Rabbi. Rabbi Weider moved the Congregation toward more tradition, including adoption of the yarmulke and tallit back into worship, more Hebrew language, and participatory singing in the service. Under Rabbi Weider's leadership, CBE opened the Early Childhood Center and the After School and Day Camp programs — solidifying a commitment to being a House of Prayer and Community Center.
- In 2006, I became Senior Rabbi. Building on the legacy of these wonderful rabbis, CBE has opened itself again to new initiatives of engagement — Kehillah (50s, 60s and above); Altshul; Brooklyn Jews; and Israelis in Brooklyn. We offer a broad array of social action programs as well as ongoing partnerships with UJA-Federation of New York and the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services, to provide vital services to those in need — both in our community and beyond. On most Saturdays, more than 500 people are in the synagogue, praying, singing, learning and building community with one another in a pluralistic array of programs.

During this current phase of our history, we will be raising a new roof over our Main Sanctuary, conceiving of both old and new ways to make the best use of its sacred interior, and then will embark on a planning process for the renovation of our Temple House as well. As we move forward into the future, we are reminded by our tradition over and over again to learn from the sacred well of our past, from the achievements of past generations, and to reach across the bonds of time and share that fate and destiny of our people as we build a Beit Elohim for our children and future generations of those who enter these buildings. Just as prior generations left these spaces to us, so too must we ask ourselves what we will leave for those who will not only follow in our footsteps but go new places unimagined by us in our time. This is the mystery, the privilege, and the blessing of what it means to be a Jew.

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.

President's Report

David Kasakove, President

During the time that I have served as president, from July 2008 through June 2011, CBE has experienced quite a few challenges. First, in 2008, we experienced the collapse of our financial markets — just as I was about to give the Yom Kippur appeal on erev Yom Kippur. Then, of course, the next year, we experienced the collapse of our sanctuary ceiling — just days before Yom Kippur. Although I might have been forgiven for lifting my head to the heavens and asking, “Why me, God?” I figured that this was a question that was best not asked, and best not answered.

Over these years, our congregation has proved itself resilient, creative, and very, very busy. This year, our programs — Kehillah, Jewish Learning, Israelis in Brooklyn, the ECC, Youth, Yachad, Chesed — have blossomed and expanded. The dynamic nature of CBE is reflected every Shabbat as we gather as an ever-growing and diverse community celebrating this most sacred day of the week. It is said that when all Jews celebrate Shabbat, the messianic age will come. Every Shabbat we bring that dream a little bit closer.

Programmatic growth has engendered solid growth in our fund raising efforts, as this year we have once again achieved both increased giving from within our congregation family, and from a growing circle of supporters — the Samuel Bronfman Foundation (which doubled its support of CBE), the Charles H. Revson Foundation, the UJA-Federation of New York, the Hyde and Watson Foundation, and the Nehemias Gorin Foundation. Through the work of our House Committee, and the formation of a standing development committee, we are in a strong position to begin Our Journey Home capital campaign to restore our sanctuary with the goal of praying in our sanctuary for the High Holidays in 2012/5773.

The growth and success in our programming and development efforts is a direct result of the Board of Trustees' decision to invest in our professional staff, and administrative and technology infrastructure. The creation of the new senior positions of Director of Development (Debbie Nelson) and Director of Facilities and Operations (Toby Rappaport), and new part-time program positions supporting Israelis in Brooklyn (Yehudit Feinstein, Revson Fellow for Israelis in Brooklyn), Community Organizing and Social Justice (Isabel Burton, Revson Fellow for Community Organizing), and Community Outreach (Lauren Shenkman, Bronfman Fellow for Community Engagement) reflect the Congregation's commitment to robust programming and improved service delivery. This year, we improved our information technology and will continue to work on strengthening that area in the coming year. In addition, this year we redesigned our website to make it more attractive and user-friendly. The Board of Trustees, in light of a changing regulatory environment and increased demands for stream-lined governance, called a special meeting of the membership to vote for revised By-Laws, which was passed with broad support this past spring. All these changes put us on a solid trajectory for growth and innovation in the years ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those with whom I have had the honor of serving this community, the members of the executive committee, the Board of Trustees, and the committee chairs and members. In particular, I express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to Lisa Lieberman, who has served as vice president for four years, and Leslie Frishberg, who has

served as secretary for the last three years. Both Lisa and Leslie previously served as chairs of the ECC. They each have served in a leadership capacity at CBE for over a decade. While they will be stepping down as officers, I know that after they catch a breath, they will be back finding new ways to serve our community. We are truly blessed with a remarkably committed lay leadership that continues to renew itself. I owe a great debt of thanks to Chuck Nathan and the incoming executive committee for taking the reins of leadership with such determination and courage. I look forward to supporting your efforts in the years ahead.

Of course, one of the greatest blessings of serving as president is having the opportunity to work side by side with our gifted and dedicated clergy and senior staff. I will always be indebted to Rabbi Emeritus Jerry Weider, who first encouraged me to get involved in lay leadership and set the model for what a community rabbi was all about in modern-day Park Slope. Rabbi Bachman clearly has followed that approach as he has led our congregation into the 21st Century, in ways that renew our understanding of Judaism but at the same time ground us in its most time-honored teachings. Through the day-to-day efforts of Rabbis Shira Epstein and Dan Bronstein, interim executive director Monika Hamburger, ECC director Jaci Israel and assistant director Pam Karlin, and Youth Programs Director Bobbie Finkelstein, our congregation is not only a magnet for our community, but a model for congregations throughout the country. Thank you to all members of our staff for making CBE an open tent that is warm and welcoming.

Finally, I give my greatest thanks and appreciation to my wife, Yael, and daughter, Sophie, who have supported my efforts on behalf of CBE, despite the sacrifices they have endured in our family life.

In closing, I thank each of you for your commitment to our community. Indeed, the greatest blessing of all is knowing that our community, although not without its challenges, is thriving and dynamic, looking with eternal optimism to the future. May we go from strength to strength.

Treasurer's Report

Emily Sachs, Chair

Finance Committee:

Michael Glanzer

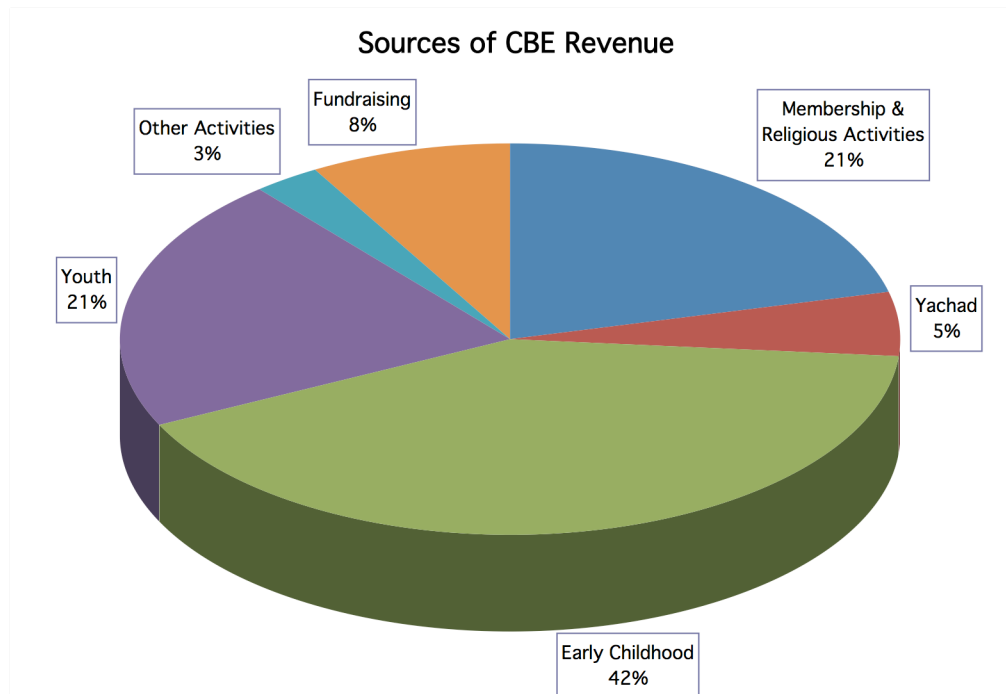
Gale Kaufman

Rob Raich

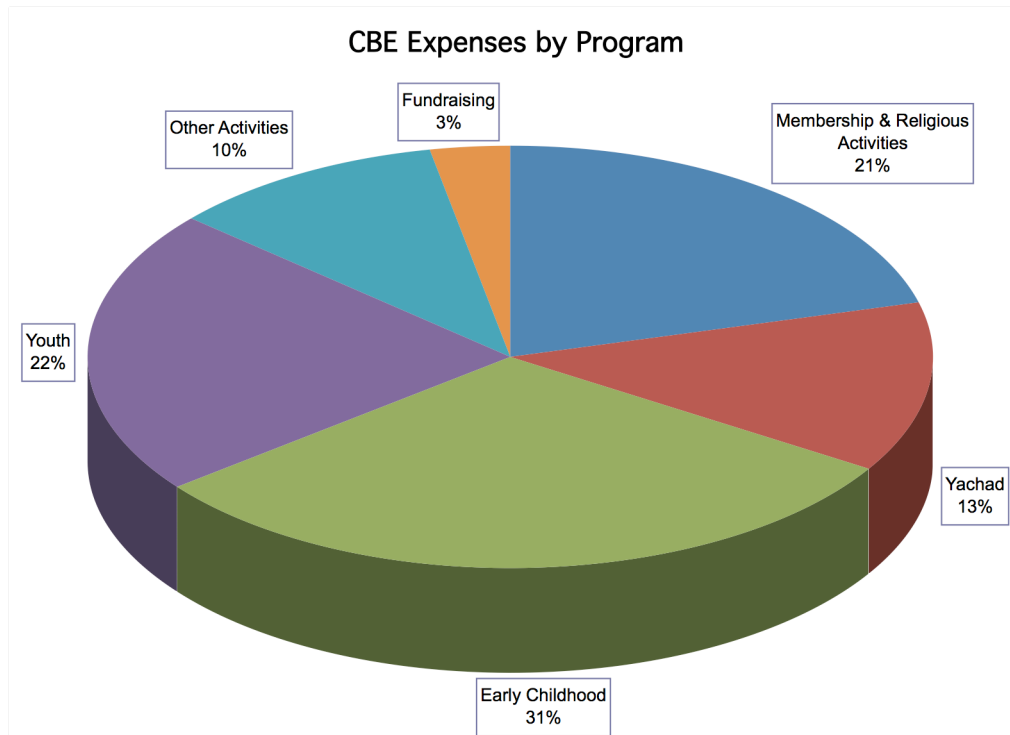
Dan Schwartz

The Finance Committee worked closely with Interim Executive Director Monika Hamburger and the staff to develop the budget for CBE's Fiscal Year 2012, which starts July 1. The charts below show the sources and uses of the congregation's funds for both our operating expenses and for our capital projects. A copy of the budget is attached. We are budgeting essentially at break-even for our operations, with a relatively small (4%) surplus expected.

As shown on the chart below, the largest source of revenue for CBE is our Early Childhood Center which brings in 42% of our revenue followed Youth programs (21%) and Membership and Religious Activities (also at 21%). Fundraising is growing and now represents 8% of our budget for operations in addition to the significant fundraising underway for capital projects.



Our expenses are illustrated on the chart below, which shows that the Early Childhood Center and Youth programs absorb 53% of our expenses — they require administrative support for enrolling students as well as extensive maintenance and operations support for their use of the facilities. Membership and Religious Activities are close to break-even, while the Yachad program continues to be supported through fundraising (such as the annual Yom Kippur appeal) and by the general fund.



Membership

Overall we expect that ongoing expenses will increase by a small amount because costs (especially health insurance) increase and we need to pay competitive salaries which need to be increased. To cover these increases, we plan a modest increase in fees and Membership dues. We are proposing a 2.5% membership dues increase, which would be an increase of \$35 for Individual members and \$55 for Family members. We are proposing to set these increases in keeping with inflation, knowing that times are tight but also that our expenses are increasing.

We are not charging the Emergency Repair Fee (ERF) in FY 2012. Charging the ERF was a way to fund an analysis of our needs (Master Plan, Design analysis) and get us to the starting gate of a capital campaign. Last year at this time we didn't have a Director of Development, a Master Plan, construction drawings for our sanctuary reconstruction work, or a Capital Campaign underway. We now have all of those elements in place as well as an Interim Executive Director with deep experience in synagogues and other Jewish organizations.

We are working carefully to improve our dues relief process to make sure that it is both efficient and respectful. We sent out letters in April to members who requested dues relief in FY 11 to find out if their situation has changed in the past year and if they will again be requesting an adjustment.

New **עמית** Amit Membership Category

An important topic for the board, staff, and Finance Committee has been how to obtain financial support from all of those who use our facilities. To address this challenge, Rabbi Bachman and staff members met with representatives of three of these constituencies: Altshul, Brooklyn Jews,

and Israelis in Brooklyn. At these meetings they discussed that these constituents would like to support CBE but are not in the position to join as full members. They expressed interest in joining CBE under an Amit Category that would pay \$400 per family, \$185 per individual.

The Amit Membership would have more limited privileges than standard membership, including:

- Membership rate charged for use of facilities
- Membership rate for facilities rental for life cycle events
- Membership mailings for Advisory, *Bulletin*, and special events
- Membership rate for adult education and other fee programs
- Membership priority for ECC enrollment consideration, at full tuition
- Membership privileges for clergy consultation
- High Holy Day Tickets may be purchased, pending availability
- Non-Member rate charged for ECC and After School
- No Voting privileges

In Fiscal 2012, the Finance Committee will work with the Membership Committee and the Youth Education Task Force to incorporate their recommendations into our financial planning.

Administration and Maintenance, Information Technology expenses total \$2,090,000 and have been allocated to the departments based on the number of students and the space occupied by each program. We expect to receive a significant (30%) increase in our health insurance costs.

The **Yachad** program is budgeted comparably to fiscal 2011 with a modest fee increase of \$25 per student.

The **Early Childhood Center (ECC)**, after considering their applicant pool, has decided to add an extra class this year, which adds over \$100,000 to their net budget.

The **Youth** Programs consist of the Upper Day Camp, Travel Camp, After School Programs at Beth Elohim and the new program at PS 295. Youth programs are budgeted for small percentage fee increases for Fiscal 2012.

Other Activities is a catch-all category of activities that don't fall into a specific program, including: Adult Education, Communications, Community Outreach, rentals, and internal use of temple facilities, including the gym and pool. The staff has underway a market analysis of room rental rates in the neighborhood and in anticipation of the results of that survey has added \$10,000 to this revenue budget line.

FISCAL JULY 1,2011 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2012

	Gross Revenue	Direct Expense	Gross Profit	Allocations	Net After Allocations
MEMBERSHIP DUES & FUNDRAISING					
Dues	\$ 1,089,485		\$ 1,089,485	\$ 299,618	\$ 789,867
Dues (300 new members @\$400.00)	120,000		120,000	-	120,000
Voluntary Contributions	25,000		25,000	-	25,000
	\$ 1,234,485	\$ -	\$ 1,234,485	\$ 299,618	\$ 934,867
RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES					
Clergy	\$ 25,000	\$ 552,450	\$ (527,450)	\$ 183,818	\$ (711,268)
Keshet	35,000	33,856	1,144	-	1,144
Keshet Tots	8,050	7,749	301	-	301
Israelis in Brooklyn	39,625	78,483	(38,858)	-	(38,858)
URJ Dues		90,000	(90,000)	-	(90,000)
Shabbat		20,000	(20,000)	-	(20,000)
Music		35,000	(35,000)	-	(35,000)
Other-(HH Seats, Kiddush, retreat & Passover).	42,000		42,000	-	42,000
Total	\$ 149,675	\$ 817,538	\$ (667,863)	\$ 183,818	\$ (851,681)
YACHAD	\$ 350,000	\$ 649,930	\$ (299,930)	\$ 174,812	\$ (474,742)
EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER					
Lower Day Camp	\$ 227,165	\$ 104,012	\$ 123,153	\$ 75,553	\$ 47,600
ECC	2,480,547	1,308,147	1,172,400	441,815	730,585
Total	\$ 2,707,712	\$ 1,412,159	\$ 1,295,553	\$ 517,368	\$ 778,185
YOUTH PROGRAMS					
Upper Day Camp	\$ 410,399	\$ 165,933	\$ 244,466	\$ 118,763	\$ 125,703
After school	748,397	514,001	234,396	352,478	(118,082)
PS 295	57,134	32,937	24,197	42,391	(18,194)
Travel Camp	161,424	108,500	52,924	38,152	14,772
Total	\$ 1,377,354	\$ 821,371	\$ 555,983	\$ 551,784	\$ 4,199
OTHER ACTIVITIES					
Room Use	\$ 56,000		\$ 56,000	\$ -	\$ 56,000
Adult Ed.	3,800	10,000	(6,200)	33,649	(39,849)
Archival Services		25,000	(25,000)		(25,000)
Community Use /Members				136,080	(136,080)
Community Use /Public				178,347	(178,347)
Membership and events		65,834	(65,834)		(65,834)
Security	26,250		26,250		26,250
Gym & Pool	11,204		11,204		11,204
Misc.	2,000		2,000		2,000
Communications		105,801	(105,801)	3,604	(109,405)
Community Programming	83,778	91,212	(7,434)	2,952	(10,386)
Total	\$ 183,032	\$ 297,846	\$ (114,814)	\$ 354,632	\$ (469,446)
Fund Raising	\$ 539,222	\$ 192,900	\$ 346,322	\$ 7,737	\$ 338,585
Administrative		\$ 1,023,747	\$ (1,023,747)	\$ (1,023,747)	\$ -
Maintenance, Utilities and Security		\$ 953,372	\$ (953,372)	\$ (953,372)	\$ 0
Deferred Compensation Plan		\$ 50,000	\$ (50,000)	\$ (50,000)	\$ -
IT Cost		\$ 62,650	\$ (62,650)	\$ (62,650)	
Balance before provision for Capital	\$ 6,541,480	\$ 6,281,514	\$ 259,965	\$ -	\$ 259,965

Notes

Included in Fund Raising Revenue is Yom Kippur Appeal, Foundation Support, and other annual fundraising. The Administration budget is divided into: Administrative, Facilities and Maintenance, Information Technology and Deferred Compensation and charged out to programs based on the number of students (Administrative charges) and the space used (Facilities charges).

Provision for Capital Expenditures

Net Income from Operations	259,965
Net Proceeds - Gala (directly funds capital projects)	175,000
Plus Capital Campaign Revenue (Five Year Goal)	3,500,000

Capital Campaign (Expenses)

250,000

Small Capital Projects (lobby, office, other)

139,000

Nominations Committee Report

Abby Everett, Chair

Nominating Committee:

Jonathan Fried

Michael Glanzer

Barbara Grossman

Sandy Hartog

Richard Levitt

Michelle Lynn-Sachs

Michael Ravitch

The 2011 Committee on Nominations presents the following nominees to be voted upon at the next Annual Meeting of the Congregation. Officers serve a one-year term. Accordingly, we are nominating each of the individuals listed below to serve one year as an officer.

With respect to trustee nominations, in accordance with the new bylaws, we have nominated seven individuals to serve a three-year term in the Trustee Class of 2014. In addition, four current trustees have decided to step down before completing their terms: David Kasakove, Carol Korn Bursztyn, Linda Loewenthal, and JoAnn Mort. To fill these vacancies, we are nominating one person to a two-year term in the Class of 2013, and three individuals to serve a one-year term in the Class of 2012.

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

Officers

President	Charles Nathan*
Vice Presidents	Bruce Bender** Barbara Grossman** Susan Klitzman** Ron Lieber* Rosalee Lovett* Rob Raich*
Secretary	Michael Ravitch*
Treasurer	Emily Sachs**
Trustees	Class of 2014
Michael Baumrin*	Lou Mintz*
Susan Klitzman**	Charles Nathan**
Michael Leit*	Margot Schonholtz*
Ron Lieber**	

Trustees

Drucie Belman*
Esta Bigler
Janice Cimberg
Jodie Corngold
Susan Doban
Michael Glanzer

Trustees

Bruce Bender
Greg Clayman
Jonathan Fried
Norman Levy
Rosalee Lovett*
Michelle Lynn-Sachs

Class of 2012

Jan Goldberg
Barbara Grossman
Lyn Hill
Lisa Miller*
Simon Raykher
Joanna Steckman*

Class of 2013

Nick Pisano
Rob Raich
Michael Ravitch
Tom Rosenfeld
Emily Sachs
Jill Savitt

Bios: 2011 Nominees, Congregation Beth Elohim Officers and Trustees OFFICERS [ONE-YEAR TERM]

CHUCK NATHAN: PRESIDENT

Chuck Nathan, his wife Alisa F. Levin and their two children, Sam and Lillien, have been residents of Park Slope since 1984, and members of Beth Elohim since 1987. Alisa was a member of the Board of Trustees in the early 90s and Chuck has been a Trustee since 2009. Chuck was a co-chair of the Nominating Committee in 2010, and is a current member of the House Committee. Chuck is Of Counsel to Latham & Watkins, resident in the New York office, and was formerly a partner and global co-chair of the Latham Mergers & Acquisitions practice group. Chuck and Alisa are also very active in the UJA, where Alisa is currently Chairman of Planned Giving, and at BAM, where they co-chair the Artists' Circle. Chuck and Alisa also founded, and Chuck currently co-chairs, the UJA sponsored Brownstone Brooklyn Study Group, which includes a large number of members of CBE.

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 is in his second term as a Trustee and is a current Vice President. 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 has recently completed a term as 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 Mitzvot with the congregation.

SUSAN KLITZMAN: VICE PRESIDENT

Susan Klitzman has been a member of CBE since 2000. 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. She has also been a member of the Board of Trustees since 2008, and is a current Vice President. Beginning in 2009, she helped to lead a review of CBE's governance structure. This process has led to revised by-laws, which were approved by the Congregation in February 2011.

Professionally, Susan is Acting Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the City University of New York (CUNY) School of Public Health at Hunter College. 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.

RON LIEBER: VICE PRESIDENT

Ron Lieber is a 17-year resident of Brooklyn and a 4-year member of Beth Elohim. Ron, his wife Jodi and their 5 year-old Talia first got involved with the temple through Shir L'Shabbat, and he recently finished his second year on the temple's board, during which he chaired the search for our new cantor. In his other life, Ron writes the "Your Money" column for The New York Times and edits the paper's "Bucks" blog on nytimes.com.

ROSALEE LOVETT: VICE PRESIDENT

Rosalee and her husband, Bruce, have been members of CBE since 1987. Their children, Sam and Sarah, were Bar / Bat Mitzvot and then confirmed at CBE. Their grandson Russell now attends the ECC.

Rosalee has a long history of service to CBE. She has served on the Board of Trustees and on the Executive Committee. She has served as co-chair of the Religious School, Day School, and Membership Committees. She has served on numerous committees for annual Spring fundraisers including co-chairing the 140th anniversary event. She has served on a number of CBE search committees.

Rosalee spent over 30 years on the business side of the publishing and information industry. She currently is retired from The Nielsen Company, where she was Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration.

ROB RAICH: VICE PRESIDENT

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, in addition to being a Beth Elohim Trustee.

MICHAEL RAVITCH: SECRETARY

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 the temple at that time. Michael is currently a Beth Elohim Trustee.

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. She is currently completing her first one-year term as the Congregation’s treasurer and is pleased to have participated in recruiting Monika Hamburger as our interim Executive Director.

TRUSTEE CLASS OF 2014 [THREE-YEAR TERMS]

MICHAEL BAUMRIN

Michael has lived in Park Slope since 1987, with his wife Sara and three children Max, Emily and Josh and has been a member of Congregation Beth Elohim since arriving (coming on a quarter century). His children were all educated at the religious school and had their B'nei Mitzvah at CBE. He was a member of the Ba Derech Task Force, organizing listening sessions and work groups to help CBE plan for its future.

Michael is a municipal bond specialist, working with state and local governments nationwide to finance their affordable housing programs.

MICHAEL LEIT

Michael Leit has been a fixed income financial analyst for over 30 years and has worked at a Rating Agency and various buy and sell side firms. He is currently employed at Pinebridge Investments, an \$80+ billion mutual fund. Michael's passion is investing in the financial markets. Michael has been married for over 29 years to Linda Gerber Leit (a former Trustee), and has lived in Park Slope and been a member of the Temple for 27 years. Both the Leit children, Ben and Rachel, became a Bar and Bat Mitzvah at the Temple. Ben is 25 and is a Salesman in NYC for Currenex, a subsidiary of State Street Bank. Rachel is graduating in May from Skidmore College. Michael practices Tai Chi daily and is a workout enthusiast.

RON LIEBER

SEE BIO ABOVE

SUSAN KLITZMAN

SEE BIO ABOVE

LOU MINTZ

Louis Mintz is a Partner at J.F. Lehman & Company, a leading middle market private equity manager. He joined the firm in 1997 and has been a principal investor for two decades. He has served as a Director on the boards of many of J.F. Lehman's portfolio companies and currently serves as Chairman of Drew Marine, a leading global supplier of environmental and performance solutions for ocean-going vessels; Drew employs more than 375 people in 47 countries.

Lou graduated *magna cum laude* from Duke University where he received his B.A. in Economics and Public Policy Studies and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He began his career at Drexel Burnham Lambert in the corporate finance department. His professional experience also includes five years as a developer and project manager for the successful renovation of the historical landmark railroad district in the resort town of Telluride, Colorado.

Lou and his wife Beverly have been Park Slope residents for nearly 15 years. They live with their three children — Ellie (7), Ian (5) and Norah (3) — just around the corner from Congregation Beth Elohim and have been members of CBE for nearly a decade.

CHUCK NATHAN

SEE BIO ABOVE

MARGOT SCHONHOLTZ

Margot Schonholtz is a partner in the Business Reorganization and Restructuring Department of Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP in New York. She has more than 30 years of experience representing leading institutional creditors, agents to syndicated lending groups, large lender groups, official and unofficial creditors' committees and commercial lenders in out-of-court debt restructurings, loan workouts, asset sale transactions, and bankruptcy matters. Margot is native of Washington, DC, a graduate of Smith College (BA) and American University Washington College of Law (J.D.).

Margot and her husband Jerry Pietroforte have been members of CBE for over twenty-five years; Margot served on the early childhood committee while her 3 sons, Robert, Matthew and Gregory Pietroforte all attended. Each of the boys had his Bar Mitzvah at CBE as well.

TRUSTEE CLASS OF 2012 [ONE-YEAR TERM TO FILL VACANCIES]

DRUCIE BELMAN

Drucie Belman and her family have been members of Congregation Beth Elohim since 2002. She began volunteering in 2002, first as a member of the Early Childhood Center Committee, co-chairing the committee from 2005-2007. She co-chaired the 2006 Spring Gala and currently serves on the Yachad committee. In each effort Drucie's focus has been to create more energy and enthusiasm within the community.

Professionally, Drucie has worked as a graphic designer in New York and in Asia where she designed web sites for both the UJC and Chabad.

Drucie received her undergraduate degree in Art History from Wellesley College, she then attended SVA in Web and Graphic design.

LISA MILLER

Lisa Miller is a prize-winning journalist who covers religion, politics, and culture. From 2007 until 2010, she wrote a regular, weekly column for Newsweek, which won a prestigious Wilbur Award. She has written cover stories on the sex crisis in the Roman Catholic Church and the controversial mosque at Ground Zero, and she interviewed then-Senator Barack Obama about his faith in advance of the 2008 presidential election. Her 2008 cover story "The Religious Case for Gay Marriage" won numerous awards, including a GLAAD award, and a New York Press Club Award. Before establishing herself as a writer of national prominence, she was the Society Editor at Newsweek, running coverage of religion, health, medicine, education, parenting, sports, food

and design. Miller arrived at Newsweek from the Wall Street Journal, where she was a senior special writer covering religion. She has also worked at the Harvard Business Review, Self Magazine, and the New Yorker.

With the publication of her 2010 book, “Heaven: Our Enduring Fascination with the Afterlife,” Miller appeared on many national television and radio programs, including The Colbert Report, the O’Reilly Factor, and the Diane Rehm show. She has lectured on religion and media at Yale University, Emory University, Columbia University, and Syracuse University. Miller grew up in New Haven, Conn., and attended Oberlin College. She lives in Park Slope with her husband and daughter and has been a member of CBE since 2005, when her daughter enrolled in the preschool there. She attends Yachad regularly, and she recently moderated a human rights panel with fellow Temple members. She also gave a book talk in the spring of 2010.

JOANNA STECKMAN

Joanna is currently back in Graduate School at LIU pursuing a dual masters in early childhood/childhood education. Before the kids, she was an agent for Great Talent Network, an International Lecture Agency — representing, politicians, authors, sports figures etc. Her background is Non Profit Theater Management and Public Relations and she was the Marketing Director for Dance Theater Workshop and Camp Broadway in New York City and the former Director of Marketing for Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour, a funding organization pairing public and private funding with performing artists and presenting venues.

Joanna has served on the Membership Committee at CBE and as their Co-chair in the 2009-2010 fiscal year and she is currently the Co-chair of the ECC Committee. Her son Henry, 4, is in his 2nd year at the ECC in the flexi- fours class and will be there full time in the fall. Daughter Ava Margot is 13 months and happily attends the drop-in center at CBE at least 2 times a week. Joanna is married to Robert Steckman, an attorney-at-law in private practice specializing in Business Law.

TRUSTEE CLASS OF 2013 [TWO-YEAR TERM TO FILL VACANCY]

ROSALEE LOVETT

SEE BIO ABOVE

Brooklyn Jews Report

Marc Katz, Revson Rabbinic Intern

Brooklyn Jews Advisory Committee:

Rubi Cammarota

Eduardo Contreras

Rachel Freeman

Micky Hervitz

Benjamin Kessel

Susannah Locke

Nina Pearlman

Leeatt Rothschild

Jackie Rovine

Sabrina Silver

Brooklyn Jews is CBE's community-organizing initiative for Jews in their 20s and 30s. In operation since 2003, this innovative program meets people "where they are" as an open resource for those seeking a meaningful connection to Jewish life, culture and practice. Brooklyn Jews seeks to bring together people of different backgrounds, practices and passions. Since its creation, Brooklyn Jews has centered around one question: What do we want out of our Jewish lives? In addition to programmatic outreach, Brooklyn Jews seeks through social, religious, and educational programming to serve as a feeder to the larger congregational community.

Marc Katz, the Revson Rabbinic Intern, leads the Brooklyn Jews program and provides an energetic presence for the entire CBE community. In addition to Brooklyn Jews, the Revson Rabbinic Intern is charged with a number of tasks around the synagogue including teaching Saturday adult Torah study, leading Shabbat youth services, teaching in Congregation Beth Elohim's high school program, coordinating two weeks at the Brooklyn Heights homeless shelter, leading occasional Friday night services, and a host of other smaller tasks. Marc sought to build meaningful connections with participants and tried to open doors for them though helping them experience Judaism in new and creative ways.

- Brooklyn Jews held High Holy Day Services for nearly 600 people, led by Marc Katz and Jennifer Gubitz, at the Prospect Park Picnic House (Rosh Hashanah) and the Congregation Beth Elohim social hall (Yom Kippur).
- Brooklyn Jews hosted a bone marrow drive during Yom Kippur Services where they registered 98 participants for the Bone Marrow Registry.
- Marc coordinated and ran a yearlong 25-week introduction to Judaism course. Here participants learned about the major themes, symbols, and historical trends in Judaism. Participants included interfaith couples, people seeking conversion, and those looking for more Jewish connection. 16 people completed the course this spring.
- Marc ran an eight-session monthly class on prayer, focusing on history and themes in the prayer book. This class had a dedicated group of 5 participants.

- Brooklyn Jews partnered with the Jewish Meditation Center of Brooklyn for a series of pre-holiday and holiday programming. Called the “getting in the mood for...” series we hosted discussions and personal writing and meditation exercises around Rosh Hashanah, Hanukah, and Purim. These attracted between 15-25 people each time. In addition, the two organizations ran two highly successful programs during the holidays. Their Yom Kippur afternoon mediation program attracted 60 people and their Tu B’Shevat Seder attracted close to 80.
- Brooklyn Jews recently launched a weekly Shabbat basketball pick-up game. The aim of this game is twofold: to give people the opportunity to celebrate Shabbat in a unique way and to get those who wouldn’t otherwise come into Beth Elohim to attend. They get between 10-14 people weekly and have a dedicated list of about 25 people.
- Working with a group of dedicated lay leaders, Brooklyn Jews successfully ran a monthly Tot Shabbat initiative in the Fort Greene and Clinton Hill neighborhoods. These areas lack non-Chabad synagogues and are a significant walk to Congregation Beth Elohim. Therefore, the group meets monthly in participants houses and Brooklyn Jews brings Shabbat to them. Nights include blessings, potluck dinners, and a 20-minute Shabbat song session with the leader. The program has about 8 regular families but has engaged an additional 12-13 sporadically over the past year.
- Brooklyn Jews has promoted services at Congregation Beth Elohim with visiting musicians Noah Aronson and Galeet Dardashti, each appearing monthly. Following services they have hosted a handful of Shabbat Potluck Dinners at Congregation Beth Elohim. Their most successful was in April and attracted close to 50 20s and 30s.
- Brooklyn Jews teamed up with Altshul and rest of Congregation Beth Elohim for a Purim Megillah reading and after-party. 350 people attended.
- Brooklyn Jews worked with a host of other organizations including Hazon, Pursue, New Israel Fund, and Uri L’tzedek in cosponsoring their programs. Brooklyn Jews was the most active in co-sponsoring a recent food justice Seder, which was held at Congregation Beth Elohim and attracted 60 people.
- Brooklyn Jews hosted a Passover meet-up at Miriam restaurant, a Park Slope Israeli restaurant who offered a Passover menu this past holiday. 30 people attended.
- Working with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, Brooklyn Jews secured four 20s-and-30s reduced price spots to the upcoming Consultation on Conscience conference in early May.
- Marc maintains all communications for Brooklyn Jews including their Facebook page and website. In addition, Marc sends out a weekly Brooklyn Jews e-newsletter containing relevant programming from Brooklyn Jews, Congregation Beth Elohim, and a host of our partners including (JDC, Park Slope Jewish Center, and Hazon).

Brooklyn Jews measured success in a number of ways. First, numbers tell the biggest story. In each of our programs the organization has grown. The Tu B’Shevat seder this year, for example,

grew from 60 participants to 80 participants. High Holy Days also grew in its own way. Brooklyn Jews stops registration when the largest single service hits 400 (although they do not turn anyone away at the door). This year they closed registration 10 days earlier than in previous years. The introduction to Judaism class grew as well, from 12 students last year to 16 this year. These are representative of the fact that Brooklyn Jews is getting higher turnout across the board for their programs.

In addition, the retention has also grown. Last year on their pre-High Holy Day survey Brooklyn Jews learned that 68% of participants at Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah were returning. This year the number was 72%. In basic Judaism as well, the 16 students who attend have a higher rate of attendance (missing on average 3-5 class during the year) than last year's students (who missed 5-7). Furthermore, they have begun to notice that there are now "regulars" who attend the menu of Brooklyn Jews and CBE programs.

Marc began meeting with a number of prospective leaders over coffee. To date he has had five such meetings and plans to have more. At these meetings he speaks with these leaders about their vision for the community and asks for individualized feedback about what Brooklyn Jews can do better. Marc invited these people to sit at a special Brooklyn Jews table at the Journey Home Gala, and they will form an advisory board in the coming year.

Cantorial Search Committee Report

Ron Lieber, Chair

Cantorial Search Committee:

Jules Hirsh

David Kasakove

Didi Lacher

Linda Loewenthal

Michelle Lynn-Sachs

Bruce Weiner

Judith Wild

The cantorial search committee initially met in the fall of 2010 and wrote, revised, and rewrote the job description for the cantor position. We entered into the job posting process with the American Conference of Cantors, the Reform placement organization, at the beginning of 2011. At first, the ACC would only let us talk to cantors with three or more years of experience, though they eventually gave us access to all available candidates and their résumés. We received about 15 application packages from Reform cantors and a few others from Conservative and Reconstructionist ones.

The committee read each résumé and listened to all of the recordings that we received. A smaller group interviewed a few candidates by phone and two others in person. The committee was unanimous or nearly so in every decision, and we ultimately selected Josh Breitzer, a new graduate of H.U.C., who will start in August.

Josh is an alumnus of the famed Interlochen Arts Camp, holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan's well-known vocal performance program, and also earned a master's degree from the New England Conservatory of Music. He recently finished his cantorial studies at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Manhattan and was ordained on May 8, 2011. Josh was the first ever cantorial intern at Temple Emanu-El in Manhattan and also worked part-time at Temple Beth Shalom in Arnold, Maryland while he was at H.U.C. He has performed opera and other music as a soloist at Carnegie Hall, Symphony Space, the 92nd Street Y, and on Israel's "Kol HaMusica" classical radio outlet.

CBE Singers Report

Rose Moskowitz, Music Director

Joe Rosta, Co-Chair

Judith Wild, Co-Chair

Members of the choir:

Barbara Boorstyn, Alison Brunell, Elyse Gans, Alice Kaufman, Joe Rosta, Nancy Spitalnick, David Thayer, Karen Vaughan, Arlette Weill, and Judy Wild

Alumni who make occasional appearances:

Matthew Eilenberg, Carole Gould, Eleanor Miele, and Ingrid Hecker Perry

The CBE singers were busy this past year! In addition to our usual gigs which are to sing at the last Friday night service of every month and High Holy Day services, with the departure of the full-time cantor, we assisted the clergy most Friday nights by lending our voices both collectively and singularly. Noah Aronson invited us to rehearse and sing and with him on the third Friday of every month which we also enjoyed. Some “Noah” songs are now in our repertoire. Additionally, all or some of us performed at special events: the Ritual Committee’s “Music in the Pulpit” night, the Kehillah Shabbat Afternoon Tea for members’ mothers, the memorial service for Tom Kolar, Hanukah, Shabbat Shira, the commemoration of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire, Passover, and a special lunch in honor of Carole Gould’s rabbinical ordination. At this last event we had the great pleasure of singing with our incoming cantor, Joshua Breitzer, and his wife, Donna.

We’ve made friends outside of Beth Elohim and gladly accepted invitations to participate in musical occasions beyond our ken. The events of the past year are as follows: service to honor Cantor Garfein at Manhattan’s Congregation Rodeph Sholom, selection from Handel’s *Judas Maccabaeus* with the Brooklyn Community Chorus, Adon Olamathon at Park Slope Jewish Center, and our third annual musical afternoon for the population of Prospect Park Residence.

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 meet on Saturday right after services and on some alternate Sunday mornings and weekday nights. Its members enjoy performing as well as leading congregational singing during services. New members are always welcome — you don’t have to read music to belong. If you can carry a tune, please contact Music Director Rose Moskowitz.

Chesed Group Report

Andrea Dobro, Co-Chair

Susan Miller, Co-Chair

Chesed Group Committee:

Bonnie Bader, Ally Brunnell, Catherine Burns, Abby Everett, Bobbie Finkelstein, Jane Gartner, Jan Goldberg, Julianne Hirsh, Didi Lacher, Karen Levenberg, Rose Moskowitz, Nina Neimark, Marsha Pierson, Michael J. Rosenbluth, David Roth, Leona Shapiro, Carol Shuchman, Gayle Sinclair, Randy Skurnick, Nancy Spitalnik, Judith Wild, Charlotte Wile, and Charlotte Wolovsky

These congregants participated in supporting Chesed through acts of Gemilut Chasadim:

Karen Binder, Marietta Brill, Cindy Caplan, Judith Foster, Stacy Frisch, Rachel Geballe, Lisa Gilinsky, Arden Ginsberg, David Greenberg, Sandy Hartog, Raye Holab, Amanda Leath, Phyllis Lemkowitz, Heather Miller, Karen Neuwirth, Marjorie Osman, Nina Pearlman, Linda Quigley, Jerry and Kathy Raphael, Nancy Rosenberg, Joseph Rosta, Leslie Rubin, Michelle Lynn-Sachs, Perry Solomon, Susan Stamler, Tracy Sweet, and Doris Traub

The Chesed Group continues to provide acts of Gemilut Chasadim (loving kindness) to the CBE community and the larger Park Slope community. This past year we provided meals to many members after the birth of a new baby as well as sent meals to congregants who were ill and who were bereaved. Chesed Committee members not only attended shiva service in congregant homes but also served as Shiva Minyan leaders.

The Chesed Committee organized our community to provide other services when needed, such as shopping and supporting family members whose loved ones were ill or hospitalized, visiting people in the hospital and staying connected with congregants as they recuperated at home. Committee members also took monthly turns taking responsibility for sending cards to members who were ill and bereaved and to members who welcomed a new baby.

The word of our Chesed work reached outside our CBE community. We were asked to help a family in need who are not members of CBE. An email went out and a message was put in the advisory and on the CBE website. Many CBE members responded to help a family with a parent suffering from cancer.

We continue to partner with the UJA-Federation of New York in the Partners in Caring program, through which we 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 tough economic times through programs run by the Shira Ruskay Center, Rita J. Kaplan Jewish Connections Programs, and Connect to Care.

After four years of chairing the committee, Andrea and Susan are stepping down as co-chairs. The committee will be chaired next by Carol Shuchman and Jan Goldberg.

Community Organizing Report

Isabel Burton, Revson Fellow for Community Organizing

When I started in the role of Revson Fellow for Community Organizing in July 2010, I started a process of reaching out to members of the community to see how CBE could build on work done previously around social justice and get more involved in local concerns and wider social justice issues. Over the last year there has been a truly impressive amount of events, discussions, and actions around social justice issues, including conversations around issues such as homophobia, attendance at a vigil to support Park 51, blood drives, pie-making, decorating a family room at Rikers Island prison, and starting training around running a listening campaign in the fall.

Below are some of the most exciting events/programming.

Public education: I have helped form a CBE public education group made up of around ten members of the community, following conversations about the importance of public education to them, their worries for their children, and for other Brooklyn residents. This group has gathered regularly and come up with areas around which they want to take action. This group is now working on a range of issues with John Jay School. We are about to start recruiting volunteers from the CBE community to train as Learning Leaders and to be assigned to students at the school, in addition to providing professional support/mentoring to one of the less experienced principals at the school.

Human Rights Shabbat: Over Martin Luther King Junior Day weekend we held an event looking at our obligations as a Jewish community to address Islamophobia. There was a service on the Friday night followed by a panel discussion moderated by member Lisa Miller, Religion Editor at *Newsweek*, with Rabbi Bachman, member Iain Levine from Human Rights Watch, and Daisy Khan, Executive Director of the American Society for Muslim Advancement. It was a hugely successful, diverse, and well-attended event, with around 200 people who came to both the service and the discussion.

Osborne Association: Following a successful grant proposal to UJA-Federation of New York, we were able to start working with the Osborne Association — an organization that works with families affected by incarcerated parents. Working alongside Wesley Weissberg, I have been working on getting people linked into the volunteer opportunities. We had thirty-five people attend an education event to learn more about this issue; twenty members went on to receive training on mentoring and are slowly starting to mentor kids. Two members have taken kids to visit their parents in upstate, and seven volunteers helped set up and decorate the new Rikers Women's Jail Family Center. Rabbi Bachman also delivered the invocation at the graduation ceremony for Osborne's Fresh Start parenting course at Rikers. There are going to be many more volunteer opportunities around this work going forward.

Listening Campaign: Fourteen participants, from across the CBE demographic, have gathered together to learn about running a listening campaign at CBE in the fall. Our goal is to build strong relationships and a dynamic community through the sharing of stories and in the process discover unknown solutions and ideas. This will also link into the strategic plan. This is in the early days as yet and we are hoping to engage with many more members of the community in this exciting project.

Greening CBE: CBE is one of nineteen agencies selected to participate in the second cohort of the Jewish Greening Fellowship, a project of the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center, funded by UJA-Federation of New York. I have been selected to lead this initiative and am therefore at the beginning of the process of forming a green team, getting an energy audit of our buildings, helping to develop new (Jewish) environmental education programs for the community, and upgrading its sustainable practices.

Development Report

Debbie Nelson, Director of Development

Leslie Frishberg, Co-Chair

Barbara Grossman, Co-Chair

Development Committee:

Amy Bender

Janice Cimberg

Greg Clayman

Stacey Margolis

Marsha Pierson

Jill Savitt

Michelle Sidrane

Nan Sussman

The Development Committee is indebted to the many generous individuals and organizations who helped to improve fund-raising efforts this year — by sharing knowledge; by reviewing and editing documents and policies; by reaching out to networks to procure support for CBE needs; and by giving meaningfully of time and/or money. Working together with exemplary energy and dedication, the CBE Development Committee and others have demonstrated that we are capable of significant annual fundraising.

Beginning in July, CBE hired a Director of Development, Debbie Nelson, to help us to deepen philanthropic support. Debbie set to work to augment the already successful grant award efforts spearheaded by Rabbi Bachman. As a result, several foundations increased their support of our programs and of the work of Rabbi Bachman. The Samuel Bronfman Foundation doubled its support of CBE with a \$100,000 award to help underwrite the Bronfman Fellow for Community Engagement position (Lauren Shenkman): of note, Lauren utilized another award of \$15,000 from the Charles H. Revson Foundation to improve the CBE website, and the Union for Reform Judaism contributed funding to support a stronger online video presence. The Charles H. Revson Foundation also awarded CBE \$200,000 over two years to support our Revson Rabbinic Intern (Marc Katz) to coordinate the Brooklyn Jews program; as well as the work of two new fellows: the Revson Fellow for Social Justice (Isabel Burton) and the Revson Fellow for Israelis in Brooklyn (Yehudit Feinstein). Isabel and Yehudit launched new programs which won a UJA-Federation of New York Ignition Grant of \$25,000 to develop the Israelis in Brooklyn program, and a Jewish Greening Fellowship award from the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center, also funded by UJA-Federation of New York, to deepen our community's environmental stewardship. The UJA-Federation of New York additionally provided a grant that launched a partnership with the Osborne Foundation to connect CBE volunteers with families dealing with incarceration issues and it was Development efforts that helped CBE to secure \$10,000 for kitchen improvements from The Hyde and Watson Foundation, as well as \$15,500 from The Nehemias Gorin Foundation, thanks to the thoughtful recommendation by members Alice and Robert Cooper.

These foundations support our programming and, while dues, tuition and rental fees cover much, but not all, of the operational costs to run our synagogue and schools, we must close the gap through fundraising. Every year the Yom Kippur Appeal underwrites operating expenses, allowing the Synagogue, Early Childhood Center, Yachad, and After School Programs to respond to the needs of all of our members. This year, in recognition of rising needs, the Board of Trustees set an example for fellow congregants by increasing its own support of the Appeal and challenged members to do the same. The CBE community stepped up and pledged more than \$300,000, with 81% meeting the Board of Trustees' Shaarei Tzedek Challenge (Gates of Righteousness) to increase their support of the Yom Kippur Appeal.

The success of the Yom Kippur Appeal then meant that all Gala proceeds could support our next highest priority: to repair our Sanctuary. "The Journey Home" was selected as the theme for the Gala to help us get back into the Sanctuary and, under the indefatigable Amy Bender and her team of volunteers, the Gala grossed more than \$300,000 (25% more than last year)!

These numbers make a strong case that we are positioned to raise the funds needed to repair the Sanctuary and the Temple House windows. Therefore, in April the Development Committee recommended and the Board launched a \$3.25 million dollar Capital Campaign: "The Journey Home" which secured more than a half million dollars in campaign pledges in the three weeks leading up to the Gala. This extraordinary measure of leadership and generosity reflects the support from current and incoming members of the Executive Committee.

The Development and Capital Campaign Committees look forward to continued success in 2011-2012 with our grant program, with another springtime gala, and to several new initiatives including launching an Endowment and Planned Giving program, new Gift and Giving Policies, a new database, completing the capital campaign, and achieving 100% member participation in the Yom Kippur Appeal — truly appreciated support that will ensure that every family and individual has access to meaningful worship and to the warm and loving Jewish community that is Congregation Beth Elohim.

Early Childhood Center (ECC) Report

Jaci Israel, Director of Early Childhood Center

Pam Karlin, Assistant Director of Early Childhood Center

Joanna F. Steckman, Co-Chair

Diane Weiner, Co-Chair

ECC Committee:

Virginia Genereux

Daniel Hurewitz

Linda Duhl

Maureen Holtz

Kerrie Lawyer

Leana Lu

2010/2011 was a fun and exciting year at the Early Childhood Center at CBE. It also was a year in which ECC families truly came together to support the school and each other. Jaci Israel helmed a tremendously successful year as the ECC Director, and Assistant Director Pam Karlin was as dedicated and involved as ever leading several phenomenal events and initiatives. As always, the tireless Beverly Ackerley, ECC Administrative Assistant, handled the bustling activities and events of the ECC with smiles and lots of hard work. Having two parents co-chair the ECC Committee also allowed us the ability to create a diversified calendar of events and detailed division of responsibilities.

We began our year with an exciting new event, the CBE Sukkot Block Party. This Temple-wide event was a wonderful way to kick off the 2010-11 school year. “Dwelling in the Sukkah” was the theme of our ECC section. Families were invited to experience our sukkah and encouraged to create decorations together to hang in the sukkah. It was a great introduction to the school for our new ECC families and several current families and alumni offered up their time to volunteer.

Our annual Get Acquainted Dinners, as well as our Winter Teacher Appreciation Dinner, were also great successes. The first allowed parents and teachers to mingle and talk in an informal and friendly gathering and the latter gave our wonderful ECC teachers an evening to let loose and be pampered. ECC parents were happy to volunteer for the dinner and donated handmade desserts, professionally printed invitations, and a video montage of the teachers in action, plus fabulous raffle prizes. Both evenings were fun events that families and staff look forward to each year.

Our 2010/2011 fundraising efforts were tremendous and well surpassed last year’s monies raised. Our Annual Bookfair — now aptly named Bookapalooza — was a rousing success. There were two special Bookapalooza events this year, a Jodi Kantor interview and book signing with Nicole Krauss (both ECC/CBE Families) and a children’s concert and author readings. We also chose to work with a new vendor, Booksmart. Their selection of books offered was a huge improvement over our previous vendor and the ECC took in a larger share of gross sales — 25% vs. 10-15% previously. An ECC Parent, Astrid Reedy, designed our own unique Bookapalooza logo which adorned posters and tote bags! Parent volunteers were wonderful at creating posters and flyers, baking and giving their time to set up, sell, and clean up the large event.

Our popular Original Artwork Fundraiser was also a great event. We again worked with the vendor Artware who also presented us with the opportunity to keep a larger return of our sales. Families had the opportunity to have their children's art work printed onto mugs, pillows, T-shirts, and even matzah covers!

We added a third fundraiser this year hosting a spring concert and bake sale featuring the Fuzzy Lemons. The first time event was well attended and all the kids had a great time dancing and singing and throwing beach balls around the ballroom.

We celebrated the Jewish Holidays including Hanukah, Purim, and Passover with great enthusiasm. As in years past, the events were carefully and joyfully planned in collaboration with all the kids, teachers, Rabbi Shira Epstein, and Debbie Brukman. The children relish these events, which provide them with many new songs and stories, art projects, and delicious foods. The children leave each holiday celebration with a wonderful knowledge of culture and tradition.

The ECC and After School Center collaborated in presenting a screening of the relevant and controversial documentary *Race to Nowhere*. The film highlights how high-stakes testing has led to replacing meaningful teaching and learning in our schools. A panel discussion moderated by Jodi Rudoren, Deputy Editor of the *New York Times* Metro section, generated a stimulating and provocative conversation. This event was made possible in a large part by a generous grant from the Jewish Education Project.

We finished out the year with our second annual Family Day, welcoming all parents, caregivers, and any other loved one to attend school with their children and celebrate what it means to be a family. Students created and shared various art projects, personal stories, and songs.

We ended the school year with lots of celebrations. Our teachers gathered together for their spring Teacher Appreciation Celebration — Bowl-a-Fiesta at Melody Lanes! Our final school year event, the ECC picnic, took place on June 2 where potluck picnics were shared and families reminisced about the year.

This year one of the ECC students became severely ill. Her illness was followed by a two-month period of recovery. Thankfully, she made a miraculous full recovery, but during the difficult and draining weeks, classmates, families, and the entire ECC community came together to deliver meals, raise money, and do anything necessary to ensure that the family in need wanted for nothing. It's this kind of bond that makes the ECC unique and a school to be cherished.

The latest addition to our "Tots on the Move" program is our Monday morning Puppet Sing Along featuring the Yellow Sneaker duo of Ora and Yoshie Fruchter. Children and their parents join Ora and Yoshie on Monday mornings for an interactive sing along with puppets, combining original songs, oldies, and traditional children's music. Ora, Yoshie, and "Joey" (the baby kangaroo puppet) quickly engendered a large following of happy toddlers and we would look forward to continuing the program in the fall.

With the Fall 2011 enrollment now complete, we are thrilled to announce the expansion of the ECC and the addition of a new classroom class. We look forward to the continued success of the Early Childhood Center and look forward to greater collaboration and integration with other CBE programs.

History and Archives Report

Rabbi Daniel M. Bronstein, Congregational Scholar
Martha Foley, Archivist

The mission of the History and Archives Project is multifold. The organization, preservation, and cataloging of historical materials at Congregation Beth Elohim serves administrative, developmental, and educational functions.

The Archive provides the following basic services:

- Ongoing preservation and organization of all of CBE's archival materials.
- Ongoing collection of historical documents, artifacts and oral histories.
- Providing information on past life-cycle events including births, B'nai Mitzvah, weddings, and deaths.
- Organization and documentation of material related to Congregation Beth Elohim finances and cemetery.
- Records Management.
- Providing images and other materials for the CBE website, the *Bulletin*, and the weekly Advisory e-newsletter.
- Generating images and documents for development projects.
- Creating exhibits for educational and outreach purposes. Last year's exhibits include:
 - "From Sanctuary to Synagogue Center: Dedicating the CBE Temple House";
 - "Making Gyms Jewish: Athletics at Congregation Beth Elohim";
 - "From Hypnosis to Shavuot: A Year in the Life of Congregation Beth Elohim, 1940-1941."
- Research and Organization of the observance of Congregation Beth Elohim's sesquicentennial, including an updated history of the congregation.

We look forward to another productive year and the completion of our history of Congregation Beth Elohim.

House Committee Report

David Abramson, Co-Chair

Rob Apfel, Co-Chair

Susan Doban, Co-Chair

House Committee:

Bruce Bender

Adam Iarussi

David Kasakove

Charles Nathan

Nick Pisano

Under the leadership of co-chairs Susan Doban, Rob Apfel, and David Abramson, as well as Board liaison Bruce Bender, architects Acheson Doyle Partners (ADP) began its Master Plan work in mid-June 2010 which proceeded simultaneously on two related tracks. The first was a detailed buildings' conditions 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 was informed by the second track which explored the congregation's existing programs, future needs, and vision. These two tracks resulted in ADP's development of three Master Plan concepts for moving forward with the redesign, repair, restoration, and renovation of our buildings. The Master Planning process will continue but other work took precedence. On the basis of the Sanctuary's poor condition and ongoing deterioration (detailed in the conditions assessment) as well as the Congregation's strong desire to return soon to our Sanctuary, the Board authorized ADP to prepare detailed construction and bid documents for the restoration of the Sanctuary roofs and parapet. This work will make the building watertight and will permit the stabilization and repair of the damaged interior plaster. Bids are due for this work in mid-June 2011. Finally, based on the conditions assessment and committee recommendations, the Board authorized ADP to prepare construction and bid documents for the balance of exterior restoration work of the Sanctuary which includes façade restoration and cleaning, stained glass restoration, and window repair. The Board also authorized ADP to undertake a detailed Temple House window survey as a precursor to developing detailed Temple House window construction and bid documents. Both of these projects will commence in June 2011.

Israelis in Brooklyn Report

Yehudit Feinstein, Revson Fellow for Israelis in Brooklyn

Israelis in Brooklyn Committee:

Adi Amit

Sharon Avnon

Eli Brosh

Arza Gilad

Noa Ronen

Shiri Levy

“The big question for all of us really is, What does it mean to be Israeli in America? This community gives us a unique opportunity to answer that question.” —*Michal, Keshet Teacher*

Israelis in Brooklyn had an amazing year! From a collection of families that were seeking for connection, we turned out to be a community that offers its members Israeli-style events and programs for kids, babies, and adults. Israelis in Brooklyn is one-of-a-kind community that is being developed inside an existent community with the hope of creating strong relationships with what is going on here and finding a common ground in a place that feels foreign.

Why Israelis in Brooklyn?

Accustomed to more national, secular, and ethnic expressions of Jewish life, Israelis are not always comfortable in the predominantly synagogue- and denomination-based character of the American Jewish community. Even when they do participate, they are reminded of how far from home they really are and long for more authentically Israeli ways of celebrating Jewish holidays and culture.

Israelis in Brooklyn was created to alleviate these feelings of longing and channel them into the formation of a vibrant, passionate, and supportive community. Our programming offers Israeli adults and children opportunities to connect, learn and grow in *Israeli* ways. All our programs — for children to adults — are offered in Hebrew. Here we can speak effortlessly, sing and celebrate in Hebrew, and ensure that our children grow up appreciating Israeli culture.

Funding

Since our inception we have been generously supported by grants from the Charles H. Revson Foundation and the UJA-Federation of New York.

Our community

The majority of Israeli in Brooklyn's members are married with young children and range between the ages of 30-40 years old, and we have a small but growing minority of individuals in their late 20s. Currently, there are approximately 150 families and a handful of individuals who live in the Brooklyn area that comprise the group. Our members work in diverse fields from law,

art, education, advertising, the Jewish communal world, IT, and psychology. Different reasons have brought them to live, study, and/or work in the United States.

Our programs

Keshet

Keshet started last September. Designed for children ages 5-7, Keshet met weekly to explore aspects of Israeli identity, Jewish values, and holidays in the uniquely Israeli rendering of these holidays. These innovative programs transmit the beauty of Israeli culture and Judaism to students drawing on music, art, drama, stories, and games. We had 32 kids registered this year to this program, 5 Israeli teachers, and an active parents committee.

“Keshet is very important to us. My husband and I both made aliyah and are very committed to Israel. Keshet gives us a way to pass that commitment and love for Israel on to our children. It has also given me a wonderful community of like-minded people who I get to spend time with every week.” —*Cindy Greenberg, parent*

Keshet-Tots

With the generous support of a UJA-Federation grant, this year we launched Keshet-Tots. Keshet-Tots is an innovative music, story, art, and movement program for infants and toddlers — the first of its kind in the New York area. Fundamental to the development of an Israeli identity, parents can finally share their love of Israeli song and stories with their children, bonding and sharing a vital aspect of Israeli identity-building. Keshet-Tots also links families to one another, further deepening their sense of community, providing structured opportunities for them to socialize in Hebrew in an authentically Israeli environment. We had 43 families registered this year to this program, 5 Israeli teachers, and an Israeli song leader. Among the 43 registered families, 10 of them are Jewish Americans.

Adult Education

Throughout the year we offered ongoing adult education classes that were taught by Rabbi Orna Piltz. Courses were about Israeli themes of family and motherhood that were explored through Biblical text and Israeli poetry. We had 15 participants that came from Manhattan, New Jersey, Queens, and Brooklyn.

We also offered two psychological workshops about the complexity of being an Israeli parent in America that were led by Dr. Udi Sommer.

Events

During the year I organized eight events for Israelis and their kids including one event that put Jewish Americans and Israelis together. All the events took place at CBE and were related to Jewish Holidays and Israeli celebrations. Israelis in Brooklyn’s events attracted many families from the entire city. At our last event, which took place on May 22, we had 200 people.

Israelis in Brooklyn website

During June we will launch the Israelis in Brooklyn website which will link with the CBE site. The website will feature Israeli writers, an online community of participants that can chat with each other, and sources of information about the meaning of being an Israeli in New York City. It is the only Israeli website that deals with issues of being immigrant parents, the relationship of Israelis with Jewish Americans, and more. The website was built and designed with the generous help of Sharon Avnon. The UJA grant is covering these costs.

Reaching out to the CBE community

During the month of April, Israelis in Brooklyn contributed \$2,500 to the Gala. That community effort was intentionally directed to the congregation as gratitude of the support and the hospitality we experienced throughout this first year. Many members of the community donated items to the silent auction as well.

We look forward to the continued great success of Israelis in Brooklyn.

Jewish Learning Report

Rabbi Daniel M. Bronstein, Congregational Scholar
David Greenberg, Chair

To paraphrase Deuteronomy, Torah is “not in heaven” or even “beyond the sea...but is close by in your mouth and heart.” At CBE, Torah in every form of Jewish Learning is close to our hearts and minds. The CBE community continues to offer multiple pathways to learning experiences that are as accessible as they are substantive. This past year witnessed over a thousand people, members and those from the wider community alike, participating in CBE’s adult Jewish learning program. Those who come here to learn can choose from ongoing courses, mini-courses, lectures, and other special events as well as dedicated holiday study.

Over the course of this past year, our clergy taught ongoing and mini-courses. Rabbi Bachman led monthly “lunch and learns,” held an ongoing Shabbat class on the Sages, and offered mini-courses on conversion alongside a course on gender and sexuality. Rabbi Bronstein continued to learn with the Israel Reading Group and after several years of study with other steadfast learners completed a multi-year study of the ancient Midrash called the *Mechiltah de Rabbi Ishmael*. This year the class also began work on the related text *Mechiltah de Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai*. Over the course of 5771, Rabbi Shira Koch Epstein continued to teach an ongoing series on Jewish parenting. Rabbinic Intern Marc Katz taught a Basic Judaism class, conducted the Shabbat morning Chevre Torah, and also conducted a mini-course on Jewish prayer. Learning sessions led by CBE clergy were also held as part of our observances of Slichot, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Hanukah, and Purim.

Additional courses were offered by CBE members Rabbi Carole Gould, who taught a mini-course on Martin Buber, and Garry Shaffer who continues to lead the multi-year Mussar study group. Other lay-led study groups include the Shabbat Torah study group and the Hebrew Chug.

This last year’s special events include our planning and convening of a conference titled “Israel and American Jews at a Crossroads” featuring keynote speaker and former diplomat Aaron David Miller, and a panel discussion bringing together, perhaps for the very first time, speakers from the American Jewish Committee, Anti-Defamation League, and J Street, as well as scholar Rabbi Gordon Tucker. CBE also presented author Nicole Krauss interviewed by *New York Times* writer Jodi Kantor and convened the first Tom Kolar Memorial lecture. As part of this year’s Human Rights Shabbat, CBE hosted Anat Hoffman, civil rights activist and Director of the Israel Religious Action Center. Also, Hebrew Union College professor of History Rabbi Martin Cohen presented a Shabbat lecture on the future of Reform Judaism. Finally, Rabbi Bronstein also moderated discussions with journalist Gal Beckerman, *Forward* editorial cartoonist Eli Valley, and historians David Kaufman and Hasia Diner who spoke on topics including Soviet Jewry, Jewish humor, synagogue architecture, and the Holocaust.

We continue to find ways to coordinate our program with the other branches of CBE and partner with the broader community. As we prepare for the next year we are excited to provide new learning opportunities covering the familiar areas of sacred texts, history, and Israel. We are especially excited to be coordinating next year’s learning program with the observance of the Congregation Beth Elohim’s sesquicentennial.

Kehillah Project Report

Esta Bigler, Co-Chair

Doris Traub, Co-Chair

Kehillah Project Committee:

Audrey Apfel, Janice Cimberg, Naomi Cooper, Anne Feldman, Betty Fine, Rhonna Goodman, Nancy Haber, Barbara Halper, Julianne Hirsh, Toby Kleinhandler, Joyce Levenson, Susan Levy, Rosalee Lovett, Marjorie Marciano, Janet Mann, Eric Pesso, Judy Pesso, Robin Price, Erica Scheinblum, Leona Shapiro, Bev Silver, Susan Silverman, Phyllis Spielman, Rosalie Weider, Judy Wild, and Charlotte Wolovsky

“Kehillah” means “community,” and the “Kehillah Project” was organized 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. Our 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. Our programs have included:

Kehillah Dinner Parties: These 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’s home.

The dinners held this year were hosted by Erica and Scott Scheinblum, Leona Shapiro and Eric Pesso, Susan Leboff and Bruce Weiner, Victoria Rosenblatt and Dave Friedman, and Lyn Hill. These dinners were sumptuous, elegant, and fun. The conversations were interesting and varied, and these events exceeded all expectations.

Educational Opportunities: We continued our series of mid-day and mid-week monthly “Teach-ins” held by Rabbi Andy Bachman and Rabbi Dan Bronstein. Some of the topics included “Hebrew Poetry,” “Exodus,” “Who is a Jew?,” and “Purim as Farce.” Each session has included brief readings that were integrated into the session and served as a jumping-off point for discussion. In addition, we added a learning session to the Purim celebration with Rabbi Dan Bronstein exploring the topic “Why Is This Wine Different from Others: Drinking, Drunkenness, and Purim.”

Intergenerational Projects: Kehillah joined with Yachad to sponsor a “Knitting for Tikkun Olam” project during Hanukah. It was a great success and we have formed “CBE Knits” as an ongoing multi-generational knitting circle to make knitted hats, scarves, and gloves as an ongoing community Tikkun Olam project.

Caregiver Support Group: 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 continued its monthly 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 is looking into many great plans for next year, including an adult oriented trip to Israel led by Rabbi Andy Bachman with a study and social action component; a trip to the Jewish Heritage Museum; and much more.

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.

We are delighted to report that next year the Project will be co-chaired by Esta Bigler and Julianne Hirsh.

Ritual Committee Report

Lauri Schindler, Co-Chair

Bruce Weiner, Co-Chair

Ritual Committee:

Mark Adams, Carol Korn Bursztyn, Elizabeth Fine, Jonathan Fried, Jules Hirsh, Julianne Hirsh, Didi Lacher, Amanda Leath, Paul Levy, Ron Lieber, Michelle Lynn-Sachs, Victoria Rosenblatt, and Jonathan Spear

The Ritual Committee began its year as usual with a review of High Holiday services, this year reflecting upon the unusual: that for the second consecutive year our main services were held in the sanctuary at Old First Church, and that our clergy were joined on the bimah by Galeet Dardashti, who provided musical leadership. The discussion once again reminded us what a wide range of opinion and preference there is in our community and brought us to where we had left off at the end of last year.

As we began to think about how our practice might be further aligned with our vision of worship, we remembered these key elements from last year:

- Commitment to tradition *and* openness to change
- Commitment to creating community amid diversity

Our first initiative of the year led committee members through an activity designed to distinguish personal preference from community values. Rabbi Bachman reminded us that current leaders of the Reform movement are becoming more pluralistic and less denominational.

While our wish list for the year included such topics as “whether or not we should have a food policy, and if so, what would it be?” to “creating a new ritual for the congregation around the use of mikvah,” and “engaging the congregation in the ritual associated with other holidays,” for much of the year we discussed music and the cantorial search, and ways to continue to build community through our community values and ritual practice. In place of our January meeting, we participated in a very moving musical memorial to legendary Deborah Lynn “Debbie” Friedman, of blessed memory.

In April, we agreed unanimously to recommend to the Executive Committee that all Friday night services be held at the same time, which shall continue to be 7:00 p.m. The committee also voted unanimously in favor our recommendation, which will be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting for ratification.

We concluded the year with the news of the hiring of Cantor Joshua Breitzer, to whom we extend a very warm welcome. The Ritual Committee wishes to thank Rabbis Bachman and Epstein for engaging with us this year. The committee invites the congregation to join us in the reading of *The Sacred Table, Creating a Jewish Food Ethic*, edited by Mary L. Zamore, which will introduce our first topic of next year — “should we have a food policy, and if so, what should it be?”

Yachad Youth and Family Education Committee Report

Rabbi Shira Koch Epstein, Associate Rabbi

Erica Heisman, Co-Chair

Linda Loewenthal, Co-Chair

Yachad Committee:

Drusilla Belman

Jonathan Fried

Hayley Gorenberg

Rebecca Herz

Teri Horowitz

Gale Kaufman

Amy Reiter

Chloe Wasserman

It is hard to believe that Yachad is entering its fifth year!

Led by our talented full-time and part-time faculty and staff, we have all been excited by how Yachad and our Youth and Family Education program have transformed Jewish education in our community — and now the rest of the Jewish world is taking notice. Jewish leaders and educators around the world have visited our community to see our success, and this year Rabbi Epstein was asked to present to rabbinical and education students at HUC-JIR (the Reform Movement's seminary) and JTS (the Conservative Movement's seminary) on outstanding models of congregational Jewish education.

Shabbat

On Shabbat mornings, we now have 350-400 attendees of our Gan Shabbat and Yachad Shabbat services, welcoming guests into our community each week as our children receive their Hebrew names or become B'nai Mitzvah in our Yachad services. As many as 40 adults regularly gather for our Chevre Torah study group with Revson Rabbinic Intern Marc Katz while students are in their Shabbat morning classes. And weekday afternoon Yachad programming continues to be robust.

Hebrew

With our Jewish Studies curriculum now well established, our faculty focused their year on revamping our Hebrew curriculum. This year we have introduced a groundbreaking Hebrew program for a supplemental Hebrew school. We believe that our children can and should enjoy learning in a rigorous Hebrew program that can help them not only to decode (“read”) but also to have a comfort with spoken Modern Hebrew, we are proud to be one of the first supplemental Hebrew schools to adapt and pilot the well-established day school Hebrew immersion curriculum called Tal Am. Our second and third graders have risen to the challenge and are greatly enjoying learning *entirely in Hebrew*. Our third graders have mastered all of the letters in the alef-bet and the sounds of all of the vowels. They have also mastered a growing vocabulary and learned basic

grammatical concepts of Modern Hebrew. It has been amazing to watch our students' progress at understanding spoken Hebrew, following directions in Hebrew and reading (and understanding!) short Hebrew stories.

Our 4th, 5th and 6th grades have developed strong enough Hebrew skills that for the first time we were able to implement a Modern Hebrew program in addition to our work on phonics and prayer. 4th graders increased their Hebrew time from one to two days a week and one of the classes completed the Shalom Ivrit text, becoming familiar with over 180 modern Hebrew vocabulary words!

First Ever 8th Grade Trip to Israel

Yachad students were delighted to use their Hebrew skills on our first ever 8th Grade trip to Israel! Our eighth grade students spent 10 days traveling through Israel, chaperoned by congregant Andrew Fried along with Sarah Jacobs Patulo and Rabbi Epstein. Our students learned about historical and contemporary Israel, stayed with 8th grade peers in homes in Haifa and Jerusalem, and came back closely connected to Israel and devoted to each other. Each of our 8th graders has returned to Yachad and Academy to share about their trip, and are engaged and excited to continue their studies at CBE! We thank the many funders who made the trip possible, and look forward to raising more money for our scholarship fund in the coming year.

Jewish Learning Through Living

In Kindergarten through Third Grade, our students and families participated in our new and successful Jewish Learning Through Living program, led by Lisa Rosenberg. In this program, students and families were given the tools to practice Jewish rituals and have Jewish experiences in their lives outside the synagogue, and gathered together to do so. Hundreds of our parents and children gathered in each others' homes for Shabbat dinners, Havdalah ceremonies, social action opportunities, Passover cleaning, and more.

Special Education

Under the able leadership of Yachad Curriculum & Special Needs Coordinator and Fourth Grade Core Teacher Lena Eson, and Lower School Coordinator Jenna Korobow, we have been able to meet the needs of more of our students. We are proud to integrate students with diverse learning needs into our Yachad classes and to work with parents and educators to meet those needs. We are also delighted that we have received an anonymous donation from a Yachad family to provide for training and coaching for all of our staff to work with students with special needs. Parent and Yachad committee member Teri Horowitz helped to connect us with Ramapo for Children, a nationally recognized, not-for-profit organization serving children with special needs, which will provide ongoing training and coaching for our Yachad staff in the coming year.

Special Yachad Programs

Highlights of our Yachad year included our 3rd grade Brit/Family Naming Project with Lisa Rosenberg, our 4th Grade Family Tu B'Shevat Seder with Lena Eson, our 5th Grade Kabbalat Chumash Ceremony, where parents presented their children with a Torah Commentary after a year of learning with teacher Ora Fruchter; and our 6th Grade Shtetl experience with Yehudit

Feinstein and Evan Schultz. Under the direction of Sharon Paz, 6th grade students put together a thoughtful, moving ceremony for Yom HaShoah. Survivor Sally Frishberg, mother of our congregant Jack Frishberg, participated in the ceremony with her daughter-in-law Leslie and granddaughter Bernie Frishberg, and described it as one of the most respectful and well-done memorial ceremonies they had ever attended. The school-wide ceremony showcased what 6th graders had learned about in their Holocaust study during the year in their own words.

Our 4th Grade school-to-school program with Maaganim School in Kibbutz Maagan Michael was especially fruitful this year: In addition to exchanging projects and participating in a videoconference, we exchanged students! Two of our 4th grade families chose to visit Israel during the school year, and we helped one coordinate spending a day with our partner class. They took videos and pictures of their time together, and the class really felt like they all knew one another. In addition, at least four children chose to represent Israel at school fairs and in projects, and many kids chose to publish books in their secular school classrooms inspired by topics they learned about in classes at Yachad.

Tzedakah and Gemilut Hasadim

Our 7th graders had another successful year of Mitzvah Projects, with over 45 attendees at our Mitzvah Project dinner to celebrate their success making the world a better place this year. Collectively they raised over \$10,000 for causes ranging from literacy to animal cruelty to access to extracurricular activities for poor communities, gave over 650 hours in service, and raised awareness about the issues they chose here at CBE and in their own communities. In sharing their presentations, it was clear just how mature and committed they have become. 7th graders also worked with a range of New York City's best Jewish role models this year, including Isaac Luria from J Street; Ben Murane, director of New Generations at the New Israel Fund; representatives from American Jewish World Service and the Jewish Family and Children Services Board; the Israeli DJ group Soulico; Yoshie Fruchter of the Jewish rock band Pitom; Alison Laichter, co-founder of the Jewish Meditation Center; and more!

Our school-wide tzedakah this year, under the leadership of Sharon Paz, was impressive. Yachad students chose to split their tzedakah between rebuilding the roof of our sanctuary and rebuilding Haiti. Students raised over \$1500, and donated half to our capital campaign and half to American Jewish World Service's Haiti relief fund. The 6th grade led the way in bringing in the most tzedakah, and starred in a Hebrew Word of the Week video about Maimonides' tzedakah ladder.

Yachad students also engaged in acts of Gemilut Hasadim. Yachad's 4th graders volunteered at the Garden of Union while learning about Ba'al Taschit and cooked meals for Isabel Burton, CBE's social justice fellow, when she had a baby. Our Purim Mishloach Manot project, where each student made, gave and received a mishloach manot gift for Purim, was an unexpected success. Parents made it possible for us to fulfill this mitzvah by sending in so many food items that we had enough for Yachad students and for 50 residents at the Prospect Park Residence.

Junior Youth Groups

This was our first year offering two distinct Junior Youth Groups, one for 3rd-5th grade and one for 6th-8th grade, with the goal of reinforcing the sense of community and belonging for our

CBE tweens and young teens, and encouraging future participation in our teen programs and youth groups. More than 20 children participated in the six events of each youth group, including Jewish trips and events ranging from joint programs with Park Slope Jewish Center, Shabbat and Havdalah sleepovers, trips to museums in Manhattan, and other Brooklyn-based activities.

Parent Learning

Rabbi Epstein and ECC School Psychological Consultant Kate Wechsler teamed up to teach a Jewish Parenting series throughout the year. Yachad and ECC parents came to classes on topics such as Bedtime, Blessings, Limits and Boundaries, Interfaith Parenting, Hanukkah, Purim, and Talking to Your Children about God.

B'nai Mitzvah Education

Under the guidance of B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator Sarah Jacobs Patulo along with Rabbi Bachman and Rabbi Epstein, over 50 children became B'nai Mitzvah in the past year. Tutored by Cantor Sam Natov, Toby Singer, and Jules Hirsh, our students lead tefila, chanted Torah and Haftarah, and engaged our community with creative Divrei Torah. Students and their families participated in Family B'nai Mitzvah classes where they learned about their Torah portions, shared presentations on their learning and projects, and considered what it means to become Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

Community Celebrations

This year, our Yachad our Full-Time Yachad faculty worked hard to implement our Community-Wide Holiday Celebrations, led by Director of Yachad Community Programs Lisa Rosenberg and our Edgar E. Bronfman Fellow for Community Engagement Lauren Shenkman.

Sukkot

In the spirit of the holiday, CBE opened our walls and welcomed the entire community to celebrate outside as we build sukkot in the street for a huge Sukkot block party. The Early Childhood Center, Yachad, and After-School worked together to offer seamless programming for the over 500 people who gathered for live music, food, and entertainment. Sponsored by Tablet Magazine, we welcomed our headline musical guests, the Macaroons, and CBE's own Ora Fruchter brought her Yellow Sneaker Productions for a Sukkot-themed puppet show that engaged the entire block.

With two outdoor sukkot, our clergy and Yachad teachers were on hand to help our members engage in the mitzvah of shaking the lulav and etrog in the sukkah. A quilt was created that showcased our community's love and appreciation for the Hebrew language, and Park Slope's eateries offered their food for purchase.

This outdoor celebration provided a unique opportunity for CBE to engage with new and prospective members. While our celebration was taking place, we held a membership drive, offered tours and information about our programs and services. This was a very successful event that generated an attendance of over 500 people.

Hanukah

This year, our community-wide Hanukah festivities began with Hanukah-themed Friday night Services with Rabbi Bachman and Galeet Dardashti followed by a festive oneg. Our celebration continued on that Sunday with an opportunity for our congregation to participate in workshops sponsored by Yachad, the Early Childhood Center, the Kehillah Group, After School, and clergy including knitting, Israeli dancing, learning, dancing, a puppet show by Ora Fruchter and Yellow Sneaker Productions, and singing by CBE's own Debbie Brukman and friends. Our event culminated with a candle-lighting and community-wide Hanukah concert. Sunday's event was attended by 300 people.

Later on that week, our members were invited to participate in a community-wide candle lighting ceremony and sing-along with clergy and special guests.

Purim

This year, our Purim festivities focused on the mitzvot of Purim and centered around the overall theme of justice. On Saturday evening, a special learning opportunity was offered with Rabbi Bronstein followed by a special concert featuring Galeet Dardashti and a rousing Megillah reading. This evening, targeted to an adult audience, was a great success. By partnering CBE, Altshul, and Brooklyn Jews, our evening Purim celebration was attended by more than 400 people. On the following day, CBE sponsored a day filled with programming for all ages. Our youngest children and their families enjoyed Yachad's own Ora Fruchter and Toby Singer of Yellow Sneaker Productions, and the ECC-led carnival for younger children was successful under the tremendous volunteer leadership of Daniel Hurewitz. CBE continued the celebration with a second Megillah reading by Ora Fruchter, Cantor Sam Natov, and our clergy, and community-wide carnival featuring opportunities for social justice and a bouncy house! Our Sunday Purim celebration was attended by 500 people.

Sharon Paz, who has served this year as our Associate Director for Hebrew and Instruction will be moving to her hometown of Nashville, TN, where she will serve as the Director of Lifelong Learning at West End Synagogue. We thank Sharon, a seasoned Jewish professional, for her dedicated leadership this year. We hope that she moves from strength to strength!

Staffing

Mazel tov to Lena Eson Roe, who will begin serving as the Associate Director of Yachad starting on July 1. Currently our Yachad Curriculum & Special Needs Coordinator and Fourth Grade Core Teacher, we are happy to announce Lena's promotion to our leadership team.

Mazel tov to Sarah Jacobs Patulo, whose title will change to Yachad and B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator as she takes on more leadership responsibilities in our Yachad and B'nai Mitzvah programs.

Lena and Sarah will lead the day-to-day operations of Yachad, with Lena taking a leadership role in managing staff, student needs, and curriculum, while Sarah will continue to work with parents and students concerning Yachad and B'nai Mitzvah.

Mazel Tov and B'hatzlacha (good luck) to Sharon, Lena, and Sarah!

The Yachad Parent Committee

Co-chairs Erica Heisman and Linda Loewenthal, as well as Drucie Belman, Jonathan Fried, Hayley Gorenberg, Rebecca Herz, Teri Horowitz, Gale Kaufman, Amy Reiter, and Chloe Wasserman, met regularly to discuss staffing, curriculum, and policy issues with a focus this year on the Yachad Shabbat service joining with the B'nai Mitzvah service as well as addressing special student needs. The committee organized parents to help plan and run holiday events, held the first parent community gathering after services, and supported the new Tal Am Hebrew curriculum with parent volunteers helping prepare materials. Linda will be stepping down as co-chair after three years but will remain on the committee. Erica will be continuing and Drucie Belman will join her as co-chair.

Youth Committee Report

Bobbie Finkelstein, Director of Youth Programs

Bev Silver, Chair

The After School Center expanded this year to a new site — PS 295, The Studio School of Arts and Culture. We have had approximately 50 children per trimester. Throughout the year we offered enrichment classes in art, sports, science, video, and yoga. Children from the school were brought to CBE on Monday and Wednesday for swimming, which was an added bonus for both programs. The school has been welcoming and enthusiastic about our joint venture and we are looking forward to working with them next year.

CBE's After School Center is continuing to provide quality enrichment classes and school-age care to the community. We continue to service neighborhood schools, including PS 321, 39, 282, 154, 10, 230, Brooklyn New School, and Poly Prep. This year our cooking classes incorporated cultural diversity, with pupusas from El Salvador, samosas from Indonesia, and Vietnamese noodles. Children learned about herbs and spices and visited the Park Slope Food Coop for a better understanding of where our food comes from before it gets to the table. Bobbie attended the National After School Association Conference this spring. Next year has been dubbed the "Year of Science in After School" and Bobbie is planning exciting new curriculum for the fall. This spring the course listing was filled with science offerings in "Creature Feature" (the study of millipedes, pillbugs, and worms), Rocketry, Becoming a Naturalist, and Bugs and Insects through Art.

Leadership Development returned for 3rd through 5th graders. This value-based group also visited the Prospect Park Residence every other week. Our partnership with the Residence has become a valuable part of the After School Center enriching the lives of the seniors and our students. The kids are ending their leadership course with a bake sale and lemonade stand with the proceeds going to help survivors of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

Our annual art show filled the social hall with works from all our art classes, including Painting and Drawing, Building an Environment, Bugs and Insects, Textile Design, Printmaking, and Doll and Pillowmaking. Examples of our Photography and Video Production classes and Creature Feature were also represented.

CBE has started a partnership with JBFCS, GPS Mental Health, a referral service for families in need of support. This spring Karin Spitzer and Meredith Levine offered a workshop on Tips and Tricks for Dealing with Stress in Children. The workshop was well received by our after school families and we are looking forward to working with GPS Mental Health to offer more workshops in the fall.

The highlight of our Elementary Day Camp was our Alice in Wonderland Olympics. We had two amazing days of events based on the theme, including a Mad Hatter Tea Party for the entire camp. The highlight for 5th and 6th Graders in Movin' On Travel Camp was a night spent at Pinemere Camp in Pennsylvania and at Camelbeach water park. The 7th, 8th, and 9th graders went to Boston for three days. The entire Travel Camp went to Club Getaway. It is always a summer highlight with its trapeze, zip-line, water trampoline, and dance party.

The After School Center joined in many CBE-wide community events including Sukkot, Hanukah, and Purim. Perhaps our newest venture was sponsoring an After School pre-auction for the CBE Gala this spring. Committee members manned a bid table at dismissal; our instructors and counselors generously offered their expertise and time and raised \$1,000.00 toward this event. Several families contributed auction items. More importantly, the pre-auction bidding involved our entire community, creating an excitement and connection to the gala that has not been experienced by the After School community before.

Acknowledgements

Congregation Beth Elohim expresses gratitude to Fred Price and The Gotham Wine Group — The Barterhouse & Noble House Wines, for their generous contribution of wines to the 2011 Annual Meeting.

The wines served tonight may be purchased from or ordered at Park Slope wine shops:

SIP Fine Wine
718-638-6105
67 5th Avenue (between St. Marks and Prospect Place)
sipfinewine.com

Red White & Bubbly
718-636-WINE
211 5th Avenue (between President and Union)
redwhiteandbubbly.com