Beth Chaim Tikkun Olam Meeting Minutes

Sunday, November 7, 2021, on Zoom

Committee co-chairs: Holly Singer and Becky Marks

Attendees: Holly Singer, Becky Marks, Fran Lichtenstein, Helene Molter, Judi Strober, Linda Feldstein, Betsy Ie, Wendy Lipka, Cantor Binder

Agenda items covered:

1. **D'Var Torah [Judi Strober]:** Torah portion: Toldot

2. **HomeFront tutoring dinners (monthly) – Nov. 17, Dec. 15, Jan. 26 [Holly Singer]**

We resumed this program in late October for the current school year. The students very much enjoy our dinners and the HomeFront staff is super appreciative. We will occasionally tweak the menu for variety. In addition, we will adjust the timing to slightly later delivery as requested by HomeFront since the kids don't arrive until around 6pm and then run around in the gym briefly before dinner.

3. **JFCS drives [Fran Lichtenstein]**
   - Thanksgiving Drive: Oct. 31-Nov 11: Sign-ups going very well from initial Tikkun Olam blast supplemented by the synagogue's weekly eblasts (Mondays and Thursdays).
   - JFCS LIGHTS – Holiday Drive: Nov 21-30: This sign-up will go live shortly; Tikkun Olam blast scheduled for Wed. morning Nov. 10. The 'H' in drive has been renamed from 'Hanukkah' to 'Holiday' in order to reflect the breadth of religions served by JFCS.

4. **Men's Club Thanksgiving pie donations [Holly Singer for Eric Sheffield]**

There will be pies to donate from the Men's Club pie drive. HomeFront will be happy to receive a batch (quantity/types to be determined). Delivery to the HomeFront loading dock will be Tuesday or Wed. the week of Thanksgiving. Wendy Lipka will help coordinate based on her work with the HomeFront Thanksgiving baskets drive.

5. **Refugee assistance [Betsy Ie]**

All interested parties and inquiries involving Beth Chaim congregants wanting to participate should be directed to Betsy Ie. In addition, as Betsy mentioned, there are other activities including a Walkathon this afternoon (Nov. 7th) in Highland Park.

6. **L'dor V'dor initiative and plans [Becky Marks]**

Becky will work towards providing an update later this year, with timing of this winter to actually initiate a program. The focus is on our own congregation's needs, with children/students helping older generations in tangible ways.

Spiritually, L'dor V'dor encompasses the chain of tradition, many examples in the Torah.

7. **Combatting hunger initiative – food equity challenge (idea shared by Rabbi Blum)**

We agreed that Tikkun Olam as a group is already immersed in so many ongoing commitments focused on combatting hunger that we will pass on trying to organize another program.

8. **Chai Tea & Knitting for a Cause – January 23 [Helene Molter]**

Program starts at 12:30 pm in the building; Helene will organize specifics for upcoming blast.

9. **Womanspace - February Diaper Drive [Linda Feldstein]**

10. **JFCS Passover Drive [Fran Lichtenstein]**

11. **Tikkun Olam upcoming meetings (inside the building): Dec. 12, January 9**