



הזק חזק ונתחזק

# Together

MAY WE BE **STRENGTHENED**

## October 2020 Board Meeting In Brief

Temple Beth El's Board of Directors met on Tuesday, October 20. Many updates were given, including a debrief of how the High Holidays went; the status of the website/branding project, including our in-progress website to track and communicate Strategic Plan progress; a briefing on our new short-term tenant, A Company of Girls; the status of capital improvements to the building; a new \$48k grant award for security; our search for a new data management platform; our LGBTQ inclusion initiative, the Keshet Leadership Project; the creation of a Racial Justice Working Group; and a finance update: dues received, Annual Appeal drive, and the Life & Legacy program.

[Click Here to View Minutes](#)

## Keshet Leadership Project

Keshet is a national organization that works for equality and inclusion of LGBTQ Jews in all areas of Jewish life. The Keshet Leadership Project is an 18-month long initiative that will help Temple Beth El evaluate and improve the inclusion of LGBTQ Jews in our community. Specifically the Leadership Project will help us:

1. Learn how to evaluate current programs, policies and culture, and identify areas for growth in LGBTQ equality and belonging.
2. Discover how to recognize opportunities and challenges for welcoming and affirming LGBTQ members of our community.
3. Create an achievable action plan for making our community more inclusive within 12-18 months.
4. Receive expert coaching and support from Keshet to implement our action plan.

To learn more about Keshet's Mission and Vision, click [here](#). To learn about Keshet's 7 Jewish Values, click [here](#).

## Life & Legacy

Temple Beth El is proud to announce that we have joined together with Congregation Bet Ha'am, Etz Chaim Synagogue and the Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine to participate in the Harold Grinspoon Foundation's Life and Legacy program.

Life and Legacy is a nationwide program that partners with local federations to offer coaching, training and support designed to help ensure a strong and sustainable future for Jewish communities by promoting after-lifetime giving. Collectively, the Life and Legacy program has inspired over 1 billion dollars in legacy gifts to Jewish communities across the country.

Over one third of TBE's operating budget is funded by our endowment, a significant portion of which was established by legacy gifts. We *know* what a difference that kind of giving can make, and we are grateful for the opportunity to learn how we can make after-lifetime giving accessible for anyone who wants to join the generations before us in supporting TBE as part of their legacy.

## New Short-term Tenant: A Company of Girls

We welcomed A Company of Girls into our building at the beginning of this week after they were displaced from their typical rental because of flood damage. An after-school empowerment program for girls, A Company of Girls will be located in the Library on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday afternoons, with special care taken and coordination made to make sure that, for health reasons, students from A Company of Girls and Levey's after-school program don't cross paths.

## Security Grants

Temple Beth El has been awarded a second Nonprofit Security Grant from the Department of Homeland Security in the amount of \$48k to enhance security elements to our building and property. This grant is in addition to the \$29,350 grant awarded to us the previous year. Sincere thanks to TBE Treasurer Josh Filler for his time and dedication in writing these grants, and working with staff to oversee their implementation. A dedicated update on specific projects funded by these grants will be provided in the coming months.

## Racial Justice Working Group

Pursuant to last month's board resolution affirming its stand against racial injustice and its intention to follow that statement with action, last week an initial group of 2 board members and 3 staff convened to identify ways to engage our congregation broadly in the work of building a safe and just society for all. The group determined that it will invite 2 to 3 additional members from the congregation at large who have demonstrated a strong interest and ability to help lead these efforts. As this group takes shape and program possibilities are focused, Rabbi Braun will be actively working to diversify and deepen our relationships with our fellow faith communities in Portland. Rabbi Braun, Zoe, and at least one board member are also scheduled to participate in Kol Tzedek, USCJ's upcoming conference on racial justice.

This group will continue to provide regular updates to the congregation on its progress, but encourages congregants with questions to contact board member Josh Rosen at [jrosen.me@gmail.com](mailto:jrosen.me@gmail.com).

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