

Hebrew Educational Alliance  
Annual Congregational Meeting  
May 23, 2010  
Minutes

A quorum having been declared, Rabbi Bruce Dollin welcomed the members of the congregation to the Annual Meeting. The Rabbi spoke of the past year's activities and how they related to the congregation's three-fold Mission Statement: Torah, Avodah and Gemilut Hesed. The Rabbi spoke in length about the Nashira Service, the new monthly Friday evening worship that includes musical instruments during the Kabbalat Shabbat portion of the service. He reported large number of attendees at the first two services, and was looking forward to the June 11 service. The Rabbi told those in attendance that on June 11, the congregation will sponsor a Shabbat dinner following worship and urged all to make reservations.

The Rabbi next spoke of the congregation's "food initiative" which includes participation in a CSA (organic vegetable/fruit co-op,) a congregational garden located on the south side of the property, and a series of cooking classes.

Finally, the Rabbi spoke of the development of several "affinity groups" in which programming targets segments of the congregation. The hope is to make a large congregation "small."

Rick Rubin, president of the HEA, next greeted the attendees and began the committee report portion of the meeting. Complete reports are available in the office. Below is a brief summary of the reports:

House/Building Committee: Mark Krivel, VP Mark spoke of a recent Building Reserve Analysis that showed that the congregation will need to raise \$700,000 over the next decade.

Mark also reported that the building is experiencing an acceleration of roof leaks, and bids are being taken both for repairs and “coating” the entire roof.

Education Committee: Lisa Nash, VP Lisa’s report, delivered by Rick Rubin, said the Religious School’s reorganization in which Wednesdays were devoted exclusively to Hebrew and Sundays were devoted to “Holidays, History & Heritage” has been extremely well received by parents, and has shown wonderful advances in Hebrew language skills for the students. It was reported that things are going well in the Preschool with excellent enrollment for two-year olds this upcoming fall.

Finance Committee: Steve Gelman, Treasurer Steve reported that even during these very difficult economic times, the congregation has prospered. The fiscal year ended on April 30, 2010 with the congregation posting a \$27,624 operating surplus. The operating reserve has increase from \$170k to over \$196k. Steve thanked Ken Saliman, Neal Price and the entire Finance Committee for an excellent job of monitoring and modifying the budget. Expenses were reduced 6% from the budgeted amount, and thanks to the Chanukah Appeal, BINGO, the 65 Plus-Membership Categories members, and overall congregational donations, the congregation is in good financial shape. He thanked the congregation for allowing him the privilege of serving as Treasurer for the past four years, and is sure the HEA will be in good financial hands with the incoming Treasurer Marshall, Aster.

Fundraising Committee: Laurie Morris, VP Laurie reported that the congregation had a number of successful events and projects. The Yizkor Book raised \$20,000, the Israeli Art Show \$10,000, Shaloch Manot \$7,300, Bingo \$39,000, Chanukah Appeal \$78,000, and the Purim Palooza (in memory of Barry Tenenbaum) raised \$17,000.

**Membership Committee:** Dede Schuringa, VP Dede reported that the membership was stable during the year, with a very slight “dip” from 949 down to 943 member households. The ten members of the committee have been welcoming new people into the congregation, and emphasizing “in-reach.” The committee will meet again on June 3.

**Personnel Committee:** Robin Engleberg, VP Robin was not able to attend the meeting, and Rick Rubin gave the committee report. Rick said the only activity during the year was the successful negotiation of a two-year extension to Rabbi Gruenwald’s contract. Rick was very pleased that Rabbi Gruenwald will continue to serve the members of the HEA.

**Programming Committee:** Lisa Soicher, VP Lisa reported numerous activities throughout the year. Included in Lisa’s report were monthly Shabbat/Holiday dinners, the expansion of Purim programming, a six part series on “Caring for your Aging Parents” a summer Jewish film series, and the expansion of the Women’s Social Network.

**Ritual Committee:** Jay Miller, VP Jay informed the group that he is grateful for the opportunity he has had to serve as VP of Ritual for the past four years. These have been “quiet” years that featured an expansion of the High Holiday Usher Committee, the reinstatement of the Torah processional through the congregation on Shabbat, and the need to expand the Shabbat “greeters” volunteers.

**Youth Commission:** Alice Forshner, VP Alice reviewed a number of youth activities throughout the year. She spoke of the institution of Sunday afternoon activities for grade school age students that has proved to be very popular. She spoke of our youth participating in a number of EMTZA regional programs. Alice also said that during the summer months a project is to be implemented to gather the names and contact information for all HEA college students.

The rabbis will be able to keep in touch with the students, and the congregation will be able to send them gift packages for the holidays.

**Sisterhood:** Honey Wedge-Gesundheit, Co-President Honey reported on a myriad of activities throughout the year. She said that a major role the Sisterhood plays at the HEA is to support the youth of the congregation. Among the programs held during the past year was the Rosh Hashanah Honey Project, Soup in the Sukkah, the “Virtual Theatre Party” and the recent highly successful book review luncheon featuring Ida Goldberger. Honey reported that the Sisterhood recently opened an online gift shop that is accessible from the congregation’s website [www.HEAdenver.org](http://www.HEAdenver.org).

**Brotherhood:** Neil Rosenfeld, Chairman Neil was not able to attend the Annual Meeting due to a conflict with an HEA Softball Team game. Rick Rubin reported that the Brotherhood held a series of Monday Night Football gatherings, participated in a “build day” for Habitat for Humanity, and had an extremely successful (\$3,000) Purim Carnival for the children of the congregation and community. The Brotherhood will hold a congregational picnic in August.

**Nominating Committee:** Laurie Morris, Chairperson Laurie thanked committee members Albert Banker, Bev Hartzman, Stan Kaplan, Deena Zeppelin, Rabbi Bruce Dollin, and Neal Price for their work in developing the following slate:

President:	Rick Rubin
Treasurer:	Marshall Aster
Ritual VP:	Vicki Skigen
Education VP:	Lisa Nash
Youth VP:	Alice Forshner

Board: Gail Best, Jim Jacobson, Eileen Naiman, Seth Davis, Steve Gelman

Laurie moved that the slate be accepted as presented, Bruce Likoff seconded the motion. Rick Rubin called for the question, the motion was accepted unanimously.

Rick Rubin, President, thanked those who served during the past year. He said that even though we are in the worst economic environment since the Great Depression, the congregation continues to flourish. He thanked the outstanding volunteers and staff that have made this possible. He spoke of the exciting new Nashira service that has added a new dimension to worship at the Alliance. He thanked the Executive Committee and Board for the support they have given him.

Good & Welfare: Vern Primack spoke of the Jewish Free Loan Society that exists in Milwaukee and urged congregations to join together to form this type of institution in Denver.

There being no further business, Rick Rubin adjourned the meeting at 11:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Neal S. Price*

Neal S. Price

Executive Director