

AGM 5783 NOTES

This year the AGM focused on the advances over this past year, as well as areas that need more focus in 2023.

Success & Progress

This past year we had many changes and much growth!

Including:

- 8 new babies born into the Kehila.
- 129 chessed meals.
- 75,000 donated in tzedaka to needy within the community.
- We launched a massive renovations fundraiser that raised over 531,000 NIS in under 48 hours.
- We polled the community and found the issues that people found most pressing and we delivered on your requests! The Bais Shaini has been completed and cleaned up the area downstairs, building a tiled platform, and built a sukka on top.
- We have formed a renovations committee that will be overseeing renovations based on your feedback. The committee is made up of a cross section of our community with expertise in relevant areas and will be working with professionals in law, air conditioning, interior design, shi'putzim etc to ensure that all statutory requirements, legal requirements and accessibility requirements are properly followed.

Financial Update

- There was a major increase in the building fund (over 270,000 NIS and counting) which was depleted to build the elevator.
- 100,000 NIS of Gemach funds was transferred into our main account. While it is now in our general account, the amount remains allocated as Gemach funds.
- The Gemach bank account has been closed due to inactivity, and merged into the main Chatam bank account.
- Our operating budget was lower than we expected, and we plan to work on that with a goal of increasing at least 6 regular members to emerald level (360 NIS per mo) members in the upcoming membership campaign and working to expand our membership base.
- 360 NIS per month is maaser on 3,600 NIS of income.
- We ask that when you are thinking about how you want to allocate your tzedaka in the coming year, please consider Chatam, your spiritual home.

Volunteers

- Running a full service kehilla like Chatam requires not only funds, but manpower.
- We'd like to thank the dedicated volunteers who donate time that they do not have, in order to ensure that we all continue to grow together. In no particular order -
 - **Shlomo Agishtein** for organizing and delivering multiple fascinating Mishmors.

- **Avi Block** - for being gabbai, president, treasurer and candle stick maker of our Kehilla. And for leading Yamim Noraim tefillos.
- **Shira Kasser** - for dedicating countless hours on a daily basis keeping the shul functioning and focused as our 9executive director.
- **Pnina Aronson** for running the purim project, and **Yaakov** for helping move our library into the 21st century
- **Rochelle Becker** for giving fascinating women's shiurim.
- **Paysach Burke** for running our english lending library.
- **Rabbi Rafi Duskis** for leading our exciting children's kiddush each shabbos.
- **Yakov Friedman** for doing Shalosh Seudos setup, managing our tzedaka boxes, and all the other things he does that nobody knows about.
- **Moshe Gleicher** for dealing with the cleaner, and overseeing the downstairs sukka project.
- **Eric Grosser** for setting up seudah shlishis, week in, week out.
- **Eliezer Haber** for moderating the email group.
- **Eli Har-even** for keeping the amuta running smoothly.
- **Izzy Hecht** for running our remarkable charidy campaign.
- **Simcha Himmel** for heading the charidy fundraising committee.
- **Eli Julian** for being our Chazzan over the Yamim Noraim.
- **Avraham Kase** for liberally dispensing wit and candy every shabbos morning.
- **Asher Kassel** for overseeing so much of our maintenance.
- **Lee Kassel** for continuing to manage the hall and running the library.
- **Rochel Krantman** for organizing the women's shiurim
- **Akiva Langsam** for binding our seforim.
- **Mickey Levine** for overseeing our legal compliance.
- **Lenea Markowitz** for women's programming, and chesed programs.
- **Sari Schiffmiller** for handling payroll and the news & notes.
- **Yaron Seliktar** for producing our davening schedules, and overseeing the netz minyan and mincha gedola.
- **Gershon Tobias** for consistently ordering our cleaning supplies and running our packed avos ubonim throughout the year.
- **Thank you to the entire outgoing board for their tireless effort over this year, Avi Block, Moshe Gleicher, Nosson Waitman, Shlomo Agishtein and Gabe Joel.**
- **However, מרובים צרכי עמך, and we want to do even more. Please, if you can donate time as well, please reach out to Avi Block.**
- A number of tasks are disproportionately lucrative for the shul, such dealing with our sickly elevator, overseeing cleaning, or liaising with the irya. Each task is worth tens of thousand of shekels each year, which translate into more, Torah, davening, events, tzeddaka and chesed for the entire community.

Looking for Volunteers

Taken during AGM

1. **Overseeing the Gemach:** Tamar Devora Waitman and Izzy Hecht have agreed to take on this role. Thank you.
2. **Adding a shelf of children's books to the shul:** Atarah Block agreed to work on this. Thank you.

Volunteer(s) still needed

1. **Overseeing the Elevator repairs:** This can be done by an individual or a group. It includes analyzing our contract with the elevator company to see what legal and practical options there are, calling the elevator advisor and demanding a solution. The volunteer(s) will need to see if we can switch management companies, or potentially have a third-party technician evaluate the problem. **(note this is probably worth about 30 K in income a year, besides for assisting those who need the elevator to take part in events, davening and simchos).**
2. **Cleaners:** we have gotten complaints that there is dust on bima, aron kodesh, windows, trissim etc. We need someone to over the cleaners, to make sure that we are spending our funds in an effective and efficient way.
3. **Tidying:** we recognize the problem and have hired someone to help with this issue, but he needs oversight and currently we do not have anyone dedicated to this. This will require about half an hour to an hour twice a week to see what needs to be done and oversee that it is done properly.
4. **Being in contact with Irya:** This includes dealing with the lights and cleanliness of the walkway in front of the shul as well as getting events sponsored (potentially saving the shul 15K a year).
5. **Gabbai Shaini:** to assist and replace Rabbi Block when necessary.
6. **Binding books:** we just paid for 42 books to be bound and we will continue to work on this. Can someone take responsibility?

Other Topics that were brought up for conversations include:

1. *Update on solar panels:* Our contract stipulates that only starting in 2027 will we receive revenue from the rented rooftop.
2. *Transparency of the board and communications:* While there are updates of the board meeting notes on the website, the board hopes to add a "board highlights" section to the news and notes to try and increase transparency after board meetings.
3. *Moving night seder to 8:30 with corresponding maariv at 9:30 or 10:* This is a wonderful idea, and if we see that we can maintain 2 minyanim in this fashion we will try and implement this suggestion.
4. *Meshloach Manot Fundraiser:* This year's fundraiser will I"R be run by Faigy Ashenberg and Ahuva Chemama
5. *Davening:* Some people in the kehila feel that the davening is too fast, some people feel it is too slow, some people feel it is not "leibadik" enough, and others feel it is not "yeshivish" enough.

6. *Kiddush for both men and women*: There was a request to have a kiddush for the women as well as the men. Hopefully, this can be arranged.

The new board was voted on to include Avi Block, Nosson Waitman, Izzy Hecht, Shlomo Agishtein, Baruch Hauser, Aharon Mizrachi and Mickey Levine.