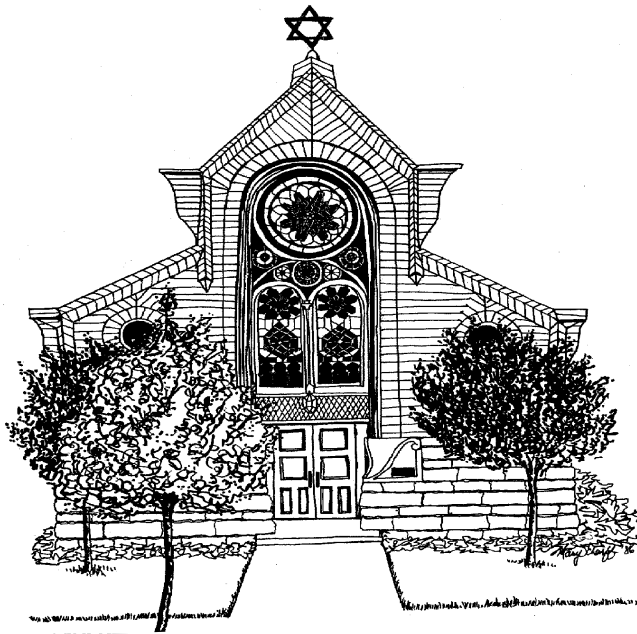


May 27, 2009

# Congregation Ahavath Beth Israel



## ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2008 — June 30, 2009  
28 Sivan 5768 — 8 Tammuz 5769

## **STAFF**

**Rabbi Daniel B. Fink**

**Nina Spiro** — Religious School Director

**Abi Taylor-Abt** — Family Programs Coordinator

**Kat Dellamater** — Office Manager

**Greg Moran** — Facilitator

## Our Mission Statement:

Congregation Ahavath Beth Israel is a progressive Synagogue dedicated to Torah (lifelong learning), Avodah (spiritual growth), G'milut Chasadim acts of (lovingkindness), and Community-Building.



## Our Objectives:

*Torah (Lifelong Learning):* Foster lifelong Jewish learning that incorporates quality multidimensional programming across all aspects of congregational life.

*Avodah (Spiritual Growth):* Create more energy and participation in Jewish observance, along with diverse opportunities for spiritual growth.

*G'milut Chasadim (Acts of Lovingkindness):* Cultivate an environment that empowers people to live our Jewish values through acts of lovingkindness.

*Community-Building.* Create a vital Jewish community that draws active participation.

# President's Report

*Sandy Berenter*

As I end my term as president of your Board of Trustees, I am grateful and honored to have served. Thank you for the support you have given to me and the Board over the past two years. I sincerely hope that the time has been meaningful and educational for our members. Certainly I could never do the job without a lot of help from my tremendous congregational family. I appreciate all you have done and the many gifts you have shared to make this time worthwhile for us all. Thanks, too, to those who served as members of the Board and helped me in my successes, supported and advised me through challenges, and generously gave of their time, experience, knowledge, and skills to make our Jewish lives better.

We continue to remind ourselves of our mission, as adopted by the Board of Trustees last year: "Congregation Ahavath Beth Israel is a progressive Synagogue dedicated to **Torah** (lifelong learning), **Avodah** (spiritual growth), **G'milut Chasadim** (acts of lovingkindness), and **Community-Building**." We strive to further this mission in our religious services, educational programs, congregational events, and daily operations.

**Torah (Lifelong Learning):** This year has presented many new challenges and rewards from the standpoint of our religious services. We have a beautiful new Siddur with which we are gradually becoming familiar. More often than usual, we have had lay leaders on the Bimah. The Religious School classes rotate leading services once monthly, learning the liturgy and becoming less timid with each experience. After Rabbi Dan left on Sabbatical in mid-February, our members signed up to lead on Friday nights, with such enthusiasm that we had to limit each congregant to only one service (a terrific problem to have, you'll agree). Special thanks to Dennis Abramsohn and Gideon Taylor-Abt for their leadership of Shabbat morning services during Rabbi Dan's sabbatical. Our monthly Shabbat Unplugged services *rock*, as members of the band fill the sanctuary with instrumental and vocal music. Tot Shabbat continues with vigor, and has proved one of our most well-loved and promising programs. This monthly service for our very young, founded by Suzanne Metzgar a few years ago and continuing with the help of Nina Spiro and others, gives me great hope for the future of our Congregation. Our B'nai Mitzvah class of 13-year olds continues to bless us with wonderfully rich and beautiful youth leadership at these most memorable lifecycle events. Under Jerry Cagen's able leadership, our Adult Education programs are popular and creative. We offer weekly Talmud Study, Adult B'nai Mitzvah sessions, Adult Hebrew, an annual Feast of Torah workshop weekend, guest leaders from the Union for Reform Judaism, Movies and Midrash, and many other activities. Melissa Waylan and our Ritual Committee are hard at work, organizing services at every Jewish holiday that draw from tradition and add pro-

gressive and creative elements. Abby McLean and Lin Pyles work hard to make our Library a fully-functional Jewish resource, pulling materials from print, on-line, and on DVD.

**Avodah (Spiritual Growth).** We have so many activities that contribute to our spiritual connection to Judaism, most of which cross over into the lifelong learning and lovingkindness legs of our mission. Rabbi Dan leads a weekly hike, "Walking the Torah," that combines awareness of self and of nature with Torah discussion. Betsy Russell, with Rabbi Laura Rappaport's help, continues leadership of the women's monthly Rosh Chodesh gatherings. Abi Taylor-Abt combines artistic skills with knowledge of Torah to develop wonderful programs for our families and youth-oriented activities. Gene Badesheim and others lead a men's study group. We are very lucky to have such enriching programs, led by qualified and insightful people, available to our members.

**Gemilut Chasadim (Acts of Lovingkindness).** Rebecca Runyan and our Social Action Committee stepped forward in this Recession year, to help families in strife, those who are vulnerable and in need. They gathered and distributed food, clothing, donations, and information, all in a confidential, respectful and expedient fashion. They extended our customary High Holy Days food drive through the year. Tom Rogers was an active leader among us in opposing genocide in Darfur and around the world. His dedication was inspiring. Our Chevra Chadisha group, Chicken Soup Group, and Bikkur Cholim all are available to assist those who are ill or in mourning or who have had a death in the family.

**Community Building.** Aimee Moran has been a terrific leader of our Community and Membership Committee, which has a broad set of chores. She has been effective in drawing unaffiliated Jews into our community, welcoming them and helping them assimilate. Also under this committee, Arline Winkler has done a phenomenal job organizing Havurot, setting up Shabbat Suppers each month, and helping with fundraising. Mandy Herbert has taken over the (often tedious) task of assuring ready onegs on Friday nights. Abby McLean chaired our Sabbatical Committee with such care and attention that the Sabbatical has so far (*Knock on wood*) gone off without a hitch. Abby joins Sherrill Livingston, Lin Pyles, and Arline Winkler in chairing this year's Deli Days event, when some 80 of our members will stand elbow to elbow in our kitchen, talking, laughing, and creating traditional Jewish cuisine in perhaps our most celebrated group effort (helping our "bottom line" in the process).

**The Big Picture.** We are very fortunate this year to have Laurie Ryan chairing our Long Range Planning Committee. We are assessing our goals, our needs, and our congregational future, in order to continue to be a welcoming home for Jews in the Treasure Valley and beyond. Laurie and her committee are exploring ways to build our membership and pursue our mission, along with that ever-essential question of how to finance the programs

that we want to continue or newly undertake. Greg Moran has been a phenomenal facilitator of our Friday night arrangements, and we are thrilled to know he is checking on our facilities, setting out challah and wine, overseeing the onegs, and locking up afterwards. Jack Bonawitz has taken over supervision of our facilities, bringing to it his knowledge of general contracting and Jewish rituals. We are blessed to have wonderful facilities in which to meet, study, visit, and teach our children. We are especially grateful to Kat Dellamater, our Office Manager, whose help with our ongoing operations is priceless. And thanks to our countless volunteers who make our programs, religious services, and events possible.

I would like to thank those members of our Board who are ending their term of service. Murray Feldman has provided me with valuable and reliable counsel. Trudy Littman has brought the perspective of an experienced Board member who cares deeply about the welfare of this Congregation. Suzanne Metzgar has done a professional job of reviewing, editing, and issuing our various communications. Jerry Cagen is a calm and reasonable voice of experience and wisdom. Aimee Moran has brought grace and energy to our community events. Sarah Friedman brought the youth perspective, which we always value and need, to our work.

Finally, thanks to those who are continuing on the Board or stepping on as new members. Sherrill Livingston will be a wonderful and competent leader of our congregation, bringing with her an admirable combination of love of Torah, knowledge of our congregation and of matters Jewish, and deep financial and operational expertise. I wish our new Board the best of luck and thank them, on behalf of the Congregation, for their willingness to serve.

*L'Shalom,*

*Sandy Berenter*

# Rabbi's Report

***Rabbi Daniel B. Fink***

*Thoughts from our Rabbi, currently in Israel:*

*Note: Rabbi Dan Fink has been on Sabbatical since mid-February. You can follow his journey through mid-August by reading his blog, "At Home and On the Road," <http://rabbidanfink.blogspot.com>. We look forward to Rabbi Dan's safe return.*

Friends,

I write this from Lotan, a Reform movement kibbutz in the Arava desert near Eilat. Soon it will be Shabbat, and I will be celebrating with the young, vibrant community here, and also teaching a workshop on Judaism and environmental ethics. This is an extraordinary place, a fulfillment of the prophetic dream of the day when the desert will bloom like a rose. There are wonderful organic gardens, groves of date palms, and lovingly-tended herds of goats and cattle. Lotan is on the cutting edge of sustainable living, with mud and straw-bale housing, composting toilets, and specially-designed wetlands for water purification. We often picture Israelis to be either stridently secular or ultra-Orthodox, but liberal Judaism is alive and well here. This is the future, and it is inspiring: a vibrant community living in harmony with the earth, according to progressive Jewish values.

In many ways, that same vision sustains our community at CABI. We, too, strive to conduct our affairs in a manner that balances Jewish tradition and the best of modernity. We are rooted in the past but look forward to what lies ahead. The classic pillars of Torah, spiritual growth, and acts of kindness — understood through the lens of tolerance and egalitarianism — keep us grounded and give us our wings. Living in community requires compromise, and, in exchange, makes each of us more than we would be on our own.

I am profoundly grateful to all of you for the opportunity to be on sabbatical. Through my time here, I am growing as a rabbi and as a Jew, and look forward to sharing insights and inspirations upon my return.

Last but not least, I wish to thank the outgoing board members for their service, and offer a big "Mazel Tov" to those who are coming on the board for the new year. It is a pleasure and a privilege to work with all of you. I am especially grateful to Sandy Berenter, who has guided our community with wisdom and grace for the past two years. I have learned more than I can say from watching and working with her.

*L'Shalom,*

*Rabbi Dan*

# Religious School Report

*Nina Spiro*

*"Living Jewish Tradition, Building Jewish Identity"*

I am honored to have completed a second year as part-time Religious School Director in charge of Sunday Religious School and Wednesday Hebrew programs. In this role, I've worked to increase membership as new families took an interest in Religious School; encouraged young families to participate in Tot Shabbat and *Katanim*, collaborated with teachers and parents to address classroom behavior issues; and enlisted support from many congregants, including front-desk volunteers, Oneg hosts, and those whose children are grown and gone.

I appreciated the counsel and hands-on help of the Religious School Committee, chaired by Fran Dudley and represented by Board Liaison Julie Barnathan. I am also particularly grateful for the support and initiatives of new member Abi Taylor-Abt.

The Religious School built on a solid base from last year:

- **We retained most teachers and assistants, and recruited new ones.** With a very committed group of 30 new and returning congregant-educators, and excellent substitutes, we had a teacher to student ratio of 1:8 or lower in pre-K through grade 7.
- **We retained most students (except graduating seniors), welcomed back lapsed members, and added several families new to Boise.** Enrollment included about 60 Sunday and 60 Wednesday students; because some attended on both days, the total enrollment was about 90, ranging from preschoolers through grade 12 teens.
- **We continued to provide reliable Religious School programming (*Torah*), and community opportunities for *Avodah* (spiritual growth) and *G'milut Chasadim* (acts of lovingkindness).** We again used the URJ's *Chai* (life) curriculum, which follows these three essential Jewish themes at age-appropriate levels; for Hebrew, we used *Z'man Likro* (Time to Read) and URJ's *Mitkadem* (moving forward) programs. There was good class participation in the spring student-led Shabbat services and the monthly Friendship Feast. We definitely felt Rabbi Dan's sabbatical absence, especially in the B'nai Mitzvah class, but through my "tough love" emails and the combined efforts of teachers, tutors, and parents, B'nai Mitzvah students are "on track."

New ideas improved our existing Religious School offerings:

- **Streamlined school registration.** We pared down from four forms to (in most cases) one form, thereby conserving both paper and parent patience.
- **Teen Learning Contract (TLC).** In her role as Youth Leader, Abi led the TLC program, which encouraged teen participation in Wednesday discussion classes, community service, and ritual observance.
- **Restructured an oversized class.** To help a large Wednesday Hebrew class become more productive, I divided the students into four *k'vutzot* (groups), rotating through four adult-staffed library alcoves, each with a different focus. The teacher, assistants, and students all noticed a positive difference!
- **Hebrew on Sundays.** Many teachers wished to add Hebrew to their Jewish studies lessons. Abi's *Yom Rishon* (Sunday) Readers program engaged post-B'nai Mitzvah teens to reinforce or introduce Hebrew learning for everyone.
- **Collaborated with other CABI programs.** The Religious School benefited from the Ritual Committee's involvement: Elisabeth Sonerson led our Tu B'Shevat *sefer*, and Oni Kinberg ran a pre-Pesach *chametz* treasure hunt. We also provided a "captive audience" for several after-school congregational events organized by Abi in her role as Family Programs Coordinator.

I look forward to addressing two issues in the coming year:

- **Increase parent involvement.** An ongoing goal from last year is to find more ways to bring Jewish teachings home to parents, and to bring parents "home" to the synagogue. The 5770 Jewish calendar will help us, since many holidays fall on Religious School dates, merging school and family celebrations.
- **Update our Religious School handbook.** The handbook was last published about five years ago. I would like to ensure that our school philosophy and procedures reflect our CABI mission statement.

*L'Shalom,*

*Nina Spiro  
Religious School Director*

# Family Programs Report

*Abi Taylor-Abt*

As I review the past year, I have been blessed by the welcome and encouragement I have found within the community. New ideas are embraced and supported whilst all the while, people are helping me temper my knowledge and plans to the community's needs by teaching me and guiding me as to what is wanted or needed.

Regular family activities based around the festivals is something that has been a huge success this past year with participation growing from strength to strength. We had over 35 participants for our first event, whilst the Chanukah Menorah Making was a complete sell out with over 70 people in all. I plan to continue the festival activities in the coming year, always using a family based theme, and look forward to more of our community joining us.

The Memorial Event for Holocaust Day at the Anne Frank Memorial was extremely moving and I am touched that we can not only rejoice together but also mourn. Historically, Jewish communities acted as the hub of our lives and as our community continues to share, more of us are drawn to connect and support each other in every way possible.

The coming year holds many exciting plans. We have yet another performer visiting Boise in the near future and we are busy with plans for our CABI Camp. Regardless of our TLC group not attending the Regional Teen Event in May, we nonetheless had eleven teens enthusiastically signed up and we are planning to fundraise and attend the fall event this coming November.

Looking back over the past year, as a new congregant and new Boisean, I can't help but wonder at the living Torah I see in action here. I have been fortunate to live and work in a number of different communities across the world, including England, South Africa and Israel. Yet nowhere have I seen people within a community genuinely following the words of our sages - Treat your neighbor as yourself. With this in mind and in action, I look forward to our continuing to grow together over the coming year.

*L'Shalom,*

*Abi Taylor-Abt*  
*Family Programs Coordinator*

# Finance Committee Report

We started off our year without a Treasurer and with some anxiety about the economy. Special thanks to Sherrill Livingston, Jesikah Groves, and John Barnet for continuing their work on the budget during the search for a Treasurer. We have been very careful with funds and now find that we will close our year in a better-than-expected position.

The Finance Committee has also worked closely with the Board to come to an agreed budget for Fiscal Year 2009 - '10 that is balanced and reasonable. We will continue our strong efforts to fund our very valuable and effective religious practices, educational programming, and holidays and events, through (1) increased membership, (2) our congregants' generous gifts, (3) careful budgeting, and (4) creative fundraising.

The budget for the coming fiscal year is available by request at the front desk and will be included in the copies of the Annual Report that are presented at the Annual Meeting on May 27. Thank you for the trust you place in me and your Finance Committee, to be fiscally responsible and to handle our available funds carefully and consistently with our mission statement.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Andy Byron, Treasurer*

# Community and Membership Report

*Aimee Moran*

*"The Lifeline of the Congregation"*

The Community and Membership Committee has been very busy this year. Our Committee consists of Dorothy Geffon, Dan Ronfeld, Trudy Littman, Arline Winkler and Aimee Moran. Here's a summary of our activity:

## Prospective Members:

- Approximately 50 inquires were made by individuals or families about membership at CABI. Each prospect received a personalized letter, Chai Lights subscription

for three months, and registration materials. Most also receive a phone call or e-mail, depending on their request.

#### New Members:

- Since June 2008, we have welcomed 26 new member families to CABI.
- In celebration of them, we hosted one new member brunch, which was well attended and enjoyable.
- Each new member family is presented with a “welcome bag” containing a welcome letter, membership directory, fruit, challah, and Sabbath candles.

#### Member Renewal:

- The membership renewal packet will be mailed by June 1.

#### Committee Budget:

- Entering the 09/10 Fiscal Year, the committee has budgeted expenses of \$2,100.

#### Social Events:

- In February 2009 we hosted Bowl-A-Rama, attended by approximately 30 guests. The event built community, and fun was had by all!

#### Havurah:

- In March 2009 we hosted the 2nd annual Havurah party. In April 2009 Arline Winkler took over as head of the Havurah program. With her great experience, Arline and her committee will support existing havurahs while encouraging new ones.

#### Birthday Cards:

- Each congregant receives a personalized birthday postcard, prepared by one of the CABI front desk volunteers.

#### Havdallah/Sabbath Suppers

- Arline Winkler offers a monthly alternating event of Havdallah and Sabbath Suppers. They are well attended and very enjoyable for attendees. They are a wonderful way to build CABI community.

**Additional Offerings:**

- Movies and Midrash: Though our committee is not directly involved in planning this event, it falls under our committees's purview. Becky Groves is at the helm in offering this regularly scheduled event.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Aimee Moran*

## **Social Action Committee Report**

***Rebecca Runyan***

The Social Action Committee began its year with the annual Idaho Food Drive during High Holidays. Participation was high, and we made one of our largest contributions yet.

The committee met during the early months to establish goals for the year and to feel prepared in meeting the needs of members suffering from the economic downturn. We distributed The Self-Rescue Manual, published by member Marjie Jacobs, and designated committee members to meet potential critical needs. We established a food, clothing, and supplies drive to provide for congregational members, with surpluses to be donated to local establishments.

Also in the Fall, we initiated a relationship with Friendship Clinic, a free medical service located at All Saint's Episcopal Church on Latah Street, with the goal of eventually supplying doctors and nurses for an ongoing Wednesday evening clinic. The process has been slow, as we contact and obtain commitments from various medical professionals. In the coming year, our primary goal is to establish a process for gaining the support of medical professionals and finding ways to make the commitment less burdensome.

In December, we prepared and distributed Chanukah Baskets to families and individuals. Food, clothing, gift certificates, and toys were included and delivered to each home.

In the Spring, we initiated a relationship with the Women's and Children's Alliance. We see this as a major focus for the coming year. We are hopeful that CABI will become a regular donor of supplies and also a source of Russian language translators to the WCA.

Committee members brainstormed and initiated the Anne Frank Memorial Community Event, held on April 26, 2009, as a way to educate our children about the Holocaust. Our Family Programs Coordinator, Abi Taylor-Abt, and the Religious School did the hard work of

finalizing the event, which was well-attended and very successful.

Tom Rogers has been an ongoing and energetic source of inspiration and action. He has maintained congregational awareness of what is happening in Darfur, and he ran a campaign to mail postcards urging President Obama to take political action on this issue. Tom has strengthened a relationship with Jewish World Watch and organized participation in local marches.

*Working Together in Tikkun Olam,*

*Rebecca Runyan*

## **Adult Education Committee Report**

*Jerry Cagen*

First, I would like to thank Gail LeBow, Petra Pollack, and Marty Geffon for serving on the Adult Education Committee for these past two years. They have all been very helpful and supportive concerning our Adult Education program, and I thank them for that.

It has been a very full year, starting in the Fall with a visit from Shulamit Ran, the Israeli born composer, who was in Boise for the Boise Philharmonic and also spoke to our Congregation about her life and her compositions. Gail LeBow picked up the Adult Hebrew class after the first of the year, so we have been able to continue an Adult Hebrew class for the past two years. We were very fortunate in having Jack Bonawitz teach The Story of Jonah in preparation for the High Holy Days. Soul Train also made another visit to our Congregation, and we always appreciate their visits. And of course, Rabbi Dan was very busy with his Talmud Study, Tuesdays at noon; his Saturday mornings; and Walking the Torah in Albertson Park when the weather permitted. I would also like to thank Sandy Berenter for a wonderful Feast of Torah 2009 and for her leadership as Board president. CABI has had a great two years under her direction.

I apologize to those that I may have forgotten to list, but I thank all of you who participated in any and all of the Adult Education programs this past year. They were successful because of your help, support, and participate.

*Educationally Speaking,*

*Jerry Cagen*

# Facilities Committee Report

*Laurie Ryan*

It's been another busy year for the Facilities Committee. Thanks go to Jack Bonawitz, who took over the leadership of the committee in November. He quickly organized a group of volunteers, led by Louise Birnbaum and Mandy Herbert, to clean and organize the kitchen. What a wonderful improvement! He organized another group, led by Dan Ronfeld, to watch over our beautiful Historic Synagogue. They'll be keeping the lights bright and clean, among other things (no more dead bugs!).

Early this year we took steps to make sure that the handrails outside the Synagogue are no longer used as a skateboard park by local kids. We had metal "bumps" welded onto the handrails to make them unappealing to those kids that came on our property when no one was around and use our property for recreation.

We recognize that our beautiful Synagogue is showing signs of wear and tear. We are working with several outside vendors to determine the extent and cost of repairs. In the meantime, we continue to take steps to ensure this most valuable asset is safe. We recently had a Lexan panel installed over the stained glass window above the door. We had concerns that it could break during a windstorm and took appropriate measures to prevent this from happening.

As in years past, we continue to ensure that our building is well maintained. This year, working with the Green Committee, we looked to identify ways to make our buildings use energy most efficiently. In the coming year we hope to add weather stripping to our synagogue doors to help maintain our temperature settings (and, hopefully, keep the flies out in the fall).

We welcome any feedback from you regarding issues we may be overlooking. It's a big campus and we know everyone wants to keep it clean, safe and running smoothly!

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Jack Bonawitz and Laurie Ryan*

# Ritual Committee Report

*Melissa Waylan*

Another busy year for the Ritual Committee! In 2008-2009 the committee shifted its focus to CABI's holiday calendar. A long meeting held at the end of summer divided the

holidays up so that each Jewish holiday would have a specific coordinator. In each case, the coordinator would oversee the organization of holiday events with the Rabbi, Religious School, Teen Program, and other groups as requested. They would also coordinate the distribution of information. We hope this has resulted in more complete and consistent information about the schedule and content of events.

The Committee also looked at each holiday with an eye toward widening the scope of participation across the congregation. We added adult sessions to the “kids” holidays of Purim and Tu B’Shevat and, likewise, lightened the theme of Shavuot with a more family-friendly holiday Movies & Midrash. This year also afforded us the rare opportunity to provide a service and light breakfast in observance of Birkat HaChammah, a blessing for the sun which comes around only once every 28 years.

We organized a visit with Sofer Neil Yerman, who taught us a tremendous amount about our scrolls and his work in just a few short hours. He provided a professional analysis and appraisal for the scrolls, which allowed us to plan for their cleaning and repair. Then, with your generous donations, we sent two of our scrolls to New York to be cleaned and restored in time for the upcoming High Holiday season. The work he is doing will ensure that our Torah scrolls continue to pass from generation to generation at Congregation Ahavath Beth Israel.

Last but certainly not least, the long awaited new prayer books finally arrived! It has been fun and sometimes a little frustrating as we find our way around in them, but I hope you’ll agree that they are a beautiful addition to worship on Friday nights.

In the upcoming year, we plan to continue to refine the coordinator approach to our holiday observances. We also hope to consider expanding our activities to create interesting and meaningful ritual opportunities for congregation members of all ages and scholastic inclinations.

I look forward to another term as your Ritual Chair. It continues to be a pleasure and a privilege to serve our community.

*L’Shalom,*

*Melissa Waylan*

# Long Range Planning Committee Report

*Laurie Ryan*

In November 2008, a new committee was formed to identify new/sustainable sources of revenue or the Long Range Planning committee. Committee members are: Laurie Ryan (Chair), Mark Herman, Jeanette Bowman, Dana Zuckerman, Patti Diener, Sherrill Livingston and Alan Tell (with Rabbi Dan Fink sitting in pre-sabbatical). This group represents a wonderful cross section of our overall membership, including long-time members, new members, and Gen Y members.

The objectives of the committee are:

- **Short term:** Identify revenue streams to close the current gap between income and expenses.
- **Stage planning:** Build scenarios for different stages of CABI development. E.g. If we grow by 50% what would this enable us to do.
- **Ongoing revenue planning:** How do we tap into various markets, how do we structure fees for programs and services offered, etc? Look at current member dues, non-member fees, endowments and fundraising.

We spent much of the first several meetings discussing the types of people we would like to see become more involved in our programs and what membership might look like in the future. We felt this is the foundation of meeting our goals. We recognize that there is a much larger Jewish community in Boise than those at CABI and discussed ways to better communicate our programs (current and new) to them. We recognize that they may not want to be affiliated in the traditional membership way but may want to connect to their "Jewishness" through other type of programs.

We have also begun the process of building financial scenarios so we know what we need (revenue) to get to where we want to be. From this we can make recommendations to the Board and its other committees about programs, fees, and other items we feel necessary to get to our goals.

While it may not seem that we have a lot of concrete ideas to report on, I am excited about the work we have begun. I want to thank those that have volunteered their time and energy to the process. I also encourage anyone interested to forward your ideas to us. The creative energy of the CABI membership is the fuel keeps us a strong and vibrant community.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Laurie Ryan*

# ***Building Steering Committee Report***

***Jeannette Bowman***

***"From Generation to Generation"***

For both newer members and those who have been in the congregation for many, many years, it is always a good idea to review the history of how our facilities at the Latah site came to be. The Building Steering Committee was formed in 1997 to oversee the purchase of new property, the sale of any existing property and the building of new facilities. Over the next few years, a Master Plan was developed and the purchase and sale of properties were negotiated. We launched a successful Capital Campaign in the late Spring of 2001, and nearly \$3 million was pledged as a result of the commitment and generosity of our members. After years of planning and hard work, we held our first Shabbat service at our new Latah site on March 12, 2004.

Over a decade has passed since the Committee was first formed to organize the building project. For the past 5 years the congregation has enjoyed the fruits of our labor and commitment. The facilities at our Latah location have offered the synagogue even more opportunities to pray together, play together, learn together...and of course, eat together.

As part of our original Construction Loan Agreement and subsequent mortgage, all parties had agreed to review the synagogue's Building Fund financial arrangements at a later date. This review was completed in November 2008 and Washington Trust Bank was satisfied with the synagogue's financial update and future plans. In December, we even began enjoying a lower interest rate on the remaining mortgage balance.

In summary, the congregation has benefited from paying early principle payments, thus saving our congregation thousands of dollars in additional interest costs. The Committee is pleased to report that over three-fourths of the congregation's building pledges have now been received. Because of the commitment of the congregation, the mortgage balance is now down from \$1.7 Million to \$650,000. Of course, integral to the successful culmination of the building effort will be the congregation's sustained dedication to honoring its remaining pledge commitments.

Current members of the Building Steering Committee are: Sandy Berenter, Steve Berenter, Jeannette Bowman, Andy Byron, Rabbi Dan Fink, Becky Groves, Craig Groves, Irv Littman, Bob Parenti, Rhoda Parenti, and Skip Oppenheimer.

*L'dor V'dor,*

*Jeannette Bowman*

2009-2010 BOARD OF TRUSTEES - CONGREGATION AHAVATH BETH ISRAEL  
PROPOSED NOMINEES AND CONTINUING BOARD MEMBERS

President	<i>Nominated*</i>	Sherrill Livingston	2011
Vice President	<i>Nominated</i>	Addie Chan	2011
Treasurer		Andrew Byron	2010
Secretary		John Lee	2010
Member At Large	<i>Nominated</i>	Louise Birnbaum	2011
Member At Large	<i>Nominated</i>	Mary Hulse	2011
Member At Large	<i>Nominated</i>	Shmuel Kahlke	2011
Member At Large	<i>Nominated</i>	Abby McLean	2011
Member At Large	<i>Nominated</i>	Dan Stern	2011
Member At Large	<i>Nominated for 2<sup>nd</sup> term</i>	Melissa Waylan	2011
Member At Large		Laurie Ryan	2010
Member At Large		Rebecca Runyan	2010
Religious School	<i>Open</i>	<i>Currently Julie Barnathan (position appointed yearly by Rel. Sch. Comm.)</i>	2010
Youth Representative	<i>Open</i>	<i>Currently Sarah Friedman (position appointed yearly by Youth Group and its Advisor)</i>	2010

\* *Sherrill Livingston has served on our Board for one year as vice president  
and is now nominated for a 2-year term as president.*

**Special thanks to those who are retiring from service on our Board:**

Sandy Berenter has served as president.

Murray Feldman has served as our legal counsel.

Suzanne Metzgar has served as our Communications Committee chair.

Aimee Moran has chaired our Community and Membership Committee.

Jerry Cagen has served as our Adult Education chair.

Julie Barnathan has represented the Religious School on our Board.

Sarah Friedman has served as Youth Group Representative.

**EDUCATION CENTER, OFFICE & SYNAGOGUE address**

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