TO: Board, Congregation Beth Shalom

Rabbi Benjamin

FROM: Jack Levy, Jen Zaslow

Adult Ed Coordinators

SUBJECT: Report – Adult Ed Activities 2015-16; Plans for 2016-17

DATE: June 26, 2016

Adult Ed Activities 2015-16

Overview:

Five speakers (four brunch)

Films

Movie Series: Theme "Cooking Culture”; three films in series, plus

Yom HaShoah Film – “Forgotten Transports to Estonia”

Other Events – Judaism Classes

Events:

Nov 8 Brunch – “My spouse is Jewish: how this has impacted my life”

Nov 21 Film - “Yoo-Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg”

Dec 5 Brunch - Wexner Fellow – Major Maria ben Assa – “Behind the scenes of IDF”

Jan 9 Film – “How to Cook Your Life”

Jan 24 Brunch – “The Immigrant Experience” – Book Club (Note: May have been cancelled due to weather)

# Feb 11 Film – “Deli Man” @ Quincy Public Library

Mar 4 – Matthew Russell and Joel Baron – End of Life Care

May 12 - Yom HaShoah film – “Forgotten Transports to Estonia”

May 15 Brunch – Wexner Fellow - Luay Bader – Life of Israeli Arabs

Possible Events/Activities for 2015-2016

(Plus results of June 26 survey of membership)

1. Film Schedule: Possibly have “Lunch and Movie” events in the afternoons – possibly Wed and/or Thurs. Basically most of the audience for the films are seniors, and it’s easier for them to come during the day than at night.
2. Possible Classes (regularly scheduled)
   1. Torah Study - Rabbi leads
   2. Baking and Cooking
   3. Current Events – needs coordinator, probably not outside speaker
   4. Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah
3. Criteria for Selection of Events – can be based on topic or population.

Possible populations:

* 1. Parents and grandparents
  2. Empty Nesters
  3. Other seniors, retirees
  4. Minyan group
  5. Outdoors enthusiasts – hikers and bikers
  6. Book Club
  7. Israel oriented
  8. Arts-Music enthusiasts

Possible events (speakers, roundtables, brunch) that relate to populations:

* 1. Parenting/Grandparenting – “Raising Children in Today’s World”; “Understanding Your Child”; “Creating Family Structures in Fragmented Society”
  2. “Investing in Today’s Economic Climate”; or some type of event based on financial know-how.
  3. Possible Other Events (Speakers)
     1. Lesley Acton – ethical issues in museums
     2. Geneology - Jonathan Rapaport
     3. Safety at home (reps from police and fire depts.)
     4. Computer savvy parents
     5. Pre-Election Debate – reps from Trump and Clinton campaigns
     6. Wexner Fellows

1. “Mitzvah Night” - Important to demonstrate a communal agenda that reflects the congregation’s (and building’s) values. Possible activities, all tied to mitzvahs (possibly on Thurs):
   1. Deeds of Loving Kindness – “Care packages”: make food at CBS, package into meals, freeze, and deliver on special occasions for people in need. (Meals to include meat).
   2. Meals for homeless – cook dairy casseroles at CBS, deliver to homeless shelters.
   3. Have Racial, Diversity, Social Justice groups meet at CBS to plan events that impact entire town.
   4. Game night – with sandwiches, 5pm. Proceeds (from entry and card games) donated to charity.
   5. Music, artists from Israel (Berklee) – CBS pays for artists, musicians
   6. Heroes Among Us – members of congregation share their own mitzvah stories
   7. Tutoring – Elementary schools; Cunningham, Collicott near CBS. Question about whether children come to CBS, tutors go to school, or meet at other site.
   8. Partner with St Elizabeth’s Church, and Hospice on ongoing or new project.
   9. Mitzvah Day – opportunity for members to join one or more Mitzvah Projects. Can be a “kickoff” for Mitzvah Night – Possibly have 5-6 possible projects to start. (Ex: pick up garbage along Blue Hills, Neponset, etc).
2. Theme for Film Series – Mitzvahs.
3. Other Possible Events
   1. Shavuot: Hike up Blue Hill
   2. Bike trip through Newport, plus tour of Synagogue
   3. Clean up Blue Hills, Neponset, etc.
   4. “Parents as Partners”
      1. Instead of dropping their children off at Hebrew School on Sundays parents stay with them. For the first half of the schedule the parents and children are separated but discuss/study parallel topics. For the second half they do a project together.
4. Historical Overview – 100-year anniversary of end of Ottoman Empire, World War I. Discussion/speaker about importance of these events to current status of world and especially Israel and Jews.