Treasurer’s Financial Statement to the Congregation

Fiscal Year 2025–26 Report and FY 2026–27 Outlook

Overview

This past fiscal year brought both encouraging progress and real financial challenges. The Annual Fund reached $45,342 through May 31, well above its $25,000 budget, one of the highest levels in our history. Our rental program brought in $24,650 net through May 31 against a $17,000 budget. We’re grateful to everyone who made that possible.

Looking Ahead: FY 2026–27 Budget

The board has approved a budget for FY 2026–27 targeting $525,000 in dues revenue, up from $393,029 collected this year. To reach that target, dues will increase to $2,250 per family next year.

We recognize this is a substantial increase. It reflects what is genuinely necessary to maintain our space, support our staff, and continue the programming our community relies on.

This increase is about closing a real gap, not growing the budget. If every household gives at the new $2,250 level, we project a manageable deficit of $49,624. If giving instead continues at this year’s historical pace, the deficit grows to $181,595, a gap our reserves cannot sustain for more than a few years.

The table below shows what each scenario means for our income and expenses:

	FY 2025-26 Actual (through 5/31)	FY 2026-27 Budget (with new $2,250 dues)	FY 2026-27 Projected (if giving stays at this year’s pace)
Dues Income	$393,029	$525,000	$393,029
Other Income	$269,200	$277,500	$277,500
Personnel Expense	($433,587)	($576,647)	($576,647)
Other Expenses	($266,218)	($275,477)	($275,477)
Balance	**($37,576)**	**($49,624)**	**($181,595)**

Our Financial Structure

Personnel costs make up the largest share of our budget. For FY 2026–27, that includes our Rabbi, a part time rabbinical intern from Hebrew College, a director of operations, an education director, and part time bookkeeper, two administrative assistants and an oneg/event ‘shamas.’

These hires are meant to give our staff the support they need to keep daily operations, membership engagement, financial reporting, and our growing rental program running well.

Our Commitment to Accessibility

We know not every household can meet this level of financial support, and that has never been, and will never be, a reason to turn anyone away. This community runs on our collective time, treasure, and talent, and all three matter equally. Give what you can financially, and give as much of your time and talent as you're able, whether that's volunteering, lending a skill, or helping out at events and programs. And if you'd like a hand finding the right volunteer fit, reach out to a board member, send us an email, or talk to any committee head or leader; we're always glad to help. These people are listed under our website at Bethaam.org or contact Volunteer@bethaam.org.

Building Our Endowment

Our endowment currently stands at $770,000 and provided roughly $13,500 in income this year, a modest but meaningful buffer. To make a real difference to our annual budget, our endowment would need to grow significantly. For comparison, an endowment of $2.5 million would generate approximately $100,000 a year, a figure that would meaningfully change our financial picture.

This year, an exploratory committee began laying the groundwork for an endowment campaign, and we expect to bring on a consultant (thanks to a generous donor) to help guide that process in the year ahead.

Closing

Thank you for your continued generosity and commitment to Bet Ha'am. The decisions ahead are not easy, but they are necessary to ensure this community continues to thrive for our children and grandchildren.