

BHBE Board Meeting Minutes 2025.4.16

Present: Carla Banoff, Dan Chodrow, Jon Clemons, Ken Cohen, Fran Diamond, Laurie Feinstein, Adam Goldfarb, Allison Kamen, Rochelle Leff, Cynthia Lerner, Stewart Miller, Harris Miller, Shoshanna Reynolds, Harriet Robbins-Ost, Fred Rosenwasser, Elly Rousso, Gail Schneiderman, Gail Swerdlik, Barbara Ungar, Irv Zagorin

Congregants: Lia Niederberger, Steve Kolmin

Clergy: Cantor Roytman

Staff: Michael Kahn

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.

Approval of the March 2025 Meeting Minutes and Consent Agenda:

Dan Chodrow motions to approve the minutes.

Ken Cohen seconds the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Mission Touch - [Jessica Littmann](#)

Rabbi's Report - Please see the March 2025 Consent Agenda.

Rachel Crane's in the hospital. Please send a donation to the Sunshine Fund to support Rabbi Crane and Rachel's family including other congregants in need. We have \$200 in the fund.

Executive Committee Summary:

Supervising kids during services - concern that if a child or someone gets hurt, the liability is on us due to their behavior. Jessica will talk to those with ongoing concerns. Parents will register ahead of time for babysitting and it's free if they plan to stay for our seminars. Also, so that security guards don't need to worry about it, leave the Kiddush untouched until everyone is in the Spak and to control noise. Will add more structure for our kids to keep them busy longer. If they only come in for ha-motzi instead of Ein Keloheinu, it may help with crowd control for the children and keep them busy.

However, be mindful during special occasions. Jessica will discuss structure for Tot Shabbat, Mini Minyan and Junior Congregation.

Friendraisers - Jessica Littmann and Fran Diamond are looking for ideas (affinity groups.) Look for opportunities to create social cohesion outside the building. Do Thursday night social club instead of pick up meals at a kosher restaurant through the synagogue. You would RSVP to BHBE. It'll be managed through our lay leadership.

Michael Kahn - Calendar meeting will be on Tuesday, April 22nd.
Also, have programs on the calendar that the Rabbi and Cantor will run in.

Fran Diamond will put out a short survey in the next few weeks and things ready by the gala.

Nominations - We'll go from 28 to 25 on the general board - Cynthia Lerner is helping out. Fiduciary responsibility is important and board members should be involved. Please provide a couple of sentences about your community involvement in the synagogue and which committees you're involved with. Harris Miller will send an email out to board members.

There will be some minor changes to our constitution before the annual meeting.

Broader representation at weekly Shabbat services (name tags and sign up sheets for one to two people to usher on Shabbat morning.) A sign up sheet will go out. They will volunteer one to two times a year. Harris Miller will send an email to the board.

Harriet Robbins-Ost - Helen Stopek will celebrate 100 years on June 5th (June 7th - Pride Shabbat) - sponsor a Kiddush for her.

Real Estate - Either Orchard Towers or Niles Township Ezra Habonim if we need somewhere to stay temporarily.

Suggestion to have a board member sit on the Cantor's side.

Michael Kahn - It's BHBE's 67th Birthday - April 16th, 1958-April 16th, 2025.
Please turn in information to Margo Schwartz-Newton by May 5th for Annual Report/Meeting. It should be something positive for current and new members to take.
Michael will send a copy of last year's report to the board.

Shoshanna Reynolds - Potential members to vote in - Joelle, Victor - 2 year old Eliana. She liked our constitution and read it online.

Barbara Ungar motioned to approve the new members.

Allison Kamen seconded the motion.

The new family was voted in unanimously.

Jon Clemons and Steve Kolmin - Building Update - Signed letter of intent (LOI) for the rental property. Next steps for the zoning. Working with Skokie and landlord. Talking to Wilmette Park District about extension as needed. Continue to look at properties purchased. We want to be out of the current building by the end of 2025. Important to secure a lease and meet zoning requirements/variances (need attorney for this). Then, work on lease negotiations. Likely three months from now at the end of July 2025. We have time to build out the property for our temporary needs. This would be in November 2025 and move out by Jan, 1st, 2026. Orchard Towers has the most amount of square footage within our price point. Will work on a board tour to get thoughts and opinions before we talk to contractors. The committee meets twice a week. Fewer concerns about parking and neighborhood disruption.

Looked at a high level of how much it would be to build or retrofit.

It was suggested to see a drafted floor plan to see if the board members are comfortable. Mock up of BHBE vs. the potential building we'll rent.

Build soundproof office space, conference space and a curtain. Could use the lounge as the Kiddush space. Hedva - open classroom concept. Michael will walk our current space with Hedva and Percy to plan for the fall on **4/17/25 at 11 AM**. Will consider all options and go toward a sustainable future budget. The board will be involved. Potential tour of another property the week of April 21st.

A committee is working on the digital yahrzeit board and moving items and storage. Will look at cutting costs as it's temporary.

Support for the B'Nai Mitzvah families as we continue through the transition.

Board approval isn't required for leasing a space - Still make sure we have majority approval to vote in favor. Also, alternatives to moving forward. Lease ends on 12/30/25.

Will have future town halls. Live map and FAQs are on the BHBE website.

Wayne Kaplan is talking to the Park District board - have a verbal, but not a written one yet.

Old Business - Rochelle Leff - Start clearing the school building including plaques. The committee will start working on that the week of April 20th. Goal is August 30th, 2025. Sisterhood would like to retain some items from the dairy kitchen. Will look into the kitchen equipment with Rabbi Crane.

New Business - None.

Sisterhood would like to thank everyone for participating in their Passover fundraisers. Please participate in the Gala-Rama with the Men's Club.

Shoshanna Reynolds motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM.

Barbara Ungar seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.