

BHBE General Board Meeting Minutes 2025.02.26

Present: Carla Banoff, Dan Chodrow, Jon Clemons, Ken Cohen, Tim Comar, Fran Diamond, Laurie Feinstein, Adam Goldfarb, Andrea Graham, Rochelle Leff, Cynthia Lerner, Steve Levin, Jessica Littmann, Joan Meyers, Stewart Miller, Harris Miller, David Mogul, Shoshanna Reynolds, Harriet Robbins-Ost, Fred Rosenwasser, Elly Rousso, Gail Schneiderman, Barbara Ungar, Irv Zagorin

Congregant: Steve Kolmin

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM

Approval of the January 2025 board meeting minutes:

[Cynthia Lerner](#) motioned to approve the January 2025 minutes.

Elly Rousso seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

The Feb. 2025 consent agenda was discussed.

There was discussion of the monthly shortened Shabbat morning service (ReJEWvenate service and after Kiddush program) in the consent agenda. This will be discussed at the next ritual meeting on April 22nd, at 7:30 PM

Cynthia Lerner motioned to approve the consent agenda.

[Shoshanna Reynolds](#) seconded to approve it.

The motion was approved unanimously.

All topics will go to their respective committees and be brought back to the board for further discussion.

Mission Touch - Barbara Ungar

President's Report - [Jessica Littmann](#)

Cantor's contract was signed.

Discussion on communications

BHBE Budget for FY26 - lots of moving parts of this conversation. More to come.

Annual Appeal - grateful for everyone's participation and thank yous were mailed.

Encouraged board members to attend affiliate organization programs/events at BHBE.
Discussion about providing childcare and having family events. Please check the calendar and plan to attend some programs/events.

We'll continue to try to have multiple events at the same time as the building, security and custodial staff expenses can be consolidated.

Future discussion for the younger congregants and a conversation with Sisterhood and Men's Club.

Executive Director's Report - Michael Kahn - Communication

Marcie Eskin worked with the journal and the library until July 2024 when Margo Schwarz-Newton joined us (20 hours per week).

Streamline our communication process - Thursday email and make it easy to find everything including pages on the website. Can see click throughs and how it's read (it's quite high).

BHBE News gets the most viewership.

Be judicious about the program/event emails based on data.

Important to talk to people about events.

Style guide such as for colors - being worked on.

Submission guide is being worked on.

Our logo needs to be on all communications.

The Bissl of BHBE has been widely accepted.

(April) or May calendar meeting for the committee heads to plan events with Michael and the office to plot events over the next 15 months. This helps us to plan for our custodial, volunteer, staff and facility needs. From this meeting, Aileen Primack creates the Sisterhood calendar and Jackie enters everything in the Shulcloud calendar.

Please see Communications in the Board Shared Folder for more information.

Important to collaborate with our affiliate organizations for our consistent & professional presence. This is a "living" and "working" communications document. Make visible to all committee heads.

Clergy/staff meeting on Tuesday. - Solidify the newsletter.

Wednesday, finalize BHBE news.

Send out on Thursday.

Information should be sent via the Academy newsletter from other affiliates especially if it's a major fundraiser. Include the Bissl

Steve Kolmin and John Clemons on the property - BHBE Board Property Update

Property search is ongoing to find either a rental or a purchased property within 3 miles of our current location. We are looking for - 12,000-15,000 square feet, ADA accessible with parking and proper zoning. Many properties need a zoning change and/or a variance. Can take a few months to do and cost \$30,000 or more. This involves a traffic study.

At least 6,000 square feet for rental, minimal build out, first floor, ADA compliant, 3-5 years. Make sure they're financially viable to operate without chipping further at our proceeds.

May need up to two moves to find a permanent home (less expensive than operating our current building). Adam will let us know how much money we're using from our proceeds of sale.

Please see the "Move" folder for more information with a timeline.

\$10,000 for snow removal at the current building.

Places we're looking at include the snow removal.

Looking at the 6 story 5250 Old Orchard Rd, Suite S100 8,365 square feet - minimal build out, variance required, but not a full zoning change. Lots of parking and on the first floor.

FAQ document will be published with a live map, continuing lease negotiations at the Skokie location and with the Wilmette Park District. Have a cancellation clause in the lease agreement. Continue to look for our forever home.

New Business - Dalia's Bat Mitzvah is coming up.

Barbara Ungar motioned to end the meeting at 9 PM.

Shoshanna seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously.