

BHBE General Board Meeting Minutes 2025.03.26

Present: Carla Banoff, Dan Chodrow, Jon Clemons, Ken Cohen, Tim Comar, Fran Diamond, Laurie Feinstein, Adam Goldfarb, Andrea Graham, David Greenstein, Rochelle Leff, Cynthia Lerner, Stewart Miller, Harris Miller, David Mogul, Harriet Robbins-Ost, Elly Rousso, Gail Schneiderman, Barbara Ungar, Irv Zagorin

Congregants: Joseph Palomares, Carter Greene

Clergy: Rabbi Crane, Cantor Roytman

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM

Approval of the February 2025 Board Meeting Minutes:

Barbara Ungar motions to approve the minutes.

Elly Rousso seconds the motion.

The motion passes unanimously.

Approval of the March 2025 Consent Agenda Items:

[Adam Goldfarb](#) reminded everyone that we'll approve the budget at the April 2025 board meeting and summarized his report concerning funding operations and payroll.

Marsha Lyons suggested fewer baskets and use them for the elderly. Donate a portion to the Ark.

Our security grant is on pause.

Cynthia Lerner motioned to approve the March 2025 consent agenda.

Carla Banoff seconded to approve it.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Rabbi's De'Var Torah - Rabbi Crane

President's Report - Ken Cohen for [Jessica Littmann](#): Building, building search and our future move.

Cantor Roytman - ReJEWenation Shabbat after Kiddush on March 29th - Rabbi Crane and [Cantor Roytman](#). Yom Ha'atzmaut/music celebration after Passover.

Jon Clemons - Building report - negotiating lease on the Old Orchard Tower location (8,000 square feet), FAQ and live map will be in the weekly communications email on 3/27/25.

Will talk to Niles Township Ezra Habonim on leasing space.

Discussion with Wilmette Park District after 12/31/25 that we'd vacate half the building (Academy) - still in discussion. We hope the Old Orchard property will be ready - ideally have possession by the end of the year - no official date. Tentative agreement on the tenant improvement amount of \$84,000. Less security concerns.

Short term plan on Academy side to move out after BJE leaves on 6/30/25 - no long term plan for synagogue. Doors and some energy will be shut to this side of the building. The academy would be on the synagogue side. Tentatively, the Wilmette Police Department may use the Academy side while they build a new police station on Ridge Road in front of Howard Park (using the Academy side is not finalized).

Carter Greene and Bev Rosen on our property and Memorial plaques:

We have over 60 years of items in the building. Some things are more personal such as the plaques. What to do in place of the plaques? Have an interactive display of the plaques in a digital archive. It'll be automated on Shabbat. These pages can be personalized. It'll be a TV set with a computer device (stop-gap.) Have everything prepared by 12/31/25. Things will be removed from the walls. Might take up to 10-12 weeks. Some names on the plaques go back a long time that would include future ones.

The existing ones would be boxed and alphabetized. A letter will be sent to congregants in the future.

Proposal for digital memorial plaques - Wood frame, some decorations for \$15,000 - annual subscription of \$1,500 a year. Working with two different companies on this proposal - initial upload.

Below are the two companies Carter Greene's working with.

www.yahrzeitinteractive.com

www.webaum.com

Be selective about what we'll keep.

Potentially have another digital display archive of other donations/historical BHBE artifacts.

Bev Rosen:

We'll start to go through things in the Academy area after Passover.

Suggestion from Or Torah in Skokie is to melt the plaques and create a statue

Fran Diamond - Chai Noon Gala Sunday, June 22nd, 2025 - Diamonds and Denim.

Sponsorship with two tickets to the gala.

Membership book ads towards a gala ticket - sell ads to businesses, place your OWN ad, tribute listings and buy tickets to the gala.

Good idea to show last year's ad book to potential businesses.

Please visit: <https://www.bhbe.org/gala2025/> for more information including resources.

Please feel free to ask Margo Schwartz-Newton for ad questions.

Barbara Ungar, Marsha Lyons, Rachel Crane, Kate Chodrow, Fran Diamond are on the Gala Committee.

Nominating Committee - Cynthia Lerner: The board will be downsized due to membership size. We'll need members on committees to help over the next several months.

Please reach out to cynthia.lerner@bhbe.org for more information and to let her know if you want to step down from the board. The number of members may be around 22 or 5% of the membership. Official number will be given in April. The executive board can never outnumber those on the board.

Motion to Adjourn - David Greenstein at 8:53 PM.

Fran Diamond Seconded the motion

The motion passed unanimously.

Next board meeting: 4/16/25 at 7:30 PM