MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT) CORRECTED
September 29th, 2025

- Call to order: 7:05 PM
  In-Person Attendance: Becky Becker, Talia Block, Cheryl Braude, Harold Dembo, Jeremy Elkins, Ellen Grossman, Suzy Hakimian, Debbie Hamilton, Liz Neiberg, Raymond Rokni, Fern Roseman, Jill Roter, Randy Samborn, Carly Sear, Howard, Sigal, Lauren Stein, Michael Stern, Jackie Zelkowitz and Alan Zelkowitz

  Zoom Attendance: Annie Goldman, Bob Goldwin

  In-Person Executive Committee: Sue Lampert, Brad Shaps, Scott Rogoff, Edna Schrank, Stephen Zaacks, Jill Olefsky, Charlotte Stern, Andy Lebovitz, Robyn Rosengard, Roz Mokhtarian, Leatte Gelfeld, Rick Dissen, Arlen Lasinsky, Ron Rabinowitz, Frannie Goldwin and Bob Spector

  Excused: Sam Grief

  Absent: Steve Lessman, Alan Shapiro, Andrew Wagner

  Past Presidents (In-Person and Zoom): Michael Balter, Barbara Gelfeld, Joel Greenman, Larry Grossman, David Hakimian, Jack Knopoff, Donald Levine, Brian Miller, Tami Rokni, Glen Roter, Marc Schwartz, Deborah Solomon and Tanya Solomon

  Past Presidents Absent: Leonard Mason, Barbara Petasnick, Henry Rabinowitz, Jerry Stanton, Joe Wolke, Michael Zaransky and Lily Zoberman

  Clergy and Staff: Rabbi Chapman, Cantor Stoehr, Rabbi Honig, Stacy Ybarra, Ali Pohn, Carly Wallenstein and Lauri Holmes

- D'var Torah given by Cantor Stoehr

- August BOT minutes were approved – with 2 surname spelling corrections

- Ali Pohn gave an update on Club Spark. There are currently 13 club spark students, "sparklers". One family of three is leaving. Two more students will be joining next month. Eight students are from CBS families. Students come from 7 schools. Club Spark mostly takes place in the youth lounge. They also use the fields and the playgrounds. Curriculum is provided by Jewish After School Accelerator (JASA). JASA provides a 5-year curriculum. This year's focus is justice. Marketing will now change

from marketing an idea to marketing a thriving program. Camp Spark days (day off from school camp) will be offered to non-Club Spark members. Josh Kamen has been a vital part of Club Spark. They would like to hire three substitutes too.

- President's Report:
    - Sue provided a heartfelt thanks to the clergy, staff and High Holiday Committee for the beautiful High Holiday services, being a reflection of all of their dedication, talent, and love for our CBS community.
    - Sue reported the new furniture in the foyer has been donated by the Shaps-Shanin family in memory of Harvey and Thelma Shaps.
    - We will have membership numbers to report at the October or November meeting.
    - Cantor Stoehr will begin a month-long sabbatical on October 16th.
    - Mike Schuch, our trusted security leader, was selected to join the Magen Yachad Security Mission to Israel in recognition and celebration of his extraordinary dedication to the well-being of the Chicagoland Jewish Community. He and the other security professionals on this mission will learn about Israel, get anti-terrorism training and military briefings.
- CBS Mission Moment: Jill Hartzman shared her email to our clergy and staff in recognition of their tremendous work putting together Yom Beth Shalom.
- VP updates: It has been one year since our current Strategic Plan went into effect. It is our roadmap to making CBS strong and ever present for years to come. This month Fundraising will highlight how they are using our plan.
    - Fundraising (Brad Shaps): They are concentrating on the Strategic plan goal of achieving and maintaining financial stability. They are doing this by creating a fundraising road map to increase funds and create legacy giving. They are focused on the High holiday appeal, Circle of Giving and the Annual Fundraiser. This will take place May 17th honoring the Garlins. Next month they will present on the Legacy Campaign. Fundraising is creating a culture of donor giving by actively asking for donations and asking for donations. Thanks to Jill Olefsky, Debbie Solomon and Jackie Zelkowitz who have been the stewards in thanking donors through events.
- Chanukah Palooza Planning: Chanukah Palooza will be a congregation wide vent on December 14th. Break out brainstorming session ideas by committee:
    - Past Presidents (Debbie Solomon)

        1. Latkes and vodka
        2. Gift bags for children
        3. Making applesauce
    - Men's club (Ron Rabinowitz)
        1. Menorah making
        2. Decorating cookies or donuts
    - Finance (Brad Shaps)
        1. Selling candles for the outdoor menorah to raise money
    - Sisterhood (Frannie Goldwin)
        1. Latkes with a topping bar
        2. Crafts for adults, decorations or drip tray
        3. Social action component
        4. Taste of sisterhood displaying their cooking. Kugel, etc.
        5. Panel of speakers sharing their Chanukkah traditions
        6. Flower arranging
        7. Human bingo mixer
        8. Passport to track activities they are taking part in
        9. Fill plastic dreidels with candy
    - Membership and Social Action (Edna Schrank)
        1. Dreidel spinning competition, a great multi-generational activity
        2. Canned food drive and build a hanukkiah
        3. Building an edible menorah (s'more menorah)
        4. Light and warmth charitable collection- flashlights and mittens
    - Ritual (Jill Olefsky)
        1. Trivia questions about Chanukah
        2. Chanukah songs
    - School (Charlotte Stern)
        1. Concern over time with Religious School in the AM, which would create a long day for students and families.
        2. Oil press is scheduled to come for religious school, could they come for the congregation?
        3. Active Macabi game
        4. Hebrew high has a cooking class making sufganiyot from scratch
    - Programming (Steve Zaacks)
        1. Latke station
        2. Dreidel casino
        3. Winter project, making fleece blankets
        4. Writing cards for IDF soldiers

        5. Sing along with Rabbi Honig
    - Youth (Jeremy Elkins)
        1. Performance- Jewish comedy troupe, The Bible Players
        2. Bounce house or jousting
        3. Latkes dipped in things
        4. Big Lego menorahs
        5. Chanukah karaoke

- Carly Wallenstein shared Sukkah fest is Thursday October 9th at 5:30. After minyan it will be an adult only cocktail party in the sukkah.
- Programming (Steve Zaacks): Be Aware, a situational awareness training will take place Thursday November 6th at 6:00 . This is a 90-minute training providing practical tools to respond to suspicious activities in public and online.
- Sisterhood (Frannie Goldwin): The annual Torah Fund Event will take place Sunday October 26th. This is a brunch with featured speaker Rabbi Honig.
- New business:
    - Donald Levine and Rabbi Chapman spoke about the Waiting Room, a program to address caregivers. This community meets in person and gives the opportunity to share thoughts, ideas, concepts with those going through the process and those who have experienced it. The Waiting Room is open to all. You do not need to be a member, and it is free of charge. Everything is confidential. This program meets about once a quarter. The next meeting is Tuesday December 2nd at 4:00.
- Good and Welfare:
    - $180 donation was given to Or Shalom from the Sophie Binstein Tzedakah Fund to help them clean up after the vandalism. We received a beautiful thank you note from their Board of Directors and Cantor.
- Motion to adjourn at 8:50 Robyn Rosengard, seconded by Ellen Grossman

-Rosalyn Mokhtarian