

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT) MEETING

November 17th, 2025

- Call to order: 8:11 PM

In-Person Attendance: Cheryl Braude, Annie Goldman, Sam Grief, Ellen Grossman, Jill Hartzman, Raymond Rokni, Jill Roter, Carly Sear, Alan Shapiro, Howard Sigal, Michael Stern, Andrew Wagner, Jackie Zelkowitz and Alan Zelkowitz

Zoom Attendance: Becky Becker, Harold Dembo, Jeremy Elkins, Bob Goldwin, Suzy Hakimian, Debbie Hamilton, Steve Lessman, Liz Neiberg, Randy Samborn and Lauren Stein.

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: Talia Block

Absent: Fern Roseman

Past Presidents (In-Person and Zoom): Michael Balter, Larry Grossman, David Hakimian, Jack Knopoff, Brian Miller, Glen Roter, Marc Schwartz, Deborah Solomon, Tanya Solomon and Lily Zoberman

Past Presidents Absent: Joel Greenman, Donald Levine, Leonard Mason, Barbara Petasnick, Henry Rabinowitz, Tami Rokni, Jerry Stanton, Joe Wolke and Michael Zaransky

Clergy and Staff: Rabbi Chapman, Rabbi Honig, Cantor Stoehr, Carly Wallenstein and Lauri Holmes

- Remembering Leanne Blue: Members of the BOT shared heartwarming memories of Leanne.
- D'var Torah given by Rabbi Honig
- Jill Olefsky (Ritual) passed along a calendar to sign up for minyan. She reminded the BOT that they have signed a contract that they will come twice a month to minyan.
- October BOT minutes were approved
- President's Report:
 - BOT members will receive annual invoice \$25 for BOT good and welfare.
 - Membership presentation will occur in December to combine membership numbers and financial numbers in one report. We have 66 new members and 66 drops. Thanks to Rabbi Chapman and Cantor Stoehr for calling many members that were thinking about dropping memberships.
 - 392 households participated in our High Holiday Appeal. \$279,029 has been collected + 19 households are in the Circle of Giving. \$182,891 has been pledged, subtracting out their

dues, security fees, etc. **\$461,920** was pledged all together which is above our budgeted amount.

- Strategic Plan Update given by Charlotte Stern (school). Action Item #1: Formally define synagogue demographic groups. The current focus is children K-12. There is interest in expanding to pre-K. Action Item #2: Evaluate and/or define religious and spiritual engagement strategies for each demographic. Programming for many chaggim is in place, involving both religious school families and the broader congregation. Grade-level Shabbat dinners include participation from the full congregation. The 6th and 7th grade classes meet on Shabbat morning. Shabbat edition occurs once a semester, where the entire school comes on Shabbat with Shabbat friendly learning and interaction with the main service.
- Ron Rabinowitz (Men's Club): Sign up for the Extreme Bingo program on Erev Thanksgiving.
- Rabbi Chapman: The Sunday before Thanksgiving the Northbrook Clergy host a Thanksgiving service at 4:00 at St. Giles. Imam Fazlic from the Islamic Cultural Center of Greater Chicago in Northbrook will be leading the service. Rabbi Honig will be doing a reading.
- Cantor Stoehr: Last Friday night was a commemoration for kristallnacht. There is a group 3G, of third generation holocaust survivors. The group is trying to engage congregational members who belong to this category. If you fit this category or know anyone who does, please contact Cantor Stoehr. The Selah Choir is going to perform at a senior home in West Rogers Park next Sunday. Milwaukee JCC would also like to have the Selah choir perform. Sunday December 7th Cantor Stoehr will be participating in a concert, Returning the Favor: A musical Hanukkah gift from Christian musicians. There will be a bus from CBS. Sign up for the Poland trip in Spring of 2026.

Robyn Rosengard Motion to adjourn at 8:43. Seconded by Charlotte Stern.

Rosalyn Mokhtarian