

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT)

January 26th, 2026

- Call to order: 7:01 PM

In-Person Attendance: Becky Becker, Cheryl Braude, Harold Dembo, Jeremy Elkins, Bob Goldwin, Ellen Grossman, Suzy Hakimian, Jill Hartzman, Liz Neiberg, Raymond Rokni, Randy Samborn, Carly Sear, Alan Shapiro, Howard Sigal, Lauren Stein, Jackie Zelkowitz and Alan Zelkowitz

Zoom Attendance: Talia Block, Annie Goldman, Michael Stern and Andy Wagner

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

Zoom Executive Committee: Andy Lebovitz

Excused: Debbie Hamilton and Jill Roter

Absent: Sam Grief, Steve Lessman and Fern Roseman

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

Past Presidents Absent: Joel Greenman, Leonard Mason, Barbara Petasnick, Henry Rabinowitz, Marc Schwartz, Jerry Stanton, Joe Wolke and Michael Zaransky

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

- Bracha
- D'Var Torah given by Cantor Stoehr
- December BOT minutes were approved

President's Message

- Rabbi Chapman is currently in Israel on a JUF mission.
- Rabbi Honig's instillation will be the weekend of March 13-14
- Deanne Friedman is taking PTO over the next month. She will be reachable by e-mail.
- Staff evaluations are coming up. Sue and Bob will be working on an evaluation that is thoughtful and meaningful. The process will be presented at the February meeting
- Jill Olefsky passed around a calendar to sign up for minyan.
- Nominating committee voting took place via a link. Members in person and on zoom could vote for 7 people.

Motions

- Jill Olefsky moves to approve \$250 from the BOT Good and Welfare Fund to sponsor in part the kiddush for Rabbi Honig's instillation. Seconded by Howard Sigal.
 - Harold Dembo asked what is done if the \$250 is not enough. He suggested we approve to donate whatever amount is needed to cover the kiddush.
 - Howard Sigal suggested we pass this motion as is, and if we need more money, we can circle back next month
 - Motion was approved
- Robyn Rosengard moves to approve a 4% increase in Club Spark tuition for the 2026-27 Fiscal Year, as delineated on the Exhibit entitled '26-'27 Club Spark Tuition Increase Recommendation. Seconded by Arlen Lasinsky.
 - Randy Samborn asked why we require a 4% increase. Arlen Lasinsky answered that the Finance Committee did an intensive analysis looking at projected costs. There will be increased costs, including transportation as our numbers grow. Lauri Holmes added that JASA suggested this increase as well.
 - Howard Sigal asked if discounts remained the same. Yes.
 - Jill Hartzman asked if Club Spark is breaking even now. Laurie Holmes answered that we are not, but using the money we raised and the matching grant from JASA.
 - Brad wanted clarification if the cost listed was per week or month. It is per month.
 - Larry asked if cost has been prohibitive to families. Michael answered that we have lost one family due to cost. Harold answered that he knows it is cost prohibitive to certain families. Michael commented that this is an after-school enrichment program. It is more expensive to attend and run. This is not babysitting.
 - Glen Roter asked why the BOT is voting on this. Money does not come from our budget. Scott Rogoff agreed. Sue Lampert answered that there is a Club Spark Committee including Arlen Lasinsky representing Finance, Robyn Rosengard representing Youth and Carly Wallenstein. They make suggestions and bring them to the board.
 - Rick Dissen mentioned that the BOT voted to have Club Spark and it could possibly impact our finances. We do have the responsibility to approve this motion. Michael Balter agrees.
 - Brad calls the question. Bob Goldwin agrees.
 - Motion to call the question passes 35 to 6
 - Motion passes

Looking back and looking forward years 59 and 60: Year 59 we will focus on deepening our connection, sharing memories, retelling our history. Year 60 we plan for our future and invest. Sue will be forming a committee for this. Cantor Stoeher mentioned that 60 years is

half of 120, as we say, “may you grow to 120”. 58 years ago, a small group decided to dream and build Beth Shalom. Our history should be honored and celebrated. We should document our history with pictures of leaders and clergy. We can create a timeline and have members add their history.

VP Updates

- School (Charlotte Stern): We have received over a dozen applications for the Religious School Director. We have 2-6 that the committee will conduct zoom interviews with.
 - Jill Hartzman asked if they are local applicants. They are coming from all over.
 - Jill Olefsky asked if we have a budget. Michael answered that we have the salary budgeted.
- House (Michael Garlin): Transformative Wave was purchased for our building 7 years ago. It controls our heating electronically. This company was sold multiple times, and our system was eventually turned off. We had thermostats installed to resolve this.
- Programming (Steve Zaacks): April 30th Avner Avraham, former Mossad officer and curator of historical art exhibitions will be joining us. He will talk about some of the most famous Mossad operations. The same evening Amir Avivi will be coming from Israel. He is the founder of the Israel Defense Forum.
- Men's Club (Ron Rabinowitz): Lox box season is coming. We are adding more fresh produce to the lox box and adding a deli box this year. Boxes will be \$42. Proceeds go to the Ark, CJE and first responders.
- Membership (Edna Schrank): Carly is working with Z Frank Apachi to create a partnership with CBS.
- Fundraiser (by Scott Rogoff): Our annual fundraiser is May 17th honoring Michael and Mindy Garlin featuring the comedy of Jeff Garlin.

New Business

- Michael Garlin: When lay leaders need staff to participate in our events please go through Michael, not directly to a staff member. When you need a reimbursement please use a check request form.
- Sisterhood Shabbat is February 13th. Please join us.

Good and Welfare

- Susan Stoehr is recovering from surgery on her leg.
- Condolences to Fern Roseman and family on the loss of her son.
- Condolences to Tanya Solomon and family on the loss of her mother-in-law.
- Mazel Tov to Debbie Hamilton and family on the birth of her granddaughter Quinn.
- Mazel Tov to Susan and Cantor Stoehr on the marriage of their daughter Talia.

Nominating Committee election results: Becky Becker, Jeremy Elkins, Suzy Hakimian, Roz Mokhtarian, Jill Olefsky, Tami Rokni and Randy Samborn

Motion to adjourn by Robyn Rosengard at 8:50 PM. Seconded by Suzy Hakimian.