

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT)

August 24th, 2026

Call to order: 7:02 PM

In-Person Attendance: Becky Becker, Cheryl Braude, Harold Dembo, Hillary Elkins, Suzy Hakimian, Debbie Hamilton, Jill Hartzman, Diana Lewis, Lawrence Levine, Hannah Mackler, Leeche Milligan, Liz Neiberg, Elissa Pelts, Fern Roseman, Neil Rosengard, Carly Sear, Susan Shapiro, Laura Shulman, Lauren Stein, Michael Stern, Andrew Wagner, Justin Walder, Steve Zaacks, and Jackie Zelkowitz

In-Person Executive Committee: Kevin Braude, Ray Rokni, Andy Lebovitz, Edna Schrank, Scott Rogoff, Jill Olefsky, Roz Mokhtarian, Ellen Grossman, Robyn Rosengard, Charlotte Stern, Rick Dissen, Leatte Gelfeld, Ron Rabinowitz, Frannie Goldwin, and Sue Lampert

Excused: Arlen Lasinsky

Absent: Steve Lessman

Past Presidents: Michael Balter, Joel Greenman, David Hakimian, Jack Knopoff, Brian Miller, Tami Rokni, Glen Roter, Marc Schwartz, Deborah Solomon, Tanya Solomon, Bob Spector, and Lily Zoberman

Past Presidents Absent: Larry Grossman, Donald Levine, Leonard Mason, Henry Rabinowitz, Jerry Stanton, Joe Wolke, and Michael Zaransky

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

Bracha

- President's Welcome
 - Acknowledgement of the synagogue's antisemitic graffiti and community response
 - Trustees were encouraged to take an active role in the congregation, engage respectfully, and come prepared to meetings. Membership engagement, including ways to engage empty nesters, was identified as a key priority.
- D'var Torah given by Rabbi Chapman, focusing on the importance of how leaders use their voices and the multiplying power of blessings.
- June minutes approved by acclamation.
- President's Report
 - The October BOT meeting was moved from October 26th to October 19th. The December BOT meeting was moved from December 14th to December 7th at 7:00 PM.

- Trustees were reminded to participate in at least one of the eight standing committees, serve as High Holiday Ambassadors/Ushers, make Shana Tova calls, complete their Board Member Responsibility Pledge, and attend monthly Minyan.
- Executive Director Report
 - Updates were provided on staffing, security, building assessment, cameras and lighting, technology, and High Holiday preparations. Ushers will receive Zoom training prior to the High Holidays.
- CBS Mission Moment
 - Sue reflected on transitioning from her leadership role. Rabbi Honig suggested marking the transition through a meaningful mikvah experience.
- Executive Committee Report
 - Vice Presidents will provide monthly updates on their strategic goals.
 - Roz reported that Religious School enrollment is over 200, the largest since COVID, with 11 new School Board members and new parent/pre-K programming.
 - Susan Shapiro provided an update on Year 59 programming, including monthly Shabbat programs, historical exhibits, member interviews, and a dedicated webpage.
 - Scott Rogoff provided a programming announcement regarding an upcoming distinguished speaker Gold Medal Gymnast Kerri Strug on October 18.
 - Leatte shared information regarding Hunger Free Northbrook which serves more than 400 food-insecure children. Members were encouraged to participate through food or financial donations.
- Breakout Session – Listening and Learning Exercise

Trustees and staff discussed the strengths of CBS and opportunities for improvement. Key themes included Jewish values, warmth and community, intergenerational connections, life-cycle events, youth and education, leadership development, financial security, physical security, and creating more meaningful connections and engagement, particularly with empty nesters and members of all ages.
- Old Business
 - Yom Beth Shalom dinner sign-ups.
 - Carpeting project remains under discussion.
 - Hearing loop expected to be completed Thursday in Dickler and Rosner.
 - Spark program continues to assess future needs, with a goal of increasing participation.
- New Business
 - Board Member Responsibility Pledges and expectations for participation and attendance were discussed. Board service is intended to emphasize meaningful engagement and leadership development rather than simply filling seats.
- Good and Welfare
 - Condolences to the families of Past President George Platt z”l, Past President Barbara Petasnick z”l, Gerald “Jerry” Handler z”l, and Carly Sear’s grandmother.
 - Mazel Tov to Michael and Leann Blue z”l and Adam and Alex Blue on the birth of Isaac Lucas Blue; Andy Wagner on his engagement to Elyse Linderman; and Steve and Ann Lessman on the birth of their granddaughter, Liv Frankie.

- Temple Jeremiah clergy and staff sent a care package expressing support following the recent antisemitic vandalism. Chicago Sinai and Temple Beth Israel (Skokie) clergy and staff are providing lunch for CBS.
- Mazel Tov to the Men's Club on winning the Northern Illinois softball championship.
- Motion to adjourn by Robyn Rosengard, seconded by Fern Roseman.

Adjourned at 9:09 PM.