

Kehillat Beth Israel
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
 May 27, 2026



PRESENT:

David Lyman	Jaimee Mitzmacher	Sheldon Wiseman
Emma Mallach	Janice Pleet	

ZOOM

Ralph Anzarouth	Jeff Greenberg	Olga Streltchenko
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REGRETS:

Tina Azarin	Adina Libin	Jeremy Rudin
Gillian Koh	Arryn Mills	Judah Silverman

Secretary: Janice Pleet
Clergy Present: Cantor Jason Green
Staff Present: Yaron Starosta

1.0 PRELIMINARY MATTERS

	1.1 Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM	Jaimee Mitzmacher
	1.2 Approval of Agenda <u>A motion was made by David Lyman and seconded by Sheldon Wiseman to approve the agenda for May 27, 2026.</u> <u>All were in favour. The motion was carried.</u>	All
	1.3 Call for Declaration of Conflict of Interest None of the members present declared a conflict of interest.	All
	1.4 Moment of Silence to Commemorate Those Congregants Who Have Passed Away Since the Last Board Meeting Dorothy Huyer (husband of new member) Haim Gunner (brother of Sol Gunner) Sylvia Cohen (associate member) Allen Shusterman (father of member) Gerald Polowin	Jaimee Mitzmacher
	1.5 Membership 1 new households / member units since last report 1 returning households / member units since last report	Jaimee Mitzmacher

	1.6 Approval of the Board Minutes from April 23, 2026 <u>A motion was made by Janice Pleet and seconded by David Lyman to approve the minutes of April 23, 2026.</u> <u>All were in favour. The motion was carried.</u>	Jaimee Mitzmacher
	1.7 Business Arising from Previous Minutes Update on point 4.3 Clergy Arrangements for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur • We have confirmation that Andrea Wershof and R. Charlie Schwartz will be at KBI for the High Holidays this year.	All
2.0 D'VAR TORAH		Cantor Green
3.0 REPORTING WITHOUT DISCUSSION		
	3.1 Consent Agenda • President's Report • Executive Director's Report • Cantor's Report • Interim OTT Report	Jaimee Mitzmacher
4.0 REPORTING WITH DISCUSSION BUT WITHOUT A VOTE		
	4.1 Pride Committee Presentation • A brief history of Pride dinners at KBI (2017-2025) was presented to the Board. Attendance grew from a few participants in 2017 to 97 registrants in 2025 (double the number from 2024). • This year's celebration will occur on Friday and Saturday, June 19 and 20. • The Ritual and Pride committees studied the two options for the Yom Kippur Mincha service and have chosen to adopt Leviticus 19 (in lieu of the traditional Leviticus 18) • The Chair of the Pride committee will be participating in the Keshet Equality program over the next year. The work involved is: - assessing KBI's current practices and culture around LGBTQI+ inclusion; - learning about LGBTQI+ identity, belonging, and equity through a Jewish lens; - acting by developing a sustainable, action-oriented plan for meaningful change; and - growing practical tools and resources to support long-term inclusion work.	Kate McGregor

	• All members of the Board are asked to register for the Pride Shabbat celebrations, to show that our LGBTQI+ members are seen, valued, and not alone • A question was raised about why KBI's previous partnership with Temple was not happening again this year. Answer: It was a decision on Temple's part to not participate with us this year. • The Chair of the Membership committee added that attending the Pride events last year was highly emotional, engaging, and moving.	
	4.2 Membership Committee Presentation • Issues are to recruit and retain, and ensure members are satisfied, • Ways to do this are outreach and "touching people's lives" • Membership this year is similar to last year at around 539 full membership households with some not yet paid, though a push to collect will be made • KBI falls short in an understanding of our demographics • Focus is to understand who our membership is, and target programs, speakers and initiatives to this audience • Plans are in place for activities after Rabbi Rose's arrival to attract new members to KBI for more than just High Holiday services • There are questions around whether members entitled to associate membership in the past are still eligible today (based on membership at another synagogue) but the decision of the committee is to leave these questions unasked at this time. • Associate Level I - open to those who have a full membership at another USCJ synagogue. These members receive all synagogue communications and are able to have life-cycle events take place at KBI to the extent available to non-members at an additional cost.. • Associate Level II - This membership is focused on end-of-life rights. It is only for persons who have purchased and paid for interment rights through Jewish Memorial Gardens, and were previously a full member of Kehillat Beth Israel for at least one year. Associate Level II does not include yahrzeit notices, High Holiday seat tickets, full pastoral support (but does include pastoral support for interment rights), member pricing on events, or voting rights at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), . • There are 18 couples and 40 single Associate Level I members, and 8 couples and 21 single Associate Level II members. • There was a brief discussion about what the recent Congregational Satisfaction Survey tells us about our member's satisfaction level. See Item 4.3 below.	Jeff Greenberg
	4.3 Congregational Satisfaction Survey Results	Yaron Starosta

	• Demographic observations of who completed the Survey: Two thirds are 65 years and older, 56% are retirees, and 65% have been members of KBI for more than 10 years • High ratings were seen in questions focusing on “welcoming and belonging”, and clergy. • Shabbat kiddushim are very appreciated - not only for the great food but for the ability of people to meet others and talk • Lower ratings were noted on questions focusing on services, programming, and governance. • Safety remains a concern that is not yet managed. • There was an expressed interest for greater Board meeting transparency. Messaging will be sent to remind congregants that Board meetings are posted in the e-news calendar, and the Minutes of all Board meetings are posted on our website. • There was an expressed interest to see Board members show leadership and commitment to KBI by attending Shabbat services, daily minyanim, and programs. • Also noted a need for KBI to more clearly communicate about all that we are already doing to promote transparency to our membership • The importance of sharing a summary of these results with the congregation was highlighted.	
5.0 REPORTING WITH DISCUSSION AND VOTE		
	5.1 Membership Renewal • The proposed changes in membership fees was reviewed, and the reasons for the three increased items were discussed: ◦ A 4% increase for members aged 31 years and older ◦ A \$100 increase for single members, and a \$180 increase for couples, to help cover the rapidly rising cost of security measures to keep our membership safe ◦ A \$5 fee for each adult member to cover the cost of MERCAZ-Canada membership • Our ED presented a quick look at the new app being built to make the membership renewal process be more efficient and member-friendly. <u>A motion was made by David Lyman and seconded by Janice Pleet to accept the proposed membership renewal structure inclusive of the MERCAZ Membership and Security fee.</u> <u>All were in favour. The motion was carried.</u>	Yaron Starosta

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Other Issues

- UPDATE on kitchen refresh
 - A new stove has been installed
 - A new freezer will arrive May 28
 - Stainless steel cladding for work tables, lighting improvements, new sink, some electrical and plumbing work is expected to be completed in near future.
 - The recent successful Kitchen Shower raised \$2,500 in cash donations, and another \$2,500 in items purchased from the gift registry
- Reminder of Board Retreat **June 7**, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm
- **June 28** - a Board Social Event: beginning at 5:00 pm - a Pareve Persian potluck at a Board member's home.
- Please remember to complete the Nominating Committee Survey

6.2 Parking Lot Items for Next Meeting

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7.0 Good and Welfare

8.0 In Camera

9.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 PM.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, June 25, 2026; in person if possible with a Zoom option.