

Minutes from Board of Directors Meeting
Congregation B'nai Tikvah
January 3, 2005

Meeting called to order at 8:00 pm by past president Mitch Frumkin. In attendance: Janice Baer, Gary Bergman, Jeff Cadoff, Larry Cohen, Marc Dillman, Harvey Finkelstein, Mitch Frumkin, Al Garten, Cindy Gittleman, Cheryl Goldstein, Danny Greenberg, Jerry Kaminsky, Mark Kasdin, Ruth Anne Koenick, Allison Nagelberg, Doris Sandrowitz, Harold Schneider, Mark Sherman, Frank Waltzer, Gary Warner, Paul Zankel, Keith Zimmerman.

Rabbi David M. Eligberg, Cantor Bruce D. Rockman, Hadas Elami

Guest: Allen Kane

The D'var Torah was given later in the closed session.

Mitch reviewed the by laws regarding his responsibility to run the meeting in the absence of the president, Arie Behar who is close to the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro at 19,340 feet.

Motion to approve the minutes with the correction was made by Harvey Finkelstein and seconded by Mark Kasdin. Janice wanted the record to reflect that the response to the holiday program didn't have as many people participating but those that did were very generous. Gary will fix it in the next Hakol....passed with correction

New Business. None

Old Business: Harvey brought up the issue that at the last board meeting, we discussed the question of what constitutes membership and the need to clarify that issue, stating that if you are a member as of August 1, you are a member for the year, not a month or some subdivision. Cindy asked to table this issue and to include it in the dues structure report in progress. It was agreed to use that report as a vehicle to clarify the membership issue.

Several months ago, Danny presented a document on the "use of facilities" and it was discussed and rewritten. Mitch asked the board to make a motion and Danny made a motion to adopt the use of the facilities document that was recently emailed to the board. Motion was seconded by Jeff Cadoff. Danny said that he will make some minor corrections but wants a thumbs up or down and then he will modify/wordsmith the language so that it clarifies anything that needs clarification. Mitch said that we would vote on it as a conceptual document. Cheryl brought up the parking issue and Danny said it is in the Classical Caterer's contract, Danny's interpretation is when a caterer event is going on, we are entitled to about 21 spaces. Feeling is that it does need to go in the document and Danny suggested putting it on the room reservation form. Kitchen issue, what kitchen will be used by an outside caterer. Ultimately that is the kitchen we are talking about (in the new wing) Hadas brought up the issue of administrative director and the need to give someone else the authority in case she isn't there. Mitch asked if there were any conceptual issues, and the document was approved 21 in favor, none opposed, no abstentions,...please email any minor language changes to Danny.

Mitch, as chair of the nominating committee, said that there is a possibility that no one on the EC is interested in being president, although that is not cast in stone. Mitch wants to get it started developing a slate as soon as possible and asked the representatives who haven't yet given him a name of someone to serve, to please do so.

Also, please think of people who are not on the board who might be good on the board. Please email the names to Mitch.

Mark Kasdin asked if there was a theme or commonality from the EC about why not interested in being president and Mitch said not really. Need to be conscious that when people come on the EC, they should be ready to step up and become president.

There was a lengthy discussion led by Danny who is trying to find a replacement roof contractor for the poor condition of the roof. He has gotten some "wacko" estimates, such as \$140,000 to replace the roof. We have a proposal from the person who is doing the expansion and he will remove the stone, power wash, flood test, seal and patch any and all things, check pipes etc. and metal replace the stone over the liner and clean up the site, three year warranty, \$21,000. The existing contract was \$4800 per year. Current contract expired on December 31 and present people won't renew because of the poor condition of the roof. The proposal will require that we give 21K up front. There was a question as to whether he will be around in three years and whether what he is suggesting will work. He offered another option for 2 years at \$16,000 with the option for him to renew for one year at \$5000. Danny noted that we don't really have a choice as we don't have the money to put on a new roof. Jeff asked if the contractor has a back up plan for when there may be more holes than solid? Hadas says he checked the building very thoroughly and is the same person who has the roof contract on the building next door. Mark Kasdin asked if we should get an independent appraisal about the safety. Danny clarified that it isn't unsafe, it just isn't profitable. Hadas reviewed the process in trying to get a roofer. Marc Dillman, asked Danny if there a possibility that after going through the testing, it just won't work, is there a back up to make our roof not leak...are we really buying a guarantee that we will get a roof that won't leak. Danny reviewed the contract. Assuming we decide to go with him, we need references and see what they say. Jeff gave some background on the parking lot and the roof. And the lack of response from people who we have contacted to give quotes. Roofer did say that if we replace 30/20/10 refund if he gets the contract to replace the roof. Paul Zankel expressed concern about going with patches is the issue of the type of roof. Suggested that we get a Dun and Bradstreet . motion contingent upon references...Jeff made motion that we proceed with a three year roofing contract with Acerra roofing for the price of \$21,000 or less pending reference check and bbb and db. Marc Dillman seconded. Mark asked what is the source of funds? Marc Dillman said that there is money in shomrei tikvah, only talking about \$2000 variance since we can refund it ourselves for three years, Harvey called the question. Danny raised a point of information. Danny noted after a quick search that there are 4 outstanding lawsuits, and reviewed what was available in the search. He will further check the references. All in favor 19, opposed none, abstentions 2

Reports:

Expansion updates, majority inside painted, ceiling in multipurpose room (get from itch) need to get heat. Plumber is starting connection of main gas line so we can move head to put in floors and finishing painting. We have contracts on everything except the flooring, have two bids for tile in building, ceramic tiles in bathrooms and the wood stage. Moving ahead, outlets going in etc.

Mark Sherman said several have asked about when it can be rented and who to contact. With the answer being to contact Hadas. It was noted that the decorating committee has done a great job.

Mark K asked about renewed campaign, Mitch doesn't have the information but there will be an updated report for the February meeting.

Jim Stahl says if we are going to move forward with the \ legal action, it is imperative to move now. Mitch says that if we go forward, lets do it on a step by step manner and that he is trying to be very cost effective with this process. Harvey asked if we can collect? This is a step process that according to our contract , we have to go through mediation first. Jim Stahl said that Chris signed on behalf of himself and the brother did it on behalf of the construction company. Question of looking at assets. Janice asked if we could get a reduced rate from the architect for all his screw ups. Mitch says we have an outstanding bill of 9-10K that he isn't going to collect on. Cheryl, what are we going after? Mitch says that if we are 400k over budget, $\frac{3}{4}$ is due to contractor issues. To get to mediation it will cost about \$3000 and about 13k to go through. Mark Sherman talked about liens on future assets.

Janice, make a motion that we move forward for under \$4000 to go towards mediation and Paul Z seconded the motion. 21 voted for the motion and it passed.

Financial Secretary

Mark K: 447 member families with 298.5 FDE, 85 families are on special arrangements. Looks like 2-3 families will be dropped. Jeff asked about families that are being dropped, not currently on forgiveness.

Treasurer's Report

Marc Dillman: 5 months into the year, our income is about right on the money, but there are a few significant variances. The building fund and dues, positive variances that are due primarily to cash flow. Catering as a positive \$5000, unexpected. Hakol income is over budget which is good. thank you to the Zimmerman family. Fundraising is showing negative but will be changed over the year. HH tickets is negative due to fewer guests etc. Men's club paid in advance for entire year. Largest negative variance is \$17,000 short in revenue...not sure why.

.Nursery school has not spent 15 k so that is positive. Also other variances blend till the end of the year such as payroll. Office negative of \$3000 due to purchase of the telephone system 1/3 of system. May not have budgeted enough for insurance for the year. Will report next month. Cash flow is more in income than in expenses, moves like the wind so don't think it will be here for long.

Reviewed cash accounts and again reminded us of the 400,000 that has to be paid back in October. As of December 31, 941K in pledges 124K in caterer's allocation and 21K in interest we have earned for 1million 86. The current cost of the building is 1,945,000.00 plus soft costs 446K, of that about 132,000 has not yet been spent. Total 2,390,000 total cost of the project. This is far more than we end of with shortfall of 316,000. included in all of the numbers for pledges, we have 75K for the new round of campaign. And for the only 50K are signed pledges. Keith, do we have more pledges coming...232K more in pledges and another 33K on caterer's allocation. Total 265 bottom line is still 316K. Also going to be about 40-45 not collectable. Marc Dillman already took 10K off. Keith, we've been talking about people who are still here and owe this money. Kasdin, there are number of people who are members show financial status has changed. Discussion about what to do and the issue of signing pledge cards and not signed. Hadas reminded us that we approved that if you are behind on your pledge, you are not in good standing. Janice thinks we are not organized and Cindi thinks we are not decisive. Mitch suggested that we send a letter to everyone about their standing.

Harvey thinks we have to look at each individual family. Discussion about why did we make a constitutional change if we don't enforce it. Hadas, under old campaign, if they didn't sign form, they were still paid if under 1800. Janice has a need to feel more organized. Need to have a list of name, amount, signed, yes no...can mark K put together a list...The Rabbi asked how many he has spoken to that have just said no...how many who have remained in congregation, 8 families because of financial changes...a couple of people who have the money but won't pay...9 families for a total of 26K according to Hadas who haven't paid...adds up to 2 families who can afford and won't pay...total of about 5K or maybe more. Mark needs to sit down with Arie. Hadas and Kasdin will meet on January 27 to develop a list, will sit with Arie.

Dillman is in contact with Bank of America about the home equity on the parsonage.

Any questions about reports? Gary all members of the adult Ed committee will be calling to invite people to the program this Wednesday.

Gary Warner, update board on fundraiser...March 12 dinner dance, honoring 14 past presidents, some ceremony during dinner dance, ad journal, asking each to solicit 1-2 ads per person. We are also trying to nail down a family day date to be determined, the 13th or 27th of March...trying to bring all the generations together. 10 past presidents committed to attend. \$60/person \$118 couple. Board ad suggested from Allison...everyone kick in Cindy also suggested that we provide the type of ads they can do...mazel tov ,etc...Mitch suggested that we email suggestions to Gary. Clarify about non-kosher restaurant ads.

Cindy reviewed Raise Our Voices event....will be a sell out, can't promise tickets unless we have your check. We are a host and can't make any money.

Good and welfare

Rabbi:

Hamakom Y'nahem to: Bernie Adler on the death of his sister Ruth; Jerry Kaminsky on the death of his father Lewis; Debbie Rosen on the death of her mother, Amy Smith and Gary Horowitz on the death of their father; Mark Surks on the death of his father

R'fuah Sh'layma to: Hadas Elami who had pneumonia; Madeline Gaynor who had a mild heart attack; Fern Katronetsky's father; Philip Riesberg who broke his hip; Ruth Rosen who is at RWJ; Rachel Shaneson who has pneumonia

Mazel Tov to: Arthur & Arlene Cederbaum on the birth and brit of their grandson Michael Lior; Lisa Kane on being accepted to Master's program in "Strategic Communication" @ Columbia University; Kevin & Susann Krane who are expecting their second child; Len & Rhonda Cohen on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Melissa; David & Karen Morse on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Kyle; Alfred & Elaine Frumkin on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Kyle.

Closed session, the meeting ended at 9:35.

VP of Ways and Means Monthly Report

Supermarket Scrip & Retail Scrip: Marc Binder is doing a job leading the charge on selling the scrip. There will be a flyer every month in the Hakol to let people sign off on not taking the credit for dues.

The Event: The committees for the event are off and running. We will be honoring all past presidents. The cost for the dinner dance will be \$118.00 a couple. We will also be running an ad journal. The sale of \$750.00 of ads will get you 2 free tickets. Please feel free to help raise money by buying and selling ads. We need everyone to help so if every board member sells ads we can meet our goals.

Printer Cartridges: We are collecting ink jet cartridges. There is a box in the office please just drop them off. We have sent in a box and are sitting on several new boxes to be sent out. CBT will receive \$2.00 per cartridge. We have received several hundred dollars so please keep on bringing in the cartridges.

Car Donation: We have a program to take car donations. An ad has been placed in the upcoming Hakol. We have had some interest so far. We have placed an ad in the Jewish paper and will run for a year. Please let me know what you think of the ad. There has been a change in the tax ruling on car donation that should not impact our revenues.

Entertainment books: We are returning the rest of our books. We have sold about 80 books. We make \$6.00 a book. We are under last year level due to a combination of The Kids Book taking a piece of the market share and the book itself is not as good.

School & Youth Vice-President Report **January 3, 2005**

Nursery School

The Nursery School is celebrating its 30th anniversary this month. In December, seven students graduated from the Toddler Fun Club. All are now entering our new 2½-year-old class.

Registration is now taking place for Mommy & Me and for Toddler Fun Club. Registration for Nursery School for 2005-6 will begin on January 31. On Wednesday morning, February 9th, the Nursery School will hold an open house. Synagogue members receive priority registration and a discount in tuition.

Religious School

We now have an advanced Hebrew program. Students are pulled from regular classes, singly or in pairs, and work with our supplemental instructor for 15-20 minutes per week.

On Sunday, January 9th, the Kindergartners will have a PACT program, *Shema Pajama Party*. On the same day, the Dalet class will have part 1 of the Rabbi's "4B" program. The Bet class

PACT program, *Family God Talk*, will be on Sunday, January 23. On Sunday, January 30, Theater Ariel, an improvisational theater group, will present a special program on 350 Years of American Jewish History for grades 5-7 and Chai School.

Report cards will be sent out at the end of January.

College Program

The College Committee sent over 40 Chanukah packages to our college students. If anyone has a child in college who is not on the list, send Marcia Schwartz the name and address so the student can receive future mailings.

Kadima

Upcoming Kadima events include a Mall Scavenger Hunt at Menlo Park on a January 13th, a Regional Kadima Fun Day in Brick, NJ on January 23, and pre-Super Bowl Ice Skating at the Princeton Sports Center on February 6.

Also, we are selling Kadima t-shirts for \$7 a shirt. Anyone interested, please email or call Adam Sackett .

USY

On Thursday, January 6th, our USYers will have a Battle of the Tribes. On January 15th, they will be attending a dance in Tom's River. Another event, to be announced, will be held on Thursday, January 20th.

Mitch Frumkin

Past President

Monthly Report December 2004
Date of Report: December 31, 2004

Construction:

In order to give a better idea of how the construction has been proceeding I have prepared the following list of the primary contractors and their percentage complete along with a commentary regarding the project schedule and any anticipated extras. Also presented is a list of work still not under contract.

Current Status of budgeted items:

1. Masonry	99%	
2. HVAC	75%	
3. Electrical	80%	
4. Plumbing	75%	
5. Windows and Exterior Doors	100%	
6. Fire Protection System	90%	
7. EIFS (stucco exterior)	90%	
8. Steel studs and drywall	95%	
9. Miscellaneous iron work	95%	
10. Ceilings	40%	
11. Bathroom partitions	0%	on order, 4 week lead time
12. Flooring (except MP room)	0%	no contract, 3 bids
13. MP room flooring	0%	
14. Painting	75%	
15. MP Room door	25%	

16. Classroom accordion door	25%	
17. Barrier free lift	0%	
18. Gas line	0%	Contract awarded
19. Basketball hoops	100%	

A few anticipated extras;

1. Cutting out of the slab at the lift location adjacent to the stage.

As far as the schedule goes, the interior steel stud work and drywall is almost complete and has been taped, spackled and is in the process of being painted. The interior doors have been installed in most places and are stained.. The plumbing rough in is completed.. The remaining EIFS (stucco) work is complete except for the area at the back of the multi purpose room. The rear steel beam has been installed and will be scheduled for the application of the last portion of the EIFS. The ceiling grid in the MP room is scheduled for the second week of January. The track for the accordion door in the multi purpose room has been installed. The installation of the gas line from the meter at the rear of the existing building to the addition is scheduled to start the first week of January. In order to move forward with the flooring and the final painting, we will need to have heat in the building. This will be available as soon as the gas line is installed and connected.

We are continuing the legal process against the original contractor.

Feedback Committee

The committee is in the process of developing a "mission Statement" for its operation to be presented to the Board for approval. Any BOT members who have suggestions should forward them to Mark Roller. A meeting is scheduled for January 10 to discuss the input received.

Men's Club Report

The Men's Club will be very busy the next few months. Starting with January's meeting on Hybrid cars the schedule is full with some new things as well as some annual events.

On February 6th, we will for the first time participate in the Federation of Men's Club World Wide Wrap. This is a program where Men's Club from all over the world join together to wear Tefillin in the hope of having more people begin to do so on a more regular basis.

We have also begun the process to participate in the 2005 Yom HaShoah Yellow Candle Program this May. In fact our club was the first one in the country to send in its order for the candles this year.

In addition, the Men's Club will once again sponsor a team in the Greater Middlesex Federation's Softball League.

Finally for the second year in a row, we are planning to attend a Trenton Thunder game with Sunday, May 22nd as the tentative date.

Activities VP Report

Website/Communications

There now over 330 recipients of our weekly CBTnewsletter. However, there are still many congregants who have not registered their home email addresses with the

synagogue office. New order forms have been added to the website for the Raise Our Voices for Israel Concert and our Tree of Life.

Adult Education

We had a fabulous turnout for Dr. Hilary Vernon's presentation on Genetics, which focused on genetic disorders prevalent in people of Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry.

Our next guest speaker, Dr. Jeff Shandler, is a scholar of modern Jewish culture and will speak about Jews in America's Public Sphere and responses to Anti-Semitism.

In February, we will be presenting the film "Trembling Before G_d" which deals with gays in the orthodox community. We will have a few guests, who were portrayed in the film, from JQYouth to address our questions and provide some insights.

Larry Cohen is offering a six session weekly course on "Reading Hebrew". As of this writing there are at least seven adult students enrolled, including yours truly.

Social Action

In last month's reports I mentioned that there was a poor response to the Help a Needy Family Program but, we were still able to help twelve families. What I failed to emphasize was that the program was an ultimate success because the few congregants who did help, helped very generously. We thank you.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

1. CELEBRATING 25 YEAR AT B'NAI TIKVAH

In honor of B'nai Tikvah's 25th anniversary, Membership is in the process of having a banner made to hang on the new wing to celebrate this special milestone. Other arms of the synagogue have been asked to chip in together to help cover the cost.

2. DUES STRUCTURE:

The membership dues structure is being reexamined by a small membership committee. A proposal will be presented to the board hopefully in Feb 2005 to be considered. Nothing will go into effect before August 2005

3. TEE SHIRTS:

B'nai Tikvah wear was well received this year and will continue to be sold. New smaller children sizes will be sold during the fall.

4. PROSPECT LIST:

Membership keeps and active up-to-date list of prospective members who have shown an interest in B'nai Tikvah. For a copy of this list to invite to a synagogue event, please contact Cindy Gittleman.

5. COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

The membership committee has welcomed 3 new members this year. Anyone interested in helping on the committee, please do not be shy! Contact VP Membership, Cindy Gittleman