

**Congregation B'nai Tikvah Board of Trustees**  
**Minutes from Board Meeting February 2, 2004**  
**North Brunswick, NJ**

In attendance: Janice Baer, Arie Behar, Gary Bergman, Bobbi Binder, Jeff Cadoff, Marc Dillman, Mitch Frumkin, Cheryl Goldstein, Dan Greenberg, Naomi Jackenthal, Jerry Kaminsky, Mark Kasdin, Cyndi Kleinbart, Doris Sandrowitz, Mark Sherman, Gary Tinkel, Frank Waltzer, Gary Warner, Paul Zankel

Rabbi Eligberg, Cantor Rockman, Hadass Elami

Motion to accept minutes from January, 2004 by Dan Greenberg  
Seconded by Jeff Cadoff  
Minutes approved

Arie wrote letter about dues increase, this letter will be sent out this week with the next dues bill.

Divar Torah by Rabbi Eligberg

Presentation of building usage, put together by Cyndi Kleinbart and Dan Greenberg.  
The presentation is available on Power Point and can be emailed to anyone who wants one. The end result will be a manual accessible to everyone.  
Issue not raised: Mitch, are there other facilities which are connected like we are that we can model ourselves after?  
Catering issues, can Caterer use the new facility?  
Will Federation be involved at all? There could be funding available.  
Issue of membership, just the JCC or do you have to also be a member of the synagogue.  
Parking issue  
How are we tackling this now?

Cyndi thinks that we as a board should email what areas we are interested in/have expertise in and then break up into groups to discuss the issues.

Arie, Dan and Cyndi will meet to discuss how to tackle these issues.

Mitch: Board should decide what the most overriding conceptual issues are and then break up into groups.

Marc Dillman: Probably concentrate more on the short term. We have always been a "Jewish Community Center".

Rabbi feels that we should discuss the 3 major issues first.

Naomi: Open these discussions up to the rest of the synagogue. Arie reminded us that our meetings are open to everyone.

Dan: We should also look at the summary issues.

This is constantly a work in progress.

This should all be included in Hakol so that the congregation knows what and when we are discussing this. The information needs to be timely when posted to the congregation so that they have time to attend our meetings. The power point presentation will be made available on the website.

**Old business:**

**Mark Kasdin:** What are the plans to reschedule the congregational meeting to consider the issues that need to be addressed since there wasn't a quorum in December? There's nothing in the bylaws that say that we need to have another meeting, so we can put it off until June. Mark feels that there are some issues that are timely regarding members in good standing and what constitutes that. Constitution states "dues" only, behind by 2 quarters. There are some questions regarding what constitutes a quorum, this should be brought up also. We will try to do this before June.

**Financial Secretary, Gary Tinkel:** Numbers the same as last month 430 members, 306 full 90 special. 39 families are more than 2 quarters behind and will receive letters (haven't paid dues all year – fiscal)

**Treasurer's Report, Marc Dillman:** Cash flow right now is excellent. Items questioned last month – catering is up, more parties with larger head count, to date. Religious school income is coming back up. Mark Kasdin wants to know how we are doing with the audit. Paperwork was needed that took a while to get.

Reimbursement: There is a procedure. Get an invoice, get it signed by the committee chair/vp that is related to that budget item. Then present the receipt/invoice, to Hadas if small amount or to Marc Dillman if it is a larger amount. Do not ask for a reimbursement on your own. President should not lay out any money, there will not be someone to sign off on it.

Scrip program: Marc Binder gave Dillman a summary report. Preliminarily, we have some reconciliation issues. These need to be reviewed. Committee is meeting on Wednesday to go over the issues and present a report next month and change what needs to be changed.

VP reports were emailed to everyone and also handed out.

Discussions: Expansion has been halted due to weather, there have also been some construction issues that are being worked out. Some delays have been caused by the architect and we shouldn't be responsible and we are well aware of those issues.

**Activities addendum:** Ritual committee wants congregants to open up their homes to people who need a place to go for Passover. This will be advertised in a flyer and ritual wants board support.

Arie wants to know what's going on with the expansion campaign. Mark Kasdin said that Jeff Schwartz will be contacting people this month and that the Rollers will be more involved after their son's wedding. Arie wants a commitment from Jeff.

Mark Sherman wants to encourage people to sell raffle tickets so that we know where we are. We are also looking for art work to sell at the schmooze cruise.

50+ meeting was cancelled. Organizing a trip to the Poconos.

Rabbi: sent around a form to verify attendance for the February 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Rabbi attended meeting for the Walk for Israel which will be June 6<sup>th</sup>. Looking for rep from BT to represent us at upcoming meeting, date not known. There will be a post walk performance with Sons of Tikvah. Purim is month away, anyone interested in helping out get in touch with the Rabbi. The Israeli jr. hokey team will be in Hackensack this

month. T'fillin workshop targeted to b'nai mitzvah families and anyone else on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Thanked Dan and comedy night committee. Marty Engle for blood drive. Yasher koach to adult ed. committee, going very well. And to Sons of Tikvah and Cantor and to Diane Uniman for Raise your Voices for Israel concert. We will be hosting this event on Feb 19, 2005. Bekor Holim committee is looking for men to help fill out its ranks. They have women and would like men.

**Good and Welfare, Rabbi Eligberg:**

Refuah Schlaymah: Linda Feinstein @Princeton Medical Center, broken ankle, Millie Rosloff broken leg, Harvey Finkelstein's mother, Marcie Finkelstein's father in hospital, Donna Glazer in Mayo in Florida, Susan Keller, Steven Weinreb's father

Hamakom Y'nachem: Kevin Krane – death of mother Joan, Joel Schultz – death of father Norman

Mazel Tov: Jamie & Joel Rothfs – Anna's Bat Mitzvah; Jennifer & Ron Klein – Ellis' Bar Mitzvah; Mark and Judy Roller – Aufruf of son Brian and Kara Jamal; Al and Carol Garth – Dan's Bar Mitzvah

Meeting went into closed session at 9:40pm.

Motion to accept the final contract offer to the Rabbi as proposed by the committee, made by Dan Greenberg, seconded by Gary Warner.

Vote: 16 in favor

Against: 0

2 abstentions

Meeting adjourned at 10:10pm.

## Congregation B'nai Tikvah Board of Trustees

### AGENDA

#### Board of Trustees Meeting, February 2 2004

To foster a vibrant egalitarian Jewish community founded in the religious customs and traditions of Conservative Judaism; offering excellent [Jewish education](#) and [community activities](#) for all ages with commitment to Israel and Jewish communities throughout the world.

Call to Order and Welcome	Arie Behar
Approval of January Meeting Minutes	All
President's Report and EC Meeting Update	Arie Behar
D'var Torah	Rabbi Eligberg

#### **New Business**

Presentation of expansion issues: Usage Policies	Cyndi Kleinbart
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#### **Old Business**

#### **Reports:**

Financial Secretary's Report	Gary Tinkel
Treasurer's Report	Marc Dillman
Questions on VP reports	
Questions on auxiliary group reports	
Good and Welfare	Rabbi Eligberg
Closed session: Rabbi's contract	Danny Greenberg
Adjournment	All

#### **Next Board of Trustees Meeting March 1, 2004**

## **REPORTS**

### **Activities VP Report** February 2004

#### **Social Action**

The Social Action Committee is collecting warm winter men's clothing for the Men's shelter. Jackets, sweaters, pants, gloves, hats, sweatshirts, etc.

Items for a child's birthday party such as party favors, birthday plates, cups, candles, etc.

#### **Programming**

Promotional material is being prepared for the return engagement of Bill & Sue Wills': "Presidents and their First Ladies".

#### **Adult Education**

Due to the high quality content of this year's Adult Education programs, attendance has been up.

#### **Blood Drive**

The turnout for the blood drive was down 20% from the previous year. This in spite of additional advertising by way of the Hakol, website, and postcard mailings. B'nai Tikvah, however, still draws a higher percentage than the national average, thanks to the efforts of Marty Engle.

#### **Website/Communications**

The website is in the process of being redesigned.

#### **Recreation Committee**

Steve Juro, chairman, will be scheduling a meeting thing this month.

#### **Bikkur Cholim**

This committee, chaired by Sheryl Olitzky, now has about 7 members who have volunteered to visit congregants who are hospitalized, home ill, or are in nursing homes. Sheryl's committee is composed of all females and she is seeking male volunteers to contact other male congregants who are in need of visitations.

#### **Hakol**

Kudos to Paul & Nancy Zankel for elevating the Hakol to a first class publication.

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

### **Feb 2, 2004**

#### **1. PROSPECT LIST**

We are maintaining a very active list of families in the area who have shown interest in B'nai Tikvah and inviting them to events at the synagogue throughout the year. It is important that this list continue to grow with new names. Please submit names of neighbors, friends or relatives who may have moved to the area, and may be looking for a synagogue.

#### **2. CHAI ANNIVERSARY SHABBAT**

There will be a Chai Anniversary Shabbat celebration for members who are celebrating 18-21 years of membership with B'nai Tikvah, scheduled for either May 15, 2004, June 26, 2004 or Aug 2004. Please keep a look out for details in the Hakol. About 35 families will be honored.

#### **3. CHAVURAH GROUPS**

We are in the process of forming small Chavurah Groups in the synagogue as another way of helping our members become more connected with one another. A Chavurah is a group of "friends" that come together on a regular basis to enjoy activities promoting Jewish family life. If you are interested in becoming involved in a Chavurah group, please contact VP Membership, Cindy Gittleman. [Membership@BnaiTikvah.org](mailto:Membership@BnaiTikvah.org)

#### **4. B'NAI TIKVAH-WEAR**

The very first B'nai Tikvah tee shirt is being designed for our synagogue right now and will hopefully be on sale by Purim. We are excited to bring this new way of showing spirit and unity to our B'nai Tikvah community.

#### **5. MEMBERSHIP OPEN HOUSES**

Membership open house events will begin to be scheduled in May and June using the Friday Night Plugged In programs.

Thank you,  
Cindy Gittleman

### **MEN'S CLUB**

The January meeting was attended by 26 individuals. Gary Bergman gave an interesting presentation involving transferring digital photos from camera to computer and Mitch Frumkin gave the group a first hand update/look of the expansion project.

Discussion is underway in regards to allocating funds raised from "yellow candle" monetary contributions received over the last few years. decisions will be made within the next several weeks. We are planning to purchase this year's yellow candles for distribution to the congregation very soon. We plan to combine resources with other synagogues in order to get a nice discount based on quantity purchases.

Plans are underway to attend a Lakewood Blue Claws (Phillies affiliate) baseball game in June. we've arranged for a kosher luncheon etc at the ballpark. details will be finalized and publicized in April.

There is no meeting in February due to the USY convention. We'll resume meetings in March with a presentation by a financial planner from Merrill Lynch. The Men's Club will also be manning the kitchen during the Purim Carnival.

Many thanks to Ed Birch, Steve Katz and Frank Waltzer for their efforts in putting together some dynamic programming over the last several months. Our attendance has increased dramatically and there is a high level of interest in the club.

### **RENEWED EXPANSION CAMPAIGN**

Jeff Schwartz reports that he's still on schedule in terms of initiating a campaign to make appointments and seek financial pledges from congregants who did not participate in the initial campaign. His list includes families who have joined since 2001/2002 as well as those who didn't pledge during the drive which began in 2000. Jeff had a meeting on January 19 with campaign co-chairs Judy and Mark Roller. They've talked to others who will make presentations once appointments are set up. Over the next few weeks Jeff will begin to contact prospective donors and arrange for home visits. The Rollers will be more heavily involved when they return from their son's February wedding in Florida.

### **School & Youth Vice President's Report**

**February 2, 2004**

#### **USY**

The big February event for USY is the Mid-Winter Convention on February 6 – 8. We expect about 320 USYers from throughout the region. We would have more (there is a waiting list), but we have to have room in the Social Hall for everyone to eat their meals. Registration begins Friday at 2:00. The dance will be at John Adams School in North Brunswick on Saturday from 8:00-11:30, with convention attendees staying until 12:15. The kids will be leaving at 12:30 on Sunday.

The previously-scheduled trip to New York City to see Fiddler on the Roof had to be cancelled because discount tickets were unavailable.

#### **Kadima**

Current paid members to date is 47, last year for 2002-2003 there were 37.

Last event was Kadima Day, which was a regional event on January 11th in Deal, NJ. We had 19 members attend which was among the highest of any chapters in the Region.

Upcoming and recent events include:

- January 29th 7-9 pm Talent Show at B'nai Tikvah
- February 10th at 7-9 pm Kindergarten Night at B'nai Tikvah
- February 22nd at 1:15-3:15 pm Ice Skating at Pro Skate in Monmouth Junction
- February 28th at 8 -11 pm Regional Dance at Marlboro Jewish Center.

## **Nursery School**

Nursery School registration for 2004-2005 began on January 28. There is an open house on February 4.

On February 2, we started an enrichment class, Rhymes and Rainbows, for 2-1/2 year-olds.

## **Religious School**

There will be no Religious School on Sunday, February 8, due to the USY convention, and on Sunday and Monday, February 15-16, for Presidents' Weekend.

The Religious School's annual Passover Candy Sale will run from February 18 through March 3.

Our Chai School will begin offering mini-electives on February 1. Each student will select two electives from topics ranging from Kosher Kitchen, Conversational Hebrew, and Israeli Adventures to How Do I Decide?? (on problems confronting young people) and others. Electives will run for 10 weeks.

On Sunday, February 22, the Gimel class will have its PACT program, *Tzedakah and the Giraffe Connection*. The following Sunday will be the Dalet class C.A.F.E. program, *Yad Workshop*, with guest artist Inbar Bibring.

The Purim Carnival will be on Sunday, March 7.



## **Sisterhood Report February 2, 2004**

### **FUNDRAISING**

February 8 – A Children's Fashion Show. 3:00PM at the synagogue. This is Sisterhoods major fundraiser this year. Please come out and support Sisterhood, enjoy some wonderful food, view the Children of Tikvah Models as they show off the latest in spring fashion from Nordstrom, and take a chance at winning some of the wonderful items to be featured in the tricky-tray. Tickets still available. Contact Lynn Biderman for more information and to buy tickets at [bidermanlam@cs.com](mailto:bidermanlam@cs.com).

February 9 – Shalach Manot (Purim box) orders must be received by Sisterhood. This has always been a wonderful and fun fundraiser. Get in the spirit of Purim and send Shalach Manot to all your CBT friends and families. This year the goodies will come in a specially designed Purim theme box. Each box is \$6 (\$5 for kids) and if you place an order for \$100 or more your name will be included on all Purim cards delivered. Please place your orders right away. Contact Carol Schultz for more information at [learnmom@aol.com](mailto:learnmom@aol.com) or 732-438-0176

Passover Wine & Passover Flowers will be available. Details coming soon.

### **PROGRAMMING**

February 22 – 10:00-Noon learn to get organized!!!! Lizette Leon of Get Organized! will be our guest speaker. She will share her wisdom of how to simplify your life by uncluttering your home. For those of us that have trouble throwing things away, clearing the pile from the kitchen counter/desk, finding those important papers but can't, this is the program for you.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Sisterhoods nominating committee has begun the process of filing the slate for the 2004-2005 board. Chaired by Joyce Gerbman, if you or someone you know would like to get involved with Sisterhood, please contact Joyce.

**Report to the Board  
VP, Administration  
February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004**

1. There is a tentative agreement with Rabbi Eligberg to extend his contract – details will be presented at the Board meeting.
2. Thank you to Ben Shapiro, who secured the donation of a conference table to replace the old one in the library (which needed telephone books to keep straight).
3. The annual Comedy Café was a success – we had over 140 people and broke even for the event. Suggestions have been made to move this event back into the Kiddush room (better atmosphere for this type of show) – we would have to limit the number of people and raise the price. Feedback welcome.

**VP of Ways and Means Monthly Report**

**Supermarket Scrip & Retail Scrip:** We are continuing with a steady flow of super market scrip. The sisterhood has done a great job of increase. The current script committee will be meeting on February 4, 2004. We still need your support for working the desk on Sunday mornings or any other time.

**Event for next year:** The 50/50 sales are coming along very slowly and I am begging that the board helps out to the best of their ability. The prizes will be 1<sup>st</sup> 25%, 2<sup>nd</sup> 15%, and 3<sup>rd</sup> 10%. Jeff Woller is chairing the 50/50. Please try to get myself or Jeff Woller tickets and money as soon as possible. We are looking for donated art (any kind Bathroom, Kids, Picassos we do not care) for that evening. We have already been receiving positive responses on the event.

**Entertainment Books:** We sold about 10% less than last year.. The consensus is the quality of the books has not been as good the last several years. We believe that has had a negative impact on the sales.

**Printer Cartridges:** We will be collecting ink jet cartridges. There is a box in the office please just drop them off. We will be placing ads in the upcoming Hakol. CBT will receive \$2.00 per cartridge.

**Car Donation:** I would like to thank Danny Greenberg for implementing this program. We have raised over \$1,800.00. We are continuing to advertise the program in the Hakol.