

Board Minutes - February 3, 2003

**Attendees:**

Janice Baer  
Arie Behar  
Gary Bergman  
Larry Cohen  
Marc Dillman  
Jerry Edley  
Hadas Elami  
Harvey Finkelstein  
Mitch Frumkin  
Cindy Gittleman  
Madeline Gaynor  
Dan Greenberg  
Naomi Jackenthal  
Jerry Kaminsky  
Mark Kasdin  
Cyndi Kleinbart  
Ruth Anne Koenick  
Jodi Marcou  
Cantor Bruce Rockman  
Harold Schneider  
Mark Sherman  
Gary Tinkel  
Gary Warner  
Keith Zimmerman

***22 votes present***

**Not Attending:**

Rabbi David Eligberg  
Alan Kane

**Non-Board Guests**

None

**Call to Order [Mitch Frumkin]**

Meeting called to order at 8:01 PM by Mitch Frumkin.

**Approval of Previous Minutes [All]**

Moved by H. Finkelstein, second by H. Schneider to adopt minutes of January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2002. Motion approved [17 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain]

**D'var Torah [Cantor Rockman]**

Cantor Rockman read into the minutes a letter from Rabbi Eligberg regarding the loss of Colonel Ilan Ramon and the other astronauts on the Columbia shuttle. Rabbi Eligberg also included an article from

the Jerusalem Post that reflects the loss of the Israeli people at the death of a great Jewish hero [see attached].

Mitch called for a moment of silence in memory of the Columbia crew.

### **President's Report [Mitch]**

- Forgot to report on the Rabbi's review last meeting, which was in December. Will address it in executive session tonight.
- Congratulations and thanks very much to those who worked hard on the 70's night.
- Alan Kane is sick, so Mitch will try to answer any questions regarding activities.
- The packet being distributed includes the Bima list, which is now extended through the end of June. Thanks to all who continue to help out.

### **Nominating Committee [Mark Kasdin]**

The nominating committee consists of Jennifer Shapiro, Irwin Millinger, Lisa Tannenbaum, Steve Katz, Andy Ross and Jay Scheuer.

The committee hopes to present the slate at the March meeting.

### **New Business [All]**

- D. Greenberg read the following email, which has been circulating the web:

Dear Friends,

Ilán means tree. Before he died, Ilán Ramon sent the following message back to earth:

"I call upon every Jew in the world to plant a tree in the land of Israel during the coming year. I would like to see at least 13 or 14 million new trees planted in Israel exactly one year from now, on the anniversary of the launching."

Upon hearing Mr. Ramon's statement, Jewish National Fund Chief Executive Officer Russell Robinson said, "It is so meaningful that the first Israeli astronaut calls out from space, to Jewish people everywhere on earth, to have a direct connection to the land of Israel by literally planting roots in its soil." In Israel, Jewish National Fund officials immediately took up the challenge last week by planting the first 13 trees in the Ben Shemen Forest in honor of Ilán Ramon and the Columbia team. As JNF World Chairman Yehiel Leket said, "On the Columbia's next orbit around the earth, Mr. Ramon will already be able to see the first 13 trees that JNF planted as a response to his request." Mr. Leket had already planted a tree in Mr. Ramon's honor in the new Bible Forest on Tu B'Shevat, where he noted that the Israeli astronaut's first name, Ilán, literally means "tree."

In response to Mr. Ramon's request, JNF promised to send the message to Jews around the globe.

With the tragic deaths of Ilán and his fellow astronauts, Ilán's wish to see the land of Israel blooming with millions of new trees, forests so thick that one could see them from space, takes on new meaning. Please spread this message. Plant a tree for Ilán and his fellow astronauts, may all their memories be blessed.

To plant your tree in Israel in honor of Ilán Ramon and his fellow astronauts, call 800-542-TREE (8733) or visit [www.jnf.org](http://www.jnf.org). To learn more about traveling to Israel, call JNF Travel & Tours at (877) JNF-TOUR (563-8687) or email [travel@jnf.org](mailto:travel@jnf.org).

Moved [by D. Greenberg, second by J. Baer] to plant a tree in Israel in honor of the Columbia astronauts. Amended to 7 trees – one for each astronaut. Unanimous.

### **Expansion Update [M. Kasdin]**

- We believe we have the wetlands issue squared away. The meeting is scheduled for February 13<sup>th</sup> with the state.
- We are getting the builders to give us bids section by section. Paul Zankel was instrumental in breaking down the bids so that we are comparing apples to apples. One bid is already in, the other will be in a few days. We hope to select a builder and present him at the March meeting.
- The bids are probably in the same range as before as construction industry isn't doing great right now.

- A. Behar and M. Sherman have been talking to banks – money still available;
- Might be able to start by April – minimum 6 months , max is 8 months. Town may already have permits prepared
- J. Kaminsky: how many rooms are there? 7 classrooms, etc. No chapel.
- G. Tinkel: are the numbers coming in about the same as before? Maybe slightly lower.

## **VP Reports**

Hard copies distributed

### ***Administration [Arie Behar]***

- Catering committee met last week; still some pending issues
- In April: another group from Israel – April 3rd – 25th. Will be a lot of fun. 15 kids coming.
- Report distributed from ritual committee.

### ***Ways & Means [Mark Sherman]***

- Great success for 70s night.
- Scrip sheet being passed around
- Gary Warner [chair of 70s night]: thanks to the whole committee: Michelle Sherman, Jeff Cadoff, Andy Ross, Tom Peters, Cindy Gittleman, Jodi Marcou, Gary Bergman, Mark Sherman. Great fun working on the committee, and they all worked very hard.
- Numbers from the night: \$17,039 net!

### ***School & Youth [Harold Schneider]***

- One correction to the hard copy distributed à the Quakerbridge Mall Kadimah Scavenger Hunt is on Sunday, February 9th.
- Nursery School questionnaire went out and are coming back, but not yet tabulated. Will let us know next month whether we will renegotiate with Fran.
- With regard to the numbers, it looks like we actually had \$5500 more at end of year than made it into year-end report.
- N. Jackenthal: Last summer we talked about evaluating paid employees. Who is paying attention and keeping track? My impression was that we were going to have survey results by October or November. It doesn't take one meeting to go through these surveys and to discuss – how can we make a decision in one night? Another example is the Rabbi – we last discussed it in the fall; and we haven't heard anything or discussed at the Board since. There appears to be a lack of communications on this board, and that we are being kept out of the loop.
- H. Schneider: been calling teachers, ex-teachers, parents, and congregants to sit on a committee to make a decision. It is the job of the committee, who have a connection to the nursery school and are aware of its goings-on, not the job of the board. All are welcome to sit on the committee, or at least attend.
- M. Frumkin: next contract decision point for Rabbi is not til September or October. His contract is very specific as to who reviews – it is done by the executive committee.
- A. Behar: it should be the job of individual committees, except for the clergy.
- J. Baer: Naomi is talking about a standardization of process; since we are a revolving board.
- C. Kleinbart: there must be uniformity and all non-clergy positions should be used by a standard form. There has never been a written review of Fran. Janice, Mitch, Arie disagree; there are written reviews on file.
- J. Edley: if anyone calls for a reference, all that should be given is a confirmation that they worked there.
- J. Marcou: if there IS a written review of Fran, it's very troubling that Harold knows nothing about it.
- C. Kleinbart volunteers to work with whoever will spearhead the standardization process.
- R. Koenick: United Synagogue can probably help us with standardization of reviews.
- J. Marcou: maybe we can have an orientation for new board members.
- M. Gaynor: maybe each committee can keep logbook and turn it over to next version for smoother

transition.

- C. Kleinbart: we have to worry about the confidentiality of financial information of congregants.

### **Financial Secretary's Report [G. Tinkel]**

Numbers are unchanged from last month. There are 22 members who have paid no dues at all. Not unusual. Some have paid no school either. Out of the 22, 4 are board members,

J. Baer: I don't think you should mention that board members haven't paid their dues. It should not be done publicly.

G. Tinkel: The constitution requires all board members to be paid up; the point is not to humiliate them, but to show that people across all groups are affected.

M. Kasdin: Hadas prepared a summary of expansion pledges; we are about \$60K behind. We decided at EC that we will not make any moves after them until shovels are in the ground.

C. Kleinbart: are you going to approach new members? Yes – again after shovels in ground.

### **Treasurer's Report [M. Dillman]**

YTD income has been about \$613K. Expenses have been about \$512K.

A. Behar: there was a discussion at EC so that all donations should flow through the office. Right now, money that comes through events does not go through same system – it is not recognized as donations. If it all goes through Hadas, people would get credit for all their donations. Mens club and sisterhood dues will not be included unless the board wants, in which case those clubs will need to supply reports. M. Dillman suggests that since the reporting threshold is \$250 per payment, it doesn't apply.

J. Kaminsky: What about the interest? Where does it go? All interest except Kane Endowment and Israel trip goes to capital improvement fund, which is a reserve fund.

### **Men's Club [J. Edley]**

Norm Politizner will be giving a discussion on investing in troubled times. Last months joint meeting was with sisterhood.

Phil Mushnick will be here in March 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Sisterhood [R. Koenick]**

Sisterhood Shabbat is this Saturday; Janice will be on the bima as well. Please join us.

March 2<sup>nd</sup> is our Mah Jong tournament. Please sponsor a table if you have a business. Talk to Joyce Gerbman.

Purim baskets; Passover wine sale all coming up.

### **50+ Club [M. Gaynor]**

Next meeting February 25<sup>th</sup>: Steve Franzman; History of Jewish Humor.

Reservations being accepted in April to Kutshers.

### **Other New Business**

Moved [by M. Dillman, second by D. Greenberg] to place an ad in Solomon Schechter Day School ad journal. A ½ page ad is \$500. A. Behar amends to ask the rabbi for \$250. Motion Approved [21 yes, 1 no]

### **Good & Welfare [Cantor Rockman]**

Mazel Tov to the following B'nai Mitzvoh and their families:

- David Pol
- Ethan Suttner
- Michael Zankel
- Andrew Lewis
- Greg Aaron

Condolences to:

- Batya Mendes on the loss of her father Baruch Pasklowitz
- Gary Warner on the loss of his grandfather Morris Rood
- Gary Harmon on the loss of his grandmother Bette Klores

Speedy Recovery to:

- Rabbi David Eligberg
- Bob Robinson

**Motion to Adjourn**

Moved by J. Edley, second by R. Koenick. Board entered Executive Session at 9:40 PM.