



# Minutes of the Board

## February 7, 2000

Meeting called to order at 8:10 pm by Jeff Schwartz.

Attendees: A. Behar, M. Binder, M. Dillman, M. Frumkin, M. Kasdin, K. Riemann, A. Ross, H. Schneider, J. Schwartz, G. Tinkel, J. Baer, H. Finkelstein, A. Gold, I. Grodzinski, R. Harkov, J. Marcou, B. Rockman, B. Shapiro, J. Wolf, J. Edley, L. Marx, J. Scheuer, Rabbi Eligberg

Non-Board Guests: N. Elami, E. Danto, D. Cohen,

Minutes distributed and reviewed.

Correction: G. Tinkel was in attendance in January. Motion to accept as amended G. Tinkel, 2nd Edley. Approved.

### **D'Var Torah:** Rabbi Eligberg

Parsha reading this week describes in great detail the process of building the Sanctuary in the wilderness. Amongst all of the details, the description of the ark is very interesting. The ark is a box overlaid with gold on the outside and on the inside. Façade should not be more than the inside. Translated to the behavior of people (and communities) that people should be the same on the outside as on the inside.

### **Non-Members**

Dorothy Cohen: Shabbat Across America

Shabbat Across America is a program sponsored by National Jewish Outreach program. It takes place on one Friday evening per year designed to bring a taste of Shabbat to either unaffiliated or those in the congregation that do not celebrate Shabbat.

March 31st. A Shabbat meal accompanied by an instructive service that will be separate from the regular Friday evening service. Caterer will be serving meal. Cost for attendance is \$15.00 per adult, \$10 per child (paid by attendee). Hosts will pay \$10 per person. Through help of National Jewish Outreach program and general membership list, hope to accommodate as many people as possible. At each Shabbat dinner table, at least 1-2 hosts. Hosts also contact individuals 1-2 days' prior. After the event, host makes a commitment to contact attendees to participate in a synagogue event, Shabbat meal in home, etc.

Request that if know someone who can benefit, encourage them to come. If appropriate, come with them. Registration forms are available in the office. Information is also available on the web site. Also looking for "hosts" at the event, if so contact Hadas. Also suggested sending some forms/information home with Nursery School.

### **Old Business:**

Interiors Committee:

Wall paper installed in foyer and kiddush room. New carpeting installed next week.

**Special Financial Arrangements Policy:**

Gary reviewed the Forgiveness policy and procedures.

Motion (Ross): Accept the Forgiveness Policy as outlined to the board. 2nd Edley. Motion out of order as it is authorized within the constitution.

Gary Tinkel was asked to outline the procedure for policy book and future presidents.

**Collection of Money on Hakol Advertising**

Collected \$1000.

**Procedure for Posting of Minutes**

Procedure outlined in VP Activities Report.

**New Business:**

Motion: (M. Kasdin 2nd B. Shapiro).

Congregation Bnai Tikvah immediately establish a separate (insured) bank account to deposit all funds received as part of the "expansion" Capital Campaign. The funds in this account may only be used to pay for approved "expansion" project purposes. This account will be subject to the prescribed auditing process on an annual basis. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion: (J. Marcou. 2nd M. Frumkin.)

A new committee entitled, "Historical Committee" be formed for the purpose of documentation, organization and preservation of Congregation Bnai Tikvah's and predecessors photographs, memorabilia and other material as deemed pertinent by the committee and/or Board of Directors. Furthermore, this committee shall have the responsibility of overseeing that Congregational activities are photographed and memorabilia collected on an ongoing basis and cared for as outlined above. Motion carried unanimously. J. Marcou will discuss with Constitution Committee and bring to the general meeting.

Motion: (M. Dillman. 2nd M. Frumkin)

Board supports the Solomon Shechter Annual Directory in the amount of \$150. Motion amended to include \$250 from congregation. Discussion:

- Privately funded school; should monies come from Tzedakah fund?
- Is a "page ad reflective of the quality of this Congregation? A full-page ad is purchased by EBJC while other congregations do not purchase full-page ads.

Motion carried with 2 abstentions.

Hadas noted that there are members that cannot drive would like to attend services but have no transportation. This issue was deferred to Social Action committee.

Hadas Elami recommends NOT putting flyers on front door. It is recommended that we put a corkboard under glass outside the door. The purpose would be for cancellations and deaths. Work this out with the VP-Administration.

**Reports:**

Financial Secretary (Gary Tinkel)

Tax statements sent last week. Dues going out next week after Jeff's review. Gary and Hadas will review delinquent accounts for follow-up.

Treasurer (Marc Dillman)

Report circulated.

- Halfway through the year and approaching the budget year, looking at some of the line items and forecasting where we will be at year end.
- Additional unbudgeted \$31,000 not anticipated and \$35,000 of expenditures not anticipated, providing a "net" impact of \$4,000.
- Building fund is positive that should carry through the year end
- Fund raising will be under by \$7,000.
- Hebrew school is anticipated to be \$2,500 ahead.
- High Holiday tickets is \$1,000 ahead of budget
- Kiddush revenue will be negative in neighborhood of \$3,000.
- Member dues are anticipated to be \$14,500 ahead in dues collection due to membership growth ahead of projection.
- Memorial plaques \$6,000 ahead of budget resulting from purchase of header and footer.
- Room rent is anticipated \$4,000 over budget due to rental from YMCA.
- Miscellaneous expense is \$14,000 over budget related to purchase of parsonage.
- Utilities will be over budget by up to \$15,000.

Motion: (M. Frumkin, 2nd Kim Riemann) Continue to pay utilities (gas, electric and phone) although exceeding budgeted amount.

- Do PSE&G have special rates for charitable institutions? Hadas to confirm.

Motion carried unanimously.

J. Schwartz: Shomrei Tikvah

In 1999 calendar year, there were 15 participants. This is the highest participation since inception.

VP Admin (M. Frumkin)

Report circulated.

Budget process begins next month. M. Abshutz asked to serve as chair. Current membership: M. Dillman, A. Behar, J. Marcou, H. Schneider, M. Frumkin. Anyone requiring funding should complete a budget request form (supplied at the meeting) and bring information to next board meeting.

Gary Tinkel has resigned as chair of Catering committee due to other commitments.

Constitution committee has had numerous meetings over past several months. J. Wolf reported on a number of key issues discussed. These include:

- Nominating process: should contested election require written submission?
- Working on boards "terms" and amending? Developing a chart to see how this plays out.
- Defining good standing.
- Brief discussion of absentee voting at general meetings was raised.
- What can we "offer" couples with a non-Jewish spouse to make them more welcome?

Please share any perspectives you might have on these issues, or any others, to John Wolf.

VP Activities (A. Behar)

Report circulated.

- Committee has worked very hard to bring programs this year to congregation. Unfortunately, support by the board (and congregation) has not been widespread.
- Highlight two programs:
- Thursday, March 23. Federation brought to our attention the opportunity to have Malcolm Hoenlein have a dialogue at Bnai Tikvah. The Palestinian Representative to the UN, Nasser Al-Kidwa, will join him. We will serve dinner with questions from the floor. The cost for this event is \$10 per person.
- Comedy night on February 26. Cost is \$18 per person. Deadline for ticket purchases is Saturday, February 19.
- April 13, host Bill and Sue Wills who will portray Harry and Bess Truman. This husband and wife acting-team tour nationally with dramatic reading of "Presidents and their First Ladies".
- May 4, Glen Berman, Middlesex County Prosecutor, will talk about hate crimes in our region.

#### VP School and Youth (K. Riemann)

Report circulated.

Enrollment for 2000-2001:

Pre-K: 26

3-Day Class: 17

2-Day Class: 10

Total (as of 2/7): 53

#### VP Ways and Means (M. Binder)

Report circulated

- Dinner Dance: March 11. A gala affair is planned. Everyone should attend. Cost is \$100 per attendee.
- Shortfall is fundraising. Two ways: calendar will be a big fundraiser with advertising. A 50:50 with 400 chances (\$100 per ticket).

#### Sisterhood (L. Marx)

- Sisterhood Shabbat this Saturday
- Crafts night is Sunday

#### Men's Club (G. Edley)

No comment

Meeting, Sunday, February 13, 2000

#### Fifty Plus (J. Scheurer)

No comment

#### Presidents Report

The new Director at Regional Office is creating excitement and energy (Rabbi Lankin). Three programs:

- "Energizing your congregations membership" on Feb 17 in Aberdeen and March 2 in Verona (7:30-9:30)
- "Developing and leading a successful fund-raising campaign" Feb 24 in Old Bridge and March 9 in Fair Lawn.
- "School program-state of affairs in afternoon religious school programs" Feb 10.
- Appropriate vice-presidents have been asked to attend if possible.

### Rabbi's Report

Township council is meeting tomorrow (Tuesday, February 8) to discuss holiday displays on township property. Rabbi will be present along with F. Hubbard (Chair, Township Clergy Association).

### Rabbinical Feedback

A questionnaire will be distributed to all congregants in April. With results of survey, will ask for a special meeting in June to discuss the results of survey.

### Expansion Committee

Kick-off shortly with details of what we need in terms of volunteers. Anyone who knows of individuals willing to work on this effort should contact Ben Shapiro or Mark Kasdin.

### Good & Welfare

Speedy Recovery to Ruth Goldstein (appendicitis)

Ruth Ann Koenig at St. Peters

George Segal at St. Peters

Anita Roller is recuperating at Franklin Rehab

Condolences to Bill Greenberg on loss of Father

Condolences to Dave Distal on loss of Mother

Mazel tov to Phyllis and Barry Safeer on birth of son, Joshua Max.

Motion to adjourn: 10:40. R. Harkov. 2nd L. Marx.

Next board MEETING is Monday, March 6.