

**Minutes from board meeting
Congregation B'nai Tikvah
February 5, 2007**

Meeting called to order at 8pm by President Danny Greenberg

In attendance:

Jeff Berger, Gary Bergman, Arthur Biderman, Bobbi Binder, Ed Birch, Jeff Cadoff, Larry Cohen, Marc Dillman, Linda Fellen, Cindy Gittleman, Danny Greenberg, Mark Jiorle, Mark Kasdin, Ruth Anne Koenick, Linda Kohn, Beth Schurman, Mark Sherman, Ruth Shindler, David Spivak, Gary Warner, Paul Zankel
Lisa Mason, Hadas Elami, Cantor Rockman
Guests: Steve Fox, Mitch Frumkin

President's report:

Thanked Gary Bergman for the help he is giving with his fried computer.

Danny introduced our lawyer Steve Fox. There have been developments that we need to be aware of. Steve reviewed that we had to go to arbitration. We asserted a claim. The contractor had 30 days to request mediation. Contractor was not cooperative. The claim was dismissed and we filed suite in Middlesex County. They filed third party defendant. Mitch Frumkin has been named. We see this as frivolous. Deposition notices have also been served. We can control our side but not what they are doing \$320,690 is what we are looking at. We could win the case and not collect the money or incur legal fees that cut into this amount. If we settle, we are more likely to get money. There are three key times to settle, the last of which is before trial. We have spent a little less than \$10,000.

Mitch's company is also being sued and we need to decide whether we are going to cover his deductible. Mitch is also personally being sued but he is covered under our synagogue policy.

Lengthy discussion followed.

Paul Zankel suggested that we appoint a legal committee to continue on with this discussion since the lawsuit will continue after this board has changed.

Motion by Mark Jiorle

To end discussion

Seconded by Ruth Anne.

All in favor.

Motion passed

Cantor's report:

Cantor has been participating much more actively in committees at BT and is very proud of the efforts of these committees. Many of our programs are being attended by more and more people. We should keep our vision as we go forward.

Mark Kasdin financial secretary:

437 members, 273 fdpe, 85 on special. we will probably be dropping 12 families. We have 17 new families who have joined since last April, 1 has resigned according the Ruth Anne. Cantor wants to know whether the Rabbi gets involved with families on

special. Kasdin feels that these families have just chosen not to pay without sending in a letter. The other 8 will be spoken to.

Treasurer's report: Marc Dillman handed out his report and highlighted key items.

New business:

Motion by Mark Jiorle:

In it's final form

In order to promote and nurture Jewish Education, we move that children whose parents are not members of congregation B'nai Tikvah be eligible to attend religious school and have a bar/bat mitzvah under their grandparent's membership given the following conditions:

1. Written permission must be received by the parents
2. Grandparents are members in good standing
3. Grandparents will not be eligible for senior membership rate
4. Standard fees apply for grades K through 2 and Hebrew High School
5. Standard fees plus 30% apply for grades 3 through 7
6. The bar/bat mitzvah fee for these children will be twice the standard fee

Seconded by Marc Dillman

We currently have one family in this position and with down the line. A previous president allowed these children to enroll in the religious school. Now we must make decisions to move forward.

(Amendment to get written permission by the parent, accepted by Mark Jiorle)

Discussion followed.

Motion to call the question

Seconded by Ruth Anne

All in favor

Vote on motion:

10 in favor, 8 against, 2 abstain

Motion passes

Motion by Gary Bergman

To enter contract with Star Industries LIC to replace our existing maintenance arrangement with Ed Molina.

Seconded by Marc Dillman

Hadas has been looking into other maintenance companies for some years and came across this company. 2 year contract, calculated hourly. Criminal background checks will be done by them. They will come wearing uniforms and name tags. Ed has asked to be relieved of his duties. Kasdin feels that we should check into this company before signing anything. Hadas did not negotiate the fees. She felt it was a good fee.

Motion by Bobbi to call the question

11 in favor, 3 against, 0 abstain

Motion passes to call the question

Vote on motion

15 in favor, 4 against, 0 abstain

Motion passes

Larry Cohen spoke about the event in March honoring Mark and Brenda Sherman. This is our major fundraiser.

Motion by Gary Bergman

To regard the synagogue's list of congregants' emails as confidential and not distribute it to anyone. This does not preclude the divulging of any specific address to an individual for non broadcasting purposes.

Seconded by Jeff Cadoff

Vote: 19 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstain

Motion passes

Beth Schurman:

Purim events - Megillah reading open to everyone Saturday night then adult party to follow. Sunday during religious school will be Megillah reading. Carnival to follow which will be followed by a clown and magician show. Hoping to bring in outsiders. Looking for board members to be there to greet and wear badges. This is still an event that falls under youth.

Linda Fellen - Spoke about the Sisterhood event Passover Poker. This is a synagogue event and we would like to see board involvement that night.

Ruth Anne reminded us that Purim boxes can be ordered until tomorrow.

Membership - Buddy Volunteers. - We need follow through with new members. Members would be assigned a family that has similar interests to buddy up with them.

Mark Jiorle Rabbinic search. The committee has received 7 resumes and has conducted 7 phone interviews. They have scheduled 4 face to face interviews, 2 have been completed. Visiting Rabbi Feb 23-25th Tzinoa Szajman. Schedules will be posted shortly. All feedback goes to every single committee member.

Yom Ha'atzmaut April 24th. April 22 is Sunday and we are thinking of a big event for that day. Anyone interested in working on that committee should let Hadas or Lisa know.

Ed asked that everyone check out the website for the World Wide Wrap event that was held yesterday.

Good and Welfare:

Mazel Tov to Gary and Bobby Bergman on the birth their granddaughter.

Joe and Barbara Plotnick on the birth of their grandson

Carol Marks on the birth of her grandson

Condolences: Schurman family on the death of Matt's father, Bibel family on the death of Neysa, Glazer family on the death of Donna and Kleinman family on the death of Gladys

Adjournment to executive session

WAYS & MEANS VP REPORT

I apologize that I will not be able to be at Monday's Board meeting.

Scrip: From August 1, 2006 through January 31, 2007, approx. \$93,500. was sold, including \$7,000 in credit card sales (we make less on credit card sales because of the fee). Rachel Shaneson and her committee have started successfully marketing in the Dayton area and are next targeting Somerset. Young volunteers are needed!

March Fundraiser honoring Mark and Brenda Sherman - Please make sure to get in your RSVPs and ads as we pay tribute to this terrific couple who have done so much for CBT. This will be a fantastic night, including comedic entertainment and great food; do not miss it! Many thanks to Larry Cohen for coordinating this major undertaking.

Respectfully,

Allison Nagelberg

VP ACTIVITIES REPORT February 2007

ADULT EDUCATION:

Upcoming dates and programs:

- 2/14 Esther's Story (Presented by Rabbi Olitsky) 8 pm
- 2/28 Interfaith Marriage In Today's World (Presented by Rabbi Olitzky) 7:30pm
- 3/14 Who wrote the bible (presented by Prof. Azzan Yadin) 8pm
- 3/28 Passover Theme (Rabbi Goldstein, presenter) 8pm
- 4/22 Klezmer Music – Possible outdoor event located in local park
- 4/25 To be Announced – Hold the Date
- 5/2 To Be Announced – Hold the Date
- 5/9 TBA
- 5/23 Liturgical music program by Cantor Rockman

BT ATHLETICS:

Men's Open Court Basketball continuing. Tuesday nights 8-10 pm. Non-competitive pick-up game.

FATHER/DAUGHTER DANCE: (Country/Western Style)

The dance will be held Sunday, March 25th, 2007 in the multi-purpose room from 4-6 pm. It is geared for girls 11 yrs and younger with their dads, granddads, special someone in their life.

CHAI MEMBER SHABBAT DINNER:

The 3rd Chai Member installation event will take place Friday, May 25th 2007. It will be a Friday night dinner and service. There are now 126 families in the shul that are members of the Chai Members Club. The entire congregation will be invited. Anyone interested in helping plan the event, please let me know.

School & Youth Vice-President Report

February 5, 2006

Nursery School

- Registration for the coming year has begun!!
- A new Hebrew language program is set to begin. The program is an innovative method for teaching second language skills in short segments. The program was developed in Israel.
- Israeli Dance, yoga and soccer programs are continuing from last year and gymnastics has been added.

Camp Program

- Camp enrollment will begin in the very near future. Please talk this up, as word of mouth is still our best advertisement.
- Hiring has begun, and an Assistant Director has been hired.

Religious School

- The Religious School Board has been meeting extra sessions to discuss curriculum and the school direction. This is a very exciting process and we look to implement the board's ideas for the coming school year.

USY

- The USY Friday night service on January 5th went well. Several chapters were represented and the attendees had a good experience.
- The remaining calendar is currently being finalized by the chapter.

Kadima

- Kadima Fun Day (A Regional event) was held at B'nai Tikvah on January 21st. Thank you to all those that helped as this event went well.
- The March event will be held at the Glassworks.

College Program

- The next packages will be for Passover.
- Please encourage those you know with college children to contact Marcia Schwartz with the children's school mailing information.

Youth Commission

- The Commission is sponsoring two "*Latte & Learn*" sessions at the Route 1, Barnes & Nobles for USY aged children (Non-USY members very welcome!). The sessions will be led by Jessie Olitsky and will discuss current events in a Jewish context. Admission & lattes are free. Sessions will be held on April 15th and May 6th from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.
- The Commission is exploring the implementation of a web-based Youth Calendar that would include all Kadima, USY, Religious School and synagogue sponsored youth activities in one place.

- Purim Carnival planning has begun. The Youth Commission will be working with the synagogue event staff, Sisterhood and others to make this year's Carnival an event for all ages. Volunteers and/or ideas are always welcome.

SISTERHOOD REPORT

Sisterhood's January events included hand-crafting passover matza covers. Everyone made beautiful masterpieces.

Upcoming events:

Sunday, Feb 25--Hamantashen workshop (10 am)

Sunday March 4--Wine tasting and Wine sale (12-2:30)--Try a full selection of kosher wines for purchase. Next to Judaica shop during the Purim carnival. Order form for wines is in current Hakol, or at www.bnaitikvah.org

Sunday, March 4--Pickup Purim baskets 12-2:30 at Judaica shop.

Sunday, March 11--Women's League Day of Study--Discussino of "Night" by Elie Wiesel, and Auschwitz program with him and Oprah Winfrey 10:am

Sunday, March 18--Adult CPR--10-12:20--Reservations required

Saturday, April 7 Passover Poker. 8:30 pm. Easy, interactive game open to whole congregation and public. Fabulous prizes! Wonderful food! This is a Saturday night out during Passover, and will be our big fundraising event. We need the support of the whole synagogue. Please make plans to attend this event. Good for new members, as the game involves teams rotating with a different team for each hand; make new friends. Flyer is in Hakol. We would love to have some coverage on the cover of Hakol if possible, and mention during announcements at services leading up to the event.

Men's Club Report

World Wide Wrap went very well yesterday. Thank you Steve and Andrea for setting up the room. We had approx. 35 Religious School participants and 15 adults assistants. The program was coordinated by Rabbi Goldstein and Cantor Rockman. Thanks to all of the adults who assisted with the teaching lesson of tfillen. Thanks to Andrea Katz for shopping for the refreshments.

Pictures from the event are on the official site for the World Wide Wrap www.worldwidewrap.org <<http://www.worldwidewrap.org>>

Click on 2007 reports, and click on our temple...there are 12 pictures for you to enjoy.

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The next meeting is 3/18/07. Bernie Flashberg, President of the Men's Club at Temple Beth Am (Springfield) will be presenting a multi-media discussion on the Holocaust. He is a retired teacher currently on the staff at Kean University. Last summer, he studied this subject abroad and has a very interesting slide show. (He is also congregant Linda Feinstein's brother)

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Yellow candles etc should be arriving soon. We will be asking for Board assistance to get this project out in one night.

We have been working with Administration to assure that the "annual post office problem" does not happen again this year. We have also made "emergency arrangements" should this problem happen again this year.

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4/1/07 speaker Rabbi Charles Simon, Executive Director Fed, of Jewish Men's Clubs

5/6/07 speaker author of "The Yankee Haters"...obviously, an anti-Yankee book

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It would always be nice to have some Board members attend our functions.

Administration VP Report

February 2007

House & Grounds

The parking lot needs to be repaired by July of this year. Bids are being sought and any and all fundraisings ideas are being considered.

The air conditioning/heating units over the old complex are nearing the end of their life cycle and are constantly being repaired.

The air conditioning unit for the rear of the multi-purpose room was installed incorrectly which requires frequent replacement of the filters.