

Congregation B'nai Tikvah
Board Meeting
Minutes of Meeting
March 3rd, 2003

Attendees:

Janice Baer	Harvey Finkelstein	Cyndi Kleinbart
Arie Behar	Mitch Frumkin	Jodi Marcou
Gary Bergman	Madeline Gaynor	Cantor Bruce Rockman
Larry Cohen	Dan Greenberg	Harold Schneider
Marc Dillman	Naomi Jackenthal	Mark Sherman
Jerry Edley	Jerry Kaminsky	Gary Tinkel
Hadas Elami	Alan Kane	Gary Warner
Rabbi David Eligberg	Mark Kasdin	

20 votes present

Not Attending:

Cindy Gittleman	Ruth Anne Koenick	Keith Zimmerman
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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 G. Warner, second by H. Schneider to adopt minutes of February 3rd.
Motion approved [18 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain]

President's Report [Mitch Frumkin]

- Cantor Rockman's birthday today [we sang Happy Birthday].
- Because of requests last month, agenda items from this past month's Executive Meeting are being distributed.
- It seems like the male members of the board aren't pitching in as much as the women to sell scrip. Please come and help.

Expansion Update [M. Kasdin]

A subcommittee met the Dept of Environmental Protection – it sounds like they are going to give us approval. We weren't able to stake out the property because of the snow. We are in the process of two months of waiting and 5 minutes of review. Plans are still to break ground in May. Arie Behar & Mark Sherman are continuing to work on financing; it seems like everything is falling into place.

H. Finkelstein: we had planned to fold some existing mortgage money into it – what kind of savings do we anticipate. Currently \$750K mortgage, refinancing could save us about 2 points. We are looking at 2 mortgages – one for existing, one for the new needs.

J. Kaminsky: will there be a groundbreaking? We hadn't planned one, but we should and we will.

Nominating Committee [M. Kasdin]

The nominating committee proposes the following slate:

Past President:	Mitch Frumkin	Trustees:	Harvey Finkelstein
President:	Arie Behar		Gary Warner
VP, Administration:	Danny Greenberg		Cyndi Kleinbart
VP, School & Youth:	Harold Schneider		Janice Baer
VP, Ways & Means:	Mark Sherman		Keith Zimmerman
VP, Membership:	Cindy Gittleman		Larry Cohen
VP, Activities:	Gary Bergman		Jerry Kaminsky
Treasurer:	Marc Dillman		Paul Zankel
Assistant Treasurer:	Naomi Jackenthal		Jeff Cadoff**
Secretary:	Bobbi Binder**		Frank Waltzer**
Financial Secretary:	Gary Tinkel		

**these are new trustees

In addition, the Sisterhood, the Men's Club and the 50's+ Club will nominate their own representatives to the Board.

D'var Torah & 18 Month Plan [Rabbi Eligberg]

The Rabbi used a large ball of yarn to illustrate how each member of the community is needed to hold up our institution.

Most of the latter part of the book of Exodus deals with building the *mishcan*. Did everyone contribute to the building of the tabernacle, or only those that felt they could?

We spend a lot of time building the mishcan, but it's time for us to reach out to establish a role for everyone.

I'm going to challenge each and every one of us to recognize the discrepancies between what we say we stand for and what we actually do. We need to bring our actual self in line with the vision of ourselves.

In most congregations, the cantor, rabbi and administrative staff fill that role.

Challenges: What does it mean to be a community? We are very americanized. We want individuality, but we also want community.

We are going to designate one meeting night per month when all the various committees engage in a process of self-evaluation and study in parallel. We should also try to do a board retreat. We should visit the touchstones of our movement – the Jewish Theological Seminary.

After our review, we need to invite the rest of the congregation into the process. The First meeting will be just after Pesach, and include old and new board. 5:30 – 7:30 PM – April 27th.

Question: where are we with the videoing process? Rabbi sees the video process coming out of the self-evaluation process. The comparison of tradition [little t] and Tradition [big T].

Staff Review [N. Jackenthal]

C. Kleinbart has provided some materials to review; Hadas has other material. We are going to sit down and apply it to our synagogue's needs.

VP Reports

Hard copies distributed

Administration [Arie Behar]

- Budget committee: will get together over the next few weeks to put the numbers together. We need numbers as soon as possible.
- Security: we met with police dept and are doing two things: we are hiring an off-duty policeman to be in the parking lot Sunday mornings. We also now close the door on Shabbas morning [we are stationing Ed there to open the door for people]. We are going to create a security committee that will make recommendations to the Board. J. Baer: how much is the police presence going to cost? \$194 per Sunday for 4 hours. J. Baer: I understand that it provides reassurance to some, but I think he should be up at the building, not at the other end of the parking lot. A. Behar: The point is to be able to see the police car from the street. M. Dillman: we should allocate the money – we are ahead of budget and should allocate it. A. Behar: we are going to wait for security committee presentation next month.

J. Edley: it makes no sense to make the symbolic gesture – we have school dropoffs every day and to just do it on Sunday is crazy. A. Behar: We are simply going to pay this for the next 4 weeks while we have the security committee meet and assess.

A. Behar: police will also be stationed doing their paperwork in our parking lot instead of elsewhere.

M. Kasdin: thanks to Hadas and Arie for a great job – they acted quickly when we went to orange alert – thanks very much.

M. Gaynor: can we also look to South Brunswick for police presence? No – we are in North Brunswick.

- Catering Committee: met with caterer; we always ask them to stick to the contract. Under the contract, we need to be out by 11 AM on Sunday mornings – including lobby. We need to do this as we always ask them to abide by the contract.
- On April 7, we have another group of kids from Israel coming.

There is a problem however. Our kids will all be at USY convention in Catskills, so we would like to send the Israeli visitors with our kids. It would cost \$240 per person; there are 17 kids coming. We have already raised some private funds, but not enough. We also need transportation money for local trips [last year it

was \$1500]. According to the subcommittee, we need this year \$2500 in addition to the \$1500 [for the convention] for a total of \$4,000.

H. Finkelstein: Have we spoken to NJ Region to make sure they have space? Yes and it looks like they can be accommodated.

M. Sherman: Can NJ Region absorb any of the costs of the Israelis? No – it's hard costs.

M. Kasdin: How does the money break down? \$2500 for busses, the rest is for the convention.

Moved [by J. Edley, second by J. Kaminsky] to allocate \$4,000 for the Israelis.

J. Baer: Why are they coming during the convention? That's when they always come – it's when they can make it.

Motion carries [12 yes, 0 no, 5 abstain]

Ways & Means [M. Sherman]

- Rachel Shaneson will be stepping down from chairing the scrip committee for many years – she has done a great job – Bobbi Bergman will be stepping up and taking over.

Activities [Alan Kane]

- We continue to struggle with available dates. We are therefore having trouble bringing in speakers, etc.
- We are looking at doing a Shabbat dinner.
- G. Warner: the softball coach is stepping down; we are looking for someone new.

School & Youth [H. Schneider]

- Wanted to meet with nursery school committee, but had absolutely no time to meet. Have read all parental input, and have decided to negotiate a new contract with Fran.
- Larry Cohen: there are some things in contract that we are trying to make consistent with other staff contracts.

Financial Secretary's Report [Gary Tinkel]

We have lost 5 members and two more have gone on financial aid.

We are now at 305 Dues Paying Equivalents. The 5 families who left have been given to membership to call.

We also are not looking good on collections either. Please let's ask Bill Greenberg to give us a report by next meeting.

C. Kleinbart: before we call them all, we should send them a letter telling them that we are going to call them and offer them assistance.

Treasurer's Report [M. Dillman]

Through February of this year, we are at positive cash flow, but we are significantly behind in dues collections. Something like \$30,000 behind where we were a year ago.

We are behind in Hebrew school as well [at least \$4,000].

Positives: fundraising doing very well.

Nursery school is now all posted and while we are ahead in revenues, expenses for nursery is higher by more.

High holidays are not as good as it seems – we budgeted \$35K; we only had pledges of \$30. Even if we collect every penny, we will still be behind.

Cash flow is still very good. \$179K in nonsequestered funds.

Men's Club [J. Edley]

Last meeting was Doctor Howard Grabelle. Was supposed to be Phil Mushnick, which will happen this month.

50+ Club [M. Gaynor]

Tuesday March 25th: speaker from Middlesex County Office of Aging talking about prescription drug coverage.

Good & Welfare [Rabbi Eligberg]

1. bible people program – this week is Rabbi David Wise talking about Joseph.
2. Beth Or Torathan is on Saturday evening.
3. Sunday evening is Israel bond night. There will be a speaker from the Israeli military speaking about her experiences. There will be a program with Israel bonds before hand.
4. The Purim carnival is on March 16th. Sons of Tikvah 11 – noon. Monday evening is megillah reading. 6 pm pizza and please bring donation for food banks. Please support mishloach manot.
5. March 22nd Saturday there will be ceremony for the culmination of the bat Torah.
6. Rabbi will be going to Princeton Theological Seminary for two-day seminar on sermons.

❖ Speedy recovery to:

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|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Bernie Adler | • Donna Glazer |
| • Arthur Cederbaum's sister | • Roz Gurney – Darryl's mother |
| • Phyllis Edley | • Susan Keller |

❖ Condolences to:

- Barney Cohn on the death of his brother William
- Lisa Warner on the death of her grandmother

❖ Mazel Tov to:

- Irwin & Michelle Millinger on becoming grandparents of Nathan Ross
- Kerry & Sheryl Olitsky on their son Avi being accepted to JTS Rabbinical School
- Cantor Bruce Rockman on his birthday
- Harold Schneider on the birth of a granddaughter

Other New Business

H. Finkelstein: on the topic of trying to check counts at the caterer's affairs – was anything ever decided? We are going to try to spot check. We should not accuse him of bad counts.

J. Kaminsky: Until now, we have had a Good Samaritan plow our snow; does this still continue. Yes, and we are sending him thank-you letters.

Motion to Adjourn

Moved by D. Greenberg, second by H. Elami. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 10:03PM.