

## B'nai Tikvah Board Meeting

Minutes: March 6, 2000

Meeting called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Mark Kasdin.

**Attendees:** M. Binder, M. Dillman, M. Kasdin, K. Riemann, A. Ross, H. Schneider, H. Finkelstein, A. Gold, S. Gordon, R. Harkov, J. Marcou, B. Rockman, J. Wolf, J. Edley, R. Levin, J. Scheuer, Rabbi Eligberg, Cantor Sared-Lever

Non-Board Guests: Shai Goldstein (Regional Director of the Antidefamation League in NJ)

Minutes distributed and reviewed. Motion to accept (M. Dillman) 2<sup>nd</sup> R. Harkov. Accepted with one abstention

## D'Var Torah: Rabbi Eligberg

Parsha this Shabbat brings us to the end of the book of Exodus. With it is the final building of the Mishkan. Intriguing is the phraseology in the Hebrew implies as if Moses himself puts up the tabernacle yet up to now we know it has been a whole army of people completing this task. This is true of synagogues today; when we have completed a major undertaking, the personal acknowledgement is possible only because of the work of many.

## Non-Members:

Shai Goldberg:

When faced with situations like the one in South Brunswick, it is important to bring in non-Jewish partners to insure that their voice is heard as well. The separation of church and state is not a Jewish issue but an American issue. The new immigrants in America are the ones most at risk currently (Buddhist, Moslem, etc) if separation of church and state is not maintained.

Chair of Civil Rights committee is planning to be in South Brunswick tomorrow night (March 8). Two handouts: an editorial from Howard Berkowitz (national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League) and a first amendment primer. The emphasis is the display on Government property, not the displays overall.

The NJ office of the Anti-Defamation League is located "officially" in West Orange. If more information is requested about the ADL programs, feel free to contact them at 973/669-9700 or via e-mail at [www.adl.org](http://www.adl.org).

March 29, EBJC: Carson Dunber will be speaking on Racial Profiling.

## Old Business:

No old business.

## New Business:

Any fundraising at board meetings should only be for specified charities. (A. Ross, H. Finkelstein 2<sup>nd</sup>). **Motion Defeated.**

**Motion** (J. Wolf, J. Edley 2<sup>nd</sup>): *Reallocate funds (up to \$1000) from current House and Grounds budget to Administrative budget to cover costs of purchasing a computer.*

Motion table (K. Riemann). 2 in favor. 9 opposed. Abstentions: 2

Upgraded computer is necessary, as software will not function on current DOS operating system but rather a Windows operating system.

Vote: 6 in favor; 4 opposed, 4 abstentions. **Motion passed.**

(Dillman reminded board that we could be over budget in House and Grounds and need to reallocate funds back to House and Grounds at a later date).

## **Reports:**

### ***Financial Secretary (Gary Tinkel)***

Absent: no report

### ***Treasurer (Marc Dillman)***

Comments/Highlights:

- Expenses according to budget
- Income:
- Behind in dues collection by \$31,000 since bills went out 3 weeks late (anticipate will catch up next month)
- Shortfall of ~\$5,000 for Nursery School income; that is incorrect since revenue information not available at time of report. In fact, we are \$27,000 ahead. (Just remember that there are months that we do not have any income).
- Net effect, we are **-\$10,000** over budget; this is a cash flow issue and don't anticipate any differences

### ***VP Admin (M. Frumkin)***

Report submitted in abstention. A report on constitution issues is included. John Wolf reviewed these changes with the following requests:

- Attempt to incorporate the views of the committee
- Next month a fuller discussion.
- Few important issues:
- Method of voting at General Membership Meetings; should alternate forms of voting be addressed
- Nominating process addressed thoroughly. Importantly, examination of timing of independent nominations
- Term of office for Board of Directors from current one year to two years. It is only "complicated" by a transition year

E-mail any thoughts or comments to John Wolf at [jbwolf@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:jbwolf@rci.rutgers.edu) or phone 732/932-7813. This needs to be addressed and voted on next month if it is to be on the agenda at the General Meeting in June.

#### Interiors Committee:

New carpeting in lobby and kiddush room. Caterer is already discussing with committee the decor of the "ball room". In order to coordinate with the sanctuary, we need to address whether or not we should re-carpet the sanctuary. Any estimates should be included in budget process.

#### *VP Activities (A. Behar)*

Jodi Marcou: Comedy night was very well attended. Importantly as well, the volunteers were not the "usual suspects". Committee did a great job of bringing in a broad range of congregants.

Mike Brown has agreed to chair "Historical Committee". The committee's goal will be to establish a historical record of the congregation.

March 23: Malcolm Holnlein and Palestinian Ambassador to United Nations are coming to Bnai Tikvah. Program is from 6-8 p.m. Cost is \$10. Light supper will be served. Consideration for providing baby-sitting services.

May: Glen Berman: Middlesex County Prosecutor speaking about hate crimes.

April 13: Husband and wife acting team: Bess and Harry Truman.

March 23: Central NJ Inaugural lecture by Rabbi Eliazar Diamond will be speaking on Passover. No cost for the lecture.

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

Michele Kleinman will not be returning next year. She has offered to assist in transition. Recommended contacting Rabbi Lankin for any assistance he can provide.

USY and Kadima Purim Carnival is Sunday, March 19 from 12:00 – 3:00.

Fran Perelman's contract will be renegotiated.

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

- Raffle will be held. Chairman is needed.
- Denomination of raffle needs to be determined.
- Calendar will incorporate more advertising. Chairman is needed
- Revenues will not be in this year unless it is moved forward
- Dinner- Dance is being held March 11.
- 85 people planning to attend
- Entertainment books still on sale
- Rummage sale chaired by Bill Greenberg
- SCRIP
- Lisa Sokol approached on a phone conversion program
- Looking for a chair for VISA Credit Card Committee. Currently bringing in ~\$400 per month.

- Explore “website” linkage participation that provides a per centage back to the Congregation.
- Mark Kasdin will send information to board for feedback.

***Sisterhood (R. Levin):***

Wine tasting on March 1. Close to 20 people attended.

Meeting Sunday: preparing non-traditional brunches.

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

**Next meeting Sunday, March 12. Gary Bergman will be speaking on building the “webmaster”**

***Fifty Plus (J. Scheurer)***

“Rolling along”. Membership over 100. Any given meeting has 60-70 attendees.

***Ritual:***

Purim is Monday, March 20. A “gala” event will be held that evening. Looking for a lot of audience participation.

***Presidents Report***

Expansion committee has hired an architect. Provided wish list. Architect also met with caterer to obtain his “wish list”. Plans are anticipated 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March. Shortly thereafter, the professional fundraisers will come to the congregation to answer some outstanding questions.

Catering committee has also been meeting to map out new contract with caterer. The board will approve any agreement with caterer.

Nominating committee chaired by M. Kasdin. Anyone not wishing to return should let Mark know.

Budget requests are due to M. Frumkin. At this time, the only budgets submitted are administration and programming.

Feedback committee survey being developed by Joel Bradus. Rabbi reviewed survey prior to mailing later this month. Responses will go to Lark fulfillment. A special board meeting will most likely be held in June to review survey results.

***Rabbi's Report***

- Petition to S. Brunswick Town Council: please sign.
- March 31: Shabbat Across America program. National program participating in that encourages unaffiliated individuals to contact congregations and “try them out”. D. Cohen is chair.
- Thursday, March 9: Federation is sponsoring program on the Jewish view of organ donation. Four presenters on different perspectives: religious, organ donor, organ recipient, and procedural aspects. Encourage all to participate.
- April (TBD): National Organ Donor Awareness Month. Plan a program around organ donation

at Bnai Tikvah.

- Rabbi is doing a program at St. Barnabas: "seder".

#### **Good & Welfare**

- Merryl Polanski is recuperating from pneumonia
- Barry Dworkin lost his father. Funeral is Wednesday, 10:30 in Staten Island. Family sitting shiva at Dworkin home.
- Craig and Candace Botnick had a baby girl (9 lbs, 4oz at birth).
- Rebecca Stoloff on road to recovery. Rebecca was home yesterday and progressing well.

Mark Kasdin made mention that Hadas at Administrators conference. Wanted to also comment that she has been doing a terrific job.

Harvey Finkelstein mentioned that President of United Synagogue just returned from a trip to Russia. The Jewish community in Russia has been rebuilt with the synagogue in Moscow being developed by Israeli architect, Maisel. The Jewish community in Moscow is thriving.

Motion to adjourn: H. Finkelstein. 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Edley.

Next board **MEETING is Monday, April 3.**