

Congregation B'nai Tikvah
Board of Directors Meeting
2 April 2012

Board members attending: Gary Bergman, Gary Wesalo, Renee Juro, Andy Ross, Linda Fellen, Ben Gottesman, Michael Weiss, Rob Blackin, Mark Kasdin, Marcie Kfare, Jeff Schwartz, Doug Smoller, Wayne Gonchar, Ruth Anne Koenick, Phil Welscher Bill Greenberg, David Cukor

Also attending: Rabbi Wolkoff, Cantor Rockman, Lynne Weiss-Marshall,

The meeting was called to order by President Gary Bergman at 8:00 p.m.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as submitted.

Rabbi Wolkoff spoke of the approaching Pesach holiday and the search for chametz. In many homes, the rabbi said, the ritual includes searching with a candle, often on our knees, in our quest to prepare for the holiday. He said this preparation at home is symbolic of a need in our lives. We must address our personal needs too, search for our own "personal" leavening and deflate any areas where we are "puffed" too much.

In the president's report, Gary Bergman described two "incredible" weekends. One was the recent Casino night for which he thanked Rob Blackin and the event committee for the great success. The second was United Synagogue's presidential leadership weekend which offered the opportunity to connect with other synagogue leaders and learn from their common predicaments and experiences. Bergman said he came away with a new appreciation for how well B'nai Tikvah has handled its own challenges.

The financial secretary, Mark Kasdin, reported 386 member families. That figure reflects a couple of deaths in the congregation, among other things. Kasdin indicated approximately \$90,000 remains outstanding more than 30 days, of which \$16,000 represents religious school fees, \$8,000 supermarket scrip and \$36,000 dues.

The treasurer, Gary Wesalo, reported that income has been running below budget but so have expenses. Income from dues and the caterer slumped in March. A \$10,000 insurance check helped keep house and grounds below expectations

For house and grounds, David Cukor said discussions are under way regarding improvements to the alarm system. He reported a problem with the water heater that impacts the caterer's kitchen and nearby bathroom. A repair is being implemented. A more expensive replacement has been forestalled for now.

Cukor advised the board of the need to address the situation with the parsonage. Some are advocating a sale of the property. He said such a decision about a significant congregation asset likely should be taken up at the congregational meeting.

There was some discussion on the parsonage and its disposition. Among the issues discussed were tax implications, sale implications, repairs and whether in the future another property might have to be acquired for some future rabbi.

Ruth Anne Koenick suggested a small committee should be formed to review the situation and make recommendations.

The report on ways and means from Jeff Cadoff was submitted by email and is appended below.

Blackin reported on the on Casino Night fund raiser. Final numbers weren't available, but it appeared preliminarily that the event achieved its income target. There were 145 attending. All the silent auction items were sold except one.

The rabbi informed the board about plans for Yom HaShoah and the presentation by author Daniel Mendelsohn.

Cantor Rockman informed the board about plans for Israeli Independence Day as well as a program of the local clergy association to raise money to feed those in need.

Koenick said the nominating committee is reaching out to some individuals already and will be calling on others soon.

There was a question regarding the possibility of refinancing the mortgage. Bergman said a committee will be formed to approach bank to discuss the possibility even though indications are the bank won't be receptive.

Bergman moves to adjourn (Hoffman seconds)

Report from VP Ways and Means

Hello All!!

I am writing my report now, as I will not be able to attend the EC or regular Board meetings this month.

As I'm sure you are all aware, the BIG Ways & Means event takes place this Saturday evening (3/31) in the Social Hall. I hope that you all plan to attend, as Casino Night will be AWESOME!!!! There will be gambling including blackjack, craps, roulette, poker, money wheel & of course Texas Hold 'em. The evening will also include amazing food from Classical Caterers, a DJ, silent auction and an open bar (my personal fave!). Thanks to Rob, Dave, Jodi, Al, Tammy, Steve, Gary, Doug, Amanda, Sharon, Craig, Gary (there were 2), Stacey, Serena, Hope, Tom & the people I forgot to name.

If you haven't made your reservations yet, please do so now. Remember, the price goes up \$25 at the door. Feel free to bring a friend or 3 as this event has definite "bottom line" impacts.

Shalom,
Jeff Cadoff
VP Ways & Means

President's Report

I recently experienced two incredible weekends that truly inspired me and made me proud to be part of this community. One was this past Saturday night at the event that Rob Blackin and his committee put together. From the perspective of everyone there, it was a great success. I don't want to steal his thunder and I'll give Rob a chance to speak about it, shortly.

The other experience I had was the previous weekend at the Sulam Leadership for Presidents convention in Newark facilitated by United Synagogue. I had no idea what to expect going in except that I thought I would feel like a fish out of water. Quite to the contrary, I immediately discovered that all the current and future presidents in attendance had roughly the same experiences and challenges as me.

In just three short days of very intensive study and sharing of experiences, I discovered that many synagogues are going through the same things that we did and I was extremely pleased and appreciative of how well B'nai Tikvah and it's previous leaders handled those problems. My mom's favorite expression is "If I only knew then what I know now..." Well, for me it's still not too late. I've got just over one more year to go on this job and there's still time for me to make a difference.