

Congregation B'nai Tikvah Board of Trustees

AGENDA

Board of Trustees Meeting, April, 2005

To foster a vibrant egalitarian Jewish community founded in the religious customs and traditions of Conservative Judaism; offering excellent [Jewish education](#) and [community activities](#) for all ages with commitment to Israel and Jewish communities throughout the world.

Call to Order	Arie Behar
Approval of January Meeting Minutes	All
D'var Torah	Rabbi Eligberg

New Business

New security system for new wing	Mitch Frumkin
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Old Business

Reports:

Financial Secretary's Report	Mark Kasdin
Treasurer's Report	Marc Dillman
Questions on VP reports	All
VP Activities report on upcoming events	Gary Bergman
Questions on auxiliary group reports	All
Good and Welfare	Rabbi Eligberg
Adjournment	All

Close Session

New contract for nursery school director	All
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Congregation B'nai Tikvah
April 4, 2005

In attendance: Janice Baer, Arie Behar, Gary Bergman, Bobbi Binder, Jeff Cadoff, Larry Cohen, Marc Dillman, Harvey Finkelstein, Mitch Frumkin, Al Garten, Cindy Gittleman, Danny Greenberg, Mark Kasdin, Ruth Anne Koenick, Allison Nagelberg, Doris Sandrowitz, Harold Schneider, Mark Sherman, Frank Waltzer, Gary Warner, Hadas Elami, Rabbi Eligberg, Cantor Rockman

Meeting called to order at 8pm by president Arie Behar

1 correction to minutes from March board meeting, Hadas was at that that meeting.

Motion to accept minutes with correction by Jeff Cadoff, seconded by Ruth Anne Koenick

In favor: 10 against 0, abstain 1

Arie just got back from Israel, stayed with friends in Ramla and had a great trip.

New Business: Mitch Frumkin got price from alarm company to add to the expansion, this was not in the original budget.

Motion by Mitch:

To approve the proposal from ADT to install alarm system in the new building at cost of \$5,455, which will include motion detectors, doors. There will be an annual charge to service and maintain the system at a cost of \$1764

Seconded by Jeff Cadoff.

Janice feels that we should get Ben Shapiro involved because he did all the research for our existing building. Hadas has been involved with this and can answer any questions. This is a burglar alarm not a security system.

Motion withdrawn so that Hadas can do further research.

Danny: Adding position in the office. Originally a full time highly paid position, proposed over one year ago. Our finances then were not what they are now. Does not feel it is appropriate to hire someone at that level now. Proposing a part time 20 hours per week employee at \$20 per hour.

Vote to decide whether we should continue discussion with professionals in the room.

10 in favor 5 against.

Motion by Danny Greenberg:

To approve the job responsibility description for this new position, which is to explore creative ways of marketing the use of our building for sports, recreation, fitness, educational, religious, cultural and entertainment activities (and anything else you can think of) and execute on those plans.

Seconded by Gary Warner

Marc Dillman pointed out that we do not have the money in the budget to cover the expense of this position. But, we do need to invest in his position to generate revenue.

Arie feels that this cannot be a volunteer position.

Mitch feels that we have to take this step.

Motion withdrawn until later because it may tie into a discussion later tonight.

Gary Warner: Dinner dance report. A huge success. Many people attended who had not been at previous events. 14 of the 17 past presidents attended. It was a fun filled evening. We raised in excess of \$28000. We had almost 150 advertisers. \$3,000 will

be going towards the opening of the new wing. We therefore netted over \$25,000. The gifts that were presented to the past presidents were beautiful and had a lot of meaning. Positive feedback from the presidents. Next year's event will probably be a casino night, Gary has agreed to chair the event.

Janice: Social action met last week and had an idea to have an artist from our synagogue do a mosaic drawing that people could contribute to, for a cost, the proceeds to go toward a yet undetermined charity.

Motion by Janice:

To allow social action committee to develop a piece of artwork, board approved to put on the wall of the new wing.

Seconded by Cindy Gittleman.

Discussion: This wall has been designated as the donor wall. Rabbi suggested that this be done as a freestanding piece of art that could be hung anywhere.

Rabbi suggested that we find out what was done in the past as far as plaques go.

Janice needs clarification as to whom she should talk to.

Kasdin pointed out that level of recognition for anyone who gave over \$1800.

Mark Kasdin was asked by Arie to form a committee to decide if there will be a donor wall and where it will be.

Rabbi suggested we use the existing donor wall.

Cindy thinks that we can combine the two ideas.

Motion withdrawn.

Old Business: Last month Marc Dillman asked how the rooms were going to be used.

Janice came with a floor plan,

Jeff questioned the position of the Sisterhood storage spot, that it really needs to be used for stage storage.

Question about the size of the youth lounge.

Reports: Financial secretary, Mark Kasdin. 449 members, 85 on special arrangements, 295 DPE.

There are a few members who wait until the last minute to pay their bill. We need the money on an ongoing quarterly basis. Can we tack on late charges to our dues? Ruth Anne wants to know what our gains and losses would be. Kasdin is not sure. This is about 12 families. Janice suggested an early bird payment, but it was felt that this would be a bookkeeping nightmare. Suggestion that we take credit card information so that we can just collect this money.

Kasdin will let us know demographics of the families who are late in paying.

Past president's report: Mitch Frumkin. Expansion. Floor has been started in multi purpose room, plumbing fixtures going in, by end of next week we should be done with the building. This doesn't include the CO. Once the multipurpose room floor has been laid it cannot be walked on for seven days.

Gary Bergman: Phenomenal attendance at adult ed programs in March. Rabbi will be giving a 15-step program for two weeks about Seders.

Membership: Cindy Gittleman. 136 members invited to the Chai member club. These names will be listed in Hakol as well.

VP administration, Danny.

Roof is repaired as needed.

What's going on with board installation, Arie wanted to know. June 24th.

Treasurer' report: Marc Dillman. Reviewed report.

House and grounds is over budget and cannot spend any more money unless they come to the board first.

Invoices were paid that put the budget over. Mitch feels there were administrative circumstances that couldn't have been foreseen.

Auxiliary Group Reports

Sisterhood: Ruth Anne thanked everyone who contributed to the Purim box fundraiser. Reminded everyone that Passover wine orders are now due. Passover flower orders are still being taken. Part of the proceeds from Purim went to buy Purim boxes for Israeli soldiers.

Rabbi: Whose budget does Torah restoration fund come from? There is a fund.

Good and Welfare:

R'fuah Sh'layma/speedy recover:

Lisa Sokol, surgery Friday at RWJ; Bernie Binder, heart attack; Rob Robison at RWJ, Donna Glazer, recuperating in Florida following liver transplant surgery.

Hamakom Y'nahem/condolences:

Linda Jacob on the death of her brother Mitchell; Marcie Finkelstein on the death of her father Jack Stern

Mazel Tov:

Eileen and Marty Zweig on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Amanda; Mark and Joella Jiorle on the birth of their daughter Shayna; Matt and Beth Schurman on the birth of their daughter Abigail; Steve and Fern Korn on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Justin; Sandy and Yitzhak Sharon on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Dina; Alexander Mevorah who took second place in the T-shirt contest by Federation for the Walk for Israel; Dr. Richard Angrist and Shelley Angrist on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Brett; Barry and Berenice Levine on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter April; Danny and Lois Krantz on the engagement of their daughter Lori.

Motion to adjourn made Mark Sherman, seconded by Ruth Anne Koenick.

Activities VP Report

Gary Bergman

April 2005

Website/Communications

It was brought to my attention that there exists robot software that scans websites to glean phone numbers for telemarketers. I have since taken steps to recode all phone numbers on the website, using JavaScript to render them programmatically unreadable.

There are now over 380 subscribers to our weekly CBT Newsletter. However, only a small percentage of members have registered their subscription using a Yahoo-id. A Yahoo-id is required for members who wish to view the Board's Minutes which are stored online at: groups.yahoo.com/group/btannounce/files

Hakol

Paul & Nancy continue to produce an outstanding publication for our members. They often find it frustrating, however, when submission guidelines aren't followed. In order to keep costs down (both for mailing and production), it is most important that flyers and handouts to be sent with the Hakol, be submitted in sufficient time (i.e. the 15th of the month) to the Hakol Editors and not to the synagogue office at the last minute. If you submit your forms to the Webmaster, I will make them available online and work with the Hakol editors to put them in the best format.

Adult Education

Thanks to the hard working members of our Adult Education committee, we've had one of best attended seasons in years. A few weeks ago, Dr. Jeff Shandler was setting up for his presentation when we barely had enough people for Minyan. Miraculously, at 7:55pm people started pouring in (literally with the rain) and we had over 50 attendees for the evening. Based on emails I've received from a few non-members, I anticipate Rabbi Eligberg's sessions on "How to Spice Up Your Seder" to continue to bring in the crowds this month.

Due to the holidays and personal schedules of both teacher and students, Larry Cohen's class on "Reading Hebrew" is being extended a few more weeks to allow everyone to complete the course.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

APRIL 2005

Cindy Gittleman

1. CHAI MEMBER'S CLUB:

The opening event for the Chai Member's Club will take place on May 15th. It will be a social evening to kick off this new membership group. 136 families will be invited to attend. The hope is to keep our members active who have been longtime members of the synagogue.

2. TEE SHIRTS:

B'nai Tikvah wear was well received this year and will continue to be sold. Come the Spring we will begin to sell again on Sundays, but tee shirts can always be requested for purchase on the website.

3. PROSPECT LIST:

Membership keeps and active up-to-date list of prospective members who have shown an interest in B'nai Tikvah. For a copy of this list to invite to a synagogue event, please contact Cindy Gittleman.

4. "A VERY SWEET ONEG SHABBAT" : Membership will host the Friday night Oneg Shabbat on June 24th to say "Thank You" to the many, many members of our synagogue who have helped over the past 25 years keep B'nai Tikvah full of activity and community spirit. This invitation will be in the May Hakol and combined with the 2005 Installation of new Officers for the synagogue.

Mitch Frumkin
Past President

Monthly Report March 2005
Date of Report: April, 2005

Construction:

In order to give a better idea of how the construction has been proceeding I have prepared the following list of the primary contractors and their percentage complete along with a commentary regarding the project schedule and any anticipated extras. Also presented is a list of work still not under contract.

Current Status of budgeted items:

1. Masonry	99%	
2. HVAC	95%	
3. Electrical	99%	
4. Plumbing	90%	
5. Windows and Exterior Doors	100%	
6. Fire Protection System	95%	
7. EIFS (stucco exterior)	90%	
8. Steel studs and drywall	99%	
9. Miscellaneous iron work	100%	
10. Ceilings	100%	All ceilings in except MPR
11. Bathroom partitions	0%	ready to install
12. Flooring (except MP room)	50%	
13. MP room flooring	0%	in process
14. Painting	99%	
15. MP Room door	99%	installed and ready for electrical
16. Classroom accordion door	100%	installed
17. Barrier free lift	100%	
18. Gas line	100%	complete
19. Basketball hoops	100%	

The heat is on for all of the building. The vinyl flooring has been installed in all classrooms and should be finished in all areas except the entrance area by the April 8th. The stage floor has been installed and still needs to be sanded and finished. The handicap ramp adjacent to the stage has been installed. The ceramic tile in the bathrooms has been installed and the bathroom fixtures have been delivered and will be installed the week of April 4th along with the bathroom partitions and counter tops. The water connection at the rear of the building was finalized this past week. The sprinkler system is complete and has been pressure tested. The HVAC system is complete and is in the process of being balanced. It has been determined that the fire detection system price was not included in the original contractor's budget. This work has been awarded to ADT security and is in the process of being installed.

In response to the Attorneys letter to the Contractor, he has contacted us about setting up a meeting to talk about our claim. Our Attorney has sent a letter to the contractor in an attempt to expedite the meeting. In parallel, all information has been sent to the Architect for certification of the amount of our claim.

Feedback Committee

The Feedback Committee has not met as we have not received any feedback from the Congregation although we have been advertising in Hakol.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee has met a number of times and will be presenting the following slate at the Congregational Meeting for the next Executive Committee. We are meeting again at the end of April to work on our recommendations for the open Board positions. If anyone has any suggestions, please let me know.

Proposed Slate for EC

President	Dan Greenberg
VP Administration	Gary Bergman
VP Activities	Cindy Gittleman
VP School and Youth	Jeff Cadoff
VP Membership	Ruth Ann Koenig

VP Administration Report

**April 4th, 2005
Danny Greenberg**

House & Grounds

- Now that spring seems to be upon us, we are making efforts to get the worst parts of the parking lot holes filled. We hope to have this done in the next month, but it is difficult to secure asphalt at this time.
- Construction of the Cantor's new office is complete, and he has moved in.
- Next step is to set up the other half of the old youth lounge as a chapel. We have permanent pews that are being donated to us – the good news is that all we have to do is pick them up. The bad news is that we have to go to East Rockaway, NY (about 5 miles past JFK Airport) to get them. We have the use of a truck; what we need now are people to help. PLEASE CONTACT JEFF CADOFF OR DAN GREENBERG TO VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME. We will try to arrange for a Sunday morning.
- Repairs of the tiled entrance are completed – we now have a paving block walkway that is MUCH less slippery.

Budget

- Budget Committee continues Sunday nights.

Religious Activities

- Kudos to Bobbi Binder, Dorothy Cohen and Gale Dillman and the rest of the team that put together a fantastic Purim celebration. The RAC successfully hosted the Shushan Market on March 24th, which was attended by over 200 people. Pizza dinner was free, however we did receive donations to help offset the costs. There were games and activities for the children followed by the Megillah reading.
- New siddurim have been ordered. They will be embossed with "Congregation B'nai Tikvah." We are aiming to introduce the siddurim at Friday night services on June 10th in conjunction with Sisterhood installation.

- We have received replacements for the poorly bound Aitz Chaim Chumashim at no charge to the congregation.
- The faux treif Purim Dinner was a huge success with over 70 people in attendance.
- On May 4th BT will be holding a Yom Hashoah program along with the clergy association.

Personnel

- Interviewing for bookkeeper position continues.

VP of Ways and Means Monthly Report

April 4, 2005

Mark Sherman

Supermarket Scrip & Retail Scrip: Marc Binder is doing a job leading the charge on selling the scrip. It is not a job to be done by one person. We either need support from other congregant or we need to evaluate the program existence. We are very aware of the issues going on in the program and we need people to help!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We are making money despite the issues.

The Event: This years event was a HUGH Success. Thank you everyone who bought tickets, sold ads, and made this happen. Thank you Gary Warner for chairing the event. I believe everyone had a great time and we raised money. We have raised in excess of \$25,000 with budgeting money for a congregational event in the fall for the opening of the new building. I looking forward to next year event and the support from the many of you again.

Printer Cartridges: We are collecting ink jet cartridges. There is a box in the office please just drop them off. We have sent in a box and are sitting on several new boxes to be sent out. CBT will receive \$2.00 per cartridge. We have received several hundred dollars so please keep on bringing in the cartridges.

E-Bay: Bonnie Kudwitt has volunteered to run this fund raiser. I believe this has potential to be a premier fund raiser. Please bring in any item that would fit in a box that we can sell on E-bay . If you have any question or you want to help E-mail Bonnie at Ebay@BnaiTikvah.org