

Minutes from Board Meeting
April 8, 2004

In attendance: Arie Behar, Gary Bergman, Bobbi Binder, Jeff Cadoff, Larry Cohen, Marc Dillman, Mitch Frumkin, Cindy Gittleman, Ruth Anne Koenick, Dan Greenberg, Naomi Jackenthal, Mark Kasdin, Doris Sandrowitz, Mark Sherman, Gary Tinkel, Gary Warner, Paul Zankel, Keith Zimmerman
Rabbi Eligberg, Hadas Elami,
Special guests: Marty Abschutz, Bill Greenberg
Meeting called to order by Arie Behar at 8:03pm.
Motion to approve minutes by Dan Greenberg, seconded by Naomi. Minutes approved.

President's report: SCRIP COMMITTEE has changed the way scrip is sold. The office and committee have boxes that are closed out at the end of each day with \$3000. Still problems with reconciliation of account prior to this change.

Naomi wanted to know about retail scrip, feels that there is not always availability. Ruth Anne clarified that it is available when the gift shop is open or contact her.

VP change: Harold Schneider no longer school and youth VP, he has stepped down, Bobbi Binder will replace him for 3 months. Budget will be prepared next week.

16 Israelis have been in North/South Brunswick as part of our Israel exchange program, they are having a great time. A group leaves for Israel from our synagogue in 2½ weeks. We therefore need to change the next board meeting from May 3rd to 10th This needs to be worked out since there is a Sisterhood board meeting that night.

Next month Rabbi review, members who have comments should forward them to the committee.

Publishing agenda in email: Positive response from publishing reports in Hakol.

Suggestion that we also publish the agenda and minutes via email.

Mitch: Shouldn't send out minutes before they are approved by the board.

Gary: Can't send attachments via the one-list. Can send link with password from Yahoo.com. BTannounce is the group.

D'var Torah: Rabbi Eligberg.

New Business:

1. "What is the budget process all about?" Presentation by Marty Abschutz, copies were handed out.

We are currently in the process of completing the budget. Anyone who has an impact on the budget needs to get those numbers to the committee by Sunday, April 11th

Marty thanked committee members: RuthAnne Koenick, Mark Roller, Marc Binder, Dan Greenberg, Arie Behar, Hadas Elami, Marc Dillman.

Arie added that the expansion's impact on our budget could be tremendous. We have therefore added an additional meeting to discuss this on April 19th

Construction presentation by Mitch Frumkin:

Hard costs= What it costs to build the building

Soft costs = Architecture, etc.

We initially received 3 bids to do the job. After much discussion, we went with the lowest bidder. It has come to our attention that there are cost overruns with regards to the project. There have been some delays, but we are now moving along quite rapidly.

There has been a slow down recently due to the fact that we needed to wait for the outside block to arrive. This has now occurred.

Construction cost status:

Original contract

Base: \$1,513,000

Contingency: \$75,000

Total \$1,588,500

Included: \$125,000 Construction fee (profit for constructor)

Changes being made to original contract: Looking for board approval for these changes.

Committee working on raising more funds, they feel that we can get \$200,000 from new congregants and members who didn't contribute during the first wave of the campaign.

2. Marc Dillman:

B'nai Tikvah Expansion Project Financial Projections as of March 31, 2003

In June 2002, when the Board presented to the congregation the plans for the enhanced building project, the financing expectations were as follows (which included a Full Dues Paying Equivalent (FDPE) dues increase of \$87):

	<u>6/02</u>
Revenue	<u>1239</u>
Non-Construction	387
Construction	<u>1550</u>
Total Project	<u>1937</u>
New Financing	698
Old Mortgage	<u>1150</u>
New Mortgage	1848
Actual Mortgage	1848
Shortage	0

In May 2003, when contracts were signed and construction was about to begin the financial projections changed primarily due to an increase in interest income due to the delay in beginning the project, a small increase in "non-pledged" donations and the "actual" construction costs, including contingencies becoming known.

Due to the delay in beginning the project the then current mortgage balance was less than originally projected, and even though the new financing requirements were higher, the overall financing amount was reduced. With a small increase in the financing rates the projected impact on members dues remained the same at \$87 per FDPE

	<u>5/31/2003</u>
Revenue	<u>1251</u>
Non-Construction	390
Construction	<u>1588</u>
Total Project	<u>1978</u>

New Financing	727
Old Mortgage	1097
New Mortgage	1824
Actual Mortgage	1824
Shortage	0

Now in March 2003, as the project is moving along, the financial projections now show a shortage of net revenue. Revenue projections again increased due to additional interest income and a small increase in "non-pledged" donations. Due to changes in plans, non-construction costs, primarily architectural fees, increased significantly. In addition, the projected cost of construction also increased due primarily to difficulties with the general contractor. The construction costs are still an estimate due to contingent change orders.

The new mortgage was closed in November 2003, and the long term financing was fixed at the maximum permitted by the bank at \$1,800,000. This continued to equate to the original impact to member dues at \$87 per FDPE.

As the construction nears completion, the actual construction costs become firmer and the likelihood of any savings there are limited. Consequently, we are now faced with a shortage that can only be made up by additional pledges.

	<u>3/31/2004</u>
Revenue	1269
Non-Construction	440
Construction	1660
Total Project	2100
New Financing	831
Old Mortgage	1077
New Mortgage	1908
Actual Mortgage	1800
Shortage	108

In all the projections depicted above, it was denoted that all pledges would be honored. Further, if any pledges were not honored, they would have to be made up by other additional pledges.

3. Arie: Problem collecting dues and religious school tuition from one member for almost two years. Many attempts were made to collect this money and the family was told that they only needed to pay tuition. Bounced checks, etc. Took scrip, left a check, which bounced and spent the scrip. Arie didn't know how to revoke membership, need 3/4 vote of board to do so. Need to change the constitution to change how we do this in the future.

The member did not come us with a hardship story.

Motion: Revoke the membership of specific member who has never paid bills in last two years. The family has been involved since 2002.

Seconded by Gary Tinkel.

Hadas: Family has not paid one penny since they joined almost two years ago. Dues were assessed at minimum.

The man has one child in the religious school and one who is not.

Change language to say "family".

Gary Tinkel: Feels that family's actions were malicious.

Amend motion to revoke membership and give scholarship to child for religious school.

Change not accepted by Danny.

Call question: Ruth Anne

Vote on motion: 14 for, 1 against, 2 abstain. Motion passes.

Mitch: Motion "To provide scholarship for the child to complete this year of religious school."

Seconded by: Jeff Cadoff

Discussion: We are not the only synagogue around, setting a standard that may not be a good one. Rabbi feels that we should let her finish out the rest of the year.

Motion called by Mark Sherman

Vote on motion: 10 in a favor, 4 against, 3 abstain. Motion passes.

Arie will send a letter to let the family know the board's decision.

Marc Dillman: Does the committee know who this person is? Hadas told us that the committee does know.

Family must pay full dues if they want to come back.

No definition on constitution regarding what a member in good standing is.

A member behind in dues 3/4 is the rule that Gary Tinkel has been using.

Gary Tinkel motion: "Any member who is behind more than 2 full quarters in their dues commitment will be considered a member not in good standing. This includes dues from the previous fiscal year."

When a member is not in good standing, they will not be permitted the full benefits of Synagogue membership which include the following:

- Registering their children for religious school

- Receiving tickets for the high holy days

- Allowing their children to receive bar/bat mitzvah lessons

- Receiving a member discount for nursery school tuition.

Seconded by Marc Dillman

Paul Zankel called the motion.

Vote on motion: 17 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain. Motion passes

Motion to amend constitution regarding procedure for revoking membership.

Gary Tinkel: New language for Article IV section 5:

"A member may be suspended or expelled by a three fourths vote of the board of directors at any regular or special meeting for conduct which results in egregious harm to the Jewish community.

"A member may also be suspended or expelled for failure to pay dues, fees, religious school tuition or assessments as prescribed in Article VI by the financial secretary and president. Failure to pay dues is defined for suspension, as nonpayment for a full year or four consecutive quarters of the items described above."

Seconded by Keith Zimmerman.

Jeff Cadoff wants to include pledges in this motion. Accepted by Gary.

Vote on motion: In favor: 10, opposed 4, abstain: 3. Motion passes.

This now goes to the constitution committee and will be presented at the constitutional general meeting which will take place in June.

Old Business:

Mitch Frumkin- Nominating committee is being formed, he needs the reps for this committee.

Financial Secretary Report: Gary Tinkel: 441 members, 303 full dues paying equivalent, 91 special arrangements.

VP reports: School and Youth report not sent out. Our synagogue will take part in the Israeli day parade on May 23, 2004.

Gary Bergman: VP Activities. This Wednesday there will be a program on living wills.

Thursday night will be Presidents and first ladies presentation.

Marc Dillman: treasurer's report handed out.

We should be getting results of audit soon, according to Mitch.

Need figures from VPs for expenses from April through June of this year.

New Business: Marc Dillman, we support Solomon Schechter ad journal and Marc wants us to put in half page for \$500.00.

Motion: "To make \$500.00 available to put an ad in the Solomon Schechter ad journal."

Seconded by Mitch Frumkin.

Amendment: no particular family gets credit for this ad.

Vote on motion: In favor: 17, against 0, abstain 0. Motion passes.

Auxiliary groups: **Sisterhood report:** Slate for 2004/2005 has gone out, voting on dMay 10th. May meeting, visit to the Tenement Museum in New York. Thanked people who purchased wine and flowers for Passover and would like to see more people purchasing wine in the future.

Arie: JNF tournament featuring Nicks players. Looking for team of three players to participate. Anyone interested should let Arie know. All fees have been covered already. Gary Bergman will publicize this.

Rabbi: Salute to Israel parade - B'nai Tikvah be at the back of the parade so we can attend the Israeli bond breakfast at our synagogue. Passed out sheet for walk for Israel. Sons of Tikvah will be performing that day. Leaving for Israel in a few weeks. Looking forward to the trip. B'chor Holiim committee has become more active. Phone calls, meals, visits to hospitals. Yasher koach to Cheryl Olitzky for performing this mitzvah.

Good and Welfare:

Hamakom Y'naham:

Joyce Fishelberg on the death of her mother, Marci Abschutz on the death of her mother, Sylvia Koshner, Judy Roller on the death of her mother, Marvin Stark on the death of his sister, Deb Spigner on the death of her mother, Deborah Goldsmith on the death of her father,

R'fuah Sh'layma:

Avi Olitzky, Bernie Binder, Elaine Brackup, Stephen Coopersmith, Millie Rosloff

Mazel Tov:

Dan and Caryl Greenberg on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Joshua, Marvin and Phyllis Dantowitz on the birth of 2 grandsons, Jodi and David Marcou on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Steven

Mark Kasdin: Commented on the great work that Arie, Mitch and Paul have done on the construction committee.

Arie thanked Alan Kane for all his work on the Israel exchange committee.

Motion to adjourn by Mark Sherman.

Seconded by Doris Sandrowich

Congregation B'nai Tikvah Board of Trustees

AGENDA

Board of Trustees Meeting, April 8 2004

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 and Welcome

Arie Behar

Approval of March Meeting Minutes

All

President's Report and EC Meeting Update

Arie Behar

D'var Torah

Rabbi Eligberg

Guest Member proposal for new garden

Scott Katz

New Business

Presentation of Budget process and discussion
regarding budget committee procedures

Marty Abschutz

Construction presentation and motion regarding
continued relationship with Grant Builders

Mitch Frumkin

Motion to define member in good standing
Motion to amend constitution regarding procedure for
revoking membership

Gary Tinkel

Danny Greenberg

Old Business

Reports:

Financial Secretary's Report

Gary Tinkel

Treasurer's Report

Marc Dillman

Questions on VP reports

VP activities report on upcoming events

Gary Bergman

Questions on auxiliary group reports

Good and Welfare

Rabbi Eligberg

Adjournment

All

Due to President, Rabbi and VP traveling to Israel, proposal to change our next Board of Trustees Meeting to May 10, 2004

**Report to the Board
VP, Administration
April 8, 2004**

1. One estimate has been received for patching parking lot until permanent solution is implemented after construction is finished; awaiting another estimate. We are trying to minimize both amount of work and dollar amount – any patching we do will just be ripped up in several months. We must do something however.
2. We have signed a contract to replace all lighting fixtures in the building with newer, more energy-efficient models. We are receiving rebates from the state for doing this and the cash outlay on our part is minimal.
3. We continue to explore maintenance alternatives and have received proposals from several companies. These are currently being evaluated but the bottom line is that maintenance will be a more expensive item in next year's budget.

**Activities VP Report
April 2004**

Programming

Our last "Theatre Night" event will be next Thursday at 8Pm.
"Presidents & Their First Ladies" promises to be an entertaining evening, as it has been for the past few years, coordinated by Ann Gold. One difficulty this year is that they performed this same show just last week for Brandeis and a similar one elsewhere in central Jersey. I hope next year we can book them earlier in their New Jersey tour schedule.

Adult Education

Wednesday April 14th our Adult ed program will feature a seminar on "Living Wills" presented by Shelia Hordon and Rabbi Eligberg.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT
April, 2004**

1. B'NAI TIKVAH-WEAR

Our new Synagogue Tees are on sale now! We will be selling shirts on selected Sunday mornings during Religious school hours and can be ordered through the website and by the order form in the Hakol. Join the fun!

2. PROSPECT LIST

We are maintaining a very active list of families in the area who have shown interest in B'nai Tikvah and inviting them to events at the synagogue throughout the year. Please continue to submit names of neighbors, friends or relatives who may have moved to the area, and may be looking for a synagogue. We will be advertising open houses this spring/summer.

3. CHAI ANNIVERSARY SHABBAT

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Our Chai Anniversary Shabbat Celebration for members who are celebrating 18-22 years of membership with B'nai Tikvah, will be held June 26, 2004. About 35 families will be honored. For more information about the event, please contact Mark Roller at 732-297-7055 or Mark.Roller@BnaiTikvah.org

Thank you,
Cindy Gittleman

Men's Club Report April, 2004

Thanks to all who were part of the "assembly line" to package the yellow candles distributed to the congregation. It was a coordinated effort and Ed Birch's call for help in this project was well received by the members who rallied to help expedite this process. We are asking for contributions of \$18.00 (or more) to cover the costs and allow the Club to make a meaningful contribution to a worthy charitable organization.

The April 11th meeting will feature Dave Kaplan, the director of the Yogi Berra museum, which is located on the Montclair State University campus. Dave is a most interesting speaker and is a wealth of knowledge on the New York Yankees and Yogi Berra in particular. hopefully, he'll bring some Yogi expressions with him to share with the group. My own favorite is "when you get to the fork in the road.....take it ". I'm old enough to have seen Yogi play back in the mid to late 50's.....He was absolutely one of the greatest clutch players of that era.

May's meeting will feature Marty Kasdan who appeared before our group a few years ago. He is an executive with the most prominent chain of Jewish Funeral Chapels. He plans to share with us some historical facts and some myths regarding his business. Marty is a fascinating, knowledgeable speaker and I urge all of you to attend this program. Also note that Marty has addressed our age appropriate youngsters in our religious school and was well received by students, staff and parents.

Ed Birch has also announced that the Men's Club will sponsor a trip to the Trenton Thunder game in June. The Thunder is the New York Yankee AA minor league affiliate. You'll be able to see some of the future stars as they work their way up to the "Big Show". Kosher box lunches, admission to the game and coupons for parking and a soft beverage will be part of the package negotiated by Men's Club. We estimate the total price per person to be about \$20.00 per person. There's not a bad seat in the ball park.....You'll be close to all of the action. Watch for details shortly

VP of Ways and Means Monthly Report

April 6, 2004

Supermarket Scrip & Retail Scrip: We have brought Lisa Siedman and Morton Wurmbrand to help Bobby Bergman from financial side. Bobby will still run personnel and distribution. They are continuing to work hard. The Sisterhood is still working hard selling retail scrip. Please continue to support them by buying scrip and buy helping to sell.

The Event: Was a great success!!!! I would like to thank Gary Warner for chairing the event. He had a great team in place Cindy Gittleman, Gary Bergman, Tom Peters, and new additions of Nancy Zankel, Ira Heisler, Stacey Cadoff. We made about \$13,000.00, which was less then I was hoping for. We need more new help for our event next year. We are planning on a new venue. Anyone who has interest in helping please call Mark Sherman at 732-940-1110 or Gary Warner 732-422-9292.

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.

Car Donation: We have set up a program to take donated cars. An ad has been placed in the upcoming Hakol. Detail to follow. We have had some interest so far. We have taken in 7 or 8 cars worth over \$2000 .