

Congregation B'nai Tikvah

Board Meeting Minutes of Meeting April 9th, 2003

Note: This meeting was originally scheduled for Monday, April 7th, but was postponed due to the weather.

Attendees:

Janice Baer	Cindy Gittleman	Harold Schneider
Arie Behar	Dan Greenberg	Mark Sherman
Gary Bergman	Alan Kane	Gary Tinkel
Hadas Elami	Mark Kasdin	Gary Warner
Rabbi David Eligberg	Ruth Anne Koenick	Keith Zimmerman
Mitch Frumkin	Jodi Marcou	
Madeline Gaynor	Cantor Bruce Rockman	

16 votes present

Not Attending:

Larry Cohen	Harvey Finkelstein	Cyndi Kleinbart
Marc Dillman	Naomi Jackenthal	
Jerry Edley	Jerry Kaminsky	

Non-Board Guests

Ben Shapiro

Call to Order [Mitch Frumkin]

Meeting called to order at 8:02 PM by Mitch Frumkin.

Approval of Previous Minutes [All]

Delayed until arrival of quorum.

D'var Torah [Rabbi Eligberg]

The rapid approach of Pesach has me thinking about the Hagaddah; "in every generation, each of us should be as if we personally came out of Egypt". For our ancestors, liberation had two different meanings. The first is freedom from physical oppression. But, in the Haggadah, the physical liberation is the smallest part of the story.

The other strand of freedom is liberation from idolatry and the development of monotheism. Physical liberation was necessary, but the further struggle for spiritual freedom goes on from generation to generation.

In the context of today, the physical liberation of Iraq has been very fast, but the spiritual liberation is the much more daunting, and more difficult task that will require constant vigilance.

Recently, several senators lambasted Senator Kerrey because he questioned President Bush. He was accused of being unpatriotic. The day that someone can criticize this same way in Iraq is the day that spiritual liberation has come to Iraq and its people. Let's all hope that day comes soon. Amen

President's Report [Mitch Frumkin]

- There is an issue with the VP Membership position that was voted on by the Board about a year ago. The Nominating Committee never filled that position. It has come to our attention that at least one member intends to raise an objection at the upcoming congregational meeting to the position, because although the position was approved by the Board, it was never approved by the Congregation [and amended in the Constitution]. According to the Constitution, there needs to be a special Constitutional Meeting to approve the change – no one is sure whether the change was ever approved because the minutes from that meeting are unavailable. Recollections discussed by entire Board.

According to Article XV, Amendments [which include creation of a new VP position] require a constitutional general membership meeting, which requires specific notice provisions different from a regular general membership meeting. We will hold the meetings on the same night, back-to-back. Hadas will ensure that the correct notices for each meeting are followed.

- Feedback Committee. Marty Abschutz has indicated that he can no longer serve due to time constraints. Because of the knowledge that the position brings with it, it makes sense to have the immediate past president shall be chair of feedback committee. Mitch will step up to fill the role starting at the end of his term. Remember that the role of the Feedback Committee is NOT to review the cantor and rabbi. It is to take feedback from the congregation to the clergy and vice versa. Gary Bergman will coordinate with Hakol to get a blurb in Hakol.
- Mitch passed around letter that he had sent to Ken Larini, who plows the snow from our parking lot *gratis*. **See scanned letter, Appendix I.**
- Mitch read a letter that was sent to him from Arlene and Arthur Cederbaum in appreciation of support received when his sister died. **See scanned letter, Appendix II.**
- The B'nai mitzvah is buying a new torah cover – concern over the color.

New Business [All]

- Security Committee Recommendations [Ben Shapiro]
 1. Panic Buttons – we have a system that was put in place when trailers were here; they call the police directly. We currently have 4, looking to buy 20 more.

Discussion: J. Baer: worried about false alarms. M. Frumkin: we can Velcro them to the walls, high up. That would make them too attractive to kids looking for mischief. G. Tinkel: do the alarms ring in the building as well? No, that would be a significant, costly upgrade. J. Marcou: why 20? 4 nursery school, 12 Hebrew school, 1 rabbi, 1 admin, etc. D. Greenberg: we should make the teachers, etc. financially responsible for the buttons. No. B. Shapiro: right now, on shabbas/holidays, the rabbi is the only one on the premises who has panic button, suggest that's a mistake. We also need to include in policies and procedures. Comes out of house & grounds

2. Police Presence. It would be cost approximately \$9,920 to continue the existing police presence for the rest of the fiscal year [end of July, 2003]. A. Behar: Personally, I don't think we need police presence. There is no consensus on security committee on the need for police presence. M. Frumkin: We need a professional recommendation. If we stop the police and something happens, then we've made the decision without a professional recommendation. H. Elami: Of the other temples that we checked with in the area [6] – none pay for police presence. M. Frumkin: We need to have a written report in the file to show the research we've done. M. Gaynor: Let's check with the police department themselves to see what they recommend; they should know what the best course of action should be. G. Tinkel: Other shuls don't get the police unless there is an active threat. Have we ever had a threat? No. K. Zimmerman: What about Anshei Emet? They don't pay. We have already done the research; we should type it up and use it as the basis for stopping the police cost. M. Kasdin: It seems that the local police isn't cooperating – why don't we talk to the mayor? A. Behar: Absolutely not necessary – they are cooperating very well. The captain promised better presence. A. Behar: The panic buttons are more important than having the police presence. M. Frumkin: how long will it take to get panic buttons? Don't know. May need to do upgrades to system first. Moved [by M. Sherman, second by A. Behar] to stop paying for police as of midnight tonight until further notice. J. Baer: Let the record reflect that we contacted at least 6 other shuls and none pay for police presence. Hadas will forward by weeks end a report of all the outside sources. **[Note: See attached email, Appendix III]** B. Shapiro: Suggest that the motion be tabled until the buttons are acquired. M. Sherman: Disagree – one has nothing to do with the other. A. Behar: Amend the motion to give the VP Administration discretion to change policy as he sees fit. Amendment accepted. D. Greenberg: Amend the motion so that if VP changes the policy, the change needs to be considered at the next board meeting. Amendment accepted. Motion Approved [15 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain]

H. Elami: What about the issue of locked door on Shabbas? G. Warner: what other gaps are we not addressing? Everything else: glass break detectors, communications upgrades, etc., those numbers will be in place before the budget committee. B. Shapiro: the Hebrew School has NEVER done fire drills. Harold will take care of it. B. Shapiro: There is also the issue of lockdown drills; they have not been done either. H. Elami: We went through the drills with the teachers, but they have not been done with the kids. J. Baer: South Brunswick is not doing lockdown drills – we don't need to either. M. Frumkin: What do we do to train our teachers? J. Baer: Right, there should be staff training, but the kids don't need to be panicked. M. Frumkin: Harold, can you talk to teachers to determine the training involved?

Approval of Previous Minutes [All]

Moved by J. Baer, second by G. Tinkel to adopt minutes of March 3rd. Motion approved [15 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain]

Board of Trustees Installation Dinner [G. Warner]

We will be having a dinner to honor outgoing and incoming boards on Friday, June 27th at 6:30 PM. The dinner will be catered by Classical Caterers, and will be about 1½ hours. As dinner chairman, propose that we pay for board members; spouses

and guests would be \$18 per person. The board would be paying for 27 people; cost would be \$550. R. Koenick: sisterhood does the same thing; same policies. M. Kasdin: I support the idea of the dinner, but I think that it's bush league to not pay for spouses. Everyone on this board has gone above and beyond the call, and we should pay for everyone, including spouses. A. Behar: I disagree. We don't want the membership to think we're wasting their money on ourselves. M. Sherman: where do we stop? We should all pay for ourselves. A. Kane: I agree with Mark Kasdin; our spouses also put up with a lot. R. Koenick: I am certainly not wealthy; but I think we should all pay for ourselves. Moved [by M. Sherman, second by Cindy G.] to have the dinner with everyone paying for himself or herself] Motion approved [8 yes, 6 no, 1 abstain] A. Behar: Please make every effort to come. It will be open to congregation.

Old Business

Expansion Committee [M. Kasdin]

Final paperwork went in to the state; still in the bureaucracy. Received email today from North Brunswick, and permits will be issued within a week or so. We will meet with the two contractors after Pesach. Building use committee: Janice Baer: still doing our homework with regards to size of various needs.

Staff Reviews [N. Jackenthal]

Naomi is not here, but she noted in an email that in order to get done right, we need a personnel committee. A. Behar: we already have one. C. Gittleman: we need to pull Naomi into that committee. Arie will speak with Naomi about merging the committees.

Lost Members [A. Kane]

There was a discussion last month about lost members. Defer this to next month.

VP Reports

Hard copies distributed

School & Youth [H. Schneider]

- Question [J. Baer]: What is the enrollment for next year? We are down somewhat – attributing to economy. J. Baer: We should find out why the three year olds aren't coming back – I think we're losing a lot to keyboard kids. Harold will investigate and report back.
- Sample of Purim box that is sent to our college kids passed around.
- Please go see The Last Bridge at the high school – it's only \$10. All our school kids are getting a free ticket.

Ways & Means [M. Sherman]

- Several months ago, Arlene Uroff came to us a few months ago about CBT hosting the author Rochelle Krich. So far, only 14 people are coming. Looking for help to spread the word.

Administration [Arie Behar]

- Last night, the Ramla kids landed!
- We need everybody's budget numbers immediately.

Activities [Alan Kane]

- On May 1st, we are having Shai Goldstein from the Anti Defamation League coming to speak at CBT.
- We would like to do a program about Israel – multimedia presentation. Will keep you posted.
- We still haven't found a replacement for managing the softball team – Gary Harmon is retiring.

Financial Secretary's Report [Gary Tinkel]

Numbers are down again. We are at 445 members – 307 Dues Paying Equivalents. There are also a number of families who are unemployed who don't want to go on forgiveness. Alan will follow up with Bill Greenberg to see what's happening with membership retention.

Treasurer's Report [M. Dillman]

Marc Dillman not here; hard copy of numbers distributed.

Men's Club [J. Edley]

Jerry Edley not here. Mark Kasdin will be the new Men's Club representative. This coming Sunday, we will have Marty Abschutz and Robert Haws from the South Brunswick and North Brunswick School Boards. They will be talking about school budgets, which are up for a vote.

Sisterhood [R. Koenick]

Ruth Anne will not be the sisterhood rep next year. The Purim baskets did really well – also we did a mitzvah fundraiser to raise money for food bank. Thanks to Rabbi Eligberg for sending Golden Grogger letters. The next meeting will be on May 18th – it will be elections. It was a good year for sisterhood. We will also be having a trainer from the Women's League coming in to do some board development.

50+ Club [M. Gaynor]

On April 29th we will have a Yom Hashoah program. We expect to honor Martha and Herman Rotter, who will be sharing some of their holocaust stories; there will be several other speakers as well. Madeline is stepping down as President of the club next year; the new president will be Doris Sandrowitz. Not sure who the representative to the board will be next year.

Other New Business

The first Strategic Planning meeting will be on April 27th. We will receive packets in the mail in preparation for the meeting. Please expect the meeting to run from 5:30 PM to about 7:45 PM.

Good & Welfare [Rabbi Eligberg]

1. On May 4th there will be a Walk for Israel in Highland Park. The cost is \$10 per person/\$25 per family. If you can't walk, please sponsor someone who is walking.
2. See the rabbi to sell your chametz. Tuesday from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM.
3. The First Born Siyum will be on Wednesday, April 16th at 7 AM. We should be done by 8:15 AM.

4. Thursday & Friday, services start at 10 AM
5. There will be services both evenings of Pesach.
6. Monday April 28th. Yom Hashoah. Special service.

❖ Speedy recovery to:

- Donna Glazer
- Marie Kurzman
- Bernie Adler

❖ Hamakom Yenachem/Condolences to:

- Michael Greenfield on the death of his father
- Arthur Cederbaum on the death of his sister Rose Cederbaum
- Claire Lazar on the death of her husband Harold

❖ Mazel Tov to:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • The Teichers on Jordan's Bar Mitzvah | • Steve Springer on his recent engagement |
| • The Nudelmans on Danielle's Bat Mitzvah | • Abby Diamondstein on the Bris of her Grandson |
| • The Applebaums on Benjamin's Bar Mitzvah | • The B'not Torah: |
| • Harold & Ellen Schneider on the birth of twin granddaughters | • Jodi Marcou |
| • The Bet students for leading Friday night services | • Madeline Gaynor |
| • The Dalet students for leading Shabbat morning services | • Mae Rubenstein |
| | • Cyndi Kleinbart |
| | • Teresa Samtur |
| | • Linda Cohn |
| | • Sylvia Lewis |
| | • And David Marcou on Syracuse's NCAA victory |

Confirmation of Next Meeting

Next meeting is Monday, May 5th, 2003.

Motion to Adjourn

Moved by A. Behar, second by M. Sherman. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 PM.

Appendix I
Letter sent by CBT to Ken Larini



Congregation B'nai Tikvah
JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF NORTH & SOUTH BRUNSWICK

March 7, 2003

David Mark Elieberg
Rabbi

Bruce D. Rockman
Hazzan

Mitchell H. Frumkin
President

Nitin Hadas Elami
Administrative Director

Ann Kusarek
Education Director

Fran Perlman
Nursery School Director

Ken Larini
Larini's Service Center
272 Alexander Street
Princeton, NJ 08540

Dear Ken:

On behalf of our entire congregation, I would like to thank you for your contribution of snowplowing our parking lot whenever there has been a snowfall. We all recognize that this has been a very severe winter and are especially appreciative this year of all your efforts on behalf of Congregation B'nai Tikvah.

I thank you again and wish you and your family a very happy and healthy New Year.

Very truly yours,

Mitchell H. Frumkin
President

MHF/db

cc: Board of Trustees

1001 Finnegan's Lane, North Brunswick, New Jersey 08902

Synagogue (732) 297-0606

Fax (732) 297-2673

School (732) 297-0295

Appendix II
Letter Rec'd from the Cederbaums

Mitchell F. Farkman
President, Congregation Anai Tikvah

3-16-03

Dear Mitch:

Just a brief note to express my gratitude and appreciation for how Anai Tikvah was a source of great comfort & how the Shiva came through for me during this very difficult time upon the passing of my Sisters. As you know we had morning & evening minyanim in my home the entire week of 3-9-03 to 3-14-03, most minyanim had 30+ people. My gratitude to the many congregants who came. Special appreciation to the Rabbi, Cantor, Malka Binder & Larry Cohen who organized the minyanim & made sure we had more than enough. Jeff Schwartz arranged breakfast for everyone, every day with a magnificent fish platter. Some congregants such as Jeff, the Rabbi & Cantor, Dantor, Rella, Adler, Grossman, Rosenzweig, Jay Schauer, Dallas Spyer were at practically all minyanim. Many congregants called, made donations sent food. We had to beg people to take home food; indeed the Rabbi delivered several fruit baskets to various needy organizations. The office staff was very helpful in making arrangements & notifications, especially as we grieved & had to make corrections. The Cantor besides being at Minyan helped officiate at the funeral & afforded me the honor of leading the Services. Rabbi Elyahov was in touch many times prior to my Sisters passing asking how he could help, offering to talk with me. Besides all the ritual arrangements including even a Torah, the Rabbi was in constant contact with us, paid us a lengthy Shiva visit where we had a wonderful discussion and organized the final day of Shiva. There are likely other congregants to thank

that I am probably forgetting, & I hope I will be excused.
I will always remember how the Congregation & Clergy
rallied to support us during this difficult period & I
will always be grateful. I am writing because, having
served on Bnei Tikvah Boards for 15 years, I know
that this service appears at times to be a thankless job.
I would like you as president, and perhaps the Board
to know the work that they are doing is blessed work
& that through their efforts, congregants such as myself
are served in the most fashion by the Clergy & the
Community that the Board directs & performs.

With much gratitude & appreciation to Congregation
Bnei Tikvah.

Andrew Arthur Cadenbaur

Appendix III

Email Rec'd from Administrator re Police Presence at Other Synagogues

Date: Thu, 10 Apr 2003 16:19:33 -0400
From: Hadas Elami <Admin@bnaitikvah.org>
Subject: Addition to Board Meeting Minutes
To: Danny Greenberg <greenbergd@comcast.net>
Cc: Mitch Frumkin <nocpik@aol.com>
Reply-to: Admin@bnaitikvah.org
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook IMO, Build 9.0.2416 (9.0.2910.0)
Importance: Normal
Original-recipient: rfc822:greenbergd@comcast.net

Dear Danny,

Here is the information Mitch asked me yesterday to forward to you:

The synagogues I spoke with are:

EBJC - They have always had police for traffic. Didn't change anything.
Highland Park Conservative Temple - Men's Club representative at the door on Saturday and Sunday when Religious School is in session.
Marlboro Jewish Center and Neve Shalom in Metuchen - They have good relationship with local police, who visit more during service times and Religious School sessions on Sunday.

Gary Tinkel's information is at the bottom of this email.

Also - please keep in mind that the Board Minutes from March were not approved yesterday.

Thank you!

Hadas Elami, Administrative Director
Congregation B'nai Tikvah
1001 Finnegans Lane
North Brunswick, NJ 08902
Phone: 732-297-0696
Fax: 732-297-2673
admin@bnaitikvah.org
www.bnaitikvah.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Gary Tinkel [mailto:gtinkel@profsft.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2003 1:04 PM
To: Admin@bnaitikvah.org
Subject: Re: Need Information

Morritown Jewish Center, Fairlawn Jewish Center & Temple Beth El of Fairlawn have no on site police protection. Each locks their door during the day & visitors have to be announced. They all have 'arrangements' with the local police for increased patrols.

Gary

Hadas Elami wrote:

>
> Gary,
>
> Just a reminder, that I am waiting for the information regarding your
> conversations with the different synagogues, to add to my info and send to
> Dan Greenberg.
>

> Thank you for your help!!!
>
> Hadas Elami, Administrative Director
> Congregation B'nai Tikvah
> 1001 Finnegans Lane
> North Brunswick, NJ 08902
> Phone: 732-297-0696
> Fax: 732-297-2673
> admin@bnaitikvah.org
> www.bnaitikvah.org