

## Minutes from Board Meeting May 1, 2006

Meeting called to order by President Danny Greenberg at 8pm.

In attendance:

Arie Behar, Gary Bergman, Arthur Biderman, Bobbi Binder, Ed Birch, Jeff Cadoff, Larry Cohen, Marc Dillman, Mark Jiorle, Mitch Frumkin, Al Garten, Joyce Gerbman, Danny Greenberg, Mark Kasdin, Ruth Anne Koenick, Linda Kohn, Allison Nagelberg, Aaron Rosloff, David Spivak, Frank Waltzer, Gary Warner, Paul Zankel  
Rabbi Eligberg, Cantor Rockman, Hadas Elami  
Guests: Phil Welsher, Rachel Rodriguez, Marty Abschutz

Motion to accept April's minutes by Gary Warner, seconded by Arthur Biderman  
In favor 16, 2 abstain. Motion passes.

**Report by Cantor Rockman** regarding the dinner honoring Rabbi Eligberg. So far about \$10,000.00 range collected for the ad journal. We do not have a count for attendees. Cantor emphasized that this event is a fundraiser for our congregation, looking back and then looking ahead. Cantor is concerned about the response at this point. Advertisers don't mean businesses; personal tributes should be included as well.

**D'var Torah by Rabbi Eligberg.** Rabbi spoke about the rally that he went to in Washington DC for Darfur. Rabbi passed around a postcard for us to send in to President Bush.

### **President's Report:**

Congratulated Arie and Alan on the success of the Israeli exchange program.  
Danny urged us to sell the Giant's raffle tickets or to at least post the signs.  
Procedural comments: As per Aaron Rosloff's comments, we will correct the way that we present things. Old business first, starting with the June board meeting.

### **New Business:**

**Motion** by Arie:

The budget this year should be a balanced budget without increasing dues by more than 3%.

Seconded by Gary Warner.

Presentation by guest Marty Abschutz, budget committee. Marty passed around a sheet for information.

A 3% increase in dues would be approx. \$54.

Danny asked that the motion be postponed until executive meeting.

**Old business:** Ruth Anne, Strategic Membership Task Force. Committee formed. Allison Nagelberg, Al Garten, Mark Jiorle, Ruth Anne Koenick and Lisa Suttner on committee. Looked at recruiting. Why do people leave? How do we market ourselves? Retirement communities. Create new membership categories. Looking at reward system for recruiting new members. Buddy idea for new members. Sign in sheets at all events. Sending thank you notes to people for participating in our events. Discussion about increasing membership, demographics in the area, national problem in the conservative movement.

**Nominating committee:** 4 trustee and all secretary positions are up for grabs. New board must be presented by June.

**Status of Rabbinic Search:** Arie Behar. Committee met last week to review 2 new resumes, which were rejected by the committee. Committee is going to withdraw our application from the website in July so it does not get stale, change a few things. Better to go without a Rabbi than to go with someone whom we are not comfortable with.

**Other old business:**

**Arbitration,** Mitch. Arbitrator will be selected. We chose someone, the other side has to agree and then we move into arbitration pretty quickly.

Performance bond, they still say there are items outstanding. Mitch expects that we will be wrapping this up in the next few weeks. There will be a minimum of three months until we see this money,

**Mark Kasdin: Financial secretary:** 434 members, 280 FDPE. 88 on special arrangement. We may lose 4 to 5 more members because of the amount of families who are behind in their dues. Mark asked to recommend what to do with these families.

**Marc Dillman: Treasurer's report:** Marc distributed his report. Discussed the highlights.. Some highlights: \$44,000 shortfall in dues are expected. \$13,000 over in catering. Fundraising will be \$9000 to the positive. Summer camp will probably be a wash between revenue and expense. Under in religious school revenue by about \$5,000 by year-end. Anticipating \$21,000 short for nursery school revenue. We are spending less than we budgeted for. There will still be a small carryover in to next year's budget. Loan that Marc discussed last meeting will go through in the next week or so.

Questions for VPs. Kasdin asked about our Chai school program and the lack of attendance,

**Sisterhood – Joyce Gergman.** Spring conference was held yesterday. Bobbi Binder was honored as a woman of valor. We received Torah Fund awards and book award. The slate of officers was presented for the upcoming year and will be voted on at the next meeting. Rosh Hodesh meeting was held last month, there is one more coming up. Installation of officers will be June 16, dinner and installation. Please shop at the gift shop.

**Men's club: Ed Birch.** Int'l federation of Men's Club was held in Princeton over this past weekend. 5 board members attended services this past Shabbat at B'nai Tikvah. They were given honors during services. These reps also visited the synagogue yesterday. There is a deficit in the Yom Hashoah program. Ed ran a few program ideas by the board.

**50 plus report – Aaron Rosloff:** Still looking for people. Past Tuesday there was a program. Rabbi suggested that the group split in two, ones who can drive during the day and ones who can come out at night.

**Rabbi's report.** June 4th we are participating in the Israel Day parade in NYC. We will have an earlier march time this year so the Rabbi and Cantor can be back for a wedding by 4pm.

**Good and Welfare:**

**Condolences:** Rob Blackin on the death of his grandfather; Marc Binder on the death of his great aunt; Marty Zweig on the death of his mother Miriam; Gary Halpern on the death of his father; Arnie Gottfried on the death of his stepmother

**R'fuash Sh'layma:** Elaine Brackup, upcoming back surgery; Donna Glazer; Linda Goldstein; Jan Handelman; Arlene Lassin's mother; Doris Sandrowitz; Amy Schneider

**Mazal Tov:** Batya and John Mendes on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Paul; Marty Abschutz on becoming president of the South Brunswick School Board; Alan and Rebecca Denlow on the birth of their daughter; Eileen Robison on the adoption and naming of her granddaughter Cecilia Sarah; Kim and Chris Riemann on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Rebekah; Jordan and Diane Rosuck on the Bat Mitzvah of their granddaughter Rebekah; Matt Katz on becoming an Eagle Scout and being recognized at a court of honor Motion Gary Warner to go into executive session seconded by Linda Kohn.

VP of Ways and Means

Monthly

## **May 01, 2006**

**Rabbi's Dinner:** The invitations are out and they look great. Beth Schurman is working on the tribute book. We have already sold almost \$4000 worth of ads including the back cover Please contact Beth or myself if you can help. The tributes are coming in from members but please try to get support from everyone else. For everyone who secures \$750 of tributes will receive 2 tickets for the dinner on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Supermarket Scrip:** Rachel Shaneson and her committee are working hard. They have already sold just under \$141,000 worth of scrip which will raise almost \$6,500. They are continuing to do a great job. Please think of using script for gift and charitable donations.

**The Event:** It was a huge success. We raised over \$20,000, had fun and created a positive in the community. Thank you Gary Warner, Allison Nagelberg, Jeff and Ashley Woller, Tammy Zimmerman, Nancy Zankel, Larry Cohen, Al Garten, Joanne Gorelick, Al Woller, Barbi Kilcoyne, Brenda and Arielle Sherman, Caryl Greenberg and everyone who helped out that night.

**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:** We have many items listed from old magazines to new Judaic items. Bonnie Kudwitt is our point person at this time. If anyone is willing to help we would appreciate your efforts. Start looking around to find anything that would be sellable on E-Bay. Look in your cabinets, garages and draws for item you do not want any more. Please bring it into the office. Thanks VM for your support! We have made over \$800.00 and many things are listed. Please keep donate your unwanted and unneeded items.

**Entertainment Books:** We are done with sales. We have sold about 75 book.

**HomeNews:** Working with the Home News on a new fund raiser \$17.00 a subscription. Contact Susan Blake at [Sblake@thnt.com](mailto:Sblake@thnt.com) 732 565 7432 Ref ASBBTNC

**Giants Raffle:** Irwin Millinger has the ticket for the Giant Raffle . He needs your help. Please call him!

## **Administration VP Report**

May 2006

### **House & Grounds**

Although the parking lot was painted and the debris was removed, the work was considered insufficient by the township. Apparently they consider the stones from the old roof as “debris”. The painting was since redone and plans are being made to move the stones to the area between the playground and the Holocaust Garden. We also have to do something about the erosion problem at the rear of the building.

### **Budget Committee**

The Budget committee is meeting every Sunday to asses how last year's budget fared and to plan for the upcoming year.

### **Israel Youth Exchange Program**

11 Israeli students spent two weeks touring the New York/New Jersey area and spent the Passover holiday with our hosting families. This year's program proved to be more challenging than in previous years, partly due to the fact that fewer of our congregants were able to participate due to scheduling and other considerations. There were also fewer opportunities for the Israeli kids to meet and bond with children from our congregation. We're considering modifying the program to alternate the years in which our kids visit Israel and they visit us.

### **Religious Activities Committee**

We had a record number of attendees at the March family Shabbat dinner and services. There were 56 people at the dinner and over 60 for services. This program continues to grow and attract non-members, as well as current members and is growing in its multi-generational appeal.

April's family Shabbat dinner and service was, for the second month in a row, attended by 60 people. Information for the final dinner/service of the year, which will be a farewell to Rabbi Eligberg and his family is going out and soon. This dinner will be catered by Classical Caterers and will cost a little more than the dairy dinners that we have been serving during the year.

The Yom Ha'atzmaut dinner was canceled due to lack of participation. The program/concert is May 2nd.

## School & Youth Vice-President Report

May 1, 2006

### Nursery School

- The new fence went in prior to Passover. The fence makes the playground look twice as big with a clean and open appearance. Come take a look!
- The Playground Dedication went off smoothly yesterday with the South Brunswick Mayor and a Councilman as well as many nursery school parents in attendance. Thank you to all the Board Members who attended! Your support was noted and appreciated by the staff.
- Several new registrations were received during the ceremonies. Current enrollment for next year is over 20, and we anticipate a final enrollment of 50 (~15% increase over this year).
- **PLEASE TALK UP THE SCHOOL AND CAMP WITH FRIENDS AS WORD OF MOUTH IS STILL OUR MOST POWERFUL ADVERTISING TOOL.**

### Camp Program

- Special thanks go out to the Sherman Family for their generous donation of a water slide for the camp!!
- Several new registrations were received during the grand opening ceremonies. We have reached breakeven on this program and anticipate more enrollment in the coming weeks.
- **PLEASE TALK UP THE SCHOOL AND CAMP WITH FRIENDS AS WORD OF MOUTH IS STILL OUR MOST POWERFUL ADVERTISING TOOL.**

### Religious School

- Operation Promise was well received by the children. Tzedakah money collected in Religious School has been earmarked for this program going forward. Our guests from Ramla were in attendance as well.
- Parent Orientation for incoming Alef students' parents is May 2, 2006.
- The Bet class' dinner and service is scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup> Seder was a success.
- The Gimel class will have a model wedding on May 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Alef consecration service is scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Dalet class Shabbat service is scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Hei/Chai graduations are scheduled for May 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Enrollment for next year is currently at ~60% of the anticipated final enrollment and includes 7 children new to our program.

### Kadima/USY

- USY Spring Convention is coming up.
- Kadima advisors visited the Gimel class before Passover to encourage participation in encampment and Kadima.

### College Program

- The year's packages are completed.

## **VP ACTIVITIES REPORT MAY 2006**

### **ADULT EDUCATION:**

**Weds. May 10<sup>th</sup>** - Open Planning Meeting to share ideas to plan next year.  
All are welcome.

### **BT ATHLETICS:**

Men's Open Court Basketball continuing. Tuesday nights 8-10 pm. Non-competitive pick-up game.

Looking to schedule an open volleyball time as well.

### **JCC PROGRAMMING:**

Projection of income for the new building from Nov. 2005 to July 2006 is \$18,000. This falls short \$2,000 of what was budgeted.

Lisa Mason started in September creating the entire "rental" budget from scratch. There are few important issues holding us back from renting more. These will be addressed by the board.

### **BIGGEST LOSER CONTEST:**

**Weight Watcher Meetings** are being held in the new wing presently on thurs. mornings with a nighttime meeting soon to come.

Danny has lost 20lbs to date! Join in sponsoring his weight loss at \$5.00 a pound for the synagogue. It's a win-win.

### **SOCIAL ACTION:**

Laura Waksman has served as Social Action chair this past year. We want to thank her for the wonderful job she has done. Laura will be stepping down as chair and so we are looking for someone or a team to take over.

Please let me know if you know anyone interested.

Thank You,  
Cindy Gittleman, VP Activities

Vice President for Membership

**Ruth Anne Koenick**  
**May 2006**

I continue to talk to prospective members on the phone and through email. I sent out a mailing regarding the opening of the Nursery School to prospective members who I know have young children.

Each month I send out 30-40 copies of the latest HaKol to what I think are the best prospects.

I continue to send “mazel tov” notes to members who have a child who is a bar/bat mitzvah and condolence cards to members who have lost a family member as well. The note is done on behalf of the membership of B’nai Tikvah and several people have commented on how nice it was to receive.

I call each member who resigns to see if I get some information about why they have resigned.

I have put together a small committee that is charged with developing a strategic plan for membership recruitment and retention. We have had one meeting that focused on brainstorming different ideas and we will continue to meet until we have a plan for the coming year. Allison Nagelberg, Al Garten, Mark Jiorle and Lisa Suttner are on the committee. All ideas that you may have are welcome.

A Friday night Shabbat welcome for all new members is planned for Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Each new member will receive a phone call inviting them to services.