

Minutes from Congregational Board Meeting
May 11, 2004

Meeting called to order at 8:00 by Arie Behar.

In attendance: Janice Baer, Arie Behar, Gary Bergman, Bobbi Binder, Marc Dillman, Harvey Finkelstein, Mitch Frumkin, Cindy Gittleman, Cheryl Goldstein, Dan Greenberg, Jerry Kaminsky, Mark Kasdin, Gary Tinkel, Frank Waltzer, Paul Zankel, Keith Zimmerman, Hadas Elami, Rabbi Eligberg, Cantor Rockman
Guests: Steve and Matt Katz, Jeff Schwartz, Alan Kane

Motion to accept minutes by Harvey Finkelstein

Seconded by: Marc Dillman

In favor: 6, against: 0, Abstain: 1

Arie mentioned trip to Israel, success. Alan Kane to report later in the meeting.

Guest: Matt Katz. Proposal for new garden for synagogue as part of his Eagle Project. Matt is a Life Scout in Troup 10 Eagle Scouts. He wants to create a Holocaust memorial garden behind the library, which is currently open space. He was in touch with the Holocaust memorial museum, cobblestones may be provided. Placard and bricks. Garden would be set up in phases. First, actual garden, clearing of drainage ditches to prevent flooding. Garden area would have soil turned, landscape beds installed covered in mulch. Open area covered with bars with trellis. Second phase, installation of fountain or pond.

This project is required for Eagle Scout; it must benefit the community and show leadership. Scout must prepare write up, take site photos before and after. Sign off from organization, troupe, local council and nationwide council in Texas. Project approved on troupe level already.

Estimated cost is unknown at this time. No cost to synagogue. Possibly take advantage of current construction. Matt is approaching some local landscapers to get donations. He also approached our Men's Club for funds. Perhaps this could also be a place to have minyan.

How will people get to garden? Doors need to be added to the room in place of the windows that are currently there.

Arie suggested that Matt sit down with Jeff Cadoff, house and grounds, and come with a motion.

Mitch: **Motion "To move forward with plans for a Holocaust Memorial Garden to be built on our synagogue's property contingent upon final plans and monetary considerations"**

Seconded by Danny Greenberg.

Frank asked for plans to be emailed to the board.

In Favor: 12, 0 against, 1 abstain Motion carries.

Copy of this motion was sent to Matt Katz.

Jeff Schwartz, expansion campaign: Success depends upon having co-captain. Mark Roller has promised to serve as such. People have been identified, they need an organizational meeting. Doesn't feel that time is of the essence. 10-week campaign targeting people who have joined B'nai Tikvah since 2000. Need to target people who they feel are capable of making big donations and who will then continue on to ask for donations from others. Wants to start before the end of the next two weeks. Will have

results by the end of August. Will be a good lead in at the high holidays. Target is \$250,000.

Jeff would like to have Cindy Gittleman involved to give names of people who should be approached.

New pledges, People who said no, people who want to extend their original pledges.

Lead givers have not been identified yet, but Jeff feels confident that people will give.

Dillman would like these lead givers to have been identified by the next board meeting.

Jeff feels that we should start to look into the plaques that have been pledged. Suggests individual plaques at the actual sites instead of a large wall.

Divar Torah by Rabbi Eligberg.

Alan Kane, guest. Just returned from a mission to Israel, to city of Ramleh.

Extraordinary trip. Traveled all over the country, Arie was the tour guide for the first week. Age range from mid forties to low eighties in age. Demonstrate our support for Israel, specifically with the town of Ramleh. They were treated like family. Group was on Israel national TV. This was not a regular tourist type visit. They arrived right before Yom Hazikaron, a very solemn, sad, emotional day for all Israelis. Every Israeli is touched by the terror and wars. Didn't need to understand the language to understand how the people felt. It was very touching.

Cindy Gittleman would like Alan to write an article specifically about the exchange program and the recent trip.

June 7th, next board meeting

June 16 special meeting dedicated specifically to the budget

Congregational meeting will be June 30th instead of previous date of because letters need to go out 10 days before congregational meeting.

Calendar meeting will be June 17th. Hadas needs entries by June 4th, that's the deadline

New Business:

Budget - Ideas that came out of EC meeting. Problem with budget, incurred \$60,000-\$80,000 more expenses than we had last year. Revenue does not match that number, does not offset it. Start charging for services that we have been giving for free in the past.

List of ideas: to allow budget committee to look at those numbers specifically to be able to charge.

Reduce subsidy of school, charge for B'nai mitzvah lessons.

Danny Greenberg: **Motion "to empower the budget committee to explore additional sources of revenue to impose additional fees."**

Seconded by Harvey Finkelstein.

List includes: increasing fees for high holiday guest tickets, now \$75, B'nai mitzvah charge, now \$600, require families on reduced fees to purchase scrip, reduce religious school subsidy, charge for cemetery plots.

The number represents 6-8% of our budget, this is a preliminary number. An increase of dues for this amount would be \$250 per family.

Increases will come from increase in salaries of all professionals employed, new mortgage, maintenance of building, office staff increase.

Any information not received by committees will get only what they spent this past year.

The \$87 increase is included in this deficit. Mitch feels that we should separate out that number from the total.

Gary Tinkel feels that most people on forgiveness are the ones who will be hit with the increases.

Keith called the motion.

In favor: 10, opposed 2, abstain 1. Motion passes

Décor committee was given freedom to change colors, etc. They cannot change the structure of the building. Caterer wants to change carpet to tile in front of the building. Tile was selected. Need board approval.

Danny Greenberg - **Motion: "To allow caterer to change carpet in front of the building outside to tile. Caterer will take full responsibility of maintenance and repair of said tile."**

Seconded by Janice Baer.

Tile is made to go around pools, should not be slippery. The existing carpet has been replaced many times, it rips and gets stained, etc. Caterer accepts all responsibility for installation and maintenance of the tile. Would like this to go in tomorrow. Hadas is coordinating the nursery school not using the door if the tile goes in. Whose responsibility is it if someone gets hurts?

Vote on motion: in favor 6, against 6, 3 abstain 3

Arie broke tie, voted in favor, motion passes.

Presentation by Caterer: Landscaping was damaged in the circle and the back patio during construction. New landscaping was installed in the amount of \$2000. Total costs were actually \$10,000, Caterer asking for \$2000 reimbursement of his expenses.

Motion by Mitch: **"To pay the caterer the difference between what we paid for landscaping already and what the caterer is asking for to contribute that towards the landscaping. Totals \$4000.00"**

Seconded by: Danny Greenberg

Arie is against this motion. Caterer was aware of what we needed to do for the construction. He chose to do the landscaping because he felt that the look of the building makes a difference to his business.

Vote on motion: In favor, 11 against, 1, abstain 3. Motion passes.

Old Business: Israeli bond breakfast location has changed to Arie's house on May 23rd.

Financial Report: Gary Tinkel - 443 families, up 2, 91 on special arrangement, 303 dues equivalents. 41 families owe 3/4 dues or more. Normally have in the high 30's. Some of these families have not paid their religious school obligation. \$5000-\$10,000 short because of this number.

Marc Dillman: **Treasurer's report** was handed out. Marc gave an overview of the report.

Adult Ed: Relationship violence program by Ruth Anne Koenick

Reports sent out via email to everyone.

Rabbi asking for support for Israel bond breakfast, Israel parade. \$18 per person to attend includes food on May 23. Also looking for support for walk for Israel on June 6.

Good and welfare: Rabbi Eligberg

Rabbi reminded us that there is a walk in Johnson Park on June 6th in support of Israel. The walk begins at 9am. Afterwards, Sons of Tikvah will be performing.

Motion to adjourn by:

Danny Greenberg

Seconded by: Cheryl Goldstein

Committee and VP Reports

VP, Administration

- 1.
2. Budget Committee continues meeting weekly. We anticipate presenting budget to the Board at the June meeting.
3. We are hoping to patch the parking lot as good as possible (remembering that any patching we do now will be ripped up again in several months) within the next two weeks.

50 Plus Group

General meeting on May 11.. (50+ meeting) Our program is a visit from the North Brunswick Police Dept. An officer will give a report on updated driving rules and other safety measures. (I believe everyone regardless of age should go over the MV Driving Manual.) Twenty seven members are taking the trip to Camp Kislak May 30th. through June 4th

Activities VP Report

Adult Education

Tomorrow night's Adult-ed class on "Relationship Violence and Sexual Harassment" will be presented by Ruth-Anne Koenick.

Bikkur Cholim

The good news is that we now have ample volunteers to visit the sick. The bad news is that we are not getting sufficient names of congregants who are ill to forward to the committee. If the reality is that there aren't many congregants who are in need of the committee, then that is very good news.

Social Action

The calendar for next year has been established and they're trying to get volunteers for the various programs. The next meeting is set for this Thursday and they're looking for a new chair.

The poor response for the Passover food drive was probably due to poor timing of the holidays.

MEMBERSHIP 2003 - 2004

The following is a list of the events and on-going activities of the membership committee and VP responsibilities.

1. **PROSPECT LIST:** To maintain and update this list throughout the year. Send mailings and fliers of events at BT. Make periodic phone calls to find out status for joining.
2. **MEMBERSHIP WELCOME BAGS:** Coordinate and distribute welcome bags to new members in a timely manner. (Coordinated with Sisterhood)
3. **NEW MEMBER EVENT** (in fall): This past year this event was a Shabbat dinner (Pot of Gold Shabbat) to honor and welcome new members. It was well attended but recommend to change event where there is no cost to members. Also a first time Speed Meet 'n Greet event was tried to help members learn about committees and activities in the synagogue. Should NOT be repeated the same way.
4. **ADVERTISING/FLIERS:** Designing and placing ads in the local papers to advertise open houses for prospective new members, also advertising larger social holiday events such as Chanukah and next year Purim and Yon Ha'atzmaut.
5. **CHAVURAH GROUPS:** Helping Chavurah groups get started in the synagogue which helps to foster friendships and a sense of belonging. One Chavurah group was successfully started which now boasts 6-8 families gathering together on a regular basis.
6. **TEE SHIRTS:** Designing and selling synagogue tees which helps to build spirit and unity. To date a small profit was made. Tee shirts still available!
7. **CHAI ANNIVERSARY SHABBAT:** Honoring member families who are celebrating 18-22 years of continuous faithful membership to the synagogue. 42 families being honored on June 26th. Buffet luncheon – entire congregation invited. Not to be repeated until 2007.
8. **EXIT INTERVIEWS:** Follow up contact with members who have resigned from the synagogue to find out the reason.
9. **OPEN HOUSES:** Summer coffee house event held in August to meet leaders of the synagogue in a relaxed party like atmosphere. This was very well received. Also, Nursery School Open House in March, which had a small attendance but worth having. (very low cost)
Friday Night Plugged In programs used as open houses for prospective new members. 4 Friday nights advertised throughout the year. Coming up is May 14th and June 25th.
10. **YOM HA'ATZMAUT:** Celebration for Israel Independence Day which comes at a good time of year to use as an event to invite prospective new members. (New this year)

Mitch Frumkin
Past President
Monthly Report April 2004
Date of Report: May 11, 2004

Construction:

It is currently anticipated that construction will start heading towards completion in mid July. As presented at the Board meeting last month we are expecting a budgetary over run over and above our contingency amount for the reasons explained. At present a firm amount of this over run cannot be determined although it is expected that this will be able to be quantified for the next meeting.

Current Status:

- 1) Schedule. The anticipated completion date is July 2004.
- 2) Change Orders: Additional Change Orders are in the process of being quantified to reflect the presentation at last months meeting..
- 3) Payments to date
 - Total Contract Value \$1,513,500
 - Change Orders \$71,448
 - Total Completed to Date \$754,823
 - Retainage (\$ 47,470)
 - Amount Paid to date \$ 707,353

This is based upon nine payment requisitions.

Feedback Committee

The Feedback Committee's meeting with the Rabbi was cancelled due to his trip to Israel.

Adult Education Committee

Classes have started and take place every Wednesday night from 7:45 to 9:30.

Nominations Committee

It is the pleasure of this years Nominating Committee to present the following slate of Officers and Trustees for the coming year.

Officers

VP Ways and Means (1 year term)	Mark Sherman
Assistant Treasurer	Frank Waltzer
Financial Secretary	Mark Kasdin
Secretary	Bobbi Binder

Trustees

Ruth Anne Koenig
Harvey Finkelstein
Gary Warner
Jeff Cadoff
Naomi Jackenthal

I would like to thank the following who have served on this years committee, Kim Reimann, John Wolf, Gerald Fishelberg, Madeline Gaynor, Cheryl Goldstein, and Mark Kasdin (for the first part of our deliberations).

Also, the Board and Congregation owe thanks to Cindi Kleinbart who will not be returning to the Board **as well as a very very, very special thanks to Gary Tinkel for his many years of service to the Congregation as the Financial Secretary !!**

School and Youth Report For Synagogue Board Meeting

Youth

Kadima: Upcoming events

May 16th, Miniature Golf at Pine Brook Golf Course

June 4-6th Spring Convention

June 13th, Great Adventure Day

USY:

April 16-18th was Spring Convention. Elyse Ross was elected Regional Communications Vice-President.

Our chapter won a number of awards:

Chapter of Excellence

Hagalil Survivor

Largest increase in Tikun Olam

TO Donation over \$2000

TO Per Capita Donation >\$50

Program Award: Freshman First

Zonal Karaoke

Murder Mystery Dinner

Membership Increase

Election date to be determined

Recruitment program is being started to encourage our Kadima/USYers to attend Encampment in August.

Religious School

We are done with our class services for the year. Upcoming events include the Gimel Mock Wedding and the Chai School graduation.

The religious school is almost fully staffed for the upcoming school year.

We will be participating in the Israel Day parade on May 23rd.

VP of Ways and Means Monthly Report

Supermarket Scrip & Retail Scrip: We have Lisa Seidman and Morton Wurmbrand to helping Bobbi Bergman from financial side. Bobbi will still run personnel and distribution. Please come and help Bobbi and her committee to sell script. 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: We are looking for some good ideas for next year. 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. We have received several hundred dollars so please keep on bringing in the cartridges.

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 .

Sisterhood Report

Upcoming Events

Monday May 10: Elections for the 2004/2005 Sisterhood board.

Sunday May 16: Field Trip to the Lower East Side Tenement Museum.

Friday June 11: 2004/2005 Sisterhood Board Installation. All are invited to the installation. Synagogue Board members are greatly encouraged to attend and show their support of Sisterhood. Dinner will be served, installation will follow, then all will attend Friday night services. It is a lovely evening. Those who wish to attend, please RSVP to Cheryl Goldstein by Friday June 4.

Recent Events

Passover Wine Sale: Sold approximately 100 bottles. Would like to see better sales next year. Prices are competitive, selection is great. There is no reason that everyone should not be buying from Sisterhood. It is a great fundraiser and something that everyone having a seder or attending one needs.

Donations: From the proceeds of our Purim baskets, we donated \$200 to each of the following - Jewish Family Services, Mazon, and American/Jewish troops fighting in Iraq (providing them with Passover food).

Men's Club Report

Our June 13 meeting will begin with Gary Bergman's "slide show" featuring our congregants who traveled to Israel in late April for a two-week visit. We encourage all to attend this fun presentation. Later in the day we'll travel to Waterfront Stadium in Trenton to attend a Trenton Thunder baseball game. The club is a minor league class AA affiliate of the New York Yankees. There's not a bad seat in the ballpark! We're offering a

\$20.00 per person "package" which includes a Classical Caterers kosher box lunch, parking pass, soft drink coupons as well as admission to the game. This is a tremendous value. We'd like to see a high level of participation in this event.

We've received donations of approximately \$1800.00 from congregants in response to our "Yellow Candle" mailing. If you haven't returned your envelope yet, please do so at your earliest convenience. We'd appreciate a minimum \$18.00 per family donation. The proceeds are earmarked towards holocaust remembrance projects/charitable foundations etc.

Steve Katz and Ed Birch will be co-presidents of the Men's Club. Their terms will begin on July 1, 2004. Steve Katz will be the Men's Club representative to the Board with Ed Birch serving as an alternating representative. Andy Ross has accepted the position of Men's Club Treasurer.

Many thanks to all who made this a successful programming year. We were fortunate enough to hear some very interesting speakers including the curator of the Yogi Berra museum, a Vice President from Merrill Lynch speaking about aspects of long term financial planning, a leading authority on the changes occurring in the Jewish approach to funerals and of course our own webmaster Gary Bergman.

It's been a successful year. Our attendance averaged over 20 per meeting. The bowling league, under the leadership of Bobbi and Gary Bergman had a fun year and of course continues to be a financial success. We continued our active participation in the Purim Carnival food preparation and sales activities.. Our president, Ed Birch also initiated a drive to assure Men's Club representatives at shiva homes whenever possible. Let's also not forget to mention our sponsorship of a B'nai Tikvah softball team in the county temple league.

Join us in the Fall for more exciting programs. Ed Birch has given us an early "heads up" that he has commitments from Barry Halper, the foremost sports memorabilia collector in the country to address the Club and it's also likely that one of the WFAN sports talk personalities will join us at one of our meetings. We're also looking for a return speaking engagement from Phil Mushnick,, sports writer with the New York Post !

I've had a lot of fun representing the Men's Club at the Board level this year. I thank the officers for the opportunity !