

Minutes from Board of Director's meeting

Congregation B'nai Tikvah  
June 5, 2006

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, Cindy Gittleman, Danny Greenberg, Mark Kasdin, Ruth Anne Koenick, Linda Kohn, Allison Nagelberg, Aaron Rosloff, Mark Sherman, David Spivak, Frank Waltzer, Gary Warner, Paul Zankel

Rabbi Eligberg, Cantor Rockman, Hadas Elami

Guests: Marty Abschutz, Elliott Danto, Bill Greenberg, Lisa Mason

Meeting called to order by president Danny Greenberg at 8pm

Motion to accept may minutes by al, seconded by Ed Birch.

Vote: 13 in favor,

**President's report:**

Danny thanked all board members who will not continue on next year; Mitch, Mark Sherman, Frank Waltzer

Danny passed around picture of an awning that will go up in front of building at the end of June but only for the weekend. B'nai Mitzvah family has already said that it is ok.

Weekend of June 17th: Cantor will be at family Bar Mitzvah, Rabbi will be at an interview. Aaron Lassin's will be celebrating his bar mitzvah that weekend and they were concerned. Kerry Olitzky will do the charge and d'var and has met with the family. Larry Cohen will be cantor. Danny is calling pages.

There will be motion later tonight to rent out building to an outside source.

**Cantor's report:** Cantor is working with 26 adult students. They will read Torah on July 29th. End of June will be the last Shabbat for Rabbi Eligberg

Cantor thanked the committee who worked on the farewell for the Rabbi: Stacey, Mark Sherman, Gary Warner, Beth Schurman, Bobbi Binder, David Spivak. We have doubled our projection, we collected \$19,000. Thanked Gary Tinkel and Ruth Anne. Dinner was organized by Kasdins and Schwartzs. That will also turn a profit. We will most likely net \$18,000.

**Financial Secretary** – Mark Kasdin: 435 members, 278 FDPE, 89 on special arrangement

**Status of arbitration:** Per Mitch Frumkin - Chris grant has agreed to join in. should be started within the next month. Arbitrator should be chosen by the end of this week.

**Treasurer's report** – Marc Dillman: Marc reviewed the highlights of his report. We are anticipating that we will have spent over \$13,000.00 more than we took in. This does not incorporate our carryover. We will have a carryover going into next year.

**Motion** by Mark Sherman:

That the house and grounds budget be raised to \$28,000.00.

Seconded by Ruth Anne Koenick.

Zankel thinks that there needs to be a control mechanism in place so that the check is not written and that the work is not done.

Discussion ensued regarding the increase of expenses. Gary Bergman never saw anything that would constitute that increase.

**Vote:** 18 in favor, 0 opposed 0 abstain

## **Motion passes**

Sisterhood: Slate is set, installation dinner on June 16, 2006

Men's club: Still accepting money for yellow candles

50 plus: Aaron reviewed the programs that were held this past year.

### **Old Business:**

Ruth Anne: Strategic membership task force. Looking at category breakdowns of membership. Looking at membership referral program. Category for nursery school families. Need to change the way that we recruit members. We should not just be waiting for people to call us. Everyone who chairs an event should track non-members who attend so that we can keep in touch with these people.

Arie: Status of rabbinic search. We received five more resumes. Phone interviews were held with three of them. All three have been invited for face to face. Thinking of setting up a webcam so that members can log in and listen to the interviews. Need to review the other two resumes that came in. Committee met with the RA search committee. The representative suggested ways for us to change our resume that is posted on the website. We will then withdraw our application if these prospective Rabbis do not work out.

Slate of officers and trustees: Vacancy on VP level. We need to fill two positions.

Other old business: Ed Birch: utilities and caterer. This has not been approached.

Contract with bank, rewriting the credit line. June 1st, renegotiated the mortgage, which will go until the year 2023. Thanked Irwin Millinger for all his work. Suggestion that we send a thank you note.

Escrow Bond: Mitch revised site plans to match what they wanted. Waiting now for township to come out and inspect the property. Mitch plans on going to a township council meeting to request the money back.

### **New business:**

**Motion** by Ruth Anne:

That we approve a membership referral program that provides current and future members in good standing with a financial incentive to bring in new members. For every referral (up to 4 per year) that a current member brings into B'nai Tikvha and when that referral has become a member for at least one year, the referring member will receive a one time 25% off of their dues after the first year of membership for the new member

Seconded by Al Garten

Discussion followed.

**Vote:** 23 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstain.

## **Motion Passes**

**Motion** by Ruth Anne:

That any person/family that has a child enrolled in our nursery school can become a member of B'nai Tikvah with the first year of synagogue membership free. Each member who falls into this category would need to agree in writing to join for a minimum of two years.

Seconded by Al Garten

Mark Jiorle spoke about his discussions with various families currently enrolled.

**Vote:** 20 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstain.

## **Motion Passes**

**Motion** by Gary Bergman:

To take \$1450.00 from the Leon Bibel fund to repair the tallis rack

Seconded by Gary Warner,  
Vote: 21 in favor, 2 abstain 0 opposed.

### **Motion Passes**

#### **Motion** by Jeff Cadoff:

That we enter into a 10 month contract with the Central Jersey College Prep School to lease them classroom and administrative space as necessary to operate a charter school in our building. The net rental fees associated with this contract are specifically dedicated to (1) restoring the moneys available in the capital improvement fund to the amount of \$42,760.00 and (2) establish a reserve fund to be used at the discretion of the Board in future years

Seconded by Ruth Anne.

Additionally: Not to rent on Shabbat and add energy rider when we negotiate  
Amendment accepted by Jeff Cadoff and seconded by Aaron Rosloff

Hours run from 7:30am to 3:30pm.

They will require 8 classrooms. Our new building has only 7 so they would need to use one old classroom. We would need to move the glass doors.

They also have extra curricular activities. They would need extra classes after 3:30pm. They will be installing 190 lockers in the new wing. They will be using the gym. Our daytime programs will have to move back to the social hall. Our soccer program in the preschool will continue. They will use our kitchen and use kosher or dairy food. They will use our storage room and we will have to put tiles in the ceiling. They will need office space. Ann will go back to her old office for the year. They need to have a program on Shabbat. It will be after services. Rabbi explained how this can be done. We become landlords of the space. They will follow our calendar. They will bring their own maintenance staff with them. The gross amount is \$116,250.00. There are then expenses associated with that. We expect to net about \$75,000 - \$80,000.00.

Discussion followed.

**Vote:** 17 in favor, 4 opposed, 1 abstain

### **Motion Passes**

#### Rabbi Eligberg - **Good and welfare:**

Hamakom Y'nachem

Jeff Asch on the death of his mother, Molly Ullman, Shiva will be Thursday, 8pm; Lois Krantz on the death of her father Murray Kreisler, Shiva will be Sunday, 8pm; Richard Margolis on the death of his mother, Gertrude; Eleanor Weinberg on the death of her mother, Yetta Nash

R'fuah Sh'aymah:

Nancy Danto, Adele Leader, Donna Glazer

Mazel Tov:

Ronald and Debra Sperling on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Keith; Cindy Gittleman on chanting haftarah for the first time; Bruce and Nan Kessler on the Bar Mitzvah of their son David; Dennis and Narlyn Kessler on the Bar Mitzvah of their nephew, David; Dan and Lois Krantz on the marriage of their daughter Laurie to Roy Chorev; Noah Levin on being name valedictorian at South Brunswick High School; Chai school graduates Allison Baer, Matt Rucko and Alex Welscher; Ben and Jennifer Shapiro on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Rebecca, Ilene and Dan Goldman on the B'nei Mitzvah of their sons Ben and Gil; all those students graduating from our Hei class, high school and college

Meeting went into closed session 10:35pm

VP of Ways and Means

Monthly

## **June 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 over \$18,000 worth of ads including the back cover. Dave Spivack has created a great journal. WE have sold about a 160 tickets.

**Supermarket Scrip:** Rachel Shaneson and her committee are working hard. They have already sold just under \$153,000 worth of scrip which will raise almost \$7,500. They are continuing to do a great job. Please think of using scrip for gift and charitable donations.

**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.

**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 has give over 130 tickets out. He needs your help. Please call him!

**Please help with all of these programs!!!!!! Help balance the Budget!!!!!! Keep our dues as low as possible!!!!!!**

## **VP ACTIVITIES REPORT JUNE 2006**

### **ADULT EDUCATION:**

**Weds. June 21<sup>st</sup>** - Open Planning Meeting to share ideas to plan next year.  
All are welcome.

**Co-Chairs for 2006-2007 Mae Rubinstein and Jerry Shulman**

### **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:**

Programming rentals will continue through the summer. Space available for party rentals all summer long.

### **SOCIAL ACTION:**

### **HAKOL:**

The next addition of the Hakol will come out in September. Deadline for submissions is August 1<sup>st</sup>. Please make sure all new committee chairs are aware of the deadline.

### **BT COMMUNITY EVENTS:**

Plans will be worked on this summer to organize some larger events for next year.  
**An OPEN PLANNING MEETING is scheduled for Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.**  
**All are welcome to attend and share their ideas!**

Thank You,  
Cindy Gittleman, VP Activities

## School & Youth Vice-President Report

June 4, 2006

### **Nursery School**

- 2006 – 2007 enrollment is currently over 40, and we are confident that the projected enrollment of 50 will be reached soon (~15% increase over this year).
- The School's administrative assistant resigned effective June 16<sup>th</sup> and a replacement is currently being sought.
- **PLEASE TALK UP THE SCHOOL AND CAMP WITH FRIENDS AS WORD OF MOUTH IS STILL OUR MOST POWERFUL ADVERTISING TOOL.**

### **Camp Program**

- Camp registration is at 24 children and more are anticipated prior to the beginning of camp.
- Staffing advertisement through the synagogue produced an abundance of responses. An experienced staff is being compiled.

### **Religious School**

- The School's administrative assistant resigned effective the end of school and a replacement is being sought.
- Thanks go out to Kim Rieman for her efforts as Religious School Board Chairperson. She has stepped aside after several years. Thanks also to Lisa Seidman for all her years of service on the Religious School Board.
- WELCOME BACK to Janice Baer, who has graciously offered to fill the position of Religious School Board Chairperson for the coming school year.
- Welcome to the Board to Paul Zankel. We are excited to have you "aBoard".
- The kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grades will be combined this coming school year and the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and Alef classes will each have one class. The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will meet only on Sundays rather than during the week. The Alef class will meet Sundays, Mondays and Wednesdays.
- Hei/Chai graduations were held on Thursday May 25<sup>th</sup>. The ceremony was wonderful. Mazel Tov to the graduates and their families.
- Enrollment for next year is ongoing, though the anticipated final enrollment (179) represents a reduction to our program.
- Chai School remains a potential growth area of the school. Programming suggestions are welcome for this area. Please contact me via email with your suggestions.

### **Kadima/USY**

- USY/Kadima advisors are working on the events for next year.

### **College Program**

- The year's packages were completed successfully.

## **Administration VP Report**

June 2006

### **House & Grounds**

All the work was completed (again) to comply with the township requirements for the return of our bond. A landscaper was hired to complete the work at a greatly reduced price which included his "purchase" of the roofing stones which had to be removed from the premises.

### **Budget Committee**

The Budget committee has painstakingly arrived at a balanced budget as dictated by the Board of Directors.

### **Religious Activities Committee**

The committee is working hard to coordinate volunteers who can lead services and read Torah during the summer months when the rabbi and/or cantor will not be present.

They identified the gaps that will occur once Rabbi Eligberg leaves:

1. Shabbat D'rei Torah
2. Someone to work with the B'nai Mitzvah students on their individual D'var Torah as well as thank you speeches
3. Coverage for Torah readings Thursday mornings and Saturday nights
4. High Holiday planning including a Selichot Program
5. Tisha B'av in August, services 8pm, 7am and then 7:30pm. Need Torah readers as well as Haftarah.(August 2-3)
6. 17 Tamuz, July 13<sup>th</sup>. Services 8am. Need Torah readers as well as Haftarah
7. Funeral coverage in August when we may not have a Rabbi and the Cantor is on vacation.

It is not too late to sign-up for this Friday night's Family Shabbat dinner by Classical Caterers to honor the rabbi's "characters": Moshe & Make Mooskowitz.

Vice President for Membership

**Ruth Anne Koenick**  
**June 2006**

I continue to talk to prospective members on the phone and through email.

Each month I send out 30-40 copies of the latest HaKol to what I think are the best prospects. Thanks to Hadas's suggestion, I've joined with the synagogue mailing in order to save money and quite frankly it makes my life easier. I've updated the prospect list and removed people who have been on it for more than 12 months except for a few who have contacted us for a specific question.

I continue to send "mazel tov" notes to members who have a child who is a bar/bat mitzvah. 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. In the past month, two new families have joined.

The membership strategic planning committee continues to meet. We are asking that each VP have the committee chairs that report to them make sure to "capture" the names and addresses (emails also) of anyone who attends an event in BT and then send that information to me and I will generate a letter that can be co-signed by the event coordinator/sponsor and myself. The committee felt that we need to reach out to people who support BT in a variety of ways but haven't joined, including those who are not Jewish. I sent a thank you note to all non-members (whose addresses we had) who attended Casino Night and in the letter, provided them with additional information about the JCC portion of our congregation. The committee has also come up with two proposals regarding membership that will be introduced as motions tonight. We are also currently looking at membership categories.

A Friday night Shabbat welcome for all new members was held on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Each new member received a phone call inviting them to services and although I don't know that anyone attended, it was still an opportunity to highlight membership.

Ruth Anne Koenick  
VP Membership