

June 7, 2004

Present: Janice Baer, Arie Behar, Gary Bergman, Bobbi Binder, Jeff Cadoff, Marc Dillman, Mitch Frumkin, Cindy Gittleman, Cheryl Goldstein, Dan Greenberg, Jerry Kaminsky, Mark Kasdin, Cyndi Kleinbart, Doris Sandrowitz, Harold Schneider, Mark Sherman, Frank Waltzer, Gary Warner, Paul Zankel, Keith Zimmerman, Rabbi Eligberg, Cantor Rockman, Hadas Elami

Guests: Jeff Schwartz, Matt Katz, Steve Katz

Meeting called to order at 8pm by Arie.

Motion to accept minutes: In favor 8, Against: 0, Abstain: 2

Motion passes.

D'var Torah by Rabbi Eligberg

President's report:

Next meeting June 15th, special meeting to approve the budget. Struggling to balance the budget this year.

June 28th, congregational meeting. Two main items: 1) Board installation will be at the end of the congregational meeting. 2) Trying to pass constitutional amendment and we need a quorum, which we did not have at the last congregational meeting. Everyone is encouraged to bring two people who would not normally attend the meeting. We need about seventy people.

June is time to review the Rabbi's contract. Anyone with comments should put it in writing to executive committee.

School committee is about to enter into negotiations with the religious school principal.

New Business:

Mitch Frumkin, presentation regarding continued relationship with Grand Builders. Construction committee and architect have been monitoring schedule, quality and cost of work.

Motion: **"That the board of trustees authorize the construction committee to terminate the contract with Grant construction "for cause" under the advisement of Jim Stahl the synagogue's legal counsel in this matter."**

Seconded by: Dan Greenberg

Discussion:

Problem with electrical work, flooring, back wall of multi purpose room, other walls, quality of work. No control over scheduling of subcontractors. If we take over, we can salvage the quality of the work at this point.

What are the consequences of this?

Legally: Registered letters were sent to contractor. One week ago, construction committee met with lawyer. We can terminate for cause if we give seven days notice.

We then can accept assignment of all subcontractors. Committee has been looking for contract administrator to oversee the job until its completion. Licensed engineer.

Looking for completion by end of September. We have not done a payment requisition recently, mason has been paid.

If total cost is more than base contract, we have the right to go after the contractor for the difference.

We need certification from architect that the contractor is in breach, which we do have, to break the contract.

\$75,000 was contingency. We are going to go over that. We still have some negotiating to do with subcontractors before we will know how much we are over. We have paid for about 50% of the job so far.

Cost of engineer will be about \$14,000 which is what we had budgeted for Grant Construction. The vast majority of overages are things that we would have had to pay for anyway.

We have only lost a few days of work while we have waited to bring this motion to the board.

If this motion were approved, we would send a letter tomorrow. Once Grant gets the letter, there will be a seven-day wait, we can move after that.

Vote on motion: In Favor: 20, Against: 0, Abstain: 0

Motion passes.

Arie gave Mitch credit for taking care of all of this. Hopes that the next three months go smoothly.

We should wait until this all occurs before we notify the congregation of what has happened.

Arie wants to increase High Holiday pledges by 33% from \$30,000 to \$40,000.

Reminded board that we have an obligation to connect to the congregation, reach out to members who have lost a connection to B'nai Tikvah, i.e., ones that no longer have children in the school, don't attend services, etc. Wants us to call members and reach out to them. Wants us to call every member, right after Yom Kippur, who have not participated in the High Holiday appeal to do so and to ask all those who have, to possibly increase their pledge but to thank them also.

Cindy Gittleman will be coming up with a script and training session. This past year 200 people gave. If 200 more people give \$36.00 each, we will raise \$7,200.00 more.

Jeff Schwartz: Phone campaign during High Holiday period, talk to every congregant, tell them that if we make our goal, then there will be no High Holiday appeal during services.

Expansion Campaign - Jeff Schwartz: Committee started to get new pledges for the expansion. Had first meeting. Sat down with new membership list to identify new sources of money. Came up with \$400,000. Need to make appointments, will do so before July meeting and report back then.

Motion by Danny Greenberg:

"To change Article XV, Section 2 of the Congregation B'nai Tikvah By-Laws, which currently read, 'A quorum for constitutional meetings shall be 10% of the voting members in good standing', to 'A quorum for constitutional meetings shall **be not less than 50 voting members** in good standing.' "

Seconded by Gary Bergman.

Explanation. Our constitution requires high threshold for modification, the 10% is hard to interpret. We need 25 for a quorum, felt that modification of constitution required more people because of the importance.

We currently have 794 members, 104 are not in good standing. We need 66 people, based on the current bi-laws.

What about constitutional votes via the mail or email? It would be difficult to do. This would also require a change of the constitution. Can't vote by mail, need to designate a proxy.

Motion called:

In favor: 19, Against: 1, Abstain: 0.

Motion passes.

Danny Greenberg motion:

"To change Article XIV, Section 1 of the Congregation B'nai Tikvah By-Laws, which currently reads: 'Each member in good standing is entitled to a gravesite free of charge' to 'Each member in good standing is entitled to be buried in the Congregation B'nai Tikvah cemetery subject to the regulations and fees established by the Board of Directors.' "

Seconded by Mark Sherman.

Discussion: We are the only congregation that does not charge for a gravesite. This motion only opens the door to establish fees. Many questions rose regarding this motion. How to deal with current members, too general, specifics wanted.

Mitch called the question

Vote on motion: In favor: 2, against: 12, abstain: 2

Motion is defeated

Old Business:

Matt Katz: Holocaust memorial garden, gave specific numbers regarding costs to Jeff Cadoff to review.

Jerry Kaminski: If building is not done, will work be done on the parking lot? Looking into putting in gravel to fill in the holes.

Has the school been notified that the building will not be ready? Yes, it was discussed at staff meeting.

Hadas for **Gary Tinkel, financial secretary**: 444 members, 90 on special arrangement, 298 Full Dues Equivalents.

Treasurer's report: Marc Dillman was on vacation and had no report to hand out.

Ways and Means, Mark Sherman: Marc Binder taking over scrip program. Thanked Bobby Bergman for all of her hard work. She has done a wonderful job. She will no longer be doing this job.

Kasdin: Asked about discrepancies from the past, have they been worked out? Mark Sherman does not have the answer to that. Nothing was presented to Marc Dillman formally. Last billing had credits from scrip program. No wave of calls from people disputing those credits.

Cyndi Kleinbart: Office staff, how we can make the staff more efficient, brings in more revenue, and fill our new building? Drafts are done. Sent out to people for review and comment before it is presented to the board. This will hopefully be presented to the board in July.

Senior administrative position has been changed. Hadas has already taken on some of those responsibilities. The description is very detailed.

Men's club report: Last event, Trenton Thunder baseball game for June 13th has been over subscribed.

Programming report: June 26th, Chai Anniversary Shabbat, honoring those people who have been members of our congregation for over 18 years. There will be tzedakah baskets on the tables, Cindy would like sponsors for those baskets for \$18.

June 25th, plugged in Shabbat beginning at 7:45.

Good and Welfare, Rabbi Eligberg:

Refuah Sh'lemah: Nettie Rosenbloom, Marilyn Breitkopf's mother, Beth Chin's mother, Barney Cohn, eye surgery, Donna Glazer, back in hospital, Anita Roller, Andy Ross, Philip Reisberg

Condolences to Shirley Engel on the death of her sister.

Mazel Tov: Donna Glazer – son Rafi's graduation from SSDS, Harold Schneider – Amy's graduation from college, to all the Chai school and Hei class students. B'nai

Mitzvah: Howard and Leslie Cohen – Matthew; Yaron and Carol Cohen – Shelley, David and Nancy Rosen – Greg

Also, Mazel Tov to Rabbi on Jodi's pregnancy.

Mark Kasdin congratulated Ed Birch on the outstanding job he has done as Men's Club president this past year

Motion to adjourn: Cheryl Goldstein

Seconded by: Danny Greenberg

Reports

Administrative VP

1. For the past month (or longer), Cyndi Kleinbart has been leading a very dedicated committee (consisting of Cindy Gittleman, Cheryl Goldstein, Mark Kasdin & Frank Waltzer) developing job descriptions for our professional staff. They are to be credited with having done a great job, and I want them to be recognized for their efforts, especially since this is Cyndi's last meeting as a trustee. The descriptions, which represent the first step in redefining roles and ensuring the success of the addition (and thus of CBT) are almost complete and are awaiting feedback from some of the stakeholders. They will be presented at the next board meeting.
2. Marc Binder has agreed to act as the High Holiday Lead Organizer this year, taking over the role that Larry Cohen has performed for many years. We are deeply indebted to Larry for the hard work that he has put in over the years, and to Marc for agreeing to take up this additional challenge (in addition to all he already does). Many thanks to both.
3. We are unable to patch the parking lot for anywhere near a price that we can afford. Recognizing that we cannot let it stay in its current state, we are exploring the option of using gravel to fill in the major holes. We are hoping that this will be a good temporary solution.
4. There has been great debate over what constitutes a quorum for constitutional meetings. I am presenting a proposed constitutional amendment that will fix the number at 50, which is twice what is required for a Congregational Meeting.
5. Proposal to charge for cemetery plots will be presented at meeting.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

1. 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. Next event is June 25th, Friday Night Plugged In.

2. CHAI ANNIVERSARY SHABBAT

On June 26th we will be honoring 42 families who are celebrating 18-22 years of faithful membership to our congregation. There will be a buffet luncheon following services for the entire congregation. Best wishes in the form of an \$18.00 donation are being accepted with acknowledgments being sent to the families. (Flier in the Hakol) In addition, tzedakah baskets, which will decorate the luncheon tables, are also being sponsored for \$18.00. Please let me know if you are interested in sponsoring a basket. Your family name (and message) will be put on the basket.

VP of Ways and Means Monthly Report

Supermarket Scrip & Retail Scrip: Marc Binder will be replacing Bobbi Bergman as head of the scrip committee. We have Lisa Siedman and Morton Wurmbrand to helping Marc Binder 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. We have spoken to our car purchaser and he will split the cost of ads in the Jewish paper.

Activities VP Report

Programming

There are no programs scheduled for the next two months in light of vacations and the very poor attendance of last month's event.

Website/Communications

More members have signed up for the email announcements. We now have 296 subscribers.

Adult Education

The last Adult-ed scheduled for Wednesday June 9, may be postponed due to speaker's conflict.

Publicity

Bette Koffler sent press releases for the "New beginnings" open forum scheduled for June 16th and the for Rutgers Professor, Leslie Fishbein, who will address the 50+ group on June 22nd.

Recreation Committee

Efforts are underway to revive this important function to help make good use of our new building.

Religious School Report

Since the last board meeting in April several religious school events occurred:

- The gimel class created their own mizrach for Israeli Independence Day.
- Bet class had a successful Shabbat service and dinner on Friday, April 30

- Dalet class led the congregation in prayer and song on Shabbat morning, May 1.
- The gimel class hosted a "model" wedding on Sunday, May 9.
- Alef students received their own siddurim in a Hagigat HaSiddur ceremony on Friday, May 7.
- Our students geared up for the Salute to Israel Day Parade and made the appropriate accoutrements and decorations for the celebration as was requested by the Rabbi. The parade was held on Sunday, May 23.
- Chai school dinner and graduation and hei class siyum occurred on Wednesday evening, Shavuot service.
- Calendar dates and special events are quickly filling up for next year. Many exciting activities are being planned. Registration is 95% complete. Families that did not send anything back have been called and mailed out new forms. We expect that by the end of the month everyone will re-register. Registration forms and letters were sent out to pre-K children and prospective new families to join our school. We were successful to a degree. We will welcome a handful of new students for next year (so far) Currently, I am in the process for staffing and hiring new teachers for next year. Curriculum goals and objectives are being re-evaluated, books and materials ordered, etc.
- Final faculty meeting is planned for Thursday, June 3.
- Report cards were mailed out with Jr. Cong. attendances reported a/o May 8th. In addition to the report cards the families received a summer activity sheet to complete to bring in when school resumes again in September for a prize. We fashioned it to a reading rainbow idea. –Keshet Kriah.

Many thanks to Harold, Bobbi, Lisa and Kim for their support, encouragement and help throughout the year. We had a successful year and will build upon the excellence of our school and continue to provide quality education for our students next year. Best wishes to everyone for a happy and healthy summer.

Respectfully submitted by,
Ann Kanarek

USY REPORT

We currently have 49 paid members.

May events:

May 8th, we had closing dance in Springfield, which had a great turn out. (14 attended)

June events:

June 3rd, we had laser tag with East Brunswick at Sports n' Stuff. (11 attended)

June 10th, we have elections and Chinese food to pick the board for next year.

June 13th, we have regional Great Adventure day with Kadima. Bus leaves B'Nai Tikvah at 9 am, and then is returning from the park by 4 pm. (so far 7 will attend)

The board and Audra have been working together to call upcoming USYers for the 2004-2005 school year.

Encampment is August 23-30. Anyone enrolled at the Regional Office by June 10th will be entered in a drawing for a free Encampment.

KADIMA REPORT

51 paid members currently:

May Events:

(1) Chinese Food and Awards Night May 6th at the Synagogue, 24 attended.

(2) Mini Golf at Pine Creek in Hopewell, Township May 16th - 5 attended.

Recruitment mailing sent to current Kadima members, and incoming 6th graders.

Anyone enrolling by June 30th will have \$5 off his or her enrollment fee.

June Events:

1) Spring Convention June 4-6 in at the Edison Sheraton. Our chapter had 6 members attending (Keren Brown, Myles Rudin, Jessica Gerstein, Samantha Alpert, Adrienne Gold, and Chelsea Grossman.) Josh Binstock, Kadima assistant to Adam, was staff at the Convention. On Sunday of the Convention Adam conducted a martial arts demonstration and seminar. The entire music department from both middle schools in South Brunswick attended the music festival at Hershey Park the same weekend, which hurt our numbers.

(2) Great Adventure- June 13th. Bus leaves B'nai Tikvah at 9 am, and then is returning from the park by 4 pm. Final rsvps are due by June 7th.

Encampment is August 23-30, 2004. Anyone enrolled at the Regional Office by June 10th will be entered in a drawing for free Encampment.

Sisterhood Report

On May 10, the new slate of officers was presented and voted on. Our new president is Lynn Biderman. Cheryl Goldstein will continue as the sisterhood representative to the synagogue board. The 25-member board will be installed on Friday, June 11 during services. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

On Sunday, May 16, twelve (12) women enjoyed a tour of the Lower East Side Tenement Museum. It was beautiful day and the tour was enlightening.

High Holiday greeting cards can be ordered through Joyce Gerbman (732-937-5114) now through August. All orders received prior to July 31 will have their return addresses printed free.

50+ Group

Our trip to Camp Kislak was a huge success. Am told that we may sign up some new members. (They were at Kislak). We are having a great program at our Gen. meeting. On June 22nd. The program reads from the Shetle to now. The performer comes highly recommended by the N.J. Humanities. There are more details in this months Hakol