

## **B'nai Tikvah Board Meeting**

Minutes: August 2, 2002

### **Attendees:**

Gary Bergman  
Larry Cohen  
Marc Dillman  
Jerry Edley  
Hadas Elami  
Rabbi David Eligberg  
Madeline Gaynor  
Cindy Gittleman  
Dan Greenberg  
Naomi Jackenthal  
Mark Kasdin  
Cyndi Kleinbart  
Ruth Anne Koenick  
Jodi Marcou  
Harold Schneider  
Mark Sherman  
Gary Tinkel

### **Not Attending:**

Janice Baer  
Arie Behar  
Harvey Finkelstein  
Mitch Frumkin  
Jerry Kaminsky  
Cantor Bruce Rockman  
Gary Warner  
Keith Zimmerman

### **Non-Board Guests**

Marty Abschutz  
Millie Kutliroff  
David Kutliroff  
Bill Greenberg  
Rachel Shaneson  
Jay Scheuer

### **Call to Order [Mark Kasdin]**

Meeting called to order at 8:04 PM by Mark Kasdin.

### **Approval of Minutes of July 2002 Meeting [All]**

Moved by G. Tinkel, second by H. Schneider. Motion approved [14 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain].

### **Dvar Torah [Rabbi]**

Describe the situation Abram faces and what action he chooses to take?

- Problem of abundance. Both need a lot of space. Solution: let's get out of each other's way.
- Conflict resolution styles – what methods are effective (how do you deal with those members of the congregation who are dissatisfied)
- What's the tone that Abram uses? Conciliatory. Who triggers the events described here? Even though the solution might have been to say "get out of here", it's not. It's very conciliatory.
- What can we learn? About how to react when others words and actions deeply hurt us.
- How can we learn to choose our battles more carefully?

### **Guests**

1. Millie Kutliroff. (chair of cemetery committee). Previous balance: \$3100. Expenses of \$923. Current Balance is \$2,077. Since last report, we have buried 4 members and 2 non-members. We now have 376 + 106 graves available in the Washington cemetery on Deans Rhode Hall Road.
2. Bill Greenberg. Taking over membership. Very excited about being chair. Bill has about 40 leads. Three open houses coming up, on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please remember we are on display. Be friendly!!
3. Marty Abshutz. Chair of High Holiday ushers committee. Sign-up sheet being distributed. Distributed security and responsibility sheets. There will be at least 3 police officers on site during the holidays.

Question [N. Jackenthal]: will kids be allowed in playground? Probably not, due to security concerns. Debate about security.

Question [M. Gaynor]: can we add names to tickets? No.

4. Rachel Shaneson (Scrip Chairperson): big thanks to the scrip committee and the board. We have sold \$104K worth of scrip. Asking for help – would like board members to take a shift on Sunday mornings. There are 2 shifts: 8:50 AM to 10:30 AM & 10:30 AM to 12:15 PM. You will always be paired with an experienced person. Please call at home to RSVP or email [scrip@bnaitikvah.org](mailto:scrip@bnaitikvah.org). Please buy!! Our goal was achieved: over 100 families participate and over \$100K in sales. Job well done.

G. Bergman – we made money on the calendar this year. Commercial ads way up, individuals down. \$2100 revenue, wholesale printing, should net out between \$750 – \$1,000. Thanks to Gary – he does this pretty much on his own.

### **Old Business [All]**

#### **Expansion:**

We got the word that our request re wetlands has been recorded by the state and they have assigned it. Jeff Cadoff's company has someone who knows people in the DEP; if we haven't heard anything by August 15<sup>th</sup>, we will try to use this resource.

D. Greenberg: How long after we get approval can we start building? At least 3 months.

M. Gaynor: Are the builders willing to hold prices? Yes (as of July 15<sup>th</sup> for February prices).

J. Marcou: People are demanding info – can we get something out to people? We'd like to wait a week or so to see if there is any good news re wetlands..

#### **Carpeting**

The carpeting will be \$900 more than originally quoted. Don't need for motion to take more money from Shomrei Tikvah. Will start on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Will there be additional pews added? Can't – would be in violation of current fire codes.

### **VP Activities**

J. Marcou: Any word about VP Activities? Mitch sent Elliott a letter which was not responded to. Assuming that he has no interest, so Mark Kasdin will be approaching several other people to gauge interest. C. Gittleman: How can we be sure he got the email?

### **Administrator's Report**

High holiday preparations are in full gear. Letters have gone out to congregants – tickets will go out end of the week. We are preparing security. Probably fewer chairs than usual – 30–50 fewer people will be accommodated. We are adding temporary handicapped spots in the lot. Also on the search for additional help in the office: there were 9 applications – 3 interviews. 2 good. Second round on Tuesday.

### **Vice-Presidents Reports**

#### **Administration [L. Cohen]**

Letters for honors at High Holidays going out this week. Please get additional names in. The appeals changed somewhat – spread out over the three days. C. Kleinbart: Is there an Israel Relief Fund appeal? There will be a Federation appeal that includes it.

#### **Ways & Means [M. Sherman]**

Gary Warner will chair major fundraiser – assembling a creative team this Thursday including some veteran fundraisers and creative people. Whiteboard some ideas; drill them down to several key ideas. Meeting is open to all please come.

#### **School & Youth [H. Schneider]**

New Kadima advisor – Kfir Weinraub. Rutgers student. USY planning “pizza in the hut” and an ice cream party.

N. Jackenthal: is there a collection procedure in place for nonmember families that owe money to the nursery school? We have a family in this situation. Billing for nursery is done outside synagogue. Normally, they'd be held back from Hebrew school, but these are non-members. We can send a lawyer letter.

J. Marcou: Junior Congregation commitment – if not met, what happens? They have to do it over summer. If not, they are held back. There are two families in that situation now – at least one is coming over summer.

N. Jackenthal: Some nursery school parents have approached about doing feedback about Fran. Do we do a performance evaluation and can the parents participate. H. Schneider: her contract has one more year to go. Will consider all ideas for evaluation. R.A. Koenick: have to make sure it's not just negative feedback – needs to be constructive. C. Kleinbart: everyone should be surveyed. G. Bergman: Parent Advisory Committee? Acts like a PTA, not a school board.

### **Financial Report [G. Tinkel]**

2 classes of letters went to members who aren't getting High Holiday tickets. 60 families are 2 quarters or less behind in dues. 19 letters went out to families who have not paid any dues this year. [Of these, 11 have paid no dues AND owe school.] 79 letters in total. This is a lot more than usual, but is because holidays are a lot earlier. We are not picking up new members as we have in past years. We are at 437 members – 307 DPE

J. Marcou: when was the last time a member joined? About 1 month ago.

M. Gaynor: how many DPE's is our budget based on? 299.

### **Treasurer's Report [M. Dillman]**

Preliminary year-end info distributed. We have substantially more money rec'd, but there is still a lot that needs to be posted. Most numbers will be corrected by next month. We had forecast \$1,100,000.

Right now we're at about \$1,040,000. After nursery adjustment, we should still be ahead of forecast. Expenses will be better also. We will likely be in better condition than we had said at budget time last year. Forecast \$65,000, probably end up at about \$85,000.

M. Sherman: what's new with the audit. Gathering info.

J. Edley: where's the \$2,000 that the Men's Club gave? It's reflected.

### **Men's Club [J. Edley]**

Organizational meeting was yesterday. We will put up the sukkah. We have about six programs that we are kicking around, will keep you posted. Bowling league starts second week of September.

### **Sisterhood [R. Koenick]**

Planning process ongoing. Board meeting next Monday. First fundraiser – High Holiday cards/flowers. We are taking the money we raise and turning it back into needed things. Gift shop. Israel relief fund. We are looking in to combining the gifts that B'nai Mitzvoth get. Maybe get something made in Israel. Deb Spigner looking into it. Possibly giving Eitz Chaim Chumash instead of three separate gifts. Rabbi concurs that we should come together to give a much more appropriate gift. C. Gittleman: can we have a rep from sisterhood? We already have those channels set up. Cheryl Goldstein. Marc Dillman (on behalf of Marcy): please buy flowers.

[Secretary's Note: just taking a poll to see how many people read these minutes. If you get at least this far, please let me know at or before the next meeting. No cheating now – don't tell anyone else. It's everyone for themselves! – Dan]

### **50+ Club [M. Gaynor]**

Ice cream social coming up.

### **Rabbi report [Rabbi Eligberg]**

Thank you for not calling me while on vacation!. Thanks to those who took on the duties and responsibilities while I was away. Looking forward to finishing the revision and rewriting of Musaf service for YK and RH. Before, it didn't have the desired impact – hopefully it will be more emotionally satisfying.

### **Good & Welfare. (Rabbi)**

Condolences to:

- Norman Shapiro on the death of his mother Jeanette Shapiro
- Lewis Elfenbein on the death of his father Harold Elfenbein
- Joel, Danielle, Taryn Bradus on the death of their wife and mother, Deborah Bradus

Speedy Recovery to:

- Delores Dansky – now home and doing well
- Jerry Goldsmith – at RWJ
- Bruce Erdreich – now home and doing well
- Bert Sichel – at Freehold Hospital, improvements

Mazel Tov:

- Helene & Gary Tinkel – grandparents of Ethan Jonah Vernon

### **Motion to Adjourn**

By J. Edley, second by D. Greenberg. Approved unanimously. Adjourned at 9:53 PM.