

Congregation B'nai Tikvah  
Board of Director's Meeting  
Minutes August 2, 2004

Meeting called to order at 8:02 pm by President Arie Behar.

In attendance: Arie Behar, Gary Bergman, Bobbi Binder, Jeff Cadoff, Larry Cohen, Marc Dillman, Harvey Finkelstein, Mitch Frumkin, Al Garten, Cindy Gittleman, Cheryl Goldstein, Dan Greenberg, Jerry Kaminsky, Mark Kasdin, Ruth Anne Koenick, Doris Sandrowitz, Harold Schneider, Mark Sherman, Frank Waltzer, Paul Zankel, Keith Zimmerman  
Rabbi Eligberg, Hadas Elami  
Guests: Marc Binder, Adrienne and Elyse Ross

Motion to approve minutes from July board meeting by Danny Greenberg, seconded by Ruth Anne Koenick.

In favor: 12, against: 0, Abstain: 0

Minutes approved

Elyse Ross just returned from Israel and spoke to us about her trip. Feels that we need to work on our students going to Israel during their high school years. Adrienne Ross spoke about her trip to Israel, which was part of the USY program. They attended a program with over 2400 USYers from all programs in Israel with USY.

Danny Greenberg: The Ross's purchased all the mezuzzot for the new wing from an organization that is comprised of senior citizens and mentally challenged people who create their own art, etc. to be self supporting.

Rabbi handed out a creative poetry workshop for everyone to fill out. He collected them for later use

**President's report:** Arie sent letter to John Edwards to come and speak at our synagogue. Waiting for a response.

**Capital Campaign:** Mark Sherman, Cindy Gittleman, Arie and Mitch joined Mark Roller and Jeff Schwartz to give the campaign a push. Arie met with someone today, who pledged to contribute \$20,000. Met with solicitors, there are 10 of them so far. Campaign should be done by Rosh Hashanah. Concentrating on people who have not participated in original campaign. There are 90 families

who will be receiving a phone call. Any amount of participation will be accepted for 100% participation.

Ways and Means spoke with the Frumkins, they will be honored at the dinner dance this coming spring. Ad journal will be part of this. Arie is chairing this event. March 12, 2005.

Arie sends out letters for life cycle events and has received many responses. One was read at the board meeting.

### **New Business:**

Marc Binder scrip presentation

21 out of 24 members of the board participate in the scrip program. Marc is confused about the credits that existed last year. Offer 1% credit for all scrip purchases. Assessment was \$60 for a full dues paying member. You could buy scrip to offset that assessment and then continue to get a 2% credit for all purchases after that. \$11,000 profit but we gave back \$8,000.

Discussion followed.

2 to 3 years ago we were making \$7000 to \$8000 per year.

Motion by Mark Sherman: Allow a 1% credit on all scrip purchases

Seconded by: Danny Greenberg

Discussion followed

178 families participated in the scrip program.

Question called by Paul Zankel.

Vote: In favor: 0, Against: 16, Abstain: 3

Motion does not pass. The program will continue as it is.

We should consider asking congregants to waive their credit. Mark Sherman and Marc Binder should work on an idea and present it at the next board meeting.

Paul suggested that this be brought up at the next congregational meeting.

Cindy Gittleman: Handed out folders with paperwork for our outreach campaign. The deadline for this is August 30<sup>th</sup>. Suggested that we only call two times if we can't get in touch, and leave one week in between calls.

List was handed out for people to sign up for bima duty on Shabbat morning.

### **Construction update:**

Lots of activity going on. Roof is 90% done, slab was poured in more than half the building. Rest is being poured this week. Windows will be in this week. Air

conditioner system and sprinkler systems have started to go in. Electrical system is being installed next week. Biggest problem that we have overcome is that the roof is on and the rain is not slowing us down. Signed contract for paving to be done in the next couple of weeks as soon as the sheetrock and concrete are done.

Kasdin: Insurance question, are we more liable since we are overseeing the project? Zimmerman, we are covered, \$8,000,000 in liability. Contractors all give waivers when they do work here.

Caterer has come to us regarding front of building. He would like landscape architect to put planters in front of building, including sprinkler system and benches.

Matt Katz was thinking of using this for his Holocaust program.

Arie: No GC on the site, just the construction committee, with Mitch taking on the majority of the work. Everything is being done by the book. There is no one to go to as the head of this project, no one for us to sue. We are doing this all ourselves. This has become a money issue by and large, Mitch and Arie want no credit for this, but at the same time do not want to shoulder any of the burden.

Mitch: Everything has been documented so that when we are done with construction and legal action needs to be taken, we are prepared.

Dillman: We are over budget \$230,000. This does not take into consideration pledges that were made that may not be executed. This amount is unknown and will need to be added to the \$230,000. We will be short closer to \$300,000. Where does that put us with respect to our arrangements with the bank? There is sufficient money available to complete the project. \$400,000 credit line. However, the line of credit is due and payable in full in November 2005. Where are we going to get this money to repay the bank? The capital campaign allows for many year payout of the pledges and doesn't seem that the money will be available to pay the \$400,000. Hopefully, the bank will extend the credit, but Marc feels that this is not the way to have a business arrangement. We have a fiscal responsibility to the congregation to do what is appropriate, what are we going to do?

Arie: Thanked Marc for bringing this to our attention. Stopping the project is not an option, it needs to be finished. The cost to stop and then start again is not reasonable. The equity that we have in the buildings is worth a lot more than the credit that we have with the bank. We can refinance this building next year. Funds are available that are allocated to different line items. Arie feels that the capital campaign is moving in the right direction. Arie stressed the optimism associated with this project.

We are now \$219,000 into the line of credit right, \$345,000 is the anticipated amount. We also have to consider that if we proceed with litigation, we need money available for that.

Kasdin suggested refinancing the parsonage some time in the future.

Motion by Danny Greenberg: That we allow the caterer, at his cost, to install a garden, landscaping, benches in the front of the building, subject to the approval of VP administration, the construction committee, and house and grounds,

Seconded by Ruth Anne

Vote: in favor: 17, against: 0 abstain 1

Motion passes

**Old business:** None.

#### **Reports:**

##### **Mark Kasdin financial secretary:**

Letters have gone out/will go out this next week. To those who have agreed to pay for campaign who are behind, to those who are on special arrangements, 90 some odd families, 1/3 were sent letters informing them that they are now on full dues. A lot of the information that we had was out of date. High holiday tickets will go out in the next few weeks, if you are not up to date, you will not get tickets. An Explanation of the motion that was passed at the congregational meeting regarding the fact that all obligations now fall under financial secretary and that not meeting that obligation takes a member out of good standing was included in the letters.

We have 442 members. 314 Full paying dues equivalents, 62 on special arrangement. Some families were taken off special arrangements; the numbers here may not be 100% correct and will be updated. Kasdin will explain that a special arrangement one year does not mean that it carries over to the next year.

90 people have joined over the past 3 years. Our problem is retention.

Rabbi pointed out that Mark Kasdin's work has allowed the Rabbi to reach out to a few congregants that he may not have known about

**Treasurer's Report:** Marc Dillman handed out year-end report. Positive variance, but adjusting entries need to be made. There will be a carryover, that amount is not 100% known.

Danny Greenberg passed around usher list to sign up for high holidays and bima list for high holidays. Lots of things that need to be done, let Danny or Hadas or Marc Binder know what you would like to do.

Arie, Danny and Rabbi met to finalize the Rabbi's contract, it will be signed this week.

Rabbi Eligberg: Passed around checks from his discretionary fund for the board members to make a donation of their choice.

Good and Welfare:

R'fuah sh'layma to : Ruth Adler, recovering from hip surgery, Ed Birch, Mollie Cohn, Steve Coopersmith, Dee Danksy, Donna Glazer, Philip Reisberg, Anita Roller and Millie Rosloff

Mazel Tov to: Dillman's on their upcoming anniversary, Talmud's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Poliziner, daughter Debra's engagement to David, Ed and Phyllis Rosen, marriage of daughter Cindy to Rob, Matt and Beth Schurman expecting child, Olitzkys on engagement of Avi to Sarah, to Azzan Yadin , on publication of his latest book.

Birthday wishes to Amy and Arie Behar

Motion to adjourn by Ruth Anne, seconded by Cindy Gittleman

## **Committee and VP Report**

### **Administrative VP**

1. Starting on August 9<sup>th</sup>, and lasting for as long as three days, the office (and the whole synagogue building) will be closed, so that the electric installation can be made to the new building. While the office is closed, rabbinic emergencies should be reported to Rabbi Eligberg at 732.940.1973.
2. After extensive price comparison and checking with other synagogues, we have selected a new telephone system, which will be installed starting August 16<sup>th</sup>. The system is a name brand (Avaya) and is being purchased outright.
3. Per the motion at the last board meeting, we will also wire the new building for telephone service at the same time.
4. Preparations have commenced for High Holidays – please contact Marc Binder, Marty Abschutz or Dan Greenberg if you would like to volunteer

to help. There are plenty of jobs to go around. Sign up sheets will be passed around at the Board meeting for outside ushers (i.e. front door, front desk and sanctuary door) and for bimah duty. Please participate.

## **Activities VP Report**

### **Social Action**

The Social Action Committee is repeating their "food of the month" program, whereby they are asking congregants who attend meetings, to bring a food donation item when visiting the synagogue.

### **Hakol**

It is expected that the September issue of the Hakol will be in the hands of our congregants before September 1<sup>st</sup>. The deadline for articles is this coming Monday.

### **Adult Education**

Several of our volunteer speakers from last year have agreed to do an encore or different performance this year. As soon as we can find someone to chair the committee, we'll start work on the schedule.

### **Calendar**

For the past three years, the calendar has been printed at wholesale prices but, this is no longer available to us. After some shopping around, it was decided to have the calendar printed in Israel, both to support the Israel economy and to save us money. For less than the cost of local printing, we will have a two- color (red & black) version with a metal spiral binding. We expect to have the final product in our possession by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of August.

We took in \$2,778 in advertising (slightly less than last year) and the printing cost for 500 copies will be under \$900. Mailing/distribution cost to be determined.

### **Website/Communications**

Subscribers to the email CBT Newsletter has increased to 309 families.

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

1. NEW MEMBER COFFEE HOUSE:

We will be having a prospective member coffee house event on AUGUST 11<sup>TH</sup> AT 7:00 PM. All board members are welcome to attend and help answer questions about the synagogue. Please let me know if you can attend.

2. OUTREACH PHONE CALLS:

As an effort to "touch" each member of our congregation, and help them to feel more connected, all members of the board, will be asked to call a list of our fellow congregants and say hello. Our hope is by trying a one to one outreach, inactive synagogue members will learn more about BT and what it has to offer on a very personal level.

3. FOCUS GROUPS:

Over the course of the coming year, a series of focus groups will be held to learn more about the needs and wants of our congregation. They will be done in a small group format, invitation only.

4. TEE SHIRTS:

B'nai Tikvah wear was well received this year and will continue to be sold.

5. VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT:

In the spring, membership will organize a "THANK YOU" party for all our members who have helped out over the year. (the Jewish year). It will be an open invitation for all volunteers ( identifying themselves). Any ideas, please feel free to share them!

**Past President**

Monthly Report July 2004

**Construction:**

As presented at the Board meeting last month we will be experiencing 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 finalized although it appears to be approximately the same as discussed at last months meeting. It appears that we have now uncovered the vast majority of the problems left to us when we terminated the general contractor. While initially these issues slowed down the pace of construction we now are moving ahead relatively smoothly. As part of the transition from the GC to running the project ourselves we have been left with the subcontractors originally hired by the GC. While most of these have proven to be competent, we have just this past week taken the excavation portion of the contract away from the excavator and added

this work to the scope of the mason. This was primarily due to scheduling and not work quality.

**Current Status:**

- 1) Schedule. The anticipated completion date is late September.
- 2) This past month the concrete floor slab was poured in approximately 50 % of the building with the remaining slab installation planned for this coming Thursday.
- 3) This past month the exterior insulation finish system (EIFS) at the upper part of the multi purpose room has been over 50% completed.
- 4) This past month the roof has been completed over the entire building and only has ancillary work required for completion.
- 5) It is anticipated that the majority of windows will be installed this week.
- 6) It is anticipated that the interior studwork, electrical HVAC, plumbing and sprinkler system work will proceed quickly upon installation of the windows and completion of the floor slab.
- 7) We have entered into a contract for the parking lot. It is anticipated that the major reconstruction work will take place in the next two weeks with a complete overlay planned for before the holidays.

**Feedback Committee**

While the meetings have been proceeding in a sporadic nature, this committee is looking for some direction from the Board in regards to its ultimate purpose since the meetings are typically not of a productive nature since it is very rare is feedback is received from the Congregation. Any suggestions would be appreciated.

**Adult Education Committee**

This committee is in the process of being reorganized for the coming year by Gary B. Anyone interested in working on this should contact him.

**Sisterhood Report**

**FUNDRAISING**

Our fundraising committee has set their sites on the following activities for 2004/2005:

- ☆ Flowers – Rosh Hashanah, Thanksgiving, Passover.

- ✧ Shalach Manot (Purim box).
- ✧ Passover Wine.
- ✧ Mah Jongg Tournamant – Sunday, April 10, 2005
- ✧ Mah Jongg cards.
- ✧ Pampered Chef party

### **PROGRAMMING**

The dates of our general membership meetings are as follows. The programming is yet to be determined.

Sunday 9/12:	10:00am in the Kiddush room (TBA)
Thursday 10/14:	7:30pm in the social hall (TBA)
Sunday 10/17 & 10/24:	Chanukah Bazaar
Tuesday 11/30:	Paid up membership dinner & program
Sunday 12/19:	trip to JTS in NYC (tentative)
Saturday 1/22:	6:30pm to 10:00pm: Sisterhood Shabbat (mincha/maariv service)
Sunday 2/13:	9:00am to Noon - joint meeting with men's club (topic tba)
Sunday 3/20:	10:00am (TBA)
Sunday 4/10:	Mah Jongg Tournament
Sunday 4/17:	10:00am (TBA)
Sunday 5/8:	10:00am (TBA)
Friday 6/10:	6:30pm Shabbat dinner & Installation of new board

### **SISTERHOOD GIFT SHOP**

We are anxiously awaiting the opening of the new wing so as to prepare for the opening of our new gift shop. We are delighted with the location of the shop and the exposure it has to the outside of the building.

### **SOCIAL ACTION**

September - collecting snacks for the food bank for Back To School  
 October - collecting good condition clothing for the "clothing bus".

## **VP of Ways and Means Monthly Report**

**Supermarket Scrip & Retail Scrip:** Marc Binder has taken over the script committee. I am still waiting for his written report to close out the year. I will

have for board meeting. Mark Binder is going to propose a elimination of the \$60.00 assessment at the next board meeting.

**The Event:** We are honoring Mitch and Arlene Frumkin for the main event. This will be chaired by Ari Behar. We will be raising money through an ad journal.

**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. Details 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.