

**Minutes from Board meeting  
Congregation B'nai Tikvah  
September 5, 2006**

**In attendance:**

Arthur Biderman, Bobbi Binder, Ed Birch, Jeff Cadoff, Larry Cohen, Marc Dillman, Al Garten, Cindy Gittleman, Danny Greenberg, Marlene Heller, Mark Jiorle, Ruth Anne Koenick, Linda Kohn, Allison Nagelberg, Beth Schurman, Mark Sherman, Gary Warner, Paul Zankel  
Rabbi Goldstein, Lisa Mason, Cantor Rockman

Meeting called to order by President Danny Greenberg at 8pm

At start of meeting, we did not have a quorum; no vote was taken to accept the minutes. Board introduced themselves to Rabbi Goldstein.  
Rabbi Goldstein gave a d'var torah.  
Motion to approve minutes by Gary Warner  
Seconded by Mark Jiorle.  
vote: 12 opposed 0, abstain 1

**President's report:**

Danny welcomed Rabbi Goldstein.  
Danny announced resignation of Al Garten from the board. Al gave the explanation that the bank he works for is closing and that he is moving to Charlotte, NC in 30 days.  
Allison Nagelberg will be filling the position of VP Ways and Means for the remainder of the year.  
Nov 5<sup>th</sup> - United Synagogue is having a one day convention in Livingston. The cost will be covered for anyone who is interested. The money will come from the Kane endowment.  
We are trying to get more money from the caterer to cover the cost of increased utilities. Arie Behar and Gary Bergman have been working on this and we will have something more concrete by the next meeting.  
Our Ramlah fund has hit \$27,000. The mayor has sent letters to everyone who has donated. Danny encouraged us to continue sending money.  
Law Suit - waiting for comments from the architect on the complaint. This should come in by next week.  
Chabad Situation: We have lost another member who has joined Chabad, bringing the total to 2 in the last few weeks. This is something that is happening throughout the country. United Synagogue needs to get involved at the national level. Chabad has great programs, great PR, their services are offered for free and this tough competition. We need to keep our members who are on the edge connected. Chabad does a great job of reaching out.  
Rabbi Goldstein explained some of the workings of Chabad. They do collect money.

Danny then encouraged board members to go Shiva houses.  
Allison pointed out that we need an ongoing buddy system. Larry offered to let the board members know when a Shiva minyan is occurring in a neighborhood.  
Sisterhood should also do this.  
Beth Schurman suggested a "face book" type of idea to identify our members. We will set up a committee to get this going. Beth Schurman and Bobbi Binder will work on this after the holidays.

Aaron spoke to Danny about an idea - Jewish cultural festival. This is a huge undertaking which at another synagogue attracts over 5000 people. This would take a year to plan at least. We could get other synagogues and grocery stores involved. No one does this in our area.

**Financial secretary:** Mark Kasdin had surgery and is now home recovering. Danny reported the following:

430 members

282 FDPE

80 special arrangements

**Treasurer:** Marc Dillman handed out reports. Marc highlighted reports. The money from the charter school will not be showing up on the budget because it is not part of the operating budget.

Additionally, Marc handed out an expansion fund accounting report and discussed this report. We still have not gotten the bond money back from North Brunswick.

**Cantor's report:** Cantor thanked various people for filling in for services while he was on vacation including: Larry Cohen; Bobbi Binder; Arthur Cedarbaum; Stuart and Marie Davis.

Cantor discussed our Selichot program. We have a number of lawyers who will try Abraham for the attempted murder of Isaac. The program will precede services. It is also an opportunity to meet the Rabbi and his wife.

We had a speaker here this summer to discuss the situation in Israel.

9/11 is next week. We have been invited to attend a program at 6:30pm in North Brunswick.

Rabbi would love to meet everyone and would like board members to encourage everyone to attend the program. Bobbi would like to see board members identified at services, Cindy Gittleman will see if she has name tags for us to wear.

There is a program, live with Netanyahu on Sept 12 that we are encouraged to attend.

**VP Ways and Means** - Allison Nagelberg: The big fundraiser will be held on March 17th, we will be honoring Mark and Brenda Sherman.

VP Membership  
September Report  
September 4, 2006

We held an open house in late August and six families attended. One has already joined. Thank you to Phyllis, Ann Hadas, Roz and Lisa for their help and to the board members and others you attended. Your presence truly made a difference. Thank you to Mark Jiorle for following up with a prospect (the one that joined) and I know that the warmth we welcomed everyone with made a difference. Also, a special thank you to Rabbi and Annette Goldstein for being there too.

We have had a few resignations that either I or Danny has reached out to and I will continue to contact families who resign.

I will be meeting with Rabbi Goldstien to be planning the Bikkur Cholim meeting in October and will be inviting a few people to join a new marketing committee. If you have someone to suggest, please let me know. I want to keep this committee small, at least at the beginning, so please come to me before asking anyone. In looking at how prospective members heard about the open house, it included friends who are members, and the sign in the synagogue window (not everyone answered that question on the sign in sheet). Although I believe we have to advertise in the Jewish News, it is clear that other contacts are important, if not more important.

I have picked up sending notes to b'nai mitzvah families now that they have begun again, and to the families of those who have lost someone. A total of four notes were sent out last week.

Please remember to give a sign in sheet to all of your committees that hold events so we can capture names for our mailings.

**Administration VP Report**  
September 2006

**High Holiday Day Preparations**

The Junior Congregation service for the High Holy Days will be conducted in the hall of the multi-purpose Room opposite of the stage and the chairs will be borrowed from the Religious School, also located in the new wing. This will not only avoid the hassle of maintaining the Kiddush Room but, as last year, we will not need to rent any chairs for holidays. Everything in preparation by the RAC for the High Holy Days is on track, tickets and pledge cards are printed, etc.

We still need volunteers for ushering and not all the bima slots are filled (at the time of this writing). Sign-up forms are on the website in addition to Babysitting registration forms.

**Other Religious Activities**

Lulav & Etrog orders are being taken by Ruth Anne Koenick. Forms are on the website. A S'lichot program scheduled for Saturday Sept. 16 will feature the "Trial of Abraham" as portrayed by Sam Rosenzweig

Our family Shabbat dinner and services, facilitated by Marc & Bobbi Binder, will resume on October 20<sup>th</sup>. This program gains a multi-generational appeal as older congregants are encouraged to bring their grandchildren.

**House & Grounds**

The Library has finally been fully restored.

We are seeking donations to replace the Coat Room lockers with a custom made permanent cabinet in the hallway by the office.

The parsonage has been cleaned and repainted just in time to receive Rabbi Goldstein and his family. Some additional work needs to be done to repair the flashing on the roof.

An additional Air Conditioning compressor needed to be replaced in the social hall. This was done with a re-built unit with a 1 year warranty.

Several needed repairs were made to the security system.  
The caterer's landscaping lights failed again after repairs were made last year.

## **School & Youth Vice-President Report**

### **September 5, 2006**

#### **Nursery School**

- A school survey was distributed to parents near year's end. A student orientation was added to the program as a result of parent recommendation.
- The kids will be picking apples at Terhune Farms in Princeton. Israeli Dance, yoga and soccer programs are continuing from last year and gymnastics has been added.
- 2006 – 2007 enrollment is 60 plus 13 in mother/child classes (total of 73 exceeds the projected enrollment of 50.).
- Roz is now working as the school's administrative assistant.

#### **Camp Program**

- Camp was a success. A small profit is anticipated, with exact numbers pending final accounting.

#### **Religious School**

- The School has hired a new administrative assistant.
- Enrollment is currently at 181 (exceeds projection of 179).
- **Chai School remains a potential growth area of the school. Programming suggestions are especially welcome for this area. Please contact me via email with your suggestions.**

#### **USY**

- There were 15 USY'ers at encampment.
- The USY'ers have cleaned and painted the Youth Lounge and will be installing carpeting in the very near future.
- There will be an Ice Cream Social on September 12<sup>th</sup> and the Supermarket Sweep on the 28<sup>th</sup> (@ Rte 27 Stop-n-Shop).
- The remaining calendar is currently being finalized by the chapter.

#### **Kadima**

- There were 17 Kadimaniks at encampment.
- The first Kadima event (Pasta and Ice cream sundaes) is tomorrow evening – 16 children were signed up as of August 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Bingo night is being held on September 18<sup>th</sup>. The chapter is looking for prizes. Please contact Rachel Sakofs with any donations.

#### **College Program**

- No news at this time.

#### **Youth Commission**

- Dorothy Cohen and Mike Brown are the new Youth Commission co-chairs. Several new members have joined the Commission. Welcome!! There is always room for more on this committee. Please feel free to contact/or direct others to Mike, Dorothy or myself if you/they are interested in helping out.
- Purim Carnival planning will begin with the new school year. Volunteers and/or ideas are always welcome.

**Men's Club** – Ed Birch. There will be a meeting this Sunday, come meet the Rabbi. Encouraged everyone to join. Oct 1st, putting the sukkah up and will construct the Yom Kippur chair set up. Rabbi Charles Simon of Men's club will come speak at our synagogue one Sunday morning this year. Rabbi encouraged people to attend. Softball team did well this year. Build your own T'fillin program. Israel is planning on starting a baseball team and will be holding tryouts in the US.

Phil Welsher is working solo on Hakol, please be patient. The volunteer card for the holidays will be a little different this year. Cindy wanted to give the board a heads up. Danny let the board know how we reached out to Highland Park when their building burned down. We supplied them with siddurim, copies of the Torah portion for the next few weeks.

**New business:** Beth wants to be able to pursue non-personal meetings for a crisis situation. Danny does not believe that there is not anything in the constitution about how the board votes. This could be something worth pursuing. Dealing with amendments or down computers could be an issue. Perhaps for crisis situations the executive board should take a vote. Danny would like Gary Bergman to start looking into this and come back to the board.

Lisa reminded us to keep our announcements short and sweet for those that are being read from the bima each week.

**Good and Welfare:** Rabbi Goldstein Reminded board that when we know something, to please let the Rabbi know, do not assume that he knows.

**Mazel Tov:** Bruce and Victoria Feldman on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Sarah Feldman, Ellen and Jerry Platz on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Alyssa, Platz, Arline and Arthur Cederbaum on the birth and brit milah of their grandson, Sheryl and Rabbi Kerry Olitzky on the engagement of their son Jesse to Andrea.

R'fuah Shlema: Mark Kasdin and Gary Tinkel.

Condolences to: The Simon family on the loss of Phil Simon

Board went into executive session

Motion to adjourn by Gary Warner, seconded by Mark Jiorle