

Congregation B'nai Tikvah
Board of Director's Meeting
September 9, 2004

Meeting called to order at 8pm by president Arie Behar.

In attendance: Janice Baer, Arie Behar, Gary Bergman, Bobbi Binder, Larry Cohen, Marc Dillman, 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, Gary Warner, Paul Zankel, Keith Zimmerman Rabbi Eligberg, Cantor Rockman, Hadas Elami

Motion to approve minutes from last board meeting.

In favor: 11, Opposed: 0, Abstain: 0

Approval of minutes passes.

Divar Torah by Rabbi Eligberg.

President's report:

Off the agenda is the report from Jim Stall regarding our legal representation. That will take place next month. We have no choice but to go into litigation.

2 fundraising issues: March 12th we will be honoring the Frumkins. The committee has met already. They hope to raise \$30,000 - \$40,000. This is not in the budget. We will aggressively be going after businesses to put in big ads.

Board received letter to participate in phone calls the day after Yom Kippur. Mark Sherman will be making a presentation later. The board must lead by example. Arie made a plea to have everyone participate.

New Business:

Board members each had a chance to report back on the phone calls that they made to our congregants as part of our effort to reach out to all congregants.

Danny Greenberg: High Holiday report. Parking lot is in better condition for the holidays. It will be re-striped before the holidays, weather permitting. Security: We will have North Brunswick police at the building. Honors have all been given out, letters were sent. Ticket takers have been arranged, chairs are on order, being delivered on Monday. Need usher positions filled for outside the sanctuary, front desk, a few others which are listed on the website. You can sign up for that directly on line. Looking for bima buddies, there are mostly evening services open. Need volunteers on 9/13 to set up chairs right after minyan, children who can help are welcome. Try to get USYers. Hadas will be here, as well as Marc Binder to tell everyone what to do. Need volunteers to break down the chairs on the 26th, this will be done in the morning so that we can participate in the phone a thon that afternoon.

Question: How many guest tickets were sold? To date, lower than last year.

Colleen and Hadas were in the sanctuary cleaning over Labor Day weekend, thanks to them. Colleen was up on a ladder cleaning the ark.

If we don't move the dirt and clean up the lot, we will have less parking spaces. Parking on Finnegan's lane is a problem and the police are aware of this.

Ticket sales are much lower in both numbers and amount. We are at \$17,000, budget is \$27,000. Doesn't look like we will make budget as of right now.

Janice Baer feels that we need to be more diligent checking tickets. The consensus is that we have been.

Arie concerned that not everyone picks up their appeal envelope. Danny noted that there are times when there is a crush of people and it's difficult to do this.

Marc Binder has done a lot of work on the high holidays.

Construction Presentation by Mitch Frumkin:

Plumbing had to be redone for the bathrooms, plumber was fired and a new one was hired to complete the job. Subcontractors are all the same. Windows have gone in, floor slab has been poured except for bathroom. Curb work and sidewalks are done. A lot of paving has been done, that is being paid for out of a reserve fund. The back area will be cleaned up over the next few days. The dirt will be moved to allow for more parking. The stage has gone in, fire protection sprinkler system is in, piping, duct work, HVAC, basketball hoops will be in next week, need a lift to move them up to the ceiling. Majority of electric work is done. Gary Bergman has wired for computers. Stucco has gone in upper part of building. Gutter at back of multi purpose room has gone in.

Mitch gave a monetary presentation regarding overages for the construction.

Mitch and Arie are meeting with the architect next week. There are many issues that need to be addresses.

Arie reminded everyone to be honest when people ask questions about the construction. If you don't know the details, let people know that.

Arie reminded everyone that the decision to go with Grant Construction seemed like a good idea at the time and that the problems couldn't have been foreseen.

Questions followed regarding the report.

We cannot go after Grant until the building is completed. This is per the contract.

Questions regarding how this affects our financing. We do have enough credit to complete the building. How do we pay it back is another question. We have one year to start paying back the loan, starting next October.

We are reaching out to people who joined after the campaign, we have \$50,000 in pledges so far.

Motion by Mark Sherman:

To obtain, but not use, a home equity line of credit for the maximum amount available on the parsonage with the intension to go to the congregation if we need to use that money.

A home equity line will be able to be paid back over a longer period of time.

This money will be available in case we need it.

Seconded by Keith Zimmerman.

We own the parsonage and owe no money on it.

Discussion followed.

Point of motion: This needs to be brought to the congregation when we need to use the money.

We will not be able to borrow against the house if we need to, the credit line will be considered a debt whether we use it or not.

Mark withdrew motion.

New motion by Mark Sherman:

That the board approach the congregation at the next congregational meeting with the recommendation that the congregation approve a line of credit on the parsonage for the maximum amount available.

Seconded by Jerry Kaminsky.

Discussion followed.

Question called: All in favor

Old business: Mark Sherman, High Holiday appeal solicitation. This will take place at Mark Sherman's office in New Brunswick . We will not know who gave and who didn't. There will be a script available. 4-7pm.

Reports:

Financial Secretary: Mark Kasdin, 444 member families. 20% on special arrangement. 304 dues paying equivalent. We still have 26 sets of tickets that have not been picked up. Mark is working with a third of those families. 10 families of those 26 may have left or in the process of leaving. 81 families are on special arrangement right now. Sherman clarified that he did in fact receive a scrip report from Marc Binder.

Good and Welfare: Rabbi Eligberg. Rabbi passed around information about the biennial convention for Conservative Judaism taking place on November 7th .

Rabbi shared where our donations went to: Expansion Fund, Alternatives for Battered Women, Locks of Love, National Tay-Sacks & Allied Diseases Association, NCCJ, DMRF Dystonia Foundation. There will be more coming in.

The Rabbi is looking to start a new chavurah after Sukkot.

R'fuah Sh'layma: Harvey Finkelstein, triple bypass; Ruth Adler, hip replacement; Lori Asch's mother; Phyllis Edley.

Hamakom Y'nachem: Janice Baer, death of her mother Shirley Berezin; Beth Miller, death of her mother Leah Miller; Barry Haberman, death of his father Hy Haberman; Carol Winter, death of her mother.

Good luck to Larry Cohen, he will be cantor in Harrisburg, PA during the High Holidays. Mention of Mitch and Arie for all their hard work on the expansion.

Mazel Tov: Dantos, Ehrlichs, Talmuds and Olitzkys who each celebrated anniversaries; Cheryl and Kerri Olitzky on the engagement of Avi to Sarah; Lanny and Elsa Rubin on Nicole's Bat Mitzvah, Marshall and Teresa Samtur on William and Liz's B'nai Mitzvah; Cliff and Amy Smith on Jordan's Bar Mitzvah.

Motion to go into closed session by Ruth Anne, seconded by Doris

Meeting adjourned after closed session at 11:00pm.

VP and Committee Report

Administrative VP

1. Due to my oversight, I neglected to thank Bobbi Binder at the last meeting. Bobbi has agreed to head up the Religious Activities Committee for the upcoming year, in addition to all her other duties. Many thanks to her for taking on this additional role, and to Jeff Schwartz who has served in this capacity over the past year.
2. Now that the new telephone system has been successfully installed, we have been informed that our phone service is being terminated. Hadas has extensively researched the alternatives available, and has found an excellent alternative in DeltaNet Telecom. They come recommended by other congregations, and will save us approximately \$100 per month. Barring any objections, we are going to enter into a three-year contract with them so that we can lock in their rates.
3. Many thanks to all who sent in names of people for honors for the High Holidays; and to the very hard working committee who worked on the spreadsheets, juggled names and distributed the honors with aplomb, including Marc Binder, Marci Oslick, Ruth Anne Koenick, Arie Behar and Rabbi Eligberg and Cantor Rockman.
4. The parking lot should be in much more useable shape in time for the holidays. We are hoping to have it restriped as well in time for Rosh Hashanah.
5. There are still several open spots available on both the Outside Usher List, and the Bimah List. If you have not yet signed up, or if you can take another spot, please do so on the sheets being passed around.
6. We are still looking for volunteers to help with High Holiday Chair detail. I need people on Monday, September 13th after minyan to set the room up, and again on Sunday morning, September 26th to take them down. If you are dropping kids off at Hebrew School that morning, PLEASE park your car and come on in – the work goes very quickly with many hands and it really is not difficult. Please send an email to dgreenberg@comcast.net and/or administrator@bnaitikvah.org to let us know you are coming; we need to know numbers: for Monday I need to make sure we have enough hands, and for Sunday there will be bagels for all workers to enjoy.

The Ritual Activities Committee met last month with over 15 people in attendance. The committee gave a unanimous vote to Rabbi Eligberg to go ahead with reformatting Rosh Hashanah Day 1 service to make it a more meaningful service to a greater number of congregants. Rosh Hashanah day 2 and Yom Kippur services will remain the same.

The committee is actively working on programs for Selichot, Sukkot, Simchat Torah and Kristalnacht. New members are always welcome.

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. Marc said this years has started of slow but it is typical..

The Event: We are honoring Mitch and Arlene Frumkin for the main event. This will be chaired by Ari Behar. We have had one meeting. The committee will consist of people from our synagogue, personal and business friends of the Frumkins, and people of the Jewish community at large. We will be raising much of the money through an ad journal. The price of the ticket can be offset by the sale of ads.

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. We have had some interest so far. We have spoken to our car purchaser and he will split the cost of ads in the Jewish paper. The ad will start in September and be in for one full year.

Past President

Construction:

We are continuing to progress with the project. The HVAC, electrical, sprinkler system and interior studwork are all well underway. We have had to change plumbers this past month due to faulty workmanship. The original plumber was hired by the initial GC who was terminated. The new plumber has started work and is progressing smoothly. In the past month the majority of the major pavement work has been completed in the parking lot along with the sidewalk, curbing and the new planter by the main building entrance. All of the landscaping in this area has been provided and installed by the Caterer.

Current Status:

- 1) Schedule. The anticipated completion date is late October.
- 2) This past month the concrete floor slab was poured although certain areas were then removed due to mistakes in the location of plumbing fixtures by the plumber who has since been replaced.
- 3) This past month the roof has been completed over the entire building and only has ancillary work required for completion. This is awaiting the delivery of the flashing to be installed at the top of the parapet walls as well as the scuppers, gutters and downspouts.
- 4) It is anticipated that the remaining windows will be installed in early September.

Feedback Committee

A reorganizational meeting of the Feedback Committee will be scheduled with the Rabbi and Cantor in October.'

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.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

1.. 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, have tried their best to touch as many member families as possible by calling them individually on the phone, gathering and giving information. It was a very big effort and very much appreciated!

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. New smaller children sizes will be sold during the fall.

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!

6. HAVURAH GROUPS:

We will continue to work on forming new groups this year.

7. NEW MEMBER BREAKFAST:

There will be a new member breakfast held on Sunday, October 17th. More details to follow.

School & Youth Vice-President Report

Nursery School

Nursery School restarted this week. There are 55 morning program students currently enrolled. This is down about 5 from last September. We have combined the pre-K into a single class, and consequently have saved the salary of one teacher, so the decrease should have negligible impact on the budget. The loss is from summer withdrawals due to moves from the area and children entering special ed programs.

Religious School

Our Religious School will resume on September 12 for all grades except 2nd grade and Chai School. In addition to parent packets, all families have received or will receive a follow-up letter by their child's teacher.

Our theme this year is "350 Years of American Jewry." We will focus on this theme all year. As of the last Religious School Board meeting on August 23, there were 221 children enrolled. There is a loss in Chai School, since only 9 of last year's 26 graduates had enrolled. Calls to the families of all eligible children are being made. We have 29 new students enrolled in our school, including 12 kindergartners. They will be welcomed at a special ceremony on Simchat Torah on October 7 at 6 p.m. Each will receive a special blessing and a present.

We have 6 new teachers and 9 returning ones. There are 14 toranim this year, working as classroom or office aides.

College Program

Marcia Schwartz will chair our College Program this year. If you have not already done so, be sure to register your college student with the office or Marcia so he or she can get the packages and letters.

Kadima Program

Any Kadima member who refers a member to sign up will receive a \$5 Blockbuster gift card. The member must be new to Kadima. Upcoming events include Apple Picking on September 12th, when Kadima will be going apple picking at Terhune Orchards. Extra apples they pick will be donated to Junior Congregation for Rosh Hashana. On October 5th, Kadima will have Pizza in the Sukkah. We also will be electing our Kadima Board for 2004-2005 that night. Regional Roller Skating will be held on October 17th. This is the first regional event of the year.

The Synagogue will be hosting the Kadima Regional Dance on November 20th. We are looking for volunteers to assist with the event. Anyone interested can email Adam at adamdavid73@aol or call 973-886-3906.

USY Program

USY will be attending a Patriots baseball game on September 12. On September 23, they will host Human Poker Night.

USY will periodically invite 8th graders to attend some events this year, so they can make a smooth transition from Kadima to USY.

The December International meeting will be in Chicago this year.

Sisterhood Report

A membership mailing went out recently and should have been received by all CBT members by now. All CBT Women are encouraged to join Sisterhood, to be an active member of this branch of our synagogue.

FUNDRAISING

With Rosh Hashanah just days away, our High Holiday Card fundraiser is complete. We had 12 orders this year, which is less than previous years.

Flower arrangements for your holiday table are available. Orders must be placed by Friday, Sept 10. Please call Gail Dillman to place your order. The cost is \$25. The flowers are beautiful and will last until Yom Kippur, keeping your home smelling fresh and of the season.

A Pampered Chef party is scheduled for Thur. 10/21, 7-9PM, location TBD.

PROGRAMMING

Our first general meeting is planned for Sunday 9/12, 10:00AM, Kiddush Room. We will provide a delicious breakfast and a video presentation of "B'nai Tikvah: A Year in Review."

Upcoming meetings are:

Thursday 10/14 7:30pm / Social Hall
Sunday 10/17 & 10/24 Chanukah Bazaar
Sunday 11/21 10:00am
Tuesday 11/30 Paid up membership dinner & program
Sunday 12/19 trip to JTS in NYC (tentative)

NEW MEMBER TEA

Our membership committee hosted a new member tea on Wed. 9/1 at the home of Ellie Greenberg. 4 new synagogue members attended and it was very well received. It is planned to have more of these events throughout the year to encourage membership.

SOCIAL ACTION

September - collecting snacks for the food bank for Back To School
October – collecting personal care items such as deodorant, shampoo, disposable razors, shaving cream, soap and hard kosher candies for Israeli soldiers. All items should be travel size.

Men's Club Report- September 2004

The Men's club will get the 2004-2005 year started on Sunday, September 26th when it meets to build the Congregation's Sukkah. Construction will begin after minyan at 10AM.

We will provide a complete buffet breakfast as usual and Men's Club membership is Not required. It is requested that people who own ratchet sets and ladders bring them on the 26th.