

Congregation B'nai Tikvah – Board of Directors Meeting - 10 Sept. 2012

Board members attending: Gary Bergman, Linda Fellen, Ben Gottesman, Michael Weiss, Mark Kasdin, Marcie Kfare, Phil Wesher, Andy Ross, Doug Smoller, Jeff Cadoff, Craig Cohen, Arthur Cederbaum, Gary Wesalo, Renee Juro, Bill Greenberg, Stuart Allen, Rob Blackin, Ruth Anne Koenick, Lauren Cohen, Jeff Schwartz, David Cukor

Also attending: Rabbi Wolkoff, Cantor Rockman, Lynne Weiss-Marshall, Arielle Weg, Aaron Rosloff, John Wolf, Danny Greenberg

The meeting was called to order by President Gary Bergman at 8:06 p.m.

The minutes of the August meeting were approved as submitted.

Rabbi Wolkoff opened the discussion with some thoughts around Slichot and its traditional liturgy. The rabbi said he took a lesson from the observance noted his obligation to help translate the ancient texts and make them relevant for modern lives. He said this is particularly true at Slichot and this High Holiday season as we seek the inner strength to confront our inner weakness and address the issues in our lives.

In the president's report, Bergman introduced Arielle Weg who will represent USY in board discussions.

Bergman also updated the members on the progress of the constitution committee. The executive committee has come to the conclusion that a more focused approach will be required. A proposal will be made to expedite certain processes so authorization is specified in the bylaws rather than the constitution.

Bergman also informed the board of the demise of BT Daytimers, the seniors group. There was some discussion about the disposition of the group's funds. A decision was postponed pending further discussion about the group. Aaron Rosloff, who formerly represented the BT Daytimers on the board, will now serve the board in an emeritus status only.

In the financial secretary's report, Mark Kasdin said there are 380 member families, though he indicated that figure might not be adequate. New members are expected in the first-year free membership program. Also, he said, there are 14 sets of High Holiday tickets currently being withheld for members who haven't yet fulfilled their financial obligations. Kasdin said August was excellent month for collections. He warned, however, that anecdotal evidence suggests the congregation's dues have hit a ceiling. He urged a study to compare rates in the area.

In the treasurer's report, Gary Wesalo said he is awaiting a report from an auditor on the accounts for fiscal 2012. The first month of fiscal 2013 included above budget revenue from

dues and fund-raising. The fund-raising amount included approximately \$1,800 of payments on previous year's food scrip programs, he said.

In response to a question, Lynne Weiss-Marshall said about 28 have signed up for monthly credit card payments, including some who are paying by credit card for nursery school.

For activities, Renee Juro informed the board about the bowling league now in formation. She also submitted a written report (appended below).

For administration, David Cukor said the roof over nursery school wing must be fixed at a price of \$31,000 (the lowest bid among several). He suggested that the funds for the repair come from Shomrei Tikvah. He also reported that the rent paid by the Chabad school will increase by \$500 a month. A new memorial board is up in the sanctuary. And the décor committee is working with the caterer on a plan for chairs and couches for lobby.

Cukor moves (Cadoff seconds):

To authorize an additional expense of approximately \$31,000 for repairs to the roof over the Nursery School wing, the payment for which is to be underwritten from the Shomrei Tikvah fund.

There was discussion regarding the roof, including its age, the necessity for repairs, possible location for a crane and other heavy equipment needed for repair.

The motion passed with 21 voting in favor, none opposed

Marci Kfare, reporting on membership, said there has been another great response to the first-year-free membership program. Approximately 21 or 22 members have joined as paying members after the first-year-free program, she said. So far this year there are five new members.

For schools and youth, Jeff Schwartz said nursery school enrollment is already at February levels, indicating that enrollment is exceeding budget forecasts. He said the religious school started well the previous week. All staff are in place. And Schwartz described for parents some of the steps planned to make sure fees are paid.

For ways and means, Jeff Cadoff thanked Mark Kasdin for chairing an art auction committee and described the potential financial opportunities for fund-raising. Cadoff said the event is set for Feb. 2. He also submitted a written report (appended below).

Bill Greenberg described Men's Club plans for raising the sukkah.

Arielle Weg shared some of the recent happenings at USY, including an opening event that drew about 40 young people interested in USY or Kadima. A meeting for the newly formed pre-Kadima group drew 30. She offered thanks to Dot Cohen, the longtime chair for USY.

Cantor Rockman described what he called a “wonderful, meaningful” program with Hanan Harcol. He spoke about several appearances for Sons of Tikvah as well as plans for Rejoice and L’Dor VaDor.

Ruth Anne Koenick provided an update the new sefer Torah fund-raising campaign. An opening event is set for Oct. 28.

Cukor moves for closed session (Cadoff seconds).

President’s Report

First let me welcome and introduce Arielle Weg, as the new USY representative to the Board.

I’ve been talking about the constitution committee for the past two months and I was hoping that this evening we could discuss it in detail. However, when I brought it to the EC, the discussion over each detail was taking so long that we never got around to working on the main points, which were to take the definitions of the various committees and responsibilities and transfer them to a separate set of bylaws that could be managed by the board instead of requiring individual changes and adjustments to the constitution as a whole.

I had thought it would good idea to review the entire document but, I didn’t realize how much time and discussion it would actually take, silly me. So, I will be meeting with the constitution committee again and perhaps limit the proposal to just those items.

As predicted, we have been unable to find a way to maintain the BT Daytimers (AKA 50 Plus Group) and Aaron has agreed to relinquish all funds to the synagogue. I’m inviting Aaron to remain on the board in a non-voting capacity but, he is free to participate in all discussions and closed sessions.

I also passed around the Usher sign-up form because we still don’t have all the positions covered. We need at least 2 ticket takers at all times, and they must be board members.

Old Business:

I’ll need a motion from someone on the board other than Aaron or myself to return the funds from the BT Daytimers to the general fund.

Vice president for activities – Rene Juro

Adult Education:

I am currently working on finding congregants to host an Adult education evening with the Rabbi and other peers from our shul and non-members. I already have two families that volunteered and would like to find two more. I am looking for a young family to host as well as a recent empty nester. We will focus our discussion that evening based on the demographic of that group. The theme of these meetings is "Judaism A to Z".

I am still looking for someone to chair the Adult Education committee. If you know of anyone that may be a good candidate, please let me know.

Bikur Cholim:

Jill Stone has taken over as the chair of Bikur Cholim. The group is doing a great job visiting those in need and making calls to check in on our congregants who are ill and/or recuperating.

Hakol:

I will begin a review of on the cost of printing the Hakol versus paid advertising.

Social Action:

It was my intention to have a postcard/flyer printed before the holidays to advertise some of the wonderful events that we have available throughout the year. Unfortunately, I was not able to complete this in time for Rosh Hashonah. I will see if this can be accomplished before Yom Kippur so we can distribute it to the whole congregation.

On behalf of myself, Steve and our boys, I wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year! Shanah Tovah!

Vice president for ways and means – Jeff Cadoff

1. Thanks go out to Mark Kasdin for chairing the Art Auction Committee. Art Auction will take place on Saturday February 2nd, 2013. Through agreement with the auction house CBT will receive either a set amount based upon head-count (\$2,000 for 100 people; \$3,000 for 150) or a percentage of sales. Note that we will not receive both types of payment, and don't have to choose until after sales are completed.

2. Thanks also go out to Sisterhood for agreeing to move the Passover Poker event from February 2nd to Passover, thus freeing up the Social Hall for the Art Auction. Advertising for the events is being coordinated to avoid confusion with calendar.