

Congregation B'nai Tikvah Board Meeting
Minutes of Meeting
October 7th, 2002

Attendees:

Janice Baer	Mitch Frumkin	Ruth Anne Koenick
Arie Behar	Madeline Gaynor	Jodi Marcou
Gary Bergman	Cindy Gittleman	Cantor Bruce Rockman
Larry Cohen	Dan Greenberg	Harold Schneider
Marc Dillman	Naomi Jackenthal	Mark Sherman
Jerry Edley	Jerry Kaminsky	Gary Tinkel
Hadas Elami	Alan Kane	Gary Warner
Rabbi David Eligberg	Mark Kasdin	Keith Zimmerman
Harvey Finkelstein	Cyndi Kleinbart	

23 votes present

Not Attending:

None

Non-Board Guests

Bill Greenberg	Adrienne Ross	Arlene Uroff
----------------	---------------	--------------

Call to Order [Mitch Frumkin]

Meeting called to order at 8:01 PM by Mitch Frumkin.

Approval of Minutes of Meeting [All]

Corrections:

1. "Will be able to preempt rabbi on things" should read "Will be able to *assist* rabbi on things"
2. "The parents of the classes that may be combined" should read "The parents of the *nursery* classes that may be combined"

Moved by H. Finkelstein, second by H. Schneider to approve minutes subject to corrections Motion approved [21 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain].

D'var Torah [Rabbi]

This month's D'var Torah continues our study of Torah with the Book of Judges. We are looking at Judges 4:4-9, which talks about Devorah, who had three different roles: a judge, a visionary and a strategist. We looked at various ways that we as Board members have to wear these same three hats. E.g. the new building. We must be visionary (what do we want this building to function like in five years?), but we also need to have other roles as well.

We look at how G-d comes into the equation. Do we as board members ever think about how G-d would want us to decide things? E.g. education of our young people. The ultimate purpose is to teach our kids about the 4,000 year-old relationship with G-d.

We need to make clearer that all that we do here does or should have a Divine purpose.

President's Report [Mitch]

1. High holidays ran great. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped out.

2. Just rec'd the latest Hakol, which was the first one produced by our new editors. It was the best I've ever seen. Please let the Zankel's know how good it is when you see them.

Rabbi: Any one who helped for Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and/or Simchat Torah will be getting an invite to an Oneg Shabbat just as a way to say thanks. Also, the next Ritual Committee meeting is 10.17 – please come and share any feedback that you may have.

Guests

A. Ross: There is a local program sponsored by Brandeis University, which historically had been held at East Brunswick Jewish Center. They need a different place to do this – EBJC is unavailable. The program is an author presentation.

A. Uroff: The program is sponsored by the Brandeis University National Women's Committee – Middlesex Chapter. Arlene is a member of the board. They have a book and author dinner – it is always well attended. EBJC dropped out and they need a place. Adrienne volunteered us as a potential venue after talking with Mitch.

The author is Rochelle Krish (California). She writes mystery books, and has a wonderful background. She is being paid [by Brandeis] \$1500. Classical caterers will do a buffet dinner and charge us \$20 per person. Cost per ticket will be about 36\$.

Brandeis will pay the fees. BT has to provide the space. BT and Brandeis will split the profits. The date will be April 29th, 2003. Potential problem is that is also Yom Hashoah, although the event will start after sundown. We need major publicity.

D. Greenberg: How many people usually attend? Usually gets about 300 people.

M. Gaynor: What is the concern if it starts after sundown? Rabbi: – it sounds like this is a fairly festive occasion – it's not in the spirit of Yom Hashoah.

Show of hands if we should move forward? Unanimous.

H. Elami: Do we also cover losses if there are any? No – Brandeis will pick up any losses.

A. Kane: Is this a fundraiser for Brandeis? Yes. Would you consider charging BT members very little or nothing? Can't because of the meal.

A. Behar: We have a program here the night before and we have no track record of getting good attendance at events two nights in a row – you should heavily publicize this event elsewhere besides BT.

M. Gaynor: Will BT be considered a joint venture or co sponsor? I prefer that we NOT be a joint sponsor. Call for show of hands to indicate who does NOT want it to be jointly sponsored. 1 objection. Show of hands – 1 objects to joint.

It will be discussed at next Brandeis board meeting.

Expansion Committee Report [M. Kasdin]

No positive news, no negative news to report. We thought that we would have had an answer from the state by now. We know that they have made a decision, but the woman is on vacation and we can't get an answer.

J. Baer: Isn't there any politician that we can call. Not really.

J. Marcou: Any news on the people who are reneging on pledges? We have discussed a little at Executive Committee but until we have the letter from the state we shouldn't move forward with approaching them.

G. Warner. Have we made an effort on one-on-one basis to talk to the people who are reneging? We have talked by letter to try to keep them in the loop.

K. Zimmerman: How many are reneging? One significant pledge (\$1,000 or more).

J. Marcou: How many people are behind? There are several that have indicated that they will not pay any more until groundbreaking occurs.

Room Usage Report [C. Kleinbart]

This came about because there had been several groups that had wanted to bring various programs but couldn't because no policy was in place.

See handout.

There is a lot of flexibility built in to this policy so that the Administrator can make determinations on a case-by-case basis, for things like proof of liability insurance.

M. Dillman: Will there be guidelines? Yes.

J. Baer: Why put language in that allows us to cancel at any time for whatever reason? Why would people want to come to us? We are trying to protect ourselves. Remember, if we have a reputation that we cancel events, no one will want to come here. It's not something we are going to do, but it's something we should be able to do. We can add language referring to emergencies or acts-of-G-d.

H. Elami: We also need to be able to cancel anytime 60 days prior because caterer has priority to book on 60 days notice.

A. Behar: What is the price (fee) that groups will pay? There will be a pricing schedule attached. We don't want to lock ourselves into a specific price in this policy.

M. Dillman: What about after hours? Who will be responsible for the space? See "security". So the administrator needs to coordinate? Yes.

M. Gaynor: Please change 'Temple' to 'Congregation'.

Will the congregation member handling the security also handle the kashrut? Yes.

Rabbi: That makes me very uncomfortable.

G. Tinkle: Historically, its not been a problem. The kinds of people we are talking about are bringing in coffee and cake, not meals.

Rabbi: Self-policing simply doesn't work. This is potentially a nightmare.

Biggest problem is who will police the kashrut.

J. Baer: Can't we use discretion?

If we exclude food, we will lose groups. If we allow food, we need to have someone to check it. And we don't have someone.

H. Finkelstein: When a group wants to use our facility, they need to indicate whether they want food, and it needs to be passed by a committee who knows what they are doing. C. Kleinbart: That may be untenable.

Maybe we should not permit food.

[Secretary's Note: raging debate ensued for over 45 minutes...]

Motion [by A. Behar, second by K. Zimmerman] to approve the written policy presented by C. Kleinbart, with two changes: (i) no food be allowed whatsoever, and (ii) changing the word "Temple" to "Congregation." We can review the food issue at a later date.

H. Finkelstein: liability concern. Worried that groups will come without insurance → won't that will cause our rates will go up? Can't we require groups to have insurance?

C. Kleinbart: No we can't. We can't expect groups like folk dancers to show up with liability insurance. We have to handle case-by-case, like sports programs versus dance programs. Recurring programs are more likely to have coverage. The administrator has the flexibility.

M. Gaynor: if we told the groups that have been waiting at the door that we have a no-food policy, will they still come? Yes.

J. Marcou: we might want to add something about alcohol.

J. Baer: what about the security issue. Should we require a 'security person' to be here and monitor the building?

The motion is called [by D. Greenberg]. 15 votes to call the question.

A. Behar's motion fails [2 yes, 21 no].

Moved [by D. Greenberg, second by A. Behar] to allow Nurit Brown to start holding her Israeli dance class immediately, notwithstanding the fact that a formal policy for room usage has yet to be adopted, and to not permit any food at those classes.

M. Dillman: what is the program that is being offered? A weekly for-profit class to teach Israeli dancing.

J. Marcou: how many sessions? Once a week. Midweek.

J. Baer: what about insurance? That can be referred to the insurance subcommittee.

M. Kasdin: feel like we're being railroaded into this.

Motion carries [13 yes, 6 no, 2 abstain].

Federation business [K. Zimmerman]

K. Zimmerman. Super Sunday is on October 27th. Please come and make phone calls.

Moved [by K. Zimmerman, second by J. Edley] for CBT to sponsor a telephone for \$360.

M. Kasdin: did we budget for this? No.

M. Dillman: suggest it come from social action, because that's really what it is.

J. Baer: don't agree. People who are giving to Social Action are giving for reasons other than Federation.

A. Behar: we should do this, no matter where the money comes from. If no other funds available, suggest House & Grounds.

Rabbi: We need to have a line item for recurring donations that come up each and every year.

N. Jackenthal: agree with rabbi, but it's not in the budget right now. We should just divide it among each line item.

A. Kane: looking at the list of funds, there look like a lot of places to take it from.

A. Behar: most of the time, a lot of these line items are not spent.

M. Dillman: there is several thousand dollars sitting in miscellaneous. Therefore recommend that it be taken out of the miscellaneous line, recognizing that's its within the 5% limit.

Question is called [Unanimous]. Motion passes [Unanimous].

Vice-Presidents Reports

Hard copies of VP reports distributed.

School & Youth [H. Schneider]

In the end, no classes had to be combined, because we found a teacher

M. Kasdin: only 18 members for USY; why? Because there hasn't been big push for dues yet. There will be.

Ways & Means [M. Sherman]

Solicitation packet for ad journal distributed.

Activities [A. Kane]

Adult education committee is non-existent, and looking for someone to jump-start it. Please let me know if you can think of anybody.

J. Marcou: the number of new people who joined BT seems low; any thoughts? This was the net of an extensive campaign, and Bill is working hard to try to integrate them into the congregation. Membership drive is continuing.

J. Baer: looking for support of all members of the board for Needy Family program. Sheets distributed.

Administration [A. Behar]

We are trying to correct 'Lake Tikvah'. There is still some debris (a tree) that will be coming up next week.

J. Marcou: problem with crash bar on nursery school doors. Door only locks if there is someone standing under sensor. If it occurs as described, it was a malfunction. Hadas will check.

Financial Report [G. Tinkel]

We stand at 451 member families, which is 312 Dues Paying Equivalent. We are only about 6 up from where we were 6 months ago.

H. Finkelstein: has anyone talked to the net 14 that left? Some moved; others moving to retirement communities. Nothing here for them. See A. Kane's report.

Treasurer's Report [M. Dillman]

Last year's final numbers and current numbers as of 9.30.02 distributed.

A Kane: fundraising budget was almost doubled – how? Great job fundraising and a boost from scrip sales accounting.

Moved [by M. Dillman, second by K. Zimmerman] to establish a new money market account at MBNA to house upwards of \$100K and we will earn about 2.5%. Approved [unanimous].

A. Kane: is the MBNA fund a higher risk? No. It's FDIC insured.

Men's Club [J. Edley]

No meeting last month. Will be one this month → Leon Bibel program.

Sisterhood [R. Koenick]

First meeting of the year this past Sunday. Yoga presentation. Sisterhood is being honored with a magnet award for the fashion show (bringing in people who wouldn't ordinarily come) by Women's League – biennial convention. In November. Last Monday, some went to Aishet Chayil dinner where Deb Spigner was honored. About 30 people from CBT in attendance. Very long evening. Chanukah bazaar scheduled for October 27th. Please support the show and the gift shop.

50+ Club [M. Gaynor]

Celebrated Sukkot in sukkah and had a delightful time with the cantor. Miracle there was no bees. Rec'd 2 phone calls from new congregation members who inquired the Fifty Plus Club and they will be coming to the next meeting.

Next meeting will present Samuel Norich. President of The Forward. Talking about the Forward, on October 22nd

Cantor's Report [Cantor Rockman]

This year, CBT will be hosting the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, on Sunday, November 24th. There will be at least 300 people here. We need meeters and greeters (at least 12). Last time we had it here, it was an embarrassment.

Cantor and A. Kane will meet to coordinate volunteers. Theme this year is the volunteers of the community – firefighters, etc.

Good & Welfaret [Rabbi Eligberg]

Yasher Koach to Larry Cohen for all his great work at the High Holidays.

Refuah Shlemah to

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Shirley Berezin, Janice Baer's mother | Melissa Burgess, daughter of Marty & Rochelle Heller |
| Marc Becker | Lynn Koblin |
| Gary Bergman | Stanley Levine |
| Beth Chin's mother | Stacy Lewkowitz's father |
| Harry Frankel | Walt Rosenstock's daughter Elaine |
| Donna Glazer | Judy Roller |
| Jerry Goldsmith | Carol Winter's mother |
| Roz Gurney, Darryl Gurney's mother | |

Mazel Tov to

- Dave & Michelle Greefield on the engagement of their daughter Pam
- Kevin & Susann Krane who are expecting
- Steve & Shelly Talmud on Adam's Bar Mitzvah
- Deborah Spigner on being honored as an Eyshet Chayil

Condolences to

- | | |
|---|--|
| Barbara Bloom (loss of her mother) | Elayne Sichel (loss of her husband Bert) |
| Howard Dickert (loss of his mother) | Althea Wurmbrand ((loss of her sister) |
| Roberta Ribner (loss of her mother, Kate Cassler) | |

Confirmation of Next Meeting

Next meeting is Monday, November 4th, 2002.

Motion to Adjourn

By J. Baer, second by R. Koenick. Approved unanimously.