

Minutes from Board meeting October 7, 2003
Congregation B'nai Tikvah
North Brunswick, NJ

Meeting called to order at 8:03 by Arie

In attendance: Janice Baer, Arie Behar, Gary Bergman, Bobbi Binder, Jeff Cadoff, Larry Cohen, Marc Dillman, Harvey Finkelstein, Mitch Frumkin, Cindy Gittleman, Cheryl Goldstein, Dan Greenberg, Jerry Kaminsky, Mark Kasdin, Cyndi Kleinbart, Doris Sandrowitz, Harold Schneider, Mark Sherman, Gary Tinkel, Frank Waltzer, Gary Warner, Paul Zankel, Keith Zimmerman, Rabbi Eligberg, Hadas Elami

Guests: Jason Shukovsky, Evan Bernstein, Adrienne Ross

Motion to accept minutes from Sept. by Cindy Gittleman

Seconded by Frank Waltzer Minutes passed

President's Report: Nursery school discussion. Harold gave Arie a report. Problems with enrollment, which is down. Problems with the way the school is run. Looking for a committee to overlook the nursery school, make recommendations. Harold will get this together and report back next month.

Arie: A thank you to: Rabbi, Cantor, Danny, and Larry for their work over the High Holidays

Personal note, thanked Mitch, especially for committee cards. Over 80 people have responded to date. Many not usually involved. Danny will chair committee to contact those people who responded. Cindy wants to use Speed meet and greet night in Nov. for this.

Israel trip, not going to occur this year. Little interest by students. Still wants to go to Israel. Ruth Anne will work on that committee to have adult trip.

Harvey wants us to explore other trips, not just Federation.

Arie wants board member representation at each shiva in our community.

Youth activities update: Adrienne Ross

Representing parent trip to Israel in January for one week. To understand how summer programs are run. Jan 4th -10th, 2004

Kadima: new advisor, a lot of communication going out.

42 paid members in USY. Murder mystery dinner with Kosher Chinese. 15 members attended opening dance. Pizza in the hut coming up, karaoke night.

Trying to provide busses. Roller skating in Woodbridge. Regional event.

Convention in February. Handed out volunteer forms. 300 capacity. Dance will be at a local school, not determined yet. Possibility of not having JC Shabbat morning, bring them into main service.

Arie concerned about condition of building after the convention. We need parents to monitor the USYers.

Jason and Evan: Passed out itemized list as requested last meeting. Evan is willing to donate back the costs to the expansion fund that we reimburse back to him as a show of good faith.

Mitch: Motion to authorize payment of the money to classical caterers as outlined in the itemized list.

Seconded by Harvey

Discussion: Why should we pay if they are going to just reimburse us right back? Will this set precedence for the future? Arie feels that what he does with the money shouldn't come into our decision. Mitch didn't present the information to the committee because he figured that since the caterer was going to reimburse us back, there wouldn't be any discussion.

Motion withdrawn. Mitch will tell Caterer that we understand point made and the itemized list will just become moot point.

Harvey: Motion to have Mitch speak to caterer on the board's behalf.

Seconded by Danny

In favor: 20 ,Against: 0, Abstain: 1

Divar Torah by Rabbi.

New Business:

Letters sent to people who are behind on pledge. Moved it away from Capital Campaign's responsibility. Mark Roller and Jeff Schwartz will start new campaign to go after new members who were not around for initial campaign.

Mark Kasdin: Categories:

People who left and signed pledge cards and they still owe on pledge. Some do intend to honor pledge 11-12 have not responded. Amounts to approx. \$9,000. Current members 18-19 with signed pledge cards. Approx. \$50,000. Non-responses will be reminded that this is a legal obligation.

Total of \$60,000 outstanding. 30% over 1 year, 70% at 1 year.

Discussion followed.

Arie and Mark will report back to the board next month. Mark Kasdin will get legal opinion about people who have left the synagogue and find out what we should do.

Old Business:

Expansion: Kasdin. Jeff Schwartz and Mark Roller will approach new members and those who didn't participate in last campaign.

Janice: Room usage committee is moving forward. Minyan room will be current youth lounge now, as well as office space for Cantor. Bernie Adler will chair this to make the room a real chapel with benches, not chairs.

Former classroom will be permanent youth lounge (current room 2)

1 classroom in new wing will be conference room that different committees can use. Library will be part of that room as well.

Construction update: Report distributed. Proposed that we do a walk through to see the construction first hand.

Rabbi would like to see our relics (old siddurim, tallitot, etc.) buried in the construction site. Then put a marker so that we can know this has been done. Mitch will work with Rabbi on this.

Gary Warner: Idea of fundraiser to make an imprint leading to nursery school. Feb-March as anticipated end date. We are a few weeks behind. Anticipating a change order for the date.

VP reports: Handed out/sent via email

Fundraising gave out raffle books, encouraged board to sell these outside the synagogue. \$12,500 will be top prize if \$50,000 is collected. Culminates on March 13, 2004. This will be the evening of our big event. We should keep people posted as to how much money has been collected as time goes by with the hopes of gathering momentum.

Programming: Needy family program to sponsor a family.

Membership: Report distributed

Arie wants to invite everyone who returned yellow involvement form to a one day meeting. Committee chairs will contact those people. Danny will take charge of this.

Paul Zankel: We are saving some money by sending Hakol bulk. But this does delay the mailing to North Brunswick because it is no longer 1st class.

Danny Greenberg thanked everyone for their help with High Holidays.

Mitch: sponsoring professional networking group with federation with Keith. First meeting is Oct. 15th, speaking about the value of networking.

8 seniors came to Yizkor services on Yom Kippur from Buckingham Place. Thanks to Jodi Eligberg. Flowers were sent to them. They will be coming monthly, and we will be getting yahrzeit dates and make sure that they are at services.

These seniors have been invited to 50 plus meeting.

Financial Secretary: 443 member families. 312 dues equivalents. 82 on special arrangement. 8 families left BT, we got 8 new families. 1 family left owing a full year of religious school, this should be addressed in the future.

Treasurer: Marc Dillman reviewed the highlights.

Auditors needed information which Marc Dillman delivered

Cindy Gittleman wants to know if we can change the makelah fund to incorporate all musical programs in BT (to include Sons of Tikvah and children's group). Cantor will get a group together to make a proposal.

Harvey: We should try to get 100% participation for HH pledges. Arie would like Harvey to help out with this.

Kasdin: Men's club. Sukkah is up. Programs in place for upcoming year. Dec. meeting will be Evan Bernstein teaching cooking. WFAN radio personality

coming in May. Have 20-25 members who show up for all events. Trying to get it up to 40.

Goldstein: Sisterhood. Oct 26th general meeting Creative Memories scrapbooking. Sisterhood Shabbat Dec. 6th. Janice Baer will sit on bima as board representative. 19 new member packets were delivered. Fundraising-Tupperware Nov 17th. Fashion show with Nordstroms in February. Encouraged people to buy flower cards.

50s plus: Oct 28th 1pm, Renee Goodwin as Eleanor Roosevelt, show. Looking for new members. Cindy has given names of new members who are seniors. 6 new members.

Rabbi Eligberg: Thanked everyone for work over last few weeks. Larry and ritual, Danny, Hadas (and everyone who helped out with stickers in machzorium),

Passed out books for the meeting that will take place on November 2nd.

Encouraged everyone to read it before that meeting.

Good and welfare:

Speedy Recovery: Aida Becker, Leonard Buechler, Irwin Gleitman, Shirley Ketofsky, Hank Klein, Maya Blackin

Hamakom Y'nahem: Shelly Wistreich, death of father; Gary Tinkel, death of father; Norman and Eileen Berens, death of son

Mazel Tov: Harvey & Marci Finkelstein, birth of granddaughter; Gary & Toby Ehrlich, Bar Mitzvah of son

Bobbi reminded everyone to attend Simchat Torah services on Sunday, October 18th.

2 busses will be going from BT to the Rutgers Israel rally.

Motion to adjourn meeting by: Mitch