

**Minutes from Board of Director's Meeting
Congregation B'nai Tikvah
November 1, 2004**

In attendance:

Janice Baer, Arie Behar, Gary Bergman, Bobbi Binder, Jeff Cadoff, Larry Cohen, Marc Dillman, Mitch Frumkin, Al Garten, Cindy Gittleman, Cheryl Goldstein, Danny Greenberg, Naomi Jackenthal, Jerry Kaminsky, Ruth Anne Koenick, Doris Sandrowitz, Harold Schneider, Mark Sherman, Frank Waltzer, Paul Zankel
Rabbi Eligberg, Cantor Rockman, Hadas Elami

Meeting called to order at 8pm by president Arie Behar

Motion to accept the minutes from the October board meeting, by Danny Greenberg, seconded by Ruth Anne Koenick:

Vote: in favor 10, opposed: 0 abstain: 3

Divar Torah by Rabbi Eligberg

President's report:

\$40,500.00 collected during High Holiday pledge. The important item to be noted is the percentage of participation, 45% last year; this year close to 60%. Of those people who picked up envelope, 75% participated. By reaching out we got results.

The board went as a group to the multi purpose room to shoot baskets in the newly raised basketball hoop and then each board member signed the basketball, which will be on display at a later date in the new wing.

New business:

Nomination of new board member. Before this motion took place, Naomi Jackenthal spoke on her own behalf that she was not approached by the board to find out if there was something going on in her life as a reason why she was not attending board meetings. She feels that the wording on the constitution is not clear and she wanted some clarification.

Arie feels that Naomi needs to attend the meetings to be on the board, that it is essential. When that can occur, then Naomi could return to the board.

Motion by Janice Baer that Naomi's position should be made vacant.

Seconded by Danny Greenberg

Vote: In favor: 4, against: 11, abstain: 3

Motion defeated.

Arie will call Naomi and talk to her about the board decision.

Use of Facilities – Policies & Procedures: Danny put together a draft, which was handed out. Each board member was asked to read it and review it at home and to then send Danny suggestions. He will then come up with another document to leading toward the final document of Use and Facilities Policies and Procedures.

Special meeting to be held on November 15th to review those results.

Old Business: None

Financial secretary report: Given by Hadas in Mark Kasdin's absence. We have 452 members. - 305 Due Paying Equivalents, 83 on special arrangements.

Treasurer's Report: Marc Dillman handed out his report

Expansion campaign: We just got a family to commit to \$18,000.00. Arie feels that we will get close to \$150,000.00.

Discussion about the financing of the new wing. Marc Dillman is concerned about the interest expense that we will incur for the next 30 years.

Construction update: Mitch: Having trouble getting prices on flooring and painting. We will see where we stand when we get those prices.

Question on the litigation. Construction committee met with Jim Stahl, letter was sent to Grant to go to mediation. Architect needs to certify the claim, then, a meeting will take place to firm up the numbers so that the architect can do that.

Still scheduled to open by the end of the year (2004).

Arie would like Jerry Kaminsky to let him know what is going on with the grand opening. Jerry will need to check with the caterer regarding a date for that.

Scrip program is still not reconciled. Seems that there is some information missing. We will be changing the way that we do this next year. Need to validate and reconcile the program. The profits from the scrip program are very minimal, but some families are opting to give the money back to the synagogue. Next month we should have this information.

Jeff Schwartz will be going back to Shomrei Tikvah to raise money for new roof because of the condition that it is in. The roof is 20 years old and needs to be replaced. It can no longer be repaired.

Executive Committee was told that if they cannot serve as president, they should step down from their position on the EC when their term is up.

Auxiliary group reports: 50s plus. They had a wonderful meeting. The fire academy gave a presentation to 40 people. The marshal gave do's and don'ts to the members. They are going to have their next meeting on November 16th, regarding the Amhurst Jewish Foundation. An artist will be at December meeting.

Social action is starting their needy family program. Janice passed out the flyers for board members to support the program.

Good and Welfare Report by Rabbi Eligberg.

Speedy Recover to:

Joe Soloman, by pass surgery; Adrienne Mars; Herman Rotter; Aaron Gittleman, broken finger; Bernie Jacobs, Carol Greenberg's father; Hyman Arougheti, Michele Greenfield's father; Sylvia Lewis

Mazel Tov to:

Mark and Judy Roller on the birth of their granddaughter Emily; Frumkins on Adam's Bar Mitzvah; Kleinbarts on Zack's Bar Mitzvah; Applebaums on Ginally's Bat Mitzvah; Silvers on Danny's Bar Mitzvah; Dantos on Nicole's engagement; Alfred and Elaine Frumkin on Adam's Bar Mitzvah; Brian Binder, Becky Helfer, Allison Shultz, Dan Rekant and Gary Marx on their appearance on the Jane Pauly show.

Hamakom Y'nachem to:

Meyer Barrack on the loss of his wife Beatrice; Bruce Feldman on the loss of his mother Helen Feldman; Joseph Feldman on the loss of his wife, Helen Feldman
November 7th is the United Synagogue biennial convention. Rabbi will be going if anyone is interested in attending.

Motion to adjourn to closed meeting by Doris, Seconded by
Marc Dillman

VP Administration Report

House & Grounds

We are still trying to locate a roofer who will continue to service our aging roof.

Décor

The caterer is scheduled to present samples for draping the social hall synagogue; the committee will then make a recommendation to the Board.

Religious Activities

We will be starting a campaign to purchase the new Siddur Sim Shalom. The cost will be \$30 to dedicate a new Siddur and \$21 to move a dedication from an old Siddur to a new one. We will continue to use the existing siddurim in the religious school as well as in junior congregation and also for our daily minyan.

The interfaith service is scheduled for November 21st at the Islamic Society of Central Jersey.

The congregational Chanukah party will be on Tuesday, December 14th.

Personnel

We are interviewing for the part-time bookkeeper position and expect to have the position filled by December 1st.

Mitch Frumkin

Past President

Construction:

In order to give a better idea of how the construction has been proceeding I have prepared the following list of the primary contractors and their percentage complete along with a commentary regarding the project schedule and any anticipated extras. Also presented is a list of work still not under contract.

Current Status of budgeted items:

1. Masonry	90%	
2. HVAC	70%	
3. Electrical	80%	
4. Plumbing	50%	
5. Windows and Exterior Doors	100%	
6. Fire Protection System	70%	
7. EIFS (stucco exterior)	90%	
8. Steel studs and drywall	55%	
9. Miscellaneous iron work	0%	
10. Ceilings	0%	
11. Bathroom partitions	0%	on order, 4 week lead time
12. Flooring (except MP room)	0%	no contract, no bids
13. MP room flooring	0%	

14. Painting	0%	no contract, 1 bid
15. MP Room door	0%	track to be delivered and installed within the next 2 weeks.
16. Classroom accordion door	0%	
17. Barrier free lift	0%	
18. Gas line	0%	no contract, 1 bid
19. Basketball hoops	75%	

A few anticipated extras, which were not budgeted by Grant:

1. Woodwork at stage
2. Final grading at rear of building
3. Emergency generator
4. Lights in MP room

A few anticipated extras due to other reasons;

1. Enlarging the size of the soffit at the front of the MP room by the stage due to location of sprinkler system piping.
2. Additional drywall at main entrance near the existing school wing.

As far as the schedule goes, we are actively working on completing the interior steel stud work and drywall. While the electrical work is ahead of this work, the studwork cannot be completed until the plumbing rough in is completed. This is now complete and the sheetrock in the classroom area is completed in most areas with taping and spackling taking place. The remaining EIFS (stucco) work is complete except for the area at the back of the multi purpose room as we await installation of a steel beam at the lower part of the wall. This has been promised for the next week or so. The work in the ceiling area of the MP room has been progressing with the installation of the basketball backboard supporting structure and the installation of the ductwork in the ceiling area.

On the authorization of the BOT at the last meeting, the Construction Committee has met with the Synagogues Attorney to discuss proceeding against the Contractor for various cost overruns with the project.

Feedback Committee

A reorganization meeting of the Feedback Committee took place on Sunday October 24. It was agreed that the Committee would continue to operate although it would only meet when either Committee members or the Clergy have things, which they would like to discuss. E-mail will be sent the first of each month to the Committee. If anyone feels that a meeting should take place, it would than be scheduled by the Chair.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

1. 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.

2. DUES STRUCTURE:

A small membership committee is reexamining the membership dues structure. A proposal will be presented to the board hopefully in the spring to be considered. Nothing will go into effect before Jan. 2006

3. 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.

4. VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT:

In the spring, membership would like to 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!

5. PROSPECT LIST:

Membership keeps and active up-to-date list of prospective members who have shown an interest in B'nai Tikvah. For a copy of this list to invite to a synagogue event, please contact Cindy Gittleman.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

The membership committee has welcomed 3 new members this year. Anyone interested in helping on the committee, please do not be shy! Contact VP Membership, Cindy Gittleman

School & Youth Vice-President Report

Religious School

Last year's Simchat Torah program created a Torah tapestry. This is now ready to display in our new building.

On October 24, our 8th, 9th, and 10th grade Chai School students joined with the "Clothes Line" organization and Laura Waksman to size and sort slightly used clothing for the needy of our community.

On Sunday, December 5, the Rabbi will facilitate the second of two Believing, Being, Belonging and Becoming programs for our Hei class.

The Alef naming service and dinner is scheduled for Friday, November 19.

College Program

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

Kadima

Kadima membership is currently at 48.

Our recently elected Kadima Board:

President- Keren Brown

VP Communications- Evan Jacobs

VP Membership & Events- Samantha Kopelow

Religious VP-Ben Goldman

7th Grade Rep-Hollie Freedman

6th Grade Rep- Jason Seidman

On Thursday, November 4th, Kadima will hold Design a Shirt/Deli Night. Our Kadima members will put their artistry and sandwich-making skills to the test. The new board will be deciding the winner of the best t-shirt. The t-shirts will be made up and sold as a

fundraiser. On Sunday, November 14th, Kadima will have Laser Tag at Laser Park in Princeton Junction.

Lastly, we are still looking volunteers to help assist/chaperone the Kadima Regional Dance that B'nai Tikvah is hosting on November 20th. Anyone who can help please contact Adam Sackett, or youth chairs, Adrienne Ross or Bonnie Eisenberg.

USY

The High Holiday food drive was a huge success. Over 100 bags of food were collected.

USY Current membership is 35-40. Ben Gildenberg has been elected as freshman representative.

Monday, November 1st, was SATO kids night. USYers made projects for those kids less fortunate. On Friday-Sunday, November 11-13, our regional Fall Convention will be held in Livingston.

Thursday, November 18th, USY will hold the Newly Friend Game.

Activities VP Report

Social Action

The Social Action Committee thanks all those who donated and helped sort the clothing for our winter drive with the Clothes Line Bus project. They still need eight volunteers, ages 16 & up, to distribute the clothing to the needy on Sunday, November 14th in the afternoon at Elijah's Promise, New Brunswick

Contact Laura Waksman, 732-698-2494

Adult Education

The committee is putting together a comprehensive program of film/discussions, lectures, presentations, and day trips. Gary Bergman has elected to chair the committee.

The series will begin with Rabbi Eligberg's lecture series on Maimonides, slated for 3 weeks in December. There was some discussion about the make-up of the committee, which consists mostly of "empty-nesters". The programs, however, are being targeted to the demographics of the entire congregation.

Programming/Recreation

Steve Juro is in the process of putting together a committee to provide activities centered around our new facility.

Website/Communications

Subscriptions of the email CBT Newsletter has now reached 320 families.

Marty Abschutz established a new email group to focus on "politics" which freed up our eGroup for discussions more appropriate for affairs about B'nai Tikvah and Judaism in general.

Men's Club Report

The Men's club held it's first meeting of the year on October 10th with Dr. Howard Waksman making a presentation on sleep disorders.

The following week, members got together to break down and store the Sukkot.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 14th.

Sisterhood Report

MEMBERSHIP

Our annual Paid-Up membership dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, November 30 at 6:30PM. Invitations were mailed out to all women of CBT. If you have not yet joined Sisterhood this year, this would be a great time to do it. The dinner is free for all members. Additionally, there will not be entertainment this year. Instead the membership committee has organized a Mitzvah Project for all attendees. We will be making "comfort bags" for the children residing in the Women Aware shelter. The comfort bags will include items like toothbrushes, toothpaste, hairbrushes, stuffed animals, small toys, other comfort/essential items for children who have had to leave home in a hurry. DONATIONS ARE WELCOME AND NEEDED.

FUNDRAISING

Pampered Chef party was a success. Thank you Rabbi and Jodi Eligberg for the use of your kitchen for this event. 20 women attended this event and enjoyed some new recipes and shopping for new kitchen gadgets.

Flower arrangements for your Thanksgiving table will be available for order.

PROGRAMMING

Sunday 11/21 @ 10:00am. Challah Cover Making. We will be hand painting on faux silk. Supplies are limited. Registration a must. Sisterhood members are free. Non-members \$15.

Sunday 12/19 trip to JTS in NYC (tentative)

Sunday 1/23/05 @ 10:00am. Visit Somerbrook, assisted living facility. Enjoy kosher brunch, tour of facility and a speaker.

SOCIAL ACTION

Collecting toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, deodorant, shampoo, disposable razors, kosher hard candy to be sent to Israel.