

## **Congregation B'nai Tikvah Board of Trustees**

Minutes from Board meeting November 3, 2003

Congregation B'nai Tikvah

North Brunswick, NJ

Meeting called to order at 10:20pm by Arie Behar.

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, Naomi Jackenthal, Mark Kasdin, Cyndi Kleinbart, Harold Schneider, Mark Sherman, Gary Tinkel, Frank Waltzer, Gary Warner, Paul Zankel,  
Minutes from November 3, 2003

Mitch Frumkin: Motion: To enter into negotiations with Rabbi Eligberg for the renewal of his contract with Congregation B'nai Tikvah.

Seconded by Dan Greenberg

Approved by majority

Motion to accept minutes from the October board meeting made by Dan Greenberg

Second by Mitch Frumkin

Approved unanimously

**President's report:** Meeting was held at Cindy Gittleman's house for new board to the board or people with new positions this past Sunday. Orientation to explain structure of synagogue and board. Presentation will be given out to board members and orientation will be given to all new board members.

Rabbi wants to continue session that he started by going to Jewish Theological Seminary on February 22, 2004. Look at rare bookroom, lunch, dinner with spouses. This needs board support and commitment. Details need to be worked out.

### **New Business:**

Constitutional change

1. Motion made by Danny Greenberg

Article VI, Section 3 of the Congregation B'nai Tikvah By-Laws, which currently reads:

“A member whose dues shall not have been paid according to the schedule set by the Board of Directors shall be deemed not in good standing.”

Is hereby amended to read:

“A member whose dues, pledges, tuition payments, building fund obligations, and/or any other financial obligation(s) to Congregation B’nai Tikvah shall not have been paid according to the schedule and policies set by the Board of Directors shall be deemed not in good standing.”

Seconded by Mitch Frumkin.

Discussion: Capital pledges are not part of dues at many other synagogues, High Holiday pledges are made spur of the moment and are often not collected. A congregant may not make a pledge if they know they will be held accountable for it. This was proposed as a way to give us more power when trying to collect money from people who owe it to the synagogue. We also will hold back High Holiday tickets to members not in good standing.

In favor of motion: 8

Against: 8

2 abstain

President breaks tie, motion passes.

The policies need to be set by the board.

Gary Tinkel: Congregant in good standing, paid nursery school bill, check bounced. Congregant has refused to make good on that check.

Motion: Ability to enter Hebrew school is contingent upon the payment of nursery school tuition in full. Made by Gary Tinkel.

Seconded by Mitch Frumkin.

Discussion: This has happened before with non-synagogue members and the nursery school let it drop.

Vote: in favor 6

Against: 9

Abstain: 0

Motion does not pass.

No old business:

Mark Kasdin: Progress being made in collecting money due for expansion.

Construction report, attached. Steel being installed week of Nov 15-20<sup>th</sup>. Weather may be a hindrance.

Mortgage was signed last week by Arie Behar and Bobbi Binder. Thanks to Irwin Millinger, negotiated for free, title search for free.

VP reports: See end of these minutes.

Programming: Adult education committee is in place. Programming committee has put together two programs. Mailings went out to 60 prospective members.

Gary Tinkel, Financial Secretary: 443 members. 310 dues paying equivalents 86 on forgiveness.

Treasurer: Marc Dillman handed out report.

High Holiday appeal brought in \$31,000 of pledges.

Mark Kasdin: Men's club: Meeting on Sunday, November 9, 2003, speaker who worked with American forces, spent 6 months traveling around Iraq, has great stories.

Cheryl Goldstein: Sisterhood: Upcoming events include paid up membership dinner, Tupperware party at synagogue, Hanukah bazaar on Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>. Retail scrip will be sold at gift shop table on Sunday mornings.

Motion to adjourn by Cheryl Goldstein  
Seconded by Mitch Frumkin

## **AGENDA**

### **Board of Trustees Meeting, November 3, 2003**

To foster a vibrant egalitarian Jewish community founded in the religious customs and traditions of Conservative Judaism; offering excellent [Jewish education](#) and [community activities](#) for all ages with commitment to Israel and Jewish communities throughout the world.

<b>Call to Order and Welcome</b>	<b>Arie Behar</b>
<b>CLOSED SESSION RABBI'S CONTRACT</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>Approval of October Meeting Minutes</b>	<b>All</b>

President's Report and EC Meeting Update	Arie Behar
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#### **New Business**

<b>Constitutional change regarding people in good standing</b>	<b>Danny Greenberg</b>
<b>Status of current members in arrears re nursery tuition</b>	<b>Gary Tinkel</b>

#### **Old Business**

#### **Reports:**

Expansion Update	Mark Kasdin
Construction Update	Mitch Frumkin
Vice Presidents Reports	All
Financial Secretary's Report	Gary Tinkel
Treasury Report	Marc Dilman
Men's Club Report	Mark Kasdin
Sisterhood Report	Cheryl Goldstein
50 Plus Report	Doris Sandrowitz
Good and Welfare	Rabbi Eligberg

<b>Closed session Rabbi's review</b>	<b>All</b>
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Adjournment

All

Next Board of Trustees Meeting December 1, 2003

## **Activities VP Report**

November 2003

### **Programming**

Letters went out to 60 names on Cindy's prospect list to advertising our next "Theatre Night" program and to invite them to the next Family Shabbat Service. The first meeting of the new programming committee will be held on Tuesday. Chairs to be determined.

### **Recreation Committee**

A new "recreation committee" has been formed to plan activities that will be held in our new multi-purpose room. A survey is being mailed and posted on the website. The committee is being chaired by Steve Juro.

### **Website/Communications**

The number of people receiving the email announcements has increased to 263 families, due to more members participating on various committees.

### **Adult Education**

A committee was formed and had their first meeting. Subsequent meetings will be co-chaired by Mitch Frumkin and Irwin Millinger. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, November 11. The Rabbi has also initiated a program, details will be in the Hakol.

### **Social Action**

The social action committee is starting work on the "Sponsor a Family for the Holidays" program.

### **Bikkur Cholim**

A new committee has been formed to arrange visits to congregants who are ill or hospitalized. The committee is chaired by Sheryl Olitzky.

## **School & Youth Vice President's Report**

November 3, 2003

### **USY**

USY currently has 43 paid members, with more expected to join soon when band ends. There were 33 at the opening event, a Murder Mystery Night.

USY still gives \$36 toward the cost of the first regional event a member attends. Our own convention in February is not included in this offer.

Many of our USYers are at the North Brunswick municipal building tonight when the mayor will read a proclamation in honor of USY week. Upcoming events include a Youth Service at the synagogue on November 8, a Board Game Night on November 24, and Fall Convention in Marlboro on November 21-23.

Remember, our synagogue will be host to the Mid-Winter Convention on February 6 – 8. We will be counting on everyone to help out by housing the USYers from across the region who will be attending. If you haven't returned a housing form yet, you can find one on the synagogue website.

### **Kadima**

To date, we have 40 members of Kadima, with a couple of more sing-ups expected within the next week. Our October 16th Pizza in the Sukkah night had 27 members attend.

Our next events are:

November 2nd Kadima Elections and Regional Roller Skating Event in Woodbridge

November 13th Chinese Food & Movie Night at the Synagogue

November 23rd Laser Tag

### **College Program**

If you have not already done so, please give the names and addresses of children attending college to the college committee by calling Marcy Finkelstein or by filling out the address form on the synagogue website.

### **Nursery School**

The Holiday Gift Bazaar will be at the Synagogue on November 11 from 6 to 10 p.m. Please come and shop for gifts for adults and children of all ages.

I have just set up a new Nursery School Board to oversee the Nursery School. The first meeting will be on Tuesday, November 18. If you wish to be on this board, or know any other synagogue member who does, please call me to be added to the member list.

## **Religious School**

We currently have 240 students enrolled in our Religious School: 189 children in K-7 and 51 students in Chai School.

Author Fran Manushkin will visit our school on Sunday, November 16, for Jewish Book Month. Her workshop is scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> graders. This will kick off the Jewish Book Fair, which will continue through November 25.

The Alef Naming Service and Dinner is planned for Friday, November 14.

Our Box Tops 4 Education Program that has been running since 2000. The Religious School received \$207 from General Mills in 2000-1, \$195 in 2001-2, \$317 in 2002-3, and submitted \$239 worth of box tops on October 30. Our next submission date is May 4. Everyone should save the Box Tops 4 Education coupons from General Mills cereals and leave them in the school office.

## **Administrative VP Report For November, 2003 meeting**

- I. Proposed constitutional amendment: Article VI, Section 3 currently reads: "A member whose dues shall not have been paid according to the schedule set by the Board of Directors shall be deemed not in good standing". It is proposed that this be amended to include not only dues, but also any and all outstanding pledges. If seconded and approved, this amendment will be submitted to the Constitution Committee for drafting and submission to the December meeting of the Board.
- II. Simchat Torah continued our string of successful holidays: many thanks to Rabbi, Cantor, the Religious Activities Committee and to Ann Kanarek and the rest of the school staff for an excellent program that was enjoyed by all.
- III. The pews are completed – we owe a debt of gratitude to Jennifer Shapiro and the entire Décor Committee, as well as Hadas for sweating the many details involved in overseeing this project. The sanctuary looks great! As of this writing, they still had have the last stretching and tightening; as of November 3<sup>rd</sup> this too will have been done.
- IV. We went through a period where we did not have a regular permanent custodian on-site; we now have one (Stan) and he seems to be working out very well.
- V. All items that were identified as issues in the state's surprise inspection of our nursery school were rectified within the 10 days allotted for repairs. Hadas and Ed ensured that all matters were addressed, including procuring supplies (ceiling tiles) on Ed's own time at no additional charge to us.
- VI. Letters went out to all volunteers from the Yom Kippur appeal thanking them for their response. All names (of approximately 80 people) were given to responsible Vice Presidents, who in turn were or are getting in touch with each person to get them involved.
- VII. We will be planning an event soon designed to thanks ALL volunteers of the synagogue – will keep you abreast as details are developed.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

NOVEMBER 2003

### 1. ROLE OF THE BOARD MEMBER:

Membership recruitment is an on-going process for our synagogue throughout the year. As leaders of our synagogue, it is our role to act as representatives of the synagogue helping to create a warm and inviting feeling at all events. Please use the buttons "Ask me about our synagogue" located on the bottom shelf of the book cart when you have Bima Duty. Seek out new faces and introduce yourself.

### 2. SPEED MEET 'N GREET:

This new member event ( also open to the entire congregation) will be held on Weds. Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>. Its focus is to help members meet members of the board, staff, and committee heads of the synagogue so they can get to know the people involved (one on one) and get "in the know" of what's happening in the synagogue. Hopefully this will serve as a great way to build our committees! Refreshments will be served and we hope it will be a fun night. Please plan on attending if you can to help! The more board members there the better!

### 3. CHAI ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:

There will be a Chai anniversary event during the winter to honor members of the synagogue who have been members for 18 years. Mark and Judy Roller are chairing the event.

### 4. RETENTION ACTIVITIES:

Need ideas for programs that would serve as great vehicles for members to come to the synagogue who might not ordinarily come. All programs will be coordinated with VP programming.

Thank You, Cindy Gittleman



Mitch Frumkin

Past President

Monthly Report September 2003

Date of Report: October 7, 2003

### **Construction:**

As part of our agreement with Cornerstone Architects, a construction meeting takes place every other Thursday afternoon at 2 pm. The meeting includes representatives of Cornerstone, the Contractor as well as representatives of the Construction Committee based upon their availability. The Committee is comprised of myself, Paul Zankel and Arie. Meeting minutes are prepared and issued by the Architect. If anyone would like to see these meeting minutes, please let me know and I can make them available.

#### **Current Status:**

- 1) Schedule. All of the work within the parking lot which would impact on our use of this area has been completed to the point where the area is useable. All work is currently taking place behind the construction fence and is moving forward. The impact to previous delays has not been quantified and as of this point an extension of time has not been requested although, I am anticipating that this request will be made.
- 2) Contract. The contract is completed and signed. It is just awaiting a copy of the final construction schedule from the Contractor to be attached and distributed.
- 3) Payments to date
  - Total Contract Value \$1,513,500
  - Total Completed to Date \$ 98,000
  - Retainage (\$ 9,800)
  - Amount Paid to date \$ 88,200

Although the second requisition for payment has been made by the Contractor, it has not yet been approved by the Architect for payment.

- 4) Caterer. They will be making a follow up presentation to the Board at tonight's meeting

See following report:

## **Feedback Committee**

### **Cantorial Feedback Committee**

Meeting Minutes

Monday October 20, 2003

To: Feedback Committee

Cc: Executive Committee

In attendance: Mitch Frumkin, Bette Koffler, Mark Kasdin, Adrian Ross,  
Cantor Rockman, Jennifer Shapiro, Gary Tinkel

The first subject of discussion was the purpose of the Committee. It was agreed that we were acting as a resource for the Cantor to give feedback regarding his activities as well as for Congregants to give feedback regarding the Cantor.

In this regard we decided that the Chair of the Committee would be the one to create cycle and act either on behalf of, or in concert with members or all of the Committee.

Although there were no real issues to discuss, it was agreed that meeting on a regular basis was important even if there are no specific agenda items.

Next Meeting :Monday December 15. All meetings will be held on the third Monday of the month with any cancelled meetings being made up on the third Thursday of the month.

VP of Ways and Means Monthly Report

**November 3, 2003**

**Supermarket Scrip & Retail Scrip:** We are have a slowing in demand in scrip sales but still very busy. The sisterhood is officially selling the retail scrip. We have sold some scrip. The current script committee has done a fabulous job and we are looking forward to great effort for the upcoming year. We are still getting pretty positive responses of the new plan. We also need your support for working the desk on Sunday mornings.

**Printer Cartridges:** We will be collecting ink jet cartridges. There is a box in the office please just drop them off. We will be placing ads in the upcoming Hakol. CBT will receive \$2.00 per cartridge.

**Car Donation:** We have set up a program to take donated cars. An ad has been placed in the upcoming Hakol. Detail to follow. We have had some interest so far. We have had three cars.

**Entertainment Book:** Barry Safeer is doing a great job. He has had limited number of Sundays this year so he is a little behind. He has had a greater demand for Monmouth county then usual.

**Event for next year:** We will be doing a large 50/50 with a drawing at the end of a Major event March 13,2004. The prizes will be 1<sup>st</sup> 25%, 2<sup>nd</sup> 15%, and 3rd 10%. Jeff Woller is chairing the 50/50. We will need the boards and the congregations help in distributing the tickets. The event committee has had several meeting and the raffle will have it first full meeting on November 11,2003. The chair will be “OUR GREAT GARY WARNER”. The theme of the March 13, 2004 will follow. We will be doing an ad journal and a silent auction. Please keep me posted if you want to be involved with any of our projects. Please start informing me on your book sales.

**Brandeis Women:** Renee Wittlin from Brandeis Women has asked us to cosponsor an Author supper. If there is an interest please contact her at 732 257-9241.