

Minutes from board meeting November 6, 2006

Meeting called to order at 8pm by President Danny Greenberg

In attendance: Gary Bergman, Arthur Biderman, Bobbi Binder, Larry Cohen, Marc Dillman, Linda Fellen, Cindy Gittleman, Marlene Heller, Ruth Anne Koenick, Allison Nagelberg, Aaron Rosloff, Beth Schurman, Mark Sherman, Ruth Shindler, David Spivak, Gary Warner, Paul Zankel

Rabbi Goldstein, Cantor Rockman, Hadas Elami, Lisa Mason

Guest: Elliott Danto

Motion to accept minutes by Mark Sherman seconded by Marlene Heller
vote: 10 in favor

D'var Torah by Rabbi Goldstein regarding this week's parasha V'aerah.

Presidents report:

Allison Nagelberg has replaced Al Garten as VP Ways and Means. Ruth Shindler has joined the board to fill Allison's position.

Danny read correspondence: Letter from Highland Park Conservative Synagogue thanking us for our support when their building burned down.

Card from Herb Mars.

Lawsuit is progressing. Grant Builders were served and we will hear before the next board meeting.

Charter school - in third month. Some impacts - is this the kind of rental that we want to pursue in the future? 5 person committee has been appointed, headed by Marc Dillman to talk to all those who have been affected by the Charter school. They will give a report by the January board meeting. Balance of finances vs. impact to the congregation.

Arie Behar has been appointed as the new secretary of United Synagogue New Jersey Region.

Rabbi's report:

Funeral of Herb Cinich was today. Shiva started tonight and continues through Wednesday night.

Mazel Tov to:

Katz family, Bat Mitzvah of Melissa, Haberman family, Bar Mitzvah of Jason, Katcher family Bar Mitzvah of Michael.

Two baby namings:

Morris family

Berkowitz family

A couple of B'nai Mitzvot coming up this month.

Rabbi gave a short lesson on leading any Kaddish prayers. Congregants should be responding with the middle line of the prayer, it is our response.

Adult Hebrew literacy class started yesterday; there are 14 or 15 people in the class.

Cantor's report:

Torah class starts this week. 6-7 people.

Thanksgiving community service November 19th 7pm. Makelah will be singing with area wide choruses. Sons of Tikvah will be performing at the beginning and at the end. Bring nonperishable food items.

Biennial convention held yesterday. It was a very positive experience. Danny, Paul, Hadas, Rabbi and Cantor attended.

Financial secretary: Hadas for Mark Kasdin: 433 members, 83 special arrangements, 279 FDPE. 17 members did not pick up their high holiday tickets. At least 14 of them probably are not interested in remaining members.

Treasurer's report: Marc Dillman. Marc distributed his report and reviewed the highlights.

VP reports:

Cindy Gittleman: Craft fair coming up, Hadas and Lisa have been a great help as has Lou Ann Wolf. Cindy has been getting a lot of help. She has road signs that need to be put up and will ask people before putting the signs up. Signs can go up on our property right away. Cindy handed out flyers outside of Michaels yesterday with Danny Greenberg's daughters.

Fifty Plus report: Aaron Rosloff: Nov 28th there will be a Mark Twain act, open to the public. Light lunch will be served. Last meeting was a stained glass demonstration. Anyone over 50, please support this group for \$15 per year.

Old Business: Beth Schurman - what's going on with baby changing tables in new wing?

Installation is expensive and we want to wait until after the Charter school is out of the building.

New business:

Gary Warner: his daughter's Jessica's Bat Mitzvah is coming up. Jessica delivers food to New Brunswick. She is looking to collect items to be donated. They will make arrangements to pick the stuff up. Jesscia is running a clothing drive.

Gary also requested that vps send out their reports earlier.

Mark Sherman: Federations super Sunday is November 19th. There are sessions that night as well as during the week.

Hadas: leadership training. Hadas handed out information regarding reaching out and welcoming perspective members.

Hadas then presented an idea of holding our Chanukah party at Carolier Lanes. Hadas made a flyer, a rough idea, and passed this around.

We can have a candle lighting before the congregational meeting.

Discussion followed regarding the party.

Motion by Gary Bergman:

To enter into a contract with Wilmark Studios, Inc. to create a stained glass window in the Bet Midrash.

Seconded by Gary Warner.

Explanation: The window is being donated by Martha Rotter in memory of her husband. The studio is the same that did the stained glass window in the sanctuary. Design has been worked on with decor committee and Martha. Gary has the contract, total cost is \$15,000, with a \$5,000 deposit. Hands of Cohan towards Mt. Sinai towards the tablets.

Vote unanimous

Motion passes

Motion by Gary Bergman:

To paint the soffets in the old and new wings a common beige color.

Seconded by Mark Sherman.

Explanation: These are the outside soffets above the windows. Decorating committee has not been available. Caterer has been asking for this for some time. The board will have to make a decision on the color tonight since it is weather dependent or we won't be able to get started until the spring. Cost is \$4000 which includes power washing and then two coats of paint. The painter will donate \$600 of the work and we will put advertising in Hakol. Shomrei Tikvah will fund this cost. Caterer will not contribute because this is part of the original building and he considers this maintenance.

Discussion followed.

Vote: 12 in favor; 0 opposed; 4 abstain

Motion passes

Hadas and Gary Bergman will choose the color.

Addition to Rabbi report: Effort to increase attendance at mincha/maariv. Rabbi has been teaching. Elliott and Nancy have been making arrangements for fruit. It is important that we have this service. We have been coming up a little short for the minyans. Rabbi wants us to consider attending at least once each month.

Linda Gottesman asked for the history of the parking lot being redone. No funds are set aside at this point.

Motion to adjourn by Ruth Ann, seconded by Gary Warner

VP Membership
September Report
November 6, 2006

Again, I mailed out over 30 HaKols to our prospect list. This past month I also delivered 8 welcome presents to new members, bringing me up to date. People are really touched by this kindness and I am very pleased with the content of the gift.

I sent 2 notes to members who had a child celebrate a Bar/Bat Mitzvah. I also continue to call the designated presenter for both the joint gift and the USY gift.

I attempted to have our first Bikkur Cholim meeting but because it was poorly attended, we will reschedule another in the next few weeks. Membership is also helping to sponsor the first Shabbat dinner to be held on November 10

Please remember to give a sign in sheet to all of your committees that hold events so we can capture names for our mailings.

**VP ACTIVITIES REPORT
NOVEMBER 2006**

CRAFTS FAIR/VENDORS MARKET:

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH 9AM - 3PM. We are looking forward to having a community-wide event with 30 crafters and vendors.

Michael's Craft Store will be present with give-aways and make and take project.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DAY OF EVENT AND HELPING WITH PUBLICITY.

ADULT EDUCATION:

Co-Chairs for 2006-2007 Mae Rubinstein and Jerry Shulman

Fall Trip for October 29th to Tenement Museum in NYC was a success with just under 30 in attendance.

Full schedule of programs in the Hakol

SOCIAL ACTION:

Although Social Action does not have a designated chair of the committee, a group of very dedicated committee members; Janice Baer, Jen Shapiro, Amy Smith, Ellen Schneider, Linda Kohn and Andrea Katz are committed to keeping social action happening. Needy Family Holiday Program, Bingo with seniors, Passover drive, and the Book bag program have all been assigned.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME! Contact Activities@BnaiTikvah.org for more info.

BT ATHLETICS:

Men's Open Court Basketball continuing. Tuesday nights 8-10 pm. Non-competitive pick-up game.

OTHER ACTIVITIES ON THE CALENDAR:

FEB ? - VOLLEYBALL CHALLENGE (adults vs. teens)

MARCH 25TH - FATHER/DAUGHTER DANCE

MAY 25TH - CHAI MEMBER SHABBAT DINNER AND SERVICE

Thank You,
Cindy Gittleman, VP Activities

Administration VP Report

November 2006

Administrative costs savings

A committee was formed, chaired by Stacey Rockman, to pickup the Kiddush pastries and cakes from Sam's club each week.

Communications

We had an internet outage initially caused by a power failure. Service was fully restored after our router was replaced. Vanity addresses for the synagogue office were resolved by hosting their mailboxes directly on the Univox server. All other vanity addresses are still non-functioning as there are still some 3rd party filters that have our server blacklisted. We hope to have this resolved in a few weeks.

Religious Activities

The committee will keep notes regarding activities for each holiday. These notes will include both positive and negatives, procedures, and suggestions for future celebrations.

The committee discussed, at length, the way in which we do Mishaberach. Most all synagogues do it the way we are doing it now. It was agreed that the Rabbi shouldn't be seen as "conduit" for prayer. The rabbi proposed to write an article for Hakol describing the change and explaining the process.

Weekly handout for Shabbat services was discussed. It needs to prominently display the fact that we don't carry on Shabbat and please leave the handout before leaving the synagogue. Also, content should have more than just announcements, it should have something about the service and/or that week's parsha.

Howard Waksman is putting together a syllabus for creating a "learner's minyan". The service will be a prayer experience as well as a learning lesson, possibly centering on 1 or 2 prayers each service. Planned for Jan-Feb.

It was agreed that there needs to be better communication between the RAC and Religious School. It was suggested that someone from RAC goes to Religious School Board meetings monthly and communicate with the school director.

Discussion re: LCD in lobby on Shabbat might cause a mixed message to some (ie. Not watching TV on Shabbat?). It was suggested to post a plaque under the TV indicating that "TV has been turned on before Shabbat.

Below is the report for Sisterhood:

Upcoming Fundraisers:

* Sisterhood is now offering Mitzvah baskets for b'nai mitzvah families to purchase to decorate the bima, in lieu of floral arrangements. Currently, the baskets are done in a food theme, with a portion of the proceeds donated to one of a number of hunger relief organizations. Sisterhood will decorate the baskets in a color of the family's choosing, set up and remove the baskets. Other "theme" baskets may be offered in the future. Samples of the baskets are on view in the sisterhood gift shop. The baskets were presented at the B'Nai Mitzvah family meeting last week, and were well-received. The first baskets were purchased by the family of the bar mitzvah this past Shabbat. Flyers are available from Sisterhood.

* Sisterhood is sending a promotional Chanukah card to all members of the Congregation; for a donation of \$18, you can have your greeting added to the card. We are hoping to have everyone in the congregation participate, and at the very least, we hope that everyone on the BT board will participate. The flyer for this was in the recent Hakol; please fill it out and send it in ASAP. Proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to purchase a sound system for the multipurpose room

* Sisterhood is selling Thanksgiving flowers--flyer in the Hakol

* Judaica shop - will be open during the Nov 19th craft fair, and on Sundays December 3 and 10 for a Chanukah bazaar

* Working on wine sale for Passover with wine tasting on Purim - planning to run Mishloach Manot fundraiser again this year

Social Actions:

* At each meeting, we collect something for donation to local charities. So far this year we have collected or are planning to collect school supplies, new underwear and socks, new make up, and food for the Thanksgiving pantry.

Past Programs:

* October 9th - sponsored 1st sundae in the Sukkah evening - about 15 attendees

* October 10th - sponsored with NCJW Breast Cancer program - was attended by about 30 women

* October 18th - Jewish Life Cycle Greeting card making - the attendees had a very nice time.

* Nov 1 creative handcrafts night - Warm Up America project

Upcoming Programs...

* Nov 29th paid up membership dinner and social actions program to support the BT kitchen (clean it well, restock it with nice/matching platters and tools and gadgets to make meal preparations easier). In our opinion, kitchen needs more supervision for kashrut purposes and all involved to keep it nice and usable.

* December 13th : program t/b/a