

# November 8, 1999

Meeting called to order at 8:00 by Jeff Schwartz.

## Attendees:

Arie Behar, Mark Binder, Mitch Frumkin, Mark Kasdin, Adrienne Ross, Jeff Schwartz, Harold Schneider, Gary Tinkel, Janice Baer, Marc Dillman, Jerry Edley, Harvey Finkelstein, Ann Gold, Steve Gordon, Isaac Grodzinski, Ron Harkov, Jodi Marcou, Ben Shapiro, John Wolf, Jay Scheuer, Rabbi Eligberg, J. Gerbman

Non-Board Guests. Gary Bergman, Eliot Danto

Minutes distributed and reviewed. Motion to accept Edley. Second Shapiro. Accepted as submitted.

## D'Var Torah: Rabbi Eligberg

New spin on an old expression, "It's difficult to be a Jew". The world has changed and, no doubt, the original meaning is no longer true. Look to our ancestors to guide us.

## Non-member Guest comments:

Gary Bergman has reconstructed website. It is recommended that we register website in our own name. Original website registered as BnaiTikvah.com and bnaitikvah.org. There are fees of \$35 per year per name. Currently, site is hosted by Derek Fields on a personal computer. If we want to do anything more interesting and/or interactive with our current site, (for example, orders for Sisterhood fundraisers, etc), we will need to be on a commercially hosted site. Cost is approximately \$40 per month.

Arie Behar: Motion: **Appropriate \$360 for duration of fiscal year to register web site on commercial host and maintain.** Second Janice Baer.

## Discussion:

- Why are we paying for something we get for free? Setting up our own site allows us to measure "hits" to site, provide interactivity to site, etc. Currently we don't have access to CGI program (page counters, interactivity, etc.)
- Does United Synagogue hosting offer interactivity? Yes but site is very slow.
- Should site be hosted on a home machine vs commercial? G. Tinkel noted that hosting on a home machine is not optimal. The United Synagogue site limits the amount of storage. To meet our congregational needs, a number of services are available for ~\$30 per month. They also provide e-mail accounts.
- Where would we appropriate funds? Administrative? Publications?

**Motion withdrawn.** Funding not needed.

Motion: G. Edley: **The congregation maintain a commercial hosted website (Bnaitikvah.org) which will be maintained under the guidance of the VP, Activities.** Second: J. Baer.

- Who will take responsibility? Activity will maintain.

Motion called: *Passed with two abstentions.*

## Old Business:

### *Security Procedures:*

Ben Shapiro discussed structural related upgrades and presented plan (see attached). Three vendors contacted. Least expensive proposal is \$8000, most expensive \$14,000. Locked into current vendor for another 18 months due to contract/lease arrangements. Most essential: magnetic locks, which control access to school wing which are released in event of fire, etc. Along with magnetic locks are intercom and video so that people can see who is at the door, etc. Second most important is communication to trailers. (Note: school has tried utilizing walkie-talkies but less than optimal. Phones will cost \$800 to get hard wired to trailers. Trailers are not alarmed at this time. No controlled access in and out of trailers.

- How does SB do security for trailer? Do not know. Is it worthwhile to pursue?
- Requirements for personnel in place to monitor elements?
- Panic button does not always have to be linked to police. Set alarm only.
- Have we gone beyond the scope discussed in October? Perhaps broader scope should be part of expansion.
- Consider wireless communication system for trailers. Can have up to 12 mobile units and one base. Calling a trailer would only ring in the one trailer.
- Look at this in two separate parts: 1) better communication and monitoring and 2) security. To truly secure the building would be close to impossible.

Last month, approved monies to improve communication to trailer.

Motion: (B. Shapiro) **Appropriate funds (up to \$2000) from Shomrei Tikvah to upgrade security measures consistent with discussion of October 4.** Second: J. Baer. *Passed with one negative, two abstentions.*

### *Expansion:*

Invited 4 architectural firms to bid on proposal. Eliminated one and invited 3 to meet with committee in October. Only one firm showed up. May need to solicit other bids. The committee is moving toward a proposal for Congregational meeting on December 19. The President needs to notify the congregation by December 9. If desire to send out any information relative to expansion prior to the meeting, the committee can send out a separate letter.

The committee will discuss a communication plan at next committee meeting (November 11). Committee is working very effectively; they will have a proposal ready for the congregational meeting.

Jeff Schwartz noted that he saw Development Consultants at United Synagogue convention. They noted that they would have time to assist us in a fundraiser this winter.

### Question:

- Will December meeting be a meeting to approve expansion? It will be consistent with motion at last general meeting. Remind everyone that they need to be in **good** financial standing to vote.
- Committee will need to demonstrate that there are different concepts and price tags based on funds secured.

- In the announcement of the meeting, will we send results of the survey? We will not disseminate the document due to its confidential nature. It was recommended that a one-page summary of the document be developed (A. Ross volunteered). Suggest that one of the developers of the feasibility study join us at the Congregational meeting.

### *Catering*

Concern raised that, over the past few weeks, the caterer has been setting up valet parking earlier and earlier on Sunday morning. They know that they are not to set up prior to 12:15 yet cones are being set up as early as 11:30. This is impacting traffic flow during pick-up at the end of Hebrew School. In addition, during a PACT program, a chupah was being set up in the sanctuary at the same time.

J. Baer requested that catering committee and school committee meet with the caterer to resolve these issues. It is recognized that this is a recurrent issue. It was also noted that, if a written policy exists, all arms of the synagogue should have copies of these rules, as well as a copy posted in the office.

### **New Business:**

Isaac Grodzinski: Caterer requested construction of lights in the six islands in the parking lot. *Deferred to the Interiors committee.*

Caterer is working well with Interiors committee. They are waiting for additional samples prior to presenting to the board. Plan will be available by the February board meeting.

M. Binder: **Resolution that VP, Ways and Means signature be added to United Jersey Bank account for script.** Second: M. Frumkin. *Motion is unnecessary.*

Nov 18, (8 p.m.) member of Israeli consulate (Yaron Seidman) is coming to the synagogue to speak. Any support will be appreciated. Attendance will help determine future capability to have speakers. Open to public.

### **Reports:**

#### *Financial Secretary (Gary Tinkel)*

Up until a couple of weeks ago, books were a "mess". New administrator reset codes, etc and a large amount of information was lost. Due to problems with books, Gary brought Sharon Levine (prior administrator) in to assist in recreating the database. We need to insure that someone is available to be trained when Hadas (new administrator) is being trained (i.e. Financial Secretary)

467 Full dues paying members. 65 members on reduced dues, 72 members in 65+, totaling 137 members paying less than full dues. This is better than prior years – attribute it to the economy.

Not sure how far behind in collections, since system needs to be set up. Full backed up copies of database from the following points: prior to Sharon leaving, prior to Marv leaving.

Does current system incorporate information from membership application? Can reinstitute database if desired but would need to update, etc. Perhaps once billing is straightened out, we could focus on building the database.

#### *Treasurer (Marc Dillman)*

- Cash flow is positive (typical of this time of year).
- Hebrew school income is \$7000 ahead of schedule. Dues are also ahead of collections (first time in a long time)
- Positive variance for administration payroll. Not up to date: maintenance contractor has not sent bill.

- Clergy payroll positive variance. Sizeable amount of funds to non-payroll allocation which is not necessarily paid in 1/12 increments.
- Miscellaneous expense: deficit of \$7500 related to expenses for temporary parsonage.
- United Synagogue dues have not been paid; this is not a surplus. Dues cannot be paid until we have dues declaration.
- Kiddush sponsorship: \$136 member, \$180 non-member. \$575 for Bnai Mitzvah families.
- Y funds need to be booked under room rent

*VP Admin (M. Frumkin)*

- Requested that notification of synagogue personnel changes by phone for those without e-mail
- Hadas Elami has been hired as the new administrator, effective 11/8/99. Previously, Hadas was the secretary for the Hebrew and Nursery School
- Starting salary \$33,000, up to \$36,000 in 6 months
- The builder for the parsonage has received the CO. We are committed to apartment rental at Colony Oaks until 12/22/99.
- Received first check from Y for \$1000.

*Comments:*

- Insure that new administrator notifies board of congregational deaths
- Need background check on administrator. Lark Fulfillment will conduct check for us.
- Safe: \$4000 replacement SCRIP from Edwards. Mitch will speak with Aaron Rosloff to determine status of insurance claim.

*VP School and Youth (J. Baer)*

*USY*

- USY up to 65 members (+2 from last year). If board members have children of USY age, please have them enroll.
- October 7, Jackpot Bingo. October 21: Violence Institute speaker. Nov 4: Paradise billiards.
- December meeting: USY/Kadima Hannukah party; Bowl-a-thon

*Kadima*

- Elections held in October. Hannah Ehrlich is president.
- Five members attended Shabbaton with more joining for the dance
- Rollerskating November 21. Plan to hold a monthly Kadima Shabbat night.

*Religious School*

- Aleph naming Friday, November 5.
- PACT program for 1<sup>st</sup> graders held November 7..
- High School gleaning November 7: 1000 lbs collected from our high school (collard greens and?) of the 3200 lbs collected that morning.

*Question:*

- Expansion: crowding for next several years. Does primary school necessarily have to be held on Sunday? Could we have primary school during the week?

*VP Ways and Means (M. Binder)*

- We are not fundraising as rapidly as planned
- Need help. Lots of ideas, no one to help do them
- Steve Gordon volunteered to help
- Recommended that request for assistance by more specific: address at next executive committee
- SCRIP committee will track sales to insure appropriate credit is being given towards the "free membership"

*VP Activities (A. Behar)*

Yasher Koach to Jodi Marcou and her membership committee for all of their efforts. Successful membership breakfast held on October 24.

- Recommend Brunch should be a yearly event replacing the luncheon held in past.
- Bette Koffler is still working on brochure
- Hakol: new member column has gotten off the ground
- Letter to Ann Kineret (attached) thanking for time given to prospective members

Special thanks to Nurit Brown and her committee for Adult Education. Looking to capitalize on our learnings for next session.

Propose a business card exchange on December 21.

#### *Sisterhood*

Hannukah bazaar two weeks ago – went very well.

Paid up membership on November 17. Classical caterers are doing the dinner.

#### *Men's Club*

Last meeting Professional Gambler that was well attended. Attended a Regional Federation of Mens Club meeting. Received two tapes that providing to the Rabbi for consideration in school. One is for Chai School, the other is potentially for "Hei" class.

Next Men's Club is this Sunday, topic is investments (Phil Sloan is speaker)

#### *Fifty Plus*

Fifty plus is moving along. November having a Latke hop.

#### *Presidents Report*

- Congratulations to Harvey Finkelstein on being inducted into National Board.
- Attendance at National meeting should be part of our leadership track. Attendance of tremendous value for those moving into leadership positions.
- Ruach at meeting is very strong – good discussion of dynamic nature to movement
- Next meeting is 2 years
- March: Leadership meeting is Sulam Challenge at Newark Airport
- Keynote speaker at convention: Living an Authentic Jewish Life and Bringing the Jewish Life into the Corporate World
  - Investment Banker: Philadelphia
  - Jeffrey Schwartz, CEO of Timberland. Member of Temple Emanu El. Introduced by Rabbi Warmflash

#### *Rabbi's Report*

- Upcoming Shabbatot will continue the "Synagogue Blues" program.
- Interfaith Thanksgiving Service is November 21 at Bnai Tikvah. It is at 7:30 in the evening. Bring along a non-perishable item for distribution to food banks.
- Chai School is sponsoring a program "Panim el Panim" during Martin Luther King weekend. Meet with lobbyists in Washinton, members of Congress, Senators and/or staff and social action projects in Washington. We will receive subsidy from Kane Endowment, organization sponsors. The program is for 10-12<sup>th</sup> graders.

#### **Good & Welfare**

Wish condolences to Norman Feinstein on the loss of his mother.

Wish condolences to Matt Sherman on the loss of his grandfather.

Wish Bob Turkheimer a speedy recovery.

Wish Dot Cohen, a speedy recovery (mother of new member)

Motion to adjourn at 10:50 p.m. by Jerry Edley. Second by Janice Baer. PASSED.

Next board **MEETING is December 6.**

---

**Congregation B'nai Tikvah**

1001 Finnegans Lane

North Brunswick, NJ 08902

Phone: 732 297-2696

Fax: 732 297-2673

[Mailbox@Bnaitikvah.org](mailto:Mailbox@Bnaitikvah.org)

[\[Home\]](#) [\[Activities\]](#) [\[Calendar\]](#) [\[Hakol\]](#) [\[Education\]](#) [\[Committees\]](#) [\[Officers\]](#) [\[Leaders\]](#) [\[Contacts\]](#) [\[Outreach\]](#) [\[Tzedakah\]](#)  
[\[Shopping\]](#) [\[Photos\]](#) [\[Links\]](#) [\[Religious Services\]](#)