

**Congregation B'nai Tikvah Board of Trustees**  
**Minutes from Board meeting December 1, 2003**  
**North Brunswick, NJ**

Meeting was called to order by Arie at 8:00pm

In attendance: Janice Baer, Arie Behar, Gary Bergman, Bobbi Binder, Jeff Cadoff, Marc Dillman, Harvey Finkelstein, Mitch Frumkin, Cindy Gittleman, Cheryl Goldstein, Dan Greenberg, Naomi Jackenthal, Mark Kasdin, Cyndi Kleinbart, Harold Schneider, Mark Sherman, Frank Waltzer, Gary Warner, Paul Zankel, Keith Zimmerman  
Rabbi Eligberg, Cantor Rockman, Hadas Elami  
Guests: Bobby Bergman, Ann Gold, Rachel Shaneson

Correction to minutes from November. Title search was given at a reduced rate, not for free.

Motion by Mitch to approve minutes

Minutes seconded with correction by Danny Greenberg

Minutes passed, with correction, 1 abstention

**Rabbi:** D'var Torah

**President's report:** Arie Behar

Board members should be attending services and sit on the bima as a way to show leadership. Bobbi Binder will be emailing and reminding people when it is their turn. This is also posted on the website. Bobbi is in charge of the rotation for calling pages.

Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>, congregational meeting. 2 motions will be presented. Letter going out tomorrow to congregation.

Anyone who turned in a volunteer card during Yom Kippur services was sent a letter. Please let Arie know if someone who wanted to participate that wasn't contacted.

Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, Executive Committee will meet to plan Volunteer Day. We will have a motivational speaker present. This will occur in the spring.

Meeting for Israel trip, 20+ people attended. 15-17 are interested in going on this trip, scheduled for the end of April – beginning of May.

Letter passed around that was sent to Rabbi, informing him that motion was passed to enter into negotiations with him for a new contract.

**Guest: Ann Gold.** Federation appeal has gone on for the last 2 years. 26% increase. 87 families made contribution totaling \$15,000 in 2002.

111 families made contributions totaling \$18,000 in 2003. 24 new gifts over last year.

60% stays in Middlesex County. 40% goes worldwide.

**Cantor Rockman:** Raise Our Voices for Israel 2 concert will be held on January 17, 2004 at Neve Shalom, Metuchen. 600 people in 2002 attended. Hoping for 1000 people. All people participating are also paying to attend. \$18,000 was raised last year, including matching funds. This year no matching funds will be given. Goal is \$20,000.

**Guest, Scrip committee:** Rachel Shaneson, Bobby Bergman.

Rachel was told that the Board was taking over the scrip committee. Committee needs the support of the board to make this work. Volunteers needed to sell scrip on Sunday mornings.

Thank you to Roz and Hadas for the work that they did during the High Holidays in assisting the scrip committee with selling scrip.

Thank you to Bobby and Rachel for their hard work with this committee.

\$67,275 has been sold since August, 2003. We would like to know how many families participate. There has been minor negative feedback when we have not had scrip on hand.

**Expansion update: Mark Kasdin.** \$10,000 in pledges owed from congregations who have left B'nai Tikvah. Of that, \$2000 is collectible, they intend to honor pledge. We need to make a decision about those families who have made pledges, have left, and have no intention of paying. It's about 10 families. Committee should report back over the next few months. Letters have been written to members who still have outstanding pledges. December will be a key month, because people will pay to get the tax deduction. Jeff Schwartz and Mark Roller want a listing of new members who joined after initial drive and for those who didn't participate originally. Hadas has given them the list. To date, nothing has been done with this list. Perhaps other committee members can take this over. This is a good time of year to approach these people. Mark will ask Jeff Schwartz to attend our next board meeting. Letter should go out over the next couple of weeks to new members or those who didn't participate in the campaign initially.

**Past President's Report, Mitch:** Report passed out his report regarding construction. (Included at end of these minutes)

How does this affect the day camp? Highly unlikely that we can have this together for next year, we don't even have a director. We need to have the building closed before we can address this issue. School and Youth should start to consider this.

**VP reports:** Distributed, included at the end of these minutes

**Social Action, Janice Baer:** Needy family program has 16 families. A school in New Brunswick has asked for children's coats, scarves, mittens, etc. Bring them to the synagogue, label them marked "donation."

**Mark Sherman, Ways and Means.** Distributed raffle books, please turn books back in and take more. According to the IRS, this is not a tax deduction because you have a chance to win. As part of our March 13<sup>th</sup> fundraiser, we are asking congregants to donate pre-owned art work which will then be sold. Flyer was passed out, included with these minutes.

**Danny Greenberg:** Jan 24<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> annual comedy night.

**Financial secretary:** Gary Tinkel at Jets game. Given by Hadas. 441 families, no change. 328 full dues paying. This number is up because of the scrip assessment. 88 on special arrangements.

**Treasurer's report: Marc Dillman** distributed report. New mortgage payment is now in affect. \$1.8 million is all that we have from the bank. Feels that we are \$50,000 in the whole and he would like a firm number on pledge collection.

We have a carryover and Dillman feels that we shouldn't increase dues to the congregation by \$87. Arie thinks we should keep that money in reserve and then not increase dues next year. Dillman thinks we should let the congregation know and then not have the dues increase. Next board meeting we should discuss what to do about the \$87 dues increase. Need to look at the next few years to see if this is needed then. We should create a budget without the surplus and see what that looks like.

Cindy Gittleman would like to know what all the funds in the congregation are used for. A lot of money sits around and does nothing. Time to revisit these funds. Cindy will sit with Marc Dillman and report back.

**Mark Kasdin, Men's club report.** Next meeting Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> with Sisterhood. Evan Live!. Evan Bernstein will be preparing 3 dishes. 10am sharp

**Cheryl Goldstein: Sisterhood.** Gift shop open December 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. December 6<sup>th</sup> is Sisterhood Shabbat, please come out and support Sisterhood. Jan 11<sup>th</sup> author will be here for afternoon tea and book discussion. Feb 8<sup>th</sup> children's fashion show. Mah jong cards for sale. Retail scrip being sold by Sisterhood.

**Doris Sandrowitz 50 Plus:** Showed movies and had popcorn for last meeting. 40 people attended. Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> Chanukah party. Cantor is helping with this program. Happy Chanukah from 50s plus group.

**Rabbi:** Letters was supposed to have been sent describing trip to seminary in February. Visit to Jewish Theological Seminary. February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Cost would be cost of dinner only. Funds could come from the Kane fund and some other sources. 9am departure, arrive and have tour of seminary and of rare book room. Lunch and presentation by faculty member. Then board discussion and development. Spouses could visit museum or shopping and then meet back up for dinner at kosher restaurant and return back to B'nai Tikvah. Letters will be sent out asking for commitment.

This Wednesday, Princeton Jewish Center, Arafat's war. RSVP is necessary to attend, admission is free.

Good and Welfare:

Speedy Recovery to: Mildred Auerbach, Art Baer's mother, Aida Becker, Irwin Gleitman, Shirley Ketofsky, Henry Klein, Adrienne Mars, Sam Rosenzweig, Millie Rosloff

Condolences to: Larry Brody on loss of grandmother, Elaine Beuchler on loss of husband, Abbey Lorber on loss of father, Teresa Samtur on loss of mother

Mazel Tov to: Diatlo family for Dillon's Bar Mitzvah, Dickert family for Craig's Bar Mitzvah, Marvin and Carol Eisenberg for son Matthew's engagement, Susan Keller for son Matthew's Bar Mitzvah, Marc and Arlene Lassin for son Jacob's Bar Mitzvah, Irwin and Michelle Millinger for son's wedding, Nagelbergs for honor recently given, David Offenbergs for naming of granddaughter, Bobbi and Marc Binder on 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

Interfaith service was well attended, congrats to Sons of Tikvah.

Motion to adjourn by Cheryl Goldstein  
Seconded Jeff Cadoff

**December 1, 2003**

**Supermarket Scrip & Retail Scrip:** We are have a slowing in demand in scrip sales but still very busy \$68,000 and \$458 above assessment as of 10/31/03. The Sisterhood is officially selling the retail scrip and have sold \$1330 as of 11/23/03. 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. Please look at you schedule to see when you can help the committee.

**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. Ads have been placed in the Hakol. Detail to follow. We have had some interest so far. We have had five 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 10%. Jeff Woller is chairing the 50/50. Hadas has spoken to the IRS and was told that the purchase of the tickets is NOT tax deductible. In speaking to several accountants it is common practice to take this deduction. 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 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.

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

Harold Schneider  
December 1, 2003

## **USY**

USY currently has 50 paid members, making us the fifth largest chapter in our region! From now on, only paid members are on the distribution list for mailed USY information.

Our chapter sent 20 USYers to the Fall Convention. Four USYers were signed up to attend International as of last week.

Our USYers will be attending a dance on December 13 and have a Chanukah party with Kadima on December 16.

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. We are especially in need of homes within walking distance (1.5 miles) of the synagogue.

## **Kadima**

To date we are now up to 44 paid members, with potentially five more enrolling.

Recent activities in November included Regional Event Roller Skating in Woodbridge on November 2, with 21 attending; Chinese Food & Movie Night at the Synagogue on November 13, with 33 in attendance; Regional Shabbaton and Dance in Scotch Plains on November 14-15, with 9 of our members at the Shabbaton and an additional 3 at the dance; and Laser Tag at Sports n Stuff in East Brunswick on November 23, with 20 attending.

Events planned for December are attending a Regional Kadima Day in Fair Lawn, NJ on December 7 and the Chanukah party with USY on December 16.

## **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. Keep your college student connected with the synagogue!

## **Nursery School**

The new Nursery School Board met for the first time on Tuesday, November 18. The board has seven members, five of whom attended the meeting. 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**

On Sunday, November 16, our Chai Schoolers made their annual gleaning trip to harvest food for New Jersey Farmers Against Hunger. They harvested 181 bags of mustard greens and turnips, weighing almost two tons!

On December 19, there will be a Chanukah Shabbat program for Nursery through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

Please buy candles or flames for the Religious School Wall of Flame. Call the Religious School office for details, or use the form that came in HaKol.

## **Membership Report: Cindy Gittleman December 2003**

1. Speed Meet 'n Greet Follow-up:

Unfortunately the event was a weather wash out. However a big thank you goes out to all the committee representatives who were there and ready with info to share, All the information prepared by the committees has been mailed to 25 families who are either new to our synagogue or expressed an interest to become more involved. The goal was to get more people familiar with all that happens at B'nai Tikvah and we will keep pushing that goal any way that we can.

2. Chai anniversary Celebration:

The event being chaired by Mark and Judy Roller is a membership retention event. A shabbat luncheon is being discussed to honor these members as previously done. The date will also be set shortly, in the spring.

3. Outreach to Nursery School parents:

Through the Family Shabbat program, led by the Binders and with other ideas brewing, we will be reaching out to the Jewish non-member families of the nursery school to give them more info about the synagogue.

4. Prospect List:

Membership maintains an up-to-date prospect list of families who have shown an interest in BT but have not yet joined. It is important that we invite them to events happening at BT where they can get to know us. In the past they have been invited to Friday Night plugged in, Sisterhood opening meeting with a speaker about Israel, to the Acting Class for beginners, and now they will be invited to our Chanukah celebration. Please keep this list in mind when having an event. There are 60-70 names/addresses.

5. B'nai Tikvah Wear:

Membership is exploring the possibility of introducing tee shirts and/or sweatshirts with the B'nai Tikvah name on it. Perhaps it would have a catchy phrase on it or just a simple logo. This might help to promote a proud unity among our members, much like a camp or school tee shirt. Please pass on any ideas you may have to me.

6. Chavurah Groups

Membership will also be attempting to organize, with the help of the Rabbi, chavurah groups in the synagogue that would help connect groups of people together, hopefully also making their connection to the synagogue stronger. Any thoughts on this let me know

Our next meeting will be Weds. Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> in the synagogue after minyan.

Thank you, Cindy

**Activities VP Report**  
**Gary Bergman**  
December 2003

**Programming**

This Sunday 10:40 am. Shai Goldstein from the ADL will discuss Anti-Semitism and Israel Advocacy. Sponsored by The Religious School and the Programmin Committee.

Our next "Theatre Night" presentation will be "It's A Caberet", An evening of classic and romantic songs performed by Susan Barry & Ethan Cadoff.  
Wednesday, December 17, 8:00pm

**Hakol**

The late delivery of this month's Hakol is not the fault of anyone here. The person at the post office who is in charge of bulk mailings was on vacation last Wednesday. As a result, the mail couldn't go out until after the Thanksgiving Holiday.

**Adult Education**

Adult-ed programs are planed to start in January with something being offered every Wednesday

**Administrative VP Report: Danny Greenberg**

- I. Notice for the constitutional meeting is going out this week – there are two proposed amendments on the table: (1) modifying the definition of 'member in good standing', and (2) adding past presidents to the board. The meeting will be held immediately before the congregational meeting on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- II. Separate notice (as required) is also going out for the congregational meeting this week.
- III. The Rabbinical Contract Committee is meeting this week and moving forward on renegotiating the Rabbi's contract, per the vote at the last board meeting.
- IV. I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving!

Mitch Frumkin  
Past President

Monthly Report November 2003 Date of Report: December 1, 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. Due to design conflicts and the back and forth of the shop drawings between the Architect and the steel fabricator, the delivery of the steel has been delayed until approximately December 15, 2003.

2) Payments to date

- . Total Contract Value
- . Total Completed to Date
- . Retainage
- . Amount Paid to date

\$1,513,500 \$ 216,200 (\$ 21.621) \$ 194,579

This is based upon three payment requisitions.

### **Feedback Committee**

**Rabbinical Feedback Committee** Meeting Minutes Monday November 17, 2003

To: Feedback Committee Cc: Executive Committee

The meeting was cancelled and will be rescheduled due to the Rabbi's- trip to Israel.

Next Scheduled Meeting :Monday February 16. 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.