

**Minutes from Board of Director's Meeting
Congregation B'nai Tikvah
December 4, 2006**

Meeting called to order by President Danny Greenberg

In attendance:

Arie Behar, Gary Bergman, Arthur Biderman, Bobbi Binder, Ed Birch, Larry Cohen, Marc Dillman, Linda Fellen, Cindy Gittleman, Danny Greenberg, Marlene Heller, Mark Jiorle, Mark Kasdin, Kinda Kohn, Aaron Rosloff, Beth Schurman, Ruth Shindler, Gary Warner, Paul Zankel

Rabbi Goldstein, Cantor Rockman, Hadas Elami, Lisa Mason

Guests: Bobby Bergman, Gwen Simon, Ann Rosensweig

Motion to approve minutes by marlene seonded by Cindy Gittleman.

Divar Torah by Rabbi Goldstein.

Congregant Gwen Simon addressed the board. She has been a member for 30 years. She brought up the issue, passionately that the recent shiva of Ruth Rosen was not attended by any board members. The board then discussed this issue. Larry was going to break down the congregation geographically. We should perhaps send out emails within the board so that other people know who else is attending shivas. Rabbi would like to see this discussed more in January, is it symptomatic of other things happening at BT? We should be attending shivas of the homes of people that we do not know. Gary Warner would like to see a committee of people who would attend shiva minyans. Some people did turn that tab down on the high holidays cards and Larry has started to reach out to these people. Larry also finds out how many people are expected at each shiva and will notify people if support is needed. Paul feels that we also need a roster system. Arie doesn't feel that this a board responsibility. We should not be required to do this. Paul and Larry will work with Rabbi to come up with a plan.

President's report:

Marlene Heller will be stepping down from the board and moving to Wisconsin. Marlene has donated a bulletin board and a parade quality American flag to be used in the future. Holocaust Torah has been brought back almost to it's final state. Thanks to Mark Roller and Jeff Schwartz. The book is back, it has been gone for 7 years.

Thanks to Cindy Gittleman and her team for the great craft fair a few weeks ago. There were many people in and out. We are planning next year's event already.

Issues with Charter school - Hadas will report.

Nominating committee has been put together. They will be meeting soon. Submit any names soon.

Sisterhood has requested that we all be aware of the communal Hanukah card, proceeds will go towards purchasing a sound system for the multipurpose room. Response has been slow.

Law Suit - waiting for response. 30 period has just passed for the first party and comes up soon for the second party. Then we can take appropriate action.

Bi annual meeting is coming up on December 18th - everyone is encouraged to attend. Next month's board meeting is Tuesday, January 2nd.

Rabbi's report: Many students have attended the Hebrew literacy class. Pace is picking up. Will be done by the end of January. Looking for someone to take over the

second half of this course so that it can be offered in the spring. Rabbi will provide information for anyone interested in teaching this.

Rabbi will be taking out an for New Brunswick domestic violence response team for their fundraising effort. Comedy night for that group is in Feb.

Rabbi has been working with Chai school and Ann Kanarek. This Sunday morning Rabbi is moderating program on organ donation for the Chai school students. In April program will be on the Jewish implication of stem cell research. Experts will be on hand. Rabbi looking for anyone who has a connection or contact.

Lastly - in 2 months, Feb 3rd, is Tu Bshvat. There is no bar or bat mitzvah that weekend. We will hold a event on Friday night. Services will be at 6pm, followed by a themed dinner - details to follow. Focusing on Israel. Mix of food and program.

Cantor's report - Feb 4th Shabbat Shira. There will be a lunch and sing following services.

Thanksgiving services were a success. Thanked Makelah. BT attendance was huge.

Sons of Tikvah will be playing at he chanukah event on December 18th.

Cantor complimented Mark Dillman as being part of his Torah Trope class. There are 14 students in his class.

Financial secretary - Mark Kasdin - 429 members. We lost 2 single members recently deaths, 277 FDPR. 84 on special arrangement.

We have a member behind in dues and tuition and the bar mitzvah is coming up first quarter. Mark has a letter out stating that dues need to be paid. Burden can't be on Cantor if these monies are paid up late and he has to teach this student.

Treasurer - Marc Dillman. Report was handed out and Marc reviewed the highlights.

Questions to VPs - Larry Cohen passed an informational form out for our big fundraiser honoring The Shermans in March.

Ed reported that the Men's Club program was poorly attended this past Sunday.

World wide wrap is February 5th. Ed resigning as co president of Men's Club in June.

50 plus - Aaron reported that there was a meeting with "Mark Twain", Attendance not great, not growing.

Bobbi asked Gary Bergman about the vanity email addresses and spam, Talk to Gary about that.

Bobbi asked about errors in Hakol and who edits the editor. One problem is that items are submitted after the date. Editor gets information about the same event from various people. There should be one contact for each group. The chair of each event should be the one who submits the information to Hakol. Arie suggested that all items should be submitted through the office, Hakol should be approved by office first, Paul Zankel will get in touch with Phil.

Rabbi search - Arie reported that our application has been posted. We have received one resume and we interviewed him via telephone. Last year is time we had 6 resumes at this time. According to RA the season starts at the start of the secular year. All resumes will be considered as soon as they are received this year. Committee will be phone interviewing all candidates unless there is something glaringly wrong with the resume.

Hadas -

Charter school. Minor issues -parking in the circle has become a problem. Steps have been taken to help eliminate this problem. Worse during the morning. No parking signs will be in place around the circle.

Minor issues that have occurred often are brought up after the fact and then circle as rumors and Hadas doesn't know if these are new issues. Graffiti in the bathroom is being taken care of. Monitoring the bathrooms. Painting the halls. Issue of cleaning the floor in the gym has been taken care of. The school has been very cooperative and wants to work with us and has always wanted to resolve any issues.

Chanukah party - preparations are well underway. Dave Spivak created flyers to be put out in the community. Need flyers hung in Route 1 corridor. Beth Schurman will put them up on Route 27.

Linda Kohn - talked about the programming at BT. But she feels that we are falling short when it comes to getting our target audience. Cindy feels that maybe we need to learn about how to market our programs.

New business:

Motion by Gary Bergman

That we require proof of insurance from all renters of our facilities

Seconded by Marlene Herman:

Explanation from Hadas. The insurance company asked whether we get proof of insurance and we told them that we don't always get that from our rentals. Our premium could be raised by a lot if there is a problem. Some organizations have insurance. Parties from outsiders need to have insurance.

Vote: 16 in favor, no opposed, 1 abstain

Motion Passes

Linda Fellen asked for clarification that even members holding parties need insurance.

Good and Welfare:

Condolences: Ruth Rosen's family, Judi Klein on the passing of her uncle Mayer Barrack, Barry Portnoy on the passing of her aunt, Sandra Sacks

Get Well: Donna Glazer was in Robert Wood Johnson for 10 days, Rabbi went to visit, she is home; Doris Sandrowitz is recovering from hip surgery at JFK Medical Center; Jodi Woller is home recovering from surgery

Mazel Tov:

The Katcher, Gorelick, Schwartz and Cohen families on the B'nai Mitzvot of their children

Upcoming B'nai Mitzvot include Wistreich and Warner families. The next B'nai Mitzvah after December 16th will be mid February.

Motion to adjourn by Bobbi Binder

Seconded by Linda Kohn

School & Youth Vice-President Report December 4, 2006

Nursery School

- School is running smoothly. There are still a couple openings for various ages.
- Children will be taking a field trip to the State Theatre in New Brunswick soon.

Camp Program

- 2007 Camp planning is underway with enrollment to begin in the very near future and staffing is underway. The camp program will be revenue neutral as per the 2006-2007 Budget.
- **PLEASE TALK UP THE SCHOOL AND CAMP WITH FRIENDS AS WORD OF MOUTH IS STILL OUR MOST POWERFUL ADVERTISING TOOL.**

Religious School

- A few issues have occurred recently regarding coordination with the Charter School. The Charter School's Principal, has worked with the synagogue staff to correct these issues. Hall monitors have been hired to supervise the Charter School students during dismissal and extracurricular time periods.
- The Religious School has offered to donate their proceeds from Craft Fair snack sales to the shul's Hanukkah Bowling Party.

Kadima/USY

- The Youth Commission is currently working on a Mission Statement and Goals to better focus their efforts.
- Kadima's Shabbaton this past weekend in W. Windsor went well.
- The Youth Commission raised money at the Craft Fair via raffles. This money has been earmarked for additional Youth Lounge improvements. Thanks to all for their time and generous donations for the raffles.
- USY/Kadima are still selling Israeli honey. The honey is also available in the Sisterhood Gift Shop. Please check the website for order forms.

College Program

- Please encourage parents of college students to register their children. Names and addresses should be forwarded to either Marcia Schwartz or myself.

Administration VP Report

December 2006

Parking in front of the building.

To help avoid the continuing disputes over school pick-ups in the front of the building, three (movable) no parking signs are being prepared for use during school weekdays.

Communications

Our email blacklist was successfully lifted (again) and individual vanity addresses are being reinstated on a case by case basis. To have your name or title address reactivated, you must speak to Gary Bergman at 246-7285 to insure you understand the ramifications of spam reporting.

Religious Activities

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.

Discussion re: LCD in lobby on Shabbat might cause a mixed message to some (ie. Not watching TV on Shabbat?). In lieu of a separate plaque, a disclaimer message will be devised for display during Shabbat.

House & Grounds

A compromise was reached with the decorating committee to paint only the deteriorated portion of the old wing in its original, white, color. In lieu of painting the stripe on the new wing, the main entrance doors were redone to everyone’s satisfaction.

VP ACTIVITIES REPORT DECEMBER 2006

CRAFTS FAIR/VENDORS MARKET:

The event went extremely well with over 400 adults in attendance. There were over 25 event volunteers who helped out during the day to greet, sell raffles, sell food, hand out information and such. Thank you to all who helped!

The activities budget will use some of the profits from the event to support other programming this year (not previously planned). Money was raised for our youth groups and the sisterhood's gift shop did very well as well!

Plans are underway to secure a date for next year.

ADULT EDUCATION:

Co-Chairs for 2006-2007 Mae Rubinstein and Jerry Shulman
Dec. 5th and Dec. 20th are dates for programming in December.
Details 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:

DEC. 8TH – CHINESE SHABBAT DINNER

MARCH 25TH - FATHER/DAUGHTER DANCE

MAY 25TH - CHAI MEMBER SHABBAT DINNER AND SERVICE

Thank You,
Cindy Gittleman, VP Activities