

## MINUTES

12/20/83 Meeting of Executive Committee Of The Library Minyan

ATTENDEES - David Nimmer, Henry Morgen, Allan Tobin, Mitch Miller, Joan Rimmon, (Henry Morgan substituting for Kathy Rosenblatt)

### I. Report On Committes:

Alan Tobin

(Ritual)

1. Would welcome more volunteers
2. Need new cards for Aliyot
3. Could use new cover for pulpit - will be discussed with maker

Henry Morgen

(Child Activity)

1. Negotiating for additional child caretakers
2. Letter being drafted to establish guidelines of appropriate behavior for children
3. Need a way for visitors to become acquainted with childcare facilities

Joan Rimmon

(Sunshine)

1. Kiddushes are planned one time every month. They are on the first Shabbat of the secular month. January - on the 7th and 28th
2. Kiddush costs - \$28 for cake  
\$6 for wine  
\$15 for gefilte fish  
Total cost around \$60 including tablecloths
3. Possibility of Kiddush every week discussed - approximately \$1,500 annually. Should we approach Temple on this?
4. People stand and talk in sanctuary instead of going to the Kiddush. It would be appreciated by the people giving the Kiddush, whether for a special occasion or a regular one, if everyone would come to the Kiddush immediately upon the conclusion of services and exchange Shabbat greetings there.

### II. What Is The Executive Committee?

General meetings are not successful in arriving at decisions due to their large size and infrequency. Executive Committee does need to be representative. Perhaps Executive Committee meetings could be held regularly, announced, and representatives of interested groups invited.

The minutes of this meeting should be circulated to enable Minyan to know about this Committee. Also, minutes for all future Executive Committee meetings can be circulated.

Consensus - meetings for Executive Committee will occur regularly and mailings will be sent out

III. Synagogue Relations Committee  
(David Nimmer, Mitch Miller)

Meeting With Bill Strick

1. Food should not be brought into shul
2. 30 day notice on events needed (from Minyan to Bill Strick)
3. Bill Strick wants joint services twice a year
4. Bill Strick wants Torah readers for main shul
5. Bill Strick wants Minyan members on all main shul committees
6. Dues - to be reviewed in near future
7. Book Burial

Discussion:

Shul has just appointed Committee to serve as liaison to Library Minyan. (Hershel Elkins is Chair)

- Consensus -
1. Minyan members should be encouraged to serve on main shul committees
  2. However, all discussions which involve relations between the Minyan as a whole and the shul will be done via the Synagogue Relations Committee and the shul's Minyan Liaison Committee
  3. Minyan should be willing to do joint events approximately twice a year. Plans will be made in advance.
  4. Book burial will be worked on.
  5. Announcements will be made regarding Torah readers and daveners needed by main shul.

IV. Finance

Janet Halbert will prepare statement for Executive Committee to see. She or Mitch Miller can sign checks. Minutes will include financial information. Thank you notes with Library Minyan name will be printed.

V. Names Were Deleted From Minyan List Before Mailing By Shul

This was done on the basis of whether dues had been paid.

Consensus - This is completely unacceptable-- the list is not a membership list, but simply a way for people to communicate. Dues paying relates only to High Holiday attendance, not to rest of year. The list must be remailed in its entirety. The Synagogue Relations Committee will discuss this issue with the Shul's Liaison Committee.

Dear Library Minyan Members:

January 3, 1984

At the last Library Minyan meeting it was decided to form a children's activities committee to do two things:

- 1) Develop programming for the children.
- 2) Establish standards for behavior of children in services.

The following letter is to inform you of the work we of the committee have done in response to the above.

To begin, we would like to briefly review the history of the minyan. When it began several years ago, it was in response to the need of Beth Am families with children who felt that their children were made to feel unwelcome in the main congregation. In recent years the minyan has expanded greatly in number, including many married couples without children and single adults. Yet it is the consensus of the committee that this is still a minyan that welcomes children and wishes to participate in educating them to synagogue observance.

It is also important that a certain level of decorum be maintained during services so that those people who have worked so hard to prepare and those who are praying are not unduly distracted. A compromise position between those who would like children to have free rein in the minyan and those who wish complete silence can obviously not please everyone, but we hope our suggestions will meet with the approval of the majority.

Obviously it is impossible to set rigid standards, but guidelines may be helpful. During the reading of the Torah, the recitation of the Haftarah and the giving of the Drash, due to the nature of these parts of the service, more stringent decorum requirements should prevail; then even a little noise from a child can be distracting. But during those portions of the service, where there is group participation and the general noise level is higher, occasional noises and movements from children can be more readily tolerated. A child who is crying continuously must be taken out of the service, but occasional noises or movements should be acceptable. During the taking out and putting away of the Torah, children may be on the bimah, but not at other times.

Programming for the children will be planned and organized by Isa Aron and other members of the Children's Activities Committee. This will require adults from the minyan, on rotating basis, to conduct the programming portion each week, and they will be assisted by the paid child care workers. (As part of this plan, the minyan has agreed to ensure that the classrooms used are left in the exact condition they are found in each week.) Isa Aron will be contacting minyan members to serve on the rotation.

This proposal requires cooperation from all minyan members, not just from those with children. If we want a minyan where children can learn and the adults can pray, we all must help provide such an atmosphere. Several minyan members have already volunteered for the program roster. We hope that those who have not already volunteered will now do so. If everyone volunteers, it will mean only serving one Shabbat every few months.

The actual programming, as currently planned, calls for the children to be divided in three age groups, starting January 7th:

- 1) Children from crawling to approximately three years of age: The program for these children will start at 10:30a.m. in room 5 of the Chapel building. Parents will be required to take the children to room 5 and to pick them up there at the designated time. The rotating adult will stay with the child care worker the entire time in this age group.
- 2) Children ages three to five years (room 4 of the Chapel building): The organized part of the program will begin immediately before the Torah is read, when children who have remained in services will meet in the lobby outside the chapel and will be accompanied to their room by the rotating adult. Prior to this time, starting at 10:00a.m., there will be supervised play at the playground with the child care workers. At approximately 10:45a.m. these children will go to the appropriate classrooms. We are encouraging children to remain in services before the Torah is read, but the supervised play is offered for those parents who feel their children cannot maintain the above mentioned level of decorum. The rotating adult will be in charge of the program segment, which will run for approximately one half hour. At the end of the program the children will accompany the child care worker to the playground, and the rotating adult is free to return to the minyan. Parents are welcome to bring their children back to services after Musaf or pick them up from the playground at the conclusion of services.
- 3) Children ages six to eight years (room 2 of the Chapel building): The schedule is exactly the same as the previous group, including the supervised playground option from 10:00a.m. until the Torah is read and the programming begins.
- 4) Children over eight years: Children not in any program are expected to be in services or on the playground. There are discussions underway for programming for children over eight years old.

All children in the above age groups are welcome to attend the appropriate group, but if their parents prefer them to remain in services, they are welcome to do so as long as the above mentioned level of decorum is maintained.

We are sure that with a little compromise and consideration on the part of the parents of young children and those people without children the minyan can maintain its welcoming of children and also be a pleasant place for everyone to pray. We will be assessing the success of the above programs as they develop.

If you have any recommendations, questions, or offers of help, please contact any one of the following members of the Children's Activities Committee.

Phyllis Z. Miller  
Kathy Rosenblatt  
Isa Aron  
Judy Weinstock  
Henry Morgen  
Michael Rosen  
Michelle Kramer  
Jay & Nadine Kaplan-Wildmann