

## THIS IS THE LAST ISSUE OF THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Dear Friends:

Many years ago, when the Jewish Community Center was founded, the only activity of the synagogues in Bangor was religious services. All community activities, including the Hebrew School, were functions of the JCC. Now, each synagogue conducts its own Hebrew school, adult education and communal activities, leaving the JCC with a minimum of activities. It was a wonderful run with a full-time director, and speakers like Stephen S. Wise and Eleanor Roosevelt. The cost of maintaining the JCC can no longer be justified and the endowment funds should not be further diminished.

On the next few pages, you will be able to read a proposal for the future. The JCC's most important present function, the chapel, will be self-supporting. And the Jewish Community Endowment Associates will be enriched and, thus, able to make additional grants for the benefit of the community.

The leadership of each of our three synagogues and JCEA have had an opportunity to review the plan and have expressed their approval of the concept being presented.

In order to accomplish this change-over, a community meeting is necessary, so

**PUBLIC MEETING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24  
7:00 P.M.**

**Epstein Room, Congregation Beth Israel**

It is very important that as many people as possible attend. Please, plan on it.

Norman Minsky

Barbara Podolsky

Howard Segal

JCC Executive Committee

*Proposal written by [unclear]*

*Meeting held  
Must provide  
all meeting funds  
except as  
noted*

The time has come when it appears appropriate to abolish the Jewish Community Council (JCC) as we presently know it. It is more costly than the benefit to the community. The executive committee's thoughts are as follows:

While the JCC has functions that it should perform, there are no people willing to take the responsibility and the time. There are no visible successors to the three persons who have managed its affairs for years.

Attempts to call a Board meeting fail to produce a quorum. It is possible to propose a system whereby the essential functions will continue.

Although we may have a certain nostalgia for the JCC, this action will actually enhance the Bangor Jewish community. In place of spending the income available (from the JCC's endowment) on administration, all the income will be available to provide more educational and cultural activities for our community.

First, the endowment: this is community money and an endowment (and specifically donated as such) and therefore it should remain as community funds and an endowment. We suggest the present funds, with one exception, be transferred to the Jewish Community Endowment Associates (JCEA), where it will remain both a community fund and an endowment. There would have to be a couple of conditions attached to the transfer, but that will be noted later. The JCEA has a record of acting responsibly; the directors consist of four persons from each of the synagogues. The synagogues have been the primary beneficiaries of JCEA grants; but there have been, as well, grants to civic matters of concern to the Jewish community.

By recognizing, as already noted, that the present JCC endowment represents money given to the JCC and the funds were intended for community wide use and as endowment, and maintaining that position through the JCEA, we would remain true to the donors' intent

Now the present functions of the JCC:

The chapel: this is the most urgent. The JCC is a corporation and it owns the chapel. If stripped of all other activities except the chapel, a new board (members from all three synagogues) would run it. The JCEA is not an operating entity and should not be. The JCEA should not be required to operate the chapel, which would remain its own organization, with its own board. Part of this proposal would be that the JCC retain \$200,000 of the present JCC endowment. The annual income from the endowment, plus funeral fees, should be sufficient to permit the new Board to maintain the Chapel. We would have a financially secure Chapel. This would probably also be sufficient to relieve the synagogues

of the \$2000 annual stipend, which is currently donating. We believe and should be, a fee for use. A very major repair might require a request for a grant from the JCEA. The retention of a portion of the endowment, for the Chapel, would be the first condition.

The Community News: this has become not much more than a reprint of material contained in the synagogue bulletins. The synagogues might want to beef up their respective bulletins, or not, as they see fit. Hopefully, they would cooperate and print the schedules of each other activities as there would no longer be a single community newsletter. That, of course, is for each synagogue to decide.

Senior citizens: this has long been an independent organization running its own affairs. It has used the services of the JCC without charge. It can use, as an example, the Bangor Letter Shop, to perform those services. This additional cost could be met by a second condition of the transfer of funds; that is, an annual stipend to the senior citizens. Very little money is involved

Federation: If we can find people interested, the Federation will continue as it currently functions. It is not a part of the JCC but is serviced by the JCC. It can use a portion of the funds collected to do the necessary paper work at the Bangor Letter Shop (I use the Letter Shop only as an example) to replace what the JCC is currently doing. This would constitute a more correct use of the funds; that is, to contribute to matters outside of the Bangor community. Certainly the small amount used for logistics would be a lot less than what is now taken from federation funds and used to help support the JCC.

The mikvah: This is not a function of the JCC, and never has been. It is a separate corporate entity. It is used by all three congregations; and remains, therefore, a concern of the community. Present funding comes from the congregations and the federation, and not from the JCC. This could remain the same or the rather small amount donated by the federation could be assumed by the JCEA. This could be one of the conditions, that a small grant by the JCEA be assumed, or all expenses could be assumed by the congregations, particularly if they are relieved of support for the chapel.

JNF and community support: the present policy is that all such work performed by the JCC should be paid for, so there is no hardship in having the work performed elsewhere (JNF has always paid the JCC, I don't know about the others)

Telephone: We are not sure a community telephone listing is essential. All three synagogues have listed telephones. Most small communities do



not have a central listing. If so desired, the present listing and telephone number could be maintained and answered at one of the synagogues which has secretarial help, which would be reimbursed for the cost; or the present chapel telephone could be extended to the two synagogues with secretarial help. The additional cost for extended telephone service would \$1000 to \$1200 per year.

Mailing list: The JCC maintains the only community wide mailing list. This is important as some members of the community chose not to affiliate with a synagogue. Again one of the synagogues could be paid to maintain the list or if a central telephone was maintained people wanted to be listed would use that number. We don't believe the cost would be great. As noted, the JCEA does not, and should not, engage in administration, but it should at least ascertain that the system adopted is working, and be responsible for the small cost. The mailing list could be maintained on a disc, as it is now, or whatever, and be made available to the synagogue and others, as needed. Here too, the Letter Shop (only as an example) could be paid for services; and has, in the last month, compiled a new list from information on hand.

The only valuable asset are two Waldo Pierce paintings. We suggest they be loaned to the University of Maine Art Museum (approximately 250 visits per week) where it would not be on display full time since the museum varies its collection periodically, or to the Bangor Public Library (approximately 4800 visitors per week). A loan agreement could be reached with either organization. In any event their public display should require a small plaque indicating the paintings were loaned by the Bangor Jewish community. All historical material would be acquired and maintained by the Library (it has already agreed to do so) and would remain available to organizations or members of the community.

The use (and keeping track) of the projector should not be a major obstacle.

The amount of money turned over to the JCEA after setting aside the funds to secure the Chapel should be about \$300,000 and would result in at least \$15,000 annually being made available to meet grant requests; that is in addition to the sum presently available to the JCEA. This should substantially increase programming available to our community.

The JCEA is aware of this proposal, and it, too has agreed in principle. Any additional negotiations appropriate to fulfill this intent will be complete before any funds are delivered

The by-laws of the JCC has a provision governing the endowment which reads, in part, as follows:

"Said trustees shall have full power and authority to see, mortgage, and shall deem for the best interest of said funds, transfer, exchange and deliver, any part or all of the funds or property from time to time constituting said endowment fund, at such prices and upon such terms as they shall in their discretion deem best!" An appropriate vote will be required.

The meeting required to permit this should also elect 9 new directors who will constitute, subsequently, the Board for the Chapel. Hopefully each synagogue will bring forward three names.

The following motions will also be made:  
That the JCC cease all operations and services, except the operation and maintenance of the funeral chapel owned by it.

That the JCC transfer its endowment, together with any accumulated income, in excess of \$250,000. to the Jewish Community Endowment Associates, to be added to its endowment with the income only available for distribution pursuant to its adopted procedures, and upon such other conditions as the Board deems appropriate.

That the sum of \$200,000 be retained by the JCC from the present endowment as a permanent endowment for the chapel, with the income from said endowment being available to the directors for operation and maintenance of the chapel.

That an amount up to \$25,000 be available to the executive committee from the endowment to pay the outstanding debts of the JCC, including payments resulting from the breach of office equipment contracts, any amount not used for this purpose to be turned over to the JCEA, *removal of JCC*

That the sum of \$25,000 be made available from the present endowment to the newly elected directors of the JCC for the sole purpose of installing a natural gas heating system in the chapel. Any amount not used for this purpose to be turned over to the JCEA. *to be used*

That a new Board be elected, consisting of three members from each Bangor synagogue; the newly elected board to be authorized to adopt new by-laws, which shall include a change from a membership based organization to a self-perpetuating Board.

That any art works deemed appropriate, including two paintings by Waldo Peirce. be placed on loan by the JCC to the ( University of Maine Art Gallery in Bangor)( Bangor Public Library), upon such terms and conditions approved by the Board. Such terms shall include a requirement that there be a notation on or about each item that the item is on loan from the Bangor Jewish Community

*Bangor Public Lib*

Remove Watermark Now

*approved*  
*approved*  
*approved*  
*approved*  
*approved*  
*approved*  
*approved*  
*approved*  
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*to be used*  
*and other repairs*