

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS



..... of the

Cong. B'nai Israel
of Fleischmanns N. Y.



1920-5681



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of Fleischmanns W. D.



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This Congregation shall be known as the CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL of Fleischmanns, N.Y.

PREAMBLE.

Whereas the history of Judaism and the experience of Jewish Congregations in the United States of America, have shown the great dangers to the safety of our religion which arise from unauthorized and improper changes in the historical observances and laws of our faith we, Men of Israel, impressed with the deep conviction that it is an imperative necessity to make a determined effort for the maintenance of our faith and its defence against those dangers, and deeming it necessary to establish a congregation in which the orthodox doctrines, observances and laws of Judaism shall be firmly and unalterably maintained, do hereby organize this congregation and enact the following Constitution and By-Laws for its government hoping that through it, Almighty God may be pleased to furnish a strong bulwark against the inroads and encroachments of unbelief and innovation, and for the support and perpetuation of the sacred faith of our fathers and in all its historical purity and completeness.

INCORPORATION.

This Congregation was incorporated on August 6, 1918.
The Incorporators were:

Julius Brill

Adolph Greenfield

Meyer Dlasnow

Isaac Kaplan

Nathan Engelman.

Max Silberman

Sam Wildner

The Constitution and By-Laws were adopted by the Congregation on October 7, 1920.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Article 1.

NAME

The Congregation shall be known as the CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL.

OBJECT

SECT. 1. The object of this congregation shall be to maintain a Synagogue for daily divine worship, a school for instruction in the Jewish religion, and for all other purposes that properly belong to a Jewish religious body.

SECT. 2 The services in the Synagogue shall be forever conducted in accordance with the "Schulchan Aruch."

Article 2.

MEMBERSHIP

SECT. 1. Any Israelite of a good and moral character, and not being married contrary to the laws of our religion, shall be eligible to membership of this Congregation.

SECT. 2. All applicants for membership shall be referred to the Committee on membership, to investigate as to character of the candidate proposed and report at the next meeting, when the ballot on the candidate for membership shall be had, and unless five votes are cast against the election of such candidate, he shall be declared duly elected.

SECT. 3. Applicants for membership who are duly elected shall assent to the constitution, laws, and rules of this congregation by signing their names thereto within one month after their election.

SECT. 4. Widows of members or male children under the age of 21 shall be eligible to membership of this congregation and shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of the congregation, excepting the right to vote.

SECT. 5. Flagrant violation of the Jewish religious law shall furnish a reason upon which an applicant for membership may be rejected.

Article 3.

INCOME OF CONGREGATION

The annual dues for members shall be Five Dollars a year payable yearly in advance.

Article 4.

ARREARS, SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSION

Any member who is indebted to this congregation one year for dues or offerings shall not be entitled to vote at any election, or on any question at any meeting of the congregation and if he is indebted for one year's dues, assessments or offerings, Secretary shall give him notice thereof in writing and if he fails to pay the same within one month thereafter, he shall be suspended from membership, and not be entitled to his rights and privileges of the congregation until he has paid his indebtedness.

Article 5.

GOVERNMENT

The government of this congregation shall consist of Seven Trustees, a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Article 6.

TIME AND MODE OF ELECTING THE OFFICERS AND
BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

SECT. 1. The election of Officers and Board of Trustees, shall take place at the annual meeting of the members on the first Sunday in August in the following manner. The congregation shall elect a President, a Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer whose respective term of office shall be one year, and shall elect seven trustees who shall serve in office as follows, three for three years two for two years and two for one year

SECT 2, In case of a vacancy in the Board of Trustees or other office of this Congregation an election by the members shall take place at a meeting to be called by the President for that purpose at such time as the President may designate.

SECT. 3. The Officers shall be elected by a majority of the ballots cast by members in good standing in the congregation present at the meeting. The President shall occupy the chair and shall previous to the election appoint two tellers and a referee to sort out and count the ballots as cast.

Article 7.

MEETINGS.

SECT. 1. General meeting shall be held annually the first Sunday in August.

SECT. 2. The President or Board of Trustees may at any time call a special meetig upon a notice not less than three days previous to the call.

SECT. 3. A special meeting must be called by the President upon the written request of seven or more members in good standing which request shall explain the object of the call in writing and give the President notice thereof at least five days previous to the date when such meeting is to be held.

SECT. 4. At a special meeting no other business than that called for shall be transacted, the object or purpose of the meeting shall be specified in the notice.

SECT. 5. At least three days written notice prior to the holding of a general meeting at which all officers are to be elected shall be given, which notice shall contain a list of the officials to be elected.

Article 8.

QUORUM.

SECT. 1. No congregational meeting shall be held without a quorum, seven members shall constitute a quorum.

SECT. 2. Every member shall vote personally, no proxy shall be recognized or allowed.

SECT. 3. All officers shall be elected by the congregation at the general meeting held on the first Sunday in August, and whose term of office shall expire at the next general meeting held in August, after the election.

Article 9.

DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT.

SECT. 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Congregation and shall be ex-officio a member of all regular and special committees; he may vote at elections, but in all other cases he shall have the casting vote.

SECT. 2. He shall enforce all rules and regulations for order and decorum in the Synagogue during "divine" service.

SECT. 3. It shall be his duty to order all regular meetings. He shall be empowered to order at any time a Special meeting of the Board of Trustees within twenty-four hours, if called upon by a written application signed by four members of the said Board; or a special meeting of the Congregation within seven days, if requested by a similar application signed by not less than seven members in good standing of the Congregation, provided said application shall state the purpose for which such meetings are called.

SECT. 4. He shall sign all orders passed by the Board of Trustees; also all permits for burials, and give to the Secretary a copy of the names on all such permits granted, at the end of every month.

SECT. 5. It shall be his duty at the general meeting at which he is elected to appoint the following committees:

1st—A committee on finance.

2nd—A committee on supplies and repairs.

3rd—A committee on choir.

4th—A committee on burial grounds.

5th—A committee on membership.

SECT. 6. All deeds and other property of the Congregation, as well as the key of the burial ground shall be in possession of the President.

Article 10.

DUTIES OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT

SECT. 1. The Vice-President shall aid the President in the performance of his duties and shall officiate in the absence of the President.

Article 11.

DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE TREASURER

SECT. 1. The Treasurer shall prior to entering upon the duties of his office give to the Congregation a bond for the faithful performance of his office signed by two sureties to such an amount as shall be required by the Board of Trustees.

SECT. 2. He shall receive all and every description of income belonging to the Congregation make faithful entry thereof and give receipts for the same.

SECT. 3. He shall pay all orders passed by the Board of Trustees, signed by the President and countersigned by the Secretary.

SECT. 4. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to deposit in any bank that the Board of Trustees shall designate, in the name of the Congregation, and all checks issued shall be signed by the President and the Treasurer.

SECT. 5. In the absence of the Treasurer from any meeting the President shall receive all moneys from the Secretary and give his receipt therefor. All vouchers shall be signed by the President and countersigned by the Secretary.

SECT. 6. He shall keep account of all transactions of his office, and submit at every regular meeting of the members, a report thereof showing the balance of Cash on hand or in the bank. Such report to be recorded in the minutes.

SECT. 7. He shall permit to have his books or vouchers to be examined at any time by the President or Board of Trustees, Finance Committee or a Special Committee appointed by the Congregation.

SECT. 8. He shall upon vacating his office deliver to his successor, or to the Board of Trustees, on receiving a written order from the President, all moneys, books, papers, or other effects in his possession belonging to the Congregation.

SECT. 9. He shall if unable to attend at any meeting cause his books and reports to be transmitted thereto.

Article 12.

DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.

SECT. 1. The Secretary shall be present at all meetings, record all proceedings and keep a correct account of all monies received and expended.

SECT. 2. He shall keep correct books of account in the English language and memorandums of offerings in the Synagogue, and shall from time to time, prepare a list of members, who shall be in arrears and submit the same to the Board of Trustees, and general meetings attend such other duties as may be assigned to him by the President.

SECT. 3. He shall send statements to members seat-holders and visitors of their indebtedness and send out proper notices of all meetings at least one week prior to the time of holding such meeting in the case of general meetings and three days prior thereto in case of special meeting.

SECT. 4. He shall allow the President or any member of the Board of Trustees or any Committee duly appointed to examine the books of the Congregation at any time, upon demand, and shall allow a member at any time to examine his own account in said books.

Article 13.

DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

SECT. 1. The Board of trustees shall hold its regular meeting annually before the general meeting of the Congregation and shall keep a record of its proceedings in a book for that purpose, and these proceedings shall be read at the general meeting of the Congregation.

SECT. 2. It shall have control of the property, books, papers and other effects belonging to the Congregation, and provide for the safe and proper keeping thereof.

SECT. 3. They shall at the annual meeting of the members, submit an estimate of the probable expenses of the Congregation for the ensuing year.

SECT. 4. Any four Trustees may request the Chairman of the Board to call a special meeting of the Board and at least 2 days notice must be given in writing to each Trustee and the purpose of the special meeting stated on the notice and no other business shall be transacted at the special meeting.

SECT. 5. The Board of Trustees shall elect a Chairman from the Trustees, who shall preside at meetings of the Board, submit the report at the general meeting of the Congregation and his term of office shall expire after the general election of officers every August.

SECT. 6. A secretary shall be elected who shall also be a Trustee, he will keep the records of the Board of Trustees, his term of office shall expire after the election of officers in August. ..

SECT. 7. If any member of the Board of Trustees shall absent himself for two consecutive meetings of the Board, without good and sufficient cause, his office shall become vacant.

Article 14.

SALARIED OFFICERS.

SECT. 1. The Rabbi; Cantor; Sexton. They shall be selected by a committee, of three (including the President) appointed by the Board of Trustees.

SECT. 2. The salaries and term of office shall be fixed by the same committee appointed according to SEC. 1 of this article.

Article 15.

DUTIES OF THE RABBI.

SECT. 1. It shall be the duty of the Rabbi to attend divine service that is held in the Synagogue of this Congregation and perform the duties of his office in accordance with the customs and regulations of this Congregation.

SECT. 2. It shall be the duty of the Rabbi to decide all religious questions and differences in matters of ritual that may arise in the Congregation provided that his decisions be in harmony with the regulations of the Jewish religious code "Schulchan Aruch" in cases where his decision is questioned the subject or matter shall be submitted to three Rabbis prominent in orthodoxy and learning, selected by the Congregation. The decision of the majority of said Rabbis shall be binding upon the Congregation.

Article 16.

DUTIES OF THE CANTOR.

SECT. 1. It shall be the duty of the Cantor to attend all divine services at least ten minutes before the appointed time; read the prayers instruct the choir and religious school, and officiate at all weddings.

SECT. 2. The Board of Trustees may at its discretion elect an assistant Cantor.

Article 17.

SEXTON

SECT. 1. The Sexton shall prior to entering upon the duties of his office for the faithful performance of the same and for such property of the Congregation as may from time to time be placed in his keeping give the Board of Trustees a bond with approved sureties to an amount as they may require.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the Sexton to deliver or cause to be delivered, with due diligence, all notices of meetings letters and messages concerning the Congregation, if directed by the President, Board of Trustees or the Congregation.

SECT. 3. He shall open the gates and doors of the Synagogue at least fifteen minutes prior to the appointed time for the beginning of the service, roll the scrolls, have the curtain "Parochess" properly hung before the ark, be in constant attendance during the service, and also attend all meetings of the Congregation or Board of Trustees.

SECT. 4. He shall convey the necessary appurtenances to any place where the marriage ceremonies shall be solemnized by the officers of the Congregation; attend all funerals which shall take place in the cemetery, if provided with a conveyance by the mourner; notify the minister thereof and perform the customary duties of such occasion.

SECT. 5. He shall keep the Synagogue clean and in good order and shall attend at the Synagogue every day during morning and evening service, deliver the keys of the Synagogue or any article in his charge belonging to the Congregation to the President whenever requested, and perform all other duties consistent with his office as the President, Board of Trustees may direct and shall allow no other person to act in his place unless by permission of the President.

SECT. 6. It shall be his duty to collect all bills due to the Congregation from members and others and at the end of every week deliver to the Treasurer all the money he has collected and take a receipt thereof and at the end of every week render a report of his collections to the Secretary.

SECT. 7. The Sexton upon receiving money for offerings from any other source in week days shall give a voucher to the payee and shall enter upon a stub the amount received.

Article 18.
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

SECT. 1. The Committee shall consist of three members to be appointed by the President whose duties shall be to visit the school as often as they shall decide and shall report to the Board of Trustees.

SECT. 2. The Rabbi shall be the superintendent of the Religious School and instruct the highest class. He shall in conjunction with the School Committee, appoint the instructors necessary for the other classes at salaries which are to be agreed upon by the Committee and the payment of which is to be made out of the funds that the Board of Trustees shall set aside for the Religious School. The Committee shall have full power to act in all matters pertaining to the Religious School.

Article 19.
DUTIES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

SECT. 1. The Finance Committee shall consist of three members. It shall be its duty to examine the books and reports of the Secretary and Trustees annually or when requested to do so by the President, and render a report thereof to the Board of Trustees. All bills shall be admitted by the Committee.

Article 20.

DUTIES OF COMMITTEE ON SUPPLY AND REPAIR

SECT. 1. The Committee shall consist of three members; it shall be its duty to superintend the buildings of the Congregation examine and report all necessary repairs and supplies to the Board of Trustees.

Article 21.

DUTIES OF COMMITTEE ON CHOIR

SECT. 1. This Committee shall consist of three members; it shall be empowered, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, to engage or discharge any member of the Choir, enforce their punctual attendance and obedience at practice, rehearsal, or during divine service.

Article 22.

DUTIES OF COMMITTEE OF BURIAL GROUNDS

SECT. 1. The Committee shall consist of three members; it shall be its duty to superintend and report to the Board of Trustees all necessary repairs on the burial grounds and enforce the duties to be performed by the Sexton at funerals.

Article 23.

RULES AND REGULATIONS TO BE OBSERVED
DURING DIVINE SERVICE

SECT. 1. The President shall have the right of distributing the "Mitzvos" on Sabbath and Holidays.

SECT. 2. The following persons shall be entitled to be called to the reading of the law; the son of a member on the day of his "Barmitzvah" also the father; a member whose wife attends the Synagogue on the first sabbath after her confinement; a member on the day of the birth of his son, also the Godfather and Mohel; a member having "Yahrzeit," and a Bridegroom on the Sabbath before or after his marriage.

Article 24.

REGULATIONS CONCERNING FUNERALS.

SECT. 1. On the death of a member or one of his family the Congregation shall send an official delegation to attend the funeral and the Secretary if there be time, shall notify all members of the same and request them to attend the funeral.

SECT. 2. The President shall appoint "Bale Missas-kim" if so desired upon the death of a member or one of his family. A grave shall be set apart if so desired for the deceased. The Congregation shall send "Minyan" to the house of a member duringt he week of mourning (or "Shivah") but no member shall be required to attend the funeral or "Minyan" of any one dying from a contagious disease.

SECT. 3. The names of all deceased members and of such deceased persons for whom application shall be regularly made shall be publicly mentioned during the memoial service on the day of Atonement and prayer will be offered for the repose of their souls.

.. SECT. 4. A memorial prayer will be delivered and "Kadish" recited on the anniversary of the death ("Yahrzeit") of any person for whom application shall be regularly made.

Article 25.

GENERAL LAWS.

SECT. 1. Should at any time a member feel himself aggrieved or dissatisfied with the action or decision of the President or the Board of Trustees he shall have the right to appeal to the members at a meeting of the Congregation.

SECT. 2. Any member who shall be guilty of any conduct unbecoming a member of this Congregation, shall upon conviction thereof be reprimanded, fined, suspended or expelled as the Board of Trustees may determine.

SECT. 3. Any officer of this Congregation, honorary, or salaried, who shall violate any provision of this Constitution of the By-Laws or who shall conduct himself in a manner unbecoming his position shall upon conviction be reprimanded, fined, suspended or expelled as the majority of the Board of Trustees may determine and may in addition be removed from office.

SECT. 4. Cushing's Manual shall be the standard authority governing the parliamentary actions of the Board of Trustees and Congregation.

SECT. 5. These By-Laws to take effect at the date of adoption. All other laws are hereby repealed, except such as relate to the Synagogue building

Article 26.

AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS.

SECT. 1. These By-Laws shall not be suspended, amended or repealed in whole or in part, except upon a proposition therefor, submitted in writing at a regular meeting, when such proposition shall be entered on the minutes, and the members notified by printed notices of the proposed amendment and summoned for the next or any subsequent regular or special meeting therefor, when it shall be taken up for action, and if two-thirds of the members then present vote in favor therefor, it shall be adopted.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

AT TRUSTEE MEETING.

1. Opening of the Meeting.
2. Calling the roll of Trustees.
3. Reading the minutes of last meeting.
4. Reading the Report of Treasurer.
5. Communications.
6. Bills if presented to be approved or acted upon.
7. Receiving reports of Committees.
8. Application for membership.
9. Balloting for membership.
10. Unfinished Business.
11. New business.

7 MEETING OF CONGREGATION.

1. Opening of the Meeting.
2. Calling the Roll of Members.
3. Reading the minutes of last meeting.
4. Reading the Minutes of the Trustees Meeting.
5. Reading the reports of Secretary and Committees.
6. Communications.
7. Unfinished business.
8. New Business.
9. Subjects appertaining to the good and welfare of the Congregation.

OFFICERS 1920—1921.

Albert A. Halpern, President
S. Steinberger, Vice-President.
Emanuel Klein, Secretary.
H. Greenspan, Treasurer.

TRUSTEES

Nathan Engelman	Joseph Greenberger
Emanuel Klein	John J. Sameth
Max Silberman	J. Edelstein
A. A. Halpern	

COMMITTEE ON BY-LAWS

B. A. Verschleiser	H. Greenspan
C. K. Levy	P. Frankel
J. J. Sameth	

The Constitution and By-Laws were prepared by the By-Law Committee, corrected and compiled for adoption, by J. J. Sameth.

MEMBERS

Banks, A.
Bass, L.
Bass, S.
Berlin, S.
Berman, B.
Berman, S.
Bobitzky, I.
Brill, J.
Cohen, L.
Dincin, I.
Dlasnow, M.
Edelstein, J.
Emerling, B.
Engel, J.
Engelman, N.
Felberbaum, A.
Finkel, I.
Fox, H.
Frankel, P.
Freiman, D.
Fried, S.
Geller, H.
Gerson, B.
Gertner, A.
Gottlieb, S.

Greenberger, J.
Greenfield, A.
Greenspan, A. L.
Greenspan, H.
Halpern, A. A.
Halpern, M.
Halpern, Sam
Halpern, Sig
Halpern, Sol
Herbst, J.
Herzlich, M.
Hershkowitz, A.
Hoffman, L.
Kaikow, H.
Kaplan, I.
Kantrowitz, L.
Kaufman, J.
Keshner, J.
Kline, E.
Knobloch, J.
Kressel, A.
Kuritzky, D.
Levy C. K.
Levy, J.
Lindenfeld, J.
Lippman, S.

Lowy, J.
Mandelbaum, A.
Marchak, L.
Nussbaum, M.
Pelitz, C.
Pincus, R.
Polstein, I.
Pollack, W.
Roth,, I.
Sameth, J. J.
Sarner, J.
Schlohofsky, H.
Schneider, I.
Schussler, L.
Schwartz, B.
Schwartzman, B.
Silberman, M.

Silver, N.
Solomon, H.
Sperling, F.
Sperling, S.
Steinberger, B.
Steinberger, S.
Steinhardt, B.
Tischman, H.
Velensky, B.
Verschleiser, B. A.
Weinberg, S.
Walger, B.
Weiss, J..
Weiss, S.
Welinsky, L.
Wilder, S.
Wolder, H.

NOTE—By special action of the Congregation Article 11 relating to the duties and powers of the Treasurer is suspended during the term of the present incumbent but shall immediately be in effect when another member shall be elected to the office of the Treasurer.

