

# New loan gives Boca synagogue time to get its finances in order

By CAROL BRZOZOWSKI  
Staff Writer

BOCA RATON — Congregation B'nai Torah has received a restructured loan from NCNB National Bank that synagogue officials say has removed the threat of foreclosure on its year-old structure.

The synagogue "has a considerable period of breathing room to increase its membership and get its finances in better order," said Kenneth Lipman, attorney for Congregation B'nai Torah.

The restructured loan carries a reduced interest rate and an extension of payments. Additionally,

the synagogue was able to reduce the principal on its loan by more than half due to an outpouring of contributions it has received in response to the crisis, synagogue president Jeffrey Deutch said.

After a plea to its members when it defaulted on the \$4 million balance of a \$4.3 million loan in early February, Congregation B'nai Torah raised more than \$1 million. Contributions came from a variety of sources, from children to the elderly, and from other religious denominations as well.

"What's happened in the last several months has galvanized a spirit in the congregation that we never had before," synagogue sec-

retary Clifford Viner said.

The synagogue has added 26 new members in the past two months, bringing its membership to close to 500, said Bill Forster, incoming synagogue president.

Its challenge now is to increase that membership to sustain its financial stability beyond 1992, which is the current financial plan's limit.

Synagogue officials say they have no immediate plans to raise membership dues, which are now among the highest in the county.

The new building includes a fully equipped catering hall, an administrative wing, a chapel and an after-school program wing.