

MINUTES, ANNUAL MEETING 2010, KOL AMI, NORTHERN VIRGINIA RECONSTRUCTIONIST COMMUNITY

The annual meeting, 2010, of Kol Ami was held at the Arlington Unitarian Church on Sunday, June 6th, at 5 p.m. The following members (in alphabetical order) were present at the meeting: Aysegul Acar-Dreyer, Samuel Barr, Robin Cook, Herb and Janice Cooper-Levy, Doug Dreyer, Harriet Epstein, Rachel Feiner, Susan Freiband, Joan Goldfarb, Mark Graboyes, Toby Greenwald, Ann Hargrove, Marcel Infeld, Michael Jawer, Barbara Jazzo, Don Kraus, Elizabeth Lower-Basch, Ann Metlay, Jim North, David Perlmutter, Toni Popkin, Laura Rotblut, Peggy Rothschild, Mindy Rudell, Richard Ruth, Jane Schulman, Dann Sklarew, Hope Warshaw, for a total of 29.

In the absence of Cookie Perlmutter, the President, the meeting was led by Barbara Jazzo, Vice President, David Perlmutter and Don Kraus. An agenda, projected on powerpoint, included introductions first. Everyone present introduced themselves, and indicated their role in Kol Ami. The new proposed Steering Committee slate was then presented, discussed and voted upon. The slate passed, with the following addition. Janice Cooper-Levy volunteered to lead a Wellness Committee, to be included as part of the Steering Committee. Peggy Rothschild will continue to lead the Tikkun Olom Committee, not included as part of the Steering Committee. Marcel Infeld will lead Adult Education, also not included as part of Steering. The new Steering Committee slate includes: Don Kraus, President; Mary Kuntz, Vice President; Elizabeth Lower-Basch, Treasurer; Susan Freiband, Secretary; Lance Fiener/David Lipscomb, Communications; Hope Warshaw, JCEP; Jane Schulman, Ritual Committee Representative; Janice Cooper-Levy, Wellness; Toni Popkin, At Large.

The 2010/2011 Kol Ami Proposed Operating Budget was passed out, presented by Don Kraus, and discussed. Several points were made relating to income, including no change in terms of the dues amount, a new category of Friends of Kol Ami, no new grants to be requested. In terms of expenses, the major ones (rabbinical and building) were highlighted, in addition to lowering of phone fees because of switching to free conference calls, adding an interim educational director to help with b'nai mitzvah, curriculum and teachers, as well as a state registration fee and JRF dues, reflecting Kol Ami's responsibility as part of a larger reconstructionist community. During the discussion on the budget, Herb Cooper Levy proposed adding an additional \$300 to the budget to cover costs of inviting outside lay leaders to help with services. The proposed budget was approved with this additional item.

The strategic planning proposal was presented, using power point slides passed out in print form to those present. After an introduction by David Perlmutter focusing on the rationale for strategic planning, Don Kraus reviewed the process, first identifying the activities involved and the committee. The mission statement and listing of core values were then presented. A

suggestion was made to move “worshipping” to the top of the list of core values, as well as to add “healing” and “supporting” to the list. The two critical outcomes were then presented, and the areas of support for each. Under each area (administration, programs and development) a listing of goals/objectives were identified. A suggestion was made to add “wellness” under the program area. The discussion on the plan recognized the importance of the entire community and its responsibility in implementation, under the leadership of the Steering Committee. The issue of volunteerism was also discussed, with recognition of the need for a policy on volunteerism, for the creation of a volunteer culture, for the identification of needs/skills in the community, and of volunteer opportunities available. A sample list of volunteer opportunities was passed around during the meeting. The importance of communicating to everyone when and where future meetings will be held on the implementation of the plan was stressed, as well as the need to promote greater volunteerism. A 2010 and 2011 timeline for implementing the items included in the plan was presented. A motion was made and passed to accept the strategic planning process and the planning document, with “healing” and “supporting” added to the list of core values.

The final part of the meeting included three committee reports. Jane Schulman from the Ritual Committee presented a report focusing on the main activities of this committee, setting the calendar, dates and leaders for Shabbat services, considering alternative services as “Shabbat bibayit”, identifying elements or basic building blocks for inclusion in these services. Peggy Rothschild (of the Tikkun Olom Committee) spoke about a new gleaning project, helping the Arlington Food Assistance Center. A handout explaining this project was passed out. Hope Warshaw spoke about JCEP, the growth in the program, new families, teachers, the upcoming bat and bar mitzvahs. Harriet Epstein mentioned the need for some response from Kol Ami focusing on the elderly.

The annual meeting ended with a social event, a party honoring David and Cookie Perlmutter, with cake and champagne. Their important contributions to Kol Ami were recognized during the meeting, which ended about 7:00 p.m.