

MINUTES, KOL AMI COMMUNITY MEETING

JANUARY 29, 2012, 5 -7 p.m., UU Chapel

Forty-one participants introduced themselves after the welcome. The President's report thanked everyone who participated in a range of Kol Ami activities, making a great difference. Don K. indicated that the finances of the Community are on track. Energy has been focused on the foundations of the Community, including liaisons to the Steering Committee from different working committees and a policy of succession (the vice president becoming president and a new position of "past president"). The bylaws will be revised, with an update presented at the June 10th annual meeting. The Kol Ami website was reviewed, with parts of the website highlighted.

The Rabbi's report mentioned the amazing year of volunteerism and High Holy Day services. It was announced that a schedule will be developed for torah leyners who will be chanting on Shabbat morning. New ways of studying torah will be explored. An adult education series has focused on how to deepen our lives Jewishly. The Community will celebrate five B'nai Mitzvah starting in the spring (April). The Rabbi has met with the parents, supported by a Federation grant. She has also met with older JCEP students to talk about Jewish ethics and other issues, and will meet with the adult B'nai Mitzvah class. She has represented Kol Ami in the larger local Jewish community, and the Federations. She thanked participants for contributing to the Rabbi's discretionary fund, and announced that she is short on supermarket gift cards, which members can give or send to her, and will receive a letter acknowledging this gift.

The treasurer's report, presented by Don K., announced 34 family memberships and 21 single members. Net membership income is close to budget, though there is still a quantity owed by members, which is important to receive. More funds were taken in for the High Holidays. JCEP income is above budget, while general donations are below budget, and are gratefully accepted. 2011 donation acknowledgments have been sent out. Seder income and B'nai mitzvah fees are pending. Other income is at or above budget. \$3000 has been received from the Federation, an important help. The Wiesenbloom fund is available for use. Expenses are generally on tract, though the Church is behind on billing for rent. The money for the poetry book is covered, with the book expected to be finished in six weeks.

Amy S. in the administrator's report indicated that members should contact her directly if they need space in the Church, since she schedules rooms and life cycle events. She is open to suggestions about "This Week", which she puts out on Tuesday and Wednesday. She can be contacted by email or phone (571-271-8387 or 571-426-6400). Kol Ami will have use of the closet in the Church until May, when things will be moved to a classroom. Peggy will inventory the items in the closet. The location of the key to the closet was described. The space generally used for Kol Ami services will be rebuilt, resulting in a larger room. In the meantime, space will be available in the Church. The members' directory will be updated when new members join.

Mary K. indicated that volunteerism within the Kol Ami community is going well, with people stepping up for regular activities. The aim is for layers of people to help out. The nominating committee needs a third person, to get the new slate ready for the June annual meeting. Another person is needed for fund raising. Communication is necessary between different groups and the steering committee. Staying in contact with Mary if anything is needed is important.

Diane I. explained that the Shabbat hosting schedule is posted on the website till Feb. 24th. For upcoming b'nai mitzvahs two members are needed to help out, to help the family with arrangements after the service. It may be necessary to change hosting dates, so that the bar/bat mitzvah family gets needed support. Diane sends out the name and contact for each hosting in a reminder email, including instructions on hosting.. Peggy R. should be contacted if supplies are needed. Everyone was thanked for helping out with hosting.

Jane S. led the discussion on Kol Ami Shabbat services. The Ritual Committee has received both positive and negative feedback about services, and wants to respond to community needs and desires. The results of the discussion will be reviewed and brought back for consideration at the June annual meeting. Questions were raised: what elements of a service are essential, and what is the process of deviating from these elements? What is needed from a Shabbat service, what missed when it's not there? For example, is Kaddish something that needs to be included? When should yahrzeit prayers be selected instead of Kaddish? Are you interested in learning more about structure and history behind the traditional service? Most comments indicated such an interest. A suggestion was made to describe on the website and in This Week the innovative or traditional elements of the service to be held. Both elements should be recognizable as a service. Comments indicated that taking into account the list developed by the Rabbi on the essential parts of the service is important, so that there is a familiarity in structure, a nod to all the important prayers. Leaders and participants should keep each other in mind. There is a need to have Amidah time, an opportunity to talk to God. Kaddish and the healing list are key Kol Ami elements, along with what's happening in members' lives. Roteness is to be avoided, while creativity is a key to connect spirituality and community. A range of experience is desirable, with music very important, knowing songs and singing them. More music, musicians and singers in the services is something needed, along with learning about the prayers, showing one prayer. A sense of community is important, not handled the same way all the time. Services can be a respite, quiet and introspective. Transliteration is needed for all prayers. The Rabbi stressed the importance of not rushing through the service, taking the time to be together and to pray.

Peggy R. explained that tzedakah should be considered separate from Tikkun Olam. Tzedakah boxes support the general fund, and should be brought to services and put in a jar. Tikkun Olam stresses physically doing something. A suggestion was made to talk with the Church about a garden, a joint project between Kol Ami, JCEP and the Church. There is an opportunity talking with Mindy and George about working with a local Guatemalan community. Serving at the

Shelter on a regular basis, cooking and assembling dishes, is another possibility. Other suggestions included participating with the DC JCC in their service, as well as extending the food drive year round, including going shopping with JCEP and including teachings about tzedakah. The yearly project with Olam Tikvah needs to continue, "Sukkah in April". Peggy should be contacted with other thoughts about tikkun olam. These issues will be considered at the June annual meeting.

Announcements included brochures for Reconstructionist camp available, outreach/new members activity at Lower Basch house on Feb. 12th (11 to 2 p.m.), next service workshop on leyning on Friday night, Feb. 23rd, Feb. 4th havdalah potluck at Erika Falk's house.

(Prepared by Susan Freiband, Secretary, 2/5/2012)