

MINUTES, KOL AMI STEERING COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL

Wednesday, January 5, 2011, 8 p.m.

Participants: Toni Popkin, Lance Feiner, David Lipscomb, Susan Freiband, Don Kraus, Mary Kuntz, Janice Cooper-Levy, Elizabeth Lower-Basch, Hope Warshaw

The agenda for the meeting was approved with added items: tikkun olam (under “Committee Reports”) and “Shabbat Hosting” (under “Ritual”).

The minutes for the November 30, 2010, meeting were approved, without modification or change.

As part of the treasurer’s report, Elizabeth indicated that the midyear budget was sent out to Steering Committee members. She explained that “dues reductions” refers to incomplete dues payments. She noted that actual High Holiday income exceeds what was proposed, and that building expenses for rooms are higher than proposed because of the need for an additional class room for JCEP. JCEP is bringing in more than planned. Elizabeth concluded that Kol Ami is on track with income and expenses. However, some items are not included in the budget, for example, the machzurs, the care and comfort program and the interim educational director. About one half of the expenses have been paid, and, according to Elizabeth, we are a little over budget, but not a lot. Some checks will be coming in. She feels that we will wind up in the black.

One payment was received for the end of the year appeal, which was sent out as an email. A question was raised about administrator expenses. Suggestions on how to make the budget report easier to read for the community meeting presentation should be sent to Elizabeth, who received thanks for her work with the budget.

Don has completed updating and revision of the Kol Ami Membership Directory. It has been sent out online, and put up on the website. Don has a good database of membership data to work with. He would like to be able to update this document on a quarterly basis. Although he was glad to work on this project, he asked who could do it next time.

The agenda for the January 16th face to face Steering Committee meeting includes: strategic planning, development and audits; agenda for the community meeting on January 23; role of the administrator; communication within the Kol Ami community; outside person’s presentation. The meeting will be from 1 to 4:30 at the Cooper-Levy home. Lance and David, who will not be able to attend the meeting, will participate in a call-in from Florida during the discussion of PR, marketing and outreach (part of the development discussion). Don will send out the complete agenda for this meeting ahead of time.

Janice reported for the Care and Concern Committee that things are progressing smoothly; that business is growing. A card was sent out to Pat Ford whose mother died. Janice has been in contact with Harriet Epstein who indicated that she does not require help at this time. Susan and Janice will get together to discuss feedback received and what still needs to be done with this Program.

Relating to adult education, Marcel Infeld has sent out an email reminding the community about the Shabbat service on January 28th that the adult Hebrew reading class will lead. He is excited about the leyning class to begin in February, and has discussed the text selected to be used for this class, which has 11 students registered.

For the Ritual Committee, Toni reported about the last meeting, where the role of ritual versus the role of steering for High Holidays and the Pesach Seder was discussed. It was felt that the Ritual Committee should be in charge solely of ritualistic things, while the Steering Committee should be in charge of logistics and organizational issues and concerns. For example, the Ritual Committee should handle Seder plates, but not the rest of the preparation and organization of the Seder. Jane and Herb have been working to identify a member of the community to take charge of logistics and the organizational aspects of the community second night Seder. An update on where things stand with this will be discussed at the face to face meeting on the 16th.

Toni indicated that the Ritual Committee also spoke about the Shabbat Babayit policy, which has been revised and adopted, and put up on the website. Carolyn Gray has put out a call for service leaders for Shabbat Babayit services. Mark Graboyes will coordinate this effort, and focus on getting community members to volunteer to host these services. Herb Cooper-Levy will do services once a month, and the rabbi will lead services once a month.

Relating to Shabbat hosting, Toni has worked on assigning people to host on specific dates which need to be covered. She is concerned about the lack of response to emails she has sent relating to hosting. Three people assigned to host have indicated that they are not interested in doing this for various reasons, principally because they do not attend Shabbat services. This situation stimulated a discussion of Kol Ami membership responsibilities, how these responsibilities are understood and should be communicated to new and current members. The idea was raised of putting together a packet, membership handbook or brochure to communicate what Kol Ami committees do and what members are expected to do. Mary and Don will work on this, with help from Lance and David. Barbara Jazzo and Toni have information about this topic which can be examined and used.

It was suggested that Toni ask people to confirm if they are hosting at their assigned date and time. The need for communication and orientation of members in a variety of different ways will be discussed at the face to face meeting. Lance mentioned the letter from the Rabbi to new members. However, it was agreed that a human touch, a phone call, is needed as part of

outreach. The letter with the membership form can specifically mention hosting as a membership responsibility.

The strategic planning subcommittee will talk before the face to face meeting on the 16th to get things organized and set for the discussion of this topic.

As part of outreach, Lance and David are planning for future participation with a booth at summertime festivals.

The shelter at Bailey's Crossroads has asked religious congregations for help with a project preparing and distributing meals for 50 individuals at the shelter, a dinner and a bag breakfast the next morning. Peggy Rothschild would like to take this on as a Kol Ami Tikkun Olom project, which would include purchasing, preparation and delivery of food. There would be no budget involvement. Elizabeth volunteered her house as a place for organizing, storing and preparing the food. Peggy proposed to promote the Project within the Kol Ami community. If enough people are interested and willing to work on the Project, she will contact the shelter and set a specific date. Don recommended going ahead and seeing if people are willing to do it, if there is sufficient response for the project. Peggy is willing to coordinate the effort, with the approval of the Steering Committee. The Committee agreed to give Peggy the chance to work on this Project, including speaking about it at the January 23rd community meeting.

The scheduling of the February Steering Committee meeting will be done at the face to face meeting on January 16th.