

MINUTES, KOL AMI STEERING COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL

Wednesday, October 27, 2010, 8 p.m.

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

One item was added by Don to the Agenda: results of the vote on Dr. Richard Ruth's recommendation concerning the JRF resolution. The Agenda was then approved.

The minutes of the last conference call, September 23, 2010, were approved, with no comments or changes but appreciation to our Secretary, Susan Freiband for the excellent minutes.

Elizabeth presented the Treasurer's report. She announced that Kol Ami is in good financial shape. The total received for the High Holy Days was \$5,877. Funds received from other donations totaled \$2,107. Funds received from membership were approximately \$29,000, with \$3,832 waived from members. Additional funds are expected from members' installment payments. There are 28 family memberships, 16 individual memberships and 3 associate memberships. Adult education has brought in \$360, and JCEP, \$3050. Elizabeth mentioned the importance of being clear about budget categories, items included in the budget. A final formatted budget in Excel will be prepared for the membership meeting in January.

Don reported that the Steering Committee has supported Dr. Richard Ruth's recommendation concerning the JRF resolution. Kol Ami will have a proxy vote on the resolution to merge the JRF with the RRC.

Concerning the High Holy Day follow up, a series of thank you's for people participating in planning and carrying out services will be prepared and sent out by Don. Lance has prepared a letter incorporating comments from the Steering Committee for feedback and comments from new people or visitors. After consulting with Don, this letter will be sent out. Jane mentioned Gail Seligman's request for feedback on the High Holy Days, which needs to be followed up.

Jane presented the Ritual Committee report. This included a Shabbat Babayit policy prepared by Mark Graboyes, with the support of the Committee. Mark will coordinate this year's Shabbat babayit. The written policy was sent to the Steering Committee by email prior to the Conference Call. Jane explained the history of Shabbat Babayit, once called "alternative services". These were very varied, sometimes not even including minimum elements of a shabbat service, more like "get togethers". The Rabbi was concerned about calling them "services". The aim is to have Kol Ami services three times a month, with the fourth one being a Shabbat Babayit. Susan mentioned the importance of providing a description of the type of event to be held, its focus and content, so that members can decide whether they want to attend. Don brought up a concern about Shabbat Babayit, the issue of liability. Is the event to be considered an official Kol Ami

event in someone's home? Does homeowners insurance cover this? Mary will explore this point further. There was no consensus in the Ritual Committee about whether the word "official or unofficial" should be used in referring to Shabbat Babayit. The issue remains unclear about whether Shabbat Babayit should be considered Kol Ami community events, or rather events that individual Kol Ami members would like to have in their home, with support from the broader community. Shabbat Babayit could be seen as family events that the community participates in. Mary mentioned that since Kol Ami is incorporated in Virginia, if there is a set, written policy for these events, then they are considered as Kol Ami events. The need to be concerned about who comes to these events, parents with children, their accessibility, parking, are issues to be raised. The preparation of a questionnaire to identify and gather information on these issues was suggested. The Shabbat Babayit policy will be sent back to the Ritual Committee to review these concerns, and add extra information in the policy. The Ritual Committee will have the responsibility of listing Shabbat Babayit events on the website with the appropriate information. A point of contact within the Committee should be identified for questions about Shabbat Babayit.

The Ritual Committee is concerned about the need for starting to plan for a second night Passover Seder, so that it won't wind up being too stressful or too rushed at the end. The question was raised whether there should be one community-wide second night Pesach Seder, as was done in the previous year, or whether the second night Seder should be planned in a different way. An example would be a form of group hospitality, a few people hosting Seders, so that everyone would have a place to go. Jane will coordinate a small committee, including Hope and Susan, to consider this topic, and prepare a proposal for the Steering Committee to consider at the next conference call meeting. Janice will ask Herb Cooper-Levy if he would like to participate in this committee. A recommendation from the Steering Committee will be presented at the January Community Meeting.

For Children and Family Program and Services, Hope announced a new member family with two boys. The Rabbi will call and talk with them. There is a lot going on with JSEP, including positive feedback on the program recently presented by Rabbi Gilah.

Janice identified activities of the Care and Concern Committee. An email was sent to the Kol Ami community concerning support for Rabbi Leila, identifying the contact person at Adat Shalom who is coordinating help and support that the Rabbi needs. Cards have been sent to people who are sick or in mourning. It is important to let the Committee know who needs these services. There was a memorial service for Brit Rapp's mother, raising the question about who is responsible for announcing and coordinating these kinds of services. It was mentioned that the Care and Concern Committee should be engaged in this area. In addition to the Committee sending out an email, Amy should announce the service in "This Week...". The Committee should let Amy know when to do this. Don will indicate to Amy that the Care and Concern Committee will inform her and provide information about Kol Ami memorial services. The importance of reminding the community about the continuing need for gift cards, sending an

email every two months and making announcements at services, was suggested as another responsibility of the Committee.

In relation to strategic planning, Don, Mary and Susan have met and revised the program audit form to be sent out to Kol Ami committee and program leaders. This form will be shared with the entire Steering Committee, for consideration and discussion at the next Conference Call meeting. An audit process still needs to be developed. There will be a meeting of the strategic planning group by conference call on Nov. 3, at 8 p.m. to consider this, as well as the broader issue of development, and the setting up of a development committee.

Under “new business”, Don raised the question of whether Kol Ami as a community would like to help Rabbi Leila during this time, giving her something above and beyond compensation for rabbinical services. He asked whether the Community is interested; has the wear with all to set up a fund to do this. The suggestion was made to provide a bonus from the congregation, as a Thanksgiving gesture and acknowledgment of the Rabbi’s continued help and support of the community during this difficult time for her and her family. Elizabeth will solicit donations above and beyond the budget, starting with the Steering Committee. Each member will give a pledge to Elizabeth. Don will then ask the community to match, and frame it as a healing fund for the Rabbi.

It was announced that the best date for the next community meeting is January 23rd.

The next Steering Committee conference call will be Tuesday, November 30th at 8 p.m.

The conference call ended at 9:10 p.m. At this time Don, Mary and Susan briefly discussed plans for working on strategic planning. A conference call will be held on November 3rd to consider the revised program audit form and development issues.