

MINUTES, KOL AMI STEERING COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL,

October 18, 2011, 8:15 p.m.,

PARTICIPANTS: Michael L., Britt R., Toni P., Erica F., R. Leila G-B., Elizabeth L-B., Noel L., Janice C-L, Susan F., Don K.

The Agenda for the meeting was approved.

The minutes from the September 13, 2011 meeting were approved, with one amendment: last page, last paragraph, last sentence, changing the word, “received” to “applied for a \$1000 grant...”

Elizabeth presented the treasurer’s report indicating that overall we are where we should be, although there are still some members who need to be tracked down for payment of dues. As of October 17th, \$6500 had been received in High Holy Day (HH) donations (compared to the \$6000 budgeted). The Break the Fast payments were less than expected, indicating a need to check RSVP’s. The numbers were comparable to last year’s HH. Donations to the Rabbi’s discretionary fund have been higher than last years. Questions were raised about the goal of the money brought in from the new Tzedakah boxes, and about whether there have been new members from the HH’s. The Treasurer also reported receiving a \$1000 ICE grant, and a \$1000 grant from the Federation, for the Rabbi’s discretionary fund. The question was raised about considering an individual with children as a family membership or an individual membership.

Don reported that Amy will have the new directory of members by the beginning of November. She is not taking members off the list unless they tell her that they are no longer members. Forms are sent for new members to Amy. The importance of asking new members where they heard about Kol Ami was mentioned.

Questions were raised: who to inform about members changing their status, for example, to associate members; whether there should be a designation in the Directory if someone is an associate member or a friend.

Don has requested feedback from members about HH. This information is being included on the members’ blog or sent directly to him. He will wait until all responses have been received or posted to evaluate the comments about the HH

experience. Toni P. was thanked for volunteering to send cards to HH visitors, thanking them for their contribution, and inviting them to Kol Ami activities.

Brit R. reported for adult education that Richard R. will be sending out soon the publicity flyer for forthcoming services. Eleven people attended and enjoyed the Torah study/discussion on the book of Jonah during HH. The date, June 30, 2012, for the B'nai Mitzvah in the Sanctuary has been confirmed. The point was raised about the need for clarification about adult B'nai Mitzvah policy, and where this should be handled. Input from the two teachers should be included in this issue. Some points to be considered include group B'nai Mitzvahs, the fees or expenses involved. The suggestion was made that this should be considered first by the adult education committee, and then run through the ritual committee (to make sure that the policy is consistent with our religious policy), then brought to the Steering Committee. In the discussion it was mentioned that a generic policy for the B'nai Mitzvah class has already been developed by Herb and Mark. It will be sent to Richard. The Rabbi has been contacted by Herb to participate in a class. She will clarify what is needed from her; what she should be doing.

Janice reported for the Care and Concern Program, which presently has goals of sending out cards and flowers, providing transportation and meals to those members in need. She wants to increase the scope of the Program to include resources, information that members may need to help with problems and difficulties faced in daily life. Harriet E. will undertake this responsibility, since she formerly worked in this area. Janice will prepare a description for the website on the Care and Concern Program, what it offers for members. Arlene and Gerald R. are taking on the responsibility of handling the yahrzeit lists. They will use information from the yahrzeit book. She will get back to them to determine the status of their work on this project, and remind them of the need to include both Hebrew and secular dates. Interest in making a second memorial quilt was raised. Since Barbara J. was previously involved, it was suggested to ask her about this.

Erika F. indicated that the calendar for children's services and JCEP has been set. The resource people needed have been obtained, including meetings with the Rabbi and her participation with the older kids' class. The first event is the Simhat Torah celebration on Friday, October 21st. The issue of luncheons after Bar or Bat

Mitzvahs was discussed. The Rabbi indicated that when there is a situation of financial stress, folks from the community can help. Luncheons can be a community celebration, rather than a catered affair, a modest but nice Kiddush luncheon potluck. The family should let the steering committee and JCEP know if they prefer this option, and the amount of funds they can contribute for food. This information will be kept confidential. Someone can be designated to coordinate, to help the family with the Kiddush and the luncheon. The Rabbi can help out with the process. It needs to be made clear that the Shabbat hosts will do the set up for the service. Extra people will be involved with the Shabbat Kiddush. The different options available should be included in the guidelines, adding a sentence like “The family has the option of a catered luncheon or a community potluck...” It is important to remember that Bar/Bat Mitzvahs are communal celebrations, with the family staying to celebrate.

With respect to fundraising, it was suggested to prepare a plan (for the Steering Committee) about what to do with the Tzedakah boxes when they are full. There is a list of people who took boxes. The Rabbi suggested that because there is already a Tzedakah box for the community, before candle lighting on Friday night it could be passed around and people asked to put money in. This could be part of Friday night services, as well as a reminder or suggestion to do the same at home. Alternatively people could be asked to bring the small boxes they have at home to services and put money in them. The fundraising committee will consider these suggestions. Don will talk to the Committee about Kol Ami’s development plan, its need and purpose, how funds can be used in the context of the Plan.

Don will coordinate with Lance and David concerning visitor follow up and planning for a new member session.

Mike L. for the Ritual Committee indicated that Herb C-L requested a \$100 honorarium for Karen Dale to help lead services. Since there is money in the budget for this, the request was accepted.

Strategic planning audits will be carried out early in the year. This issue will be put on the agenda for the next meeting, as well as the Tikkun Olam item, “adoption of a non-political Israeli organization”. The date for the next community meeting also needs to consider at the next meeting. Another important issue to consider at

the next meeting is use of Mark Weisenbloom funds for adult education, whether we can use these funds to invite a scholar.

The next steering committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, November 15 15th, 8:15 to 9:30 p.m. (1 hour and 15 minutes).