

MINUTES, KOL AMI STEERING COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL

February 7, 2012, 8:15 p.m.

PARTICIPANTS: Toni P., Michael L., Susan F., Don K., Erika F., Mary K., Ed B., Elizabeth L-B, Lance F. (late)

The agenda for the meeting was approved, with no changes. The minutes from the January 8th face to face meeting and from the Jan. 29th community meeting were approved with no revisions.

There were no major changes in the treasurer's report from what was presented at the January community meeting. A bit more money has been received. A discretionary fund report from the Rabbi was received. There is ritual committee money in the budget for torah repairs, as well as an honorarium for outside lay leaders invited to lead services. The Weisenbloom money (\$4000) has been set aside as a separate fund, pending a decision on how it should be used.

Don raised the issue of service cancellation policy. The President of the Community or the person leading services (for example, the Rabbi) traditionally have let people know about a cancellation. However, since a problem recently arose with Shabbat hosts not being told in time about a service cancellation, it is useful to consider who should be notified and how early, and by what means. Is two hours before services too short a time to notify the service leader? It was agreed that a concrete policy is needed, including letting people know to check the website. It was decided that Shabbat hosts should be called **three** hours in advance by whoever is cancelling the service. In addition, emails should be sent, and the information put up on the website. The President, Vice President and/or the service/event leader has the responsibility of making the call and informing the community. Don will write up the proposed policy, send it to Steering, then make sure it gets put on the website.

One more person, preferably from the community, someone who knows people in the community, is needed to serve on the nominating committee. A description of what is involved will be prepared by Don, and included in an email to see if someone will step up.

For Passover planning, the second night seder needs an organizer, since it was felt that the Dines do not want to continue with this responsibility. Michael L. will talk to Debbie L. about assuming this task. A survey could be sent around to see who might be interested. In conjunction with the nominating committee Don will explore this issue.

Under "Committee Reports" Brit Rapp indicated (by phone after the meeting) that Harriet Epstein's talk on Jewish Broadway and stage composers was well received. She will be scheduled for another adult education talk on a different topic in the future.

Care and Concern program sent cards to Franna and Mindi.

Children and are going well with the Program.

Family Program's Purim event has been planned, a potluck on March 11th .

Fundraising is not happening. There is a need to fill this role for next year. The nominating committee will be thinking about how best to do this.

It is not yet clear about what will be done with the Tzedakah boxes. A big jar will be available for Tzedakah funds. A decision on what to use the money for will be made at the annual meeting in June.

An outreach event has been planned for Feb. 12th, 11 to 2 p.m. at Elizabeth Lower-Basch's house. A reminder email has been sent by Lance inviting those non members at High Holy day services. Ed will coordinate with Amy to put a notice in the Washington Post on Thursday. Whether it appears depends on what space is available. A link for signing up for the potluck has already been sent out on email. A follow up will be done on Thursday. Sending directed emails to new members is something that hasn't been done. Comparing different versions of the Directory to identify new members is a possibility. Ed will check this out, as well as contact Amy to discuss how new members can be identified.

Michael, speaking for Ritual, thanked the Steering Committee for the time at the community meeting to discuss Shabbat services. The Ritual Committee, with service leaders input, will prepare a plan based on the discussion to present at the annual meeting in June. The issue of Bar/Bat mitzvah with one parent who is not Jewish, calling up the non Jewish spouse to the Bimah, will be discussed at the Committee's meetings. Ritual will recommend a policy relating to this issue.

There is a need to talk about strategic planning with budgetary information available. Preparation of the budget is a major concern. Strategic planning will come back to Steering with this issue.

In relation to Tikkun Olam, the identification of charities and listing them on the webpage will be discussed at the next steering committee meeting. The ideas that emerged during the community meeting will be reviewed, and form the basis for a discussion, a dialogue with questions, at the next community meeting in June.

The next Steering Committee conference call meeting will be Thursday, March 8th at 8:15 p.m.

