

Kol Ami Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2015, 8pm.

Attendees:

Rayna Aylward

Herb Cooper-Levy

Janice Cooper-Levy

Lynda Erinoff

Shana Harbour

Marcel Infeld

Elizabeth Lower-Basch

Mindy Rudell

Willa Siegel

Sharon Sterling

Meeting began with a reflection by Marcel.

The proposed agenda was accepted with the addition of Hanukkah party.

The draft minutes of the October meeting were approved without objection.

In the absence of Erv Walter, his written Treasurer's report was submitted.

A motion was made and approved to authorize a Kol Ami credit card for the community coordinator to use for Kol Ami expenses, as long as appropriate documentation for all expenses is submitted to the treasurer.

Herb Cooper-Levy referred the committee to the community coordinator report submitted in writing.

Herb reminded people to use the community calendar for scheduling. Please let him know when we schedule something so he can add it to the calendar. If we want to know what is on the schedule, can look at the version sent by email or at the website.

Herb notes that his contract limits hours of work -- but he has been exceeding them. So far this month have spent 15 hours in the first week. Rayna asked, is this an action item? Should we be directing Herb to spend less time? What is the cause? Herb noted that there were some one time issues related to website update, but that later there will be a time cost in moving emails to MailChimp. It is not clear it will let up. We agreed that Marcel, as President, should discuss with Herb and decide whether some tasks can be given less time.

JRC Plenum report -- submitted in writing. Marcel drew our attention to two items from the report. First, the central organization wants to strengthen connections with affiliated congregations. Second, he thoughts people might be interested in the notes on the world Zionist convention.

JCRC NoVa Commission -- Susan Freiband submitted a report. She is more interested in the arts than economics and politics, which were the focus of this group, and therefore has resigned as the Kol Ami representative. Marcel feels like he has a better sense of the organization now, and is not sure it's a priority for us to replace her.

We reviewed the data on high holiday attendance and the feedback that was provided.

Open house report -- Lot of effort went into planning and outreach. 5-6 potential members attended the open house. Several people asked to be added to outreach list, one new family likely to join.

Rabbi search report -- We now have three candidates -- Gilah Langner, Joseph Berman, and Ben Shalva. A fourth potential candidate expressed his interest, but is not ordained (and not graduating this year), so the committee told him that we weren't interested. All of the candidates are people who Kol Ami has previous contacts with -- so far we have not received any responses from the RRC. Noted that is not terribly surprising, as the RRC only has about 6 graduates per year, and we are offering a part-time position in a high cost area. The committee will be reviewing applications and scheduling services with candidates.

Rayna reported on the plans for a goodbye party for Rabbi Leila. Last time we said June 4 was a bad date due to other commitments. The other day in June that works is Sunday June 19. Looking at 7.30 to 9.30pm. We discussed whether it is problematic that it is Fathers' Day, but agreed that most people will be done with the family commitments by then. If people can't make it, that's ok. Herb has reserved room in his building. Will confirm.

CARC honoree. After some discussion whether it was appropriate to nominate Jerry, we agreed to follow the committee's original recommendation and nominate Herb Cooper-Levy for this honor. We agreed that Jerry could be kept in mind for inclusion as one of the Kol Amites of the year.

Hanukkah party is scheduled for Friday, December 11. Need people to sign up to bring things and take on different jobs.