

**Kol Ami Steering Committee Meeting  
December 15, 2014**

Rayna Aylward  
Elizabeth Lower-Basch  
Rabbi Leila Berner  
Sharon Sterling  
Lynda Erinoff  
Joan Goldfarb  
Janice Cooper-Levy  
Herb Cooper-Levy  
Toni Popkin  
Carolyn Gray  
Emily Schwartz Greco

Agenda accepted without objection.

Minutes of November 17 meeting accepted without objection.

Follow up: Herb to post, with one spelling correction (“B’nai Mitzvah”).

Rabbi’s report — Reported on gathering of Rabbis and Imams in the metro DC area, and recommended follow up meeting with Chaplain Farhanahz Ellis, Interfaith and Outreach Director Adams Center (Dulles). Also reported on successful first of four Worlds of Kabbalah sessions, and suggested that the two next B’nai Mitzvah be posted on the WJW announcement list.

Follow-up: Herb and Rayna volunteered to join Rabbi in meeting with Chaplain Ellis to discuss a possible interfaith dialogue. [Other Steering members can join, if they are interested.]

President’s update – Follow ups to action items from last month’s meeting: (1) Working with UUCA leadership on planning an informal UU/KA get-together; finding a mutually convenient date is proving a challenge. (2) Scholar in Residence project in on hold, until a workable date and volunteers willing to organize it are found. One other update: Herb Cooper-Levy’s initial 6-month contract as Community Coordinator has been extended until June 30, 2015. Herb is to be commended for his excellent work and resourcefulness.

Community Coordinator report --written report (attached) was submitted. Current big projects are to improve the directory, including adding photos, ages of children, and to update the website. Hanukkah party was announced in Arlington/Alexandria living section of Washington Post.

Rabbi Transition – Rayna summarized memo from Lance (attached as separate pdf file), outlining proposed structure of and timeline for Rabbi Search Committee. Overall structure was accepted, with the following modifications:

- Roles and responsibilities of search committee to be clarified so that potential members can understand what the expectations are.

- Timeline for formation to be delayed into January so that community members can be informed of process, roles and responsibilities, and given the opportunity to express interest in participating.
- At-large members should not be current steering committee members.

Follow-up: Herb to take a crack at drafting description of roles and responsibilities. Lance to finalize and share in January.

Dual affiliation: Elizabeth will send out a reminder to community of opportunity to sign on to petition. Deadline is January 11.

Volunteering policy/Shabbat hosting: We are still having difficulty in getting volunteers to cover all Shabbat hosting slots. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that an ad hoc committee would be formed to discuss previous experiences and possible options to frame the discussion. Members to include Herb as community coordinator, Lynda as host coordinator, Toni as past host coordinator, and representatives to be determined from the Children and Families committee and Ritual committee.

Follow-up: Committee to report back to steering committee at January meeting.

RRC is considering a change of policy regarding admissions of candidates with non-Jewish spouses. No immediate action is needed, but RRC is interested in community feedback. Faculty retains its autonomy to make policy, but are trying to be open to input.

Follow-up: Discussion at next Steering meeting, to provide feedback to RRC. Brief report at community meeting in January.

Member matters: Several matters regarding member status and use of Kol Ami listserv were discussed.

Follow-up: Herb as community coordinator will update email list and directory to ensure that only current members are included. Committee agreed that Kol Amite newsletter can include updates on professional as well as personal events, with Herb including them as space allows.

Honoring community members. Rayna announced that Kol Ami has an opportunity to nominate an individual or couple for recognition at the 2015 RRC Chesapeake Region Annual Gala (last year's honorees -- Kol Ami's first ever -- were Don Kraus and Hope Warshaw). She nominated Richard Ruth and Jim North and the steering committee approved.

Follow up: Mark your calendars for the March 22nd Gala!

In addition, Rayna proposed a new internal recognition program to spotlight the outstanding service of community volunteers. Tentatively called Kol Amites of the Year, nominations would be solicited from the membership with the awards given at the annual June meeting.

Follow-up Rayna to convene an ad hoc committee to make more detailed recommendations on recognition, including criteria and number of awards to be made. Interested members to contact her to participate.

Next meetings:

Steering Committee: January 11, 2.30pm, UUCA

Community meeting: January 25, 4.30pm, UUCA

## Attachments

### Community Coordinator Report

#### **Administration**

1. I inputted the balance of the Master Calendar for January to the website.
2. I've posted JCEP reports and homework assignments to the website home page.
3. I've updated a number of website pages: the Organization page (which lists the committee structure, the members of the steering committee and the committee chairs), the Participation page, the Member Directory page, the Shabbat Hosting page and the Healing List. I plan to bring every page of our website up to date.
4. I continue to keep the closet orderly and check on supplies.
5. I continue to coordinate with the UUCA about our use of their facilities. There have been several room changes initiated by them that I've communicated to the Kol Amite responsible for the program.
6. I initiated getting Kol Ami to be a recipient of the Amazon Smile program. This would provide us a share of purchases.

#### **Outreach**

1. I published 4 weekly issues of *The Kol Amite*.
2. I prepared a press release about the Chanukah party and sent it to 19 publications. So far, the Alexandria-Arlington Living section of the Washington Post has told me that they will be including it in their December 18 issue.
3. I brought Kol Ami brochures to the Jewish Folk Arts Festival.
4. I have responded to several potential membership/JCEP inquiries and forwarded those inquiries to relevant Kol Amites.