

Minutes, March 23, 2015. Steering committee meeting.

Convened at 8.10pm

Attending by phone:

Rabbi Leila Berner

Rayna Aylward, President

Elizabeth Lower-Basch, Secretary

Herb Cooper-Levy

Janice Cooper-Levy

Lynda Erinoff

Carolyn Gray

Jane Petkofsky

Mindy Rudell

Sharon Sterling

Rabbi began with a reflection.

Agenda with amendments adopted without objections.

Minutes from Feb. 23 meeting. Herb suggested listing attendees in alphabetical order.

Moved to accept the minutes. Approved without objections.

### **Rabbi's report.**

- Returned from meeting of Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
  - Topics of the RRC proposal regarding admissions of students with non-Jewish partners. Discussed but did not take position.
  - Resolution brought up to condemn BDS (Boycott, Divest, Sanction) resolutions. Heated debate, some feel like sanctions aimed at organizations doing business with settlers in the West Bank would be appropriate. Voted to create a Task Force to report back next year.
  - Networking and discussion of activities.
  - Rayna asked Rabbi to write post for Rabbi's blog.

### **Community coordinator report -- Herb Cooper-Levy -- see attachment**

Images are in pdf attachment. Elizabeth noted that attachments are hard to read in mobile, prefer contents to be included in body. Herb noted that many of materials are sent to him as images, can't convert to jpg.

Update on trying to schedule Focus music concert for next year that KA agreed to cosponsor. UUCA may become a venue for more Focus concerts.

About half of the congregation has not yet responded to the request for information for the directory.

Rayna complemented Herb on the quick update of the website -- added photo of yesterday's awards ceremony.

### **Treasurer's Report -- Erv Walter (by email)**

- Got some recent donations -- Rayna and Ed's matching challenge, a gift in honor of Jim and Richard -- so are back on track now.

### **Rabbi's Search --**

Meeting again on Sunday to review the four interviews that have been conducted for the High Holiday position. Goal is to get one or two finalists, do a background check, and have a recommendation to steering for the next meeting.

### **Nominations**

Please connect to Jim, Emily or Don to let them know what roles you are taking --

### **Outreach/Inreach**

Draft policies on email discussed -- no concerns on draft content. Discussion of process -- does this need to be formally approved by community? Agreed to circulate it as suggested policy, formally recommend for adoption at the June meeting.

### **Children and Families**

Developing a code of conduct that would apply to various Kol Ami events. Review Arlington Public Schools, Boy Scouts, codes that classes have developed. Will ask kids to sign before May 1 service. Have started to develop calendar for next year.

### **Seder**

Rebecca and Zach Schrag volunteered to organize.

Only 9 families have signed up. If we're going to do individualized outreach, time to do it. Rayna and Herb will connect with Zach.

### **Steering retreat.**

April 19, 10-1pm Herb and Janice's condo.

Rayna did quick overview of the goals

Toni -- doing an inventory of what people are already doing -- did broad email, individualized follow-ups.

**Appreciation for Carolyn for all she has done.**

## Community Coordinator Report March 2015

### Administration

1. I continue to do the routine administrative tasks:
  - a. Inputting the Master Calendar for April to the website
  - b. Posting JCEP reports and homework assignments to the website home page.
  - c. Gradually bringing every page of our website up to date.
  - d. Keeping the closet orderly.
  - e. Checking on supplies.
  - f. Coordinating with the UUCA about our use of their facilities.
2. I will need to place a Passover order for supplies sufficient to accommodate the anticipated crowd. This is a much larger than usual supply order.

### Inreach

1. I followed up with a number of members who did not know how to access the member pages. My next step is to follow up with those members who I see do not access the member pages by a blind copy email, again not to embarrass anyone.
2. I followed up asking for people to complete the new Membership Directory listing. A number of people responded to this and I will be following up individually to encourage a response from those who haven't responded. A valid response includes that the member does not wish to provide additional information.
3. I reached out to a friend who is a professional facilitator for suggestions as to how to approach the April 19 retreat. His suggestions confirmed the direction that the ad hoc committee has been taking. (Nothing like a professional telling you you're on the right track!) I also made arrangements for the use of the Potomac Room at Marina Towers for the retreat.

### Outreach

1. I published 4 weekly issues of *The Kol Amite*. Issues now only include the "This Weekend" and "Upcoming" features in the body of the email, with the entire issue, including images, accessible via a PDF attached to the email. While a JPEG inserted into the email would be the easiest way to do this, I currently do not possess a color printer that would allow me to print, then scan the printed pages. My version of Word allows a conversion to PDF that preserves the color of the images in *The Kol Amite*.

I explored using Tiny Letters. (Thanks to Elizabeth for the suggestion of this free email client!) Tiny Letters does not accept images into the emails; so while it solves some problems, it does not solve others. Therefore, I will be exploring the cost of moving *The Kol Amite* to Constant Contact and Mail Chimp.

2. I continue to communicate by email with several potential member units who have expressed interest in Kol Ami.
3. I have reached out to Ein Lanu Z'man, the Klezmer band made up of Hazzan Elisheva Dientsfrey of Agudas Achim and other members of that congregation, to play at the December 5 Chanukah concert. (Rabbi Mark Novak's band required a higher guarantee than Focus normally provides to local musicians.) I've reached out to Etz Hayim to provide the space for the concert.
4. As Operations Manager of Focus, I am in discussions with the UUCA about joint sponsorship of folk music shows at the UUCA. There is a nice overlap between some of the social justice and spiritual acts I book and the interests of the UUCA in sponsoring this kind of music. (The last Focus show in Alexandria was attended by a near minyan of Kol Amites!)

Weaving this tie, adds to the depth of Kol Ami's relationship with our wonderful hosts, the UUCA, and follows up on the meeting that Rayna and I had with Revs. Aaron and Linda about sharing music between interested members of our congregations.