

Kol Ami Steering Committee Meeting
November 17, 2014

Rayna Aylward
Lance Feiner
Elizabeth Lower-Basch
Rabbi Leila Berner
Erv Walter
Sharon Sterling
Lynda Erinoff
Jane Petofsky
Mindy Rudell
Herb Cooper-Levy
Members on the call: Mark Graboyes and Hope Warshaw

Agenda accepted without objection.
Minutes of October 19 meeting accepted without objection.
Follow up: Herb to post.

Rabbi's report — Noted Bradley and Audrey's B'nai Mitzvah. On the 23rd will be representing Kol Ami at a gathering of Rabbis and Imams in the metro DC area. Will also be teaching adult ed program on first of four worlds of Kabbalah.

Herb — Administrator's report— written report (attached) was submitted. Next big project is to improve the directory, including adding photos, ages of children.

On behalf of Care and Concern committee — For December movie screening, requesting \$60 to pay for someone from UUCA to run the DVD player because there has not been a volunteer to be trained.

Follow up: Herb to make another request to community, including information about the movie.

Sharon — Tikkun Olam committee report: — Had very successful tikun olam activity about 24 people of all ages for bag lunch. Could use more delivery volunteers next time. Will check with UUCA and confirm future dates. Researching handbags for the homeless as another project.

Mindy — JCEP: Noted Audrey's bat mitzvah. Have not yet succeeded in recruiting a Hebrew teacher to teach the adults in parallel to the JCEP class. About 25 kids now. Hanukah party planning is under way.

Follow up: Still seeking teacher for adults. Hanukah party information to be shared with community.

Erv — Treasurer's report — There is a low balance on Rabbi's discretionary fund. We will likely have dues payments of about \$2500 less than budgeted, due to turnovers and dues waivers. High

holidays came in very close to budget. Paid RRC dues, but don't qualify us for the "highest level" — may get somewhat less benefits.

Follow up: Solicit community for funds for Rabbi's discretionary fund.

Follow up: Check with RRC to make sure that we are eligible for the benefits we need for Rabbi hiring process.

Lance — Rabbi transition committee Will have full report on process at January community meeting, including proposal for a formal search committee. Have started to put together a survey tool to use to gather information needed to fill out form for RRC process. Form will be due in October, will be ready to interview in January 2016.

Follow up: Community survey

Mark: when will we start advertising for the high holidays position? Lance: will check his notes on the time frame for that. (Thinks it is January February, but will check). Agreed that it would be good to have a rabbi in place by May for high holidays. Jane: is it Ritual committee's responsibility to hire for high holidays. Lance, I think so. Jane, first we've heard of that. Rayna, we can help with this. Mark: this is important for attracting members.

Follow up: Lance to check on timeline for high holiday recruiting, share information with Jane and Rayna.

Elizabeth —Reported on dual affiliation meeting and process. Sharon suggested that it would be helpful to clarify that we don't need "no" votes.

Follow up: Elizabeth to send follow-up email in mid-December to remind people. Votes are due by January 12 meeting.

Discussion of volunteering: Some confusion over what the actual policy is regarding Shabbat hosting. — website says 1x a year in one place 2x a year in another place. In the past we've signed people up for empty slots if they haven't volunteered. Other congregations in this area do this. But Lynda got pushback from members saying "don't sign me up." What are the options if people don't sign up? Cancelling services, having "unhosted" services. If we're going to sign people up, need to have clear community decision, policy, so Lynda doesn't have to be the bad guy.

Follow up: Put on agenda for January community meeting to clarify policy and expectations.

Rabbi asked whether we could schedule Israel discussion, scholar in residence. Rayna said that it not clear if steering has agreed that they are ready to be scheduled.

Follow up: Rayna, Richard, Leila to discuss what these activities would look like and put on agenda for future steering committee meeting for discussion.

Next call, Dec. 15, 8:10-9:15 PM

Attachment — Community Coordinator Report

Administration

1. I inputted the balance of the Master Calendar for December to the website.
2. I've posted some JCEP reports and homework assignments to the JCEP member pages of the website.
3. I coordinated with the Jewish Reconstructionist Communities about Kol Ami's current membership.
4. My next project will be to update the Kol Ami membership list as a Word doc, asking for photos and the ages of children. The current list is in Excel and includes names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses.

Outreach

1. I published 3 weekly issues of *The Kol Amite*.
2. There will be a meeting with Rev. Aaron McEmrys, UUCA Senior Minister; Rev. Dr. Linda Olson Peebles, UUCA Minister of Faith in Action; Rayna and me on 11/20 to talk about collaboration.