

Kol Ami community meeting, January 10, 2016.

Attendees

Sam Barr	Shana Harbour	Mindy Rudell
Jon Baumgarten	Eleanor Hodges	Richard Ruth
Amy Baumgarten	Donna Infeld	Anne Salzberg
Robin Cook	Marcel Infeld	Jane Shulman
Herb Cooper-Levy	Ted Joseph	Willa Siegel
Dayna Davitz	Don Kraus	Dann Sklarew
Lydia Erinoff	Leslie Lesner	Sharon Sterling
Susan Freiband	Elizabeth Lower-Basch	Erv Walter
Joan Goldfarb	Jim North	Hope Warshaw
Emily Greco	Jane Petkofsky	Jason Wright
Betsy Greer	Toni Popkin	

Began at 5pm

Marcel Infeld (President) read a reflection from Rabbi Leila.

Erv Walter presented the treasurer report.

- We are in a generally good state, about where we should be at this time of the year. We have money in the bank, but also have a number of upcoming expenses, including rent (as the UU only bills intermittently).
- We have received some donations in memory of Janice. We also got about \$1,000 in response to year-end appeals.
- Question was asked about the ark fund -- what are these funds being held for? Marcel noted that he will talk with Doug Dreyer who has previously helped out about needed repairs/improvements to the ark.
- We still have about \$5,000 outstanding in dues. Goal is to end up with about \$48,000 in receipts. After additional outreach, the past due members have made arrangements.
- The Cohen family is not staying as members. We have four new members.

Marcel summarized the Rabbi's report on her activities. She has provided services, adult education, counseling to three members. See attachment. In response to a question, it was clarified that counseling is part of her job description (no additional cost).

Don Kraus reported on Rabbi's goodbye party.

- Rayna Aylward and Willa Siegel are the co-chairs.
- June 19th, 7 to 9 pm. To be held at Herb's apartment building.
- Don is collecting pictures of Kol Ami events. There will be some sort of gift.

Marcel reported on the Chesapeake Area Reconstructionist Council.

- Kol Ami is nominating Herb Cooper-Levy -- "one of the lamed vuvnicks"
- Dinner to be held at Congregation Oseh Shalom, Laurel MD

Jane Schulman reported on the rabbi selection committee. Members include Herb Cooper-Levy, Jon Baumgarten, Willa Siegel, Brit Rapp, Eric Rosenberg, Dann Sklarew, Mindi Weisenbloom, Jon Robert Johnson.

- They selected a high holiday rabbi – Gilah
- Did community wide survey and meetings for the description of the position to post. Priorities are that we want Rabbi to lead adult services, counsel members, work with kids.
- Posted with the RRC, filled out the form. Did not get any applicants from the RRC – they were mostly looking for full time work.
- Reached out to four local rabbis whom we have worked with in the past. Three applied, but one later withdrew. Now have two strong candidates – each of them will lead an adult service, teach an adult ed class, and lead a family friendly Kabbalat Shabbat service.
- Schedule for upcoming events is on the website. Next one up is Friday Feb. 19th – Gilah will lead Kabbalat Shabbat. We may need to reschedule Kabbalat service with Rabbi Berman -- a lot of families are out of town due to spring break..
- Goal is complete visits in the first quarter of 2016. Committee meeting set for the end of March, after which the committee will make a recommendation to Steering. At the April 10 meeting, Steering will make a recommendation, to be discussed at a community meeting on April 17.
- Question of whether proxy voting is allowed – will check against our bylaws.

Emily Greco presented on new logo

- Done to reflect Kol Ami (shortened name), match with new website, scale at different sizes, color and black and white versions. Jewish, inclusive, modern, different. Goal is for the logo to support our outreach on the web.
- Marcel thanked Emily for her leadership on the committee—getting it done in time for the website redesign.
- Don made a motion to accept the logo, which was accepted without objection.
- Question was raised whether we can make a bigger sign with the Kol Ami logo to go with the UU sign. (There is one currently, but many members had never noticed it.).

Eleanor Hodges presented a report on the website committee.

- Have been working since September, should be done by late February.
- Driven by security issues in old Drupal site. Moving to WordPress.
- Question was asked about simplifying the log-in process. Emily said that she thought the plan is to have a single group log-in. Questions were asked about how that would work with sign-ups, etc. Emily said she would raise with the designer.
- Committee chairs will have access to their own pages and ability to make edits.
- New site will have payment and registration options, volunteer sign ups. We will look at migrating listserv, newsletter as well.

Mindy Rudell presented a report on JCEP

- We have four teachers this year – Erin, Zach, Steve Pershing, Jen Sklarew. Eric is overseeing 3 JCEP grads who are teaching the intro Hebrew class. Have 4 new families. Emily Toll helping with event planning. Things are going well; Gilah complimented us on how good the JCEP program is.
- Tu B'Shevat seder is in 2 weeks.
- Summarized JCEP policies -- basically presenting current policy with a few clarifications re: class constitution, need to be a member in good standing, ability to visit for a few weeks before joining, and that we offer a tuition waiver for the JCEP teachers.
 - Question was asked about why a student might do one class but not the other. Mindy said it varies with the student; typically some students want to do Jewish studies but not Hebrew.
 - Hope Warshaw asked about the connection to the previously approved B'nai Mitzvah policy. They will be on the same page on the website.
- The proposed JCEP policy was approved without objection.

Marcel presented on the proposed statement of Dues Policies and Membership Benefits.

- Questions were asked about the description of the "friends of Kol Ami" status, particularly the statement that it is only available for people who have moved out of the areas. The possibility of allowing "disengaged members" to continue as "friends" was raised, but it was also noted that members are expected to volunteer.
- There was a discussion of the logistics of requiring dues to be paid (or an installment plan proposed) before the high holidays. Everyone agreed that we will not turn people away from services.
- Two amendments were made and accepted without objections:
 - Moving "being part of a vibrant and caring community" to the top of the list of membership privileges.
 - Amending bullet 4 to read "Payments for High Holiday services may be applied..." rather than "High Holiday contributions may be applied..."
- With these amendments, the proposed statement was approved without objection.

Shana Harbour and Mindi Weisenbloom are co-chairing the new "schmooze club". They are planning a potluck for February 27. Don volunteered to host. They are looking for teen volunteers to babysit.

Lynda Erinoff asked people to sign up to host Shabbat services.

The meeting was adjourned.