

Kol Ami Steering Committee Meeting 9/13/2020

Attending (voting members): Jane Schulman, Jane Petkofsky, Lance Feiner, Erv Walter, Debbie Linick, Toni Popkin, Jon Baumgarten, Gordon Achtermann, Amber Baum, David Friedman, Judy Greenblum, John Staren, Collette Major, Scott Winter

Non-voting Attendees: Rabbi Gilah Langner, Meryl Paskow, Rayna Aylward, Ed Bomsey, Adam Beslove

Meeting began at 4:03p

Jane Schulman began with a blessing.

The current agenda and last month's meeting minutes, were approved unanimously. (Jon/John; move/2nd)

Meryl Paskow gave the coordinators report:

- High Holidays: working on preparation—publicity, marketing, etc. Already have 55 members and 29 visitors, and growing; Have received over \$5k in donations. 16 families registered for children's services so far, with 24 children divided evenly between "younger" and "older." Spent \$1,100 in marketing (less than last year). Sending zoom links out on Wed. Reminder: Please register. All attendees must be registered to receive links for security--No walk-ins. Some discussion regarding being "let into" the services, including need for email, name, and timing during service and registration confirmation: We have zoom gabbaim that will be monitoring during entire service; Also, there will be a "help" email to who ever is monitoring the meeting room.; Word press was sending confirmation emails, instead now doing a list. Everyone will get an email on Wed. Different links for different services... for security. Will be asking to use email registered and name needs to match. New people registering... are we finding out where they are getting our information? We are asking through drop-down question; Some people are ignoring question. We have not received a large boost from print ad. Most are from outreach list and from current members. Seem to be "on-target" with past years at this point.
- New family-focused webpage. Looking to share info. w/ families, we now have a convenient page with all the family information (services, JCEP, etc.).
- Last week received concerns about web site security: have taken some immediate action. For example, steering meeting minutes... only secure until it is "shared." The issue is with PDF's. Have downloaded a "plug-in" so that the PDF is now part of website behind the firewall. After High Holidays, will look into other ways and means for security (e.g., different hosting).

Erv Walter presented the September Treasurer's Report. Discussion regarding creating a "true" reserve fund.

Adam Beslove and Ed Bomsey discussed new adult social program idea: Monthly evening of Kol Ami talent. Would ask for volunteers. We have many, many very talented Kol Ami members. Could also involve everyone telling a story for participation. Requested Steering approval to reach out to members to implement the social program. Discussion: Request to keep this on zoom. Suggestion to pick a regular timing, e.g., 3rd Saturday evening of the month. Suggestion to see how it goes. Request to wait until after High Holidays. Move to “bless effort” unanimous (Gordon/Toni; move/2nd).

Debbie Linick gave membership update. Seeing growth in new families and working on young professionals. Young professionals don’t necessarily join until a “life event.” Looking into programming that would support a young professional cohort. Also, looking into more programming for family cohorts. Asking for approval from Steering to Members and Visitor’s Team (vs., just members). Any reach out to singles? Much of adult education covers things that can be promoted to that cohort. Unanimous (Debbie/John; move and 2nd).

Jane Schulman discussed that JCEP discussion last month regarding need for a Jewish studies instructor was immensely helpful. Joan Goldfarb agreed to teach, with Scott Winter and Amber Baum helping.

Jane Schulman recapped recent events:

- First Shabbat Club: Great start, was a bit long (already received feedback on length). 45 min suggested as a good time limit. (e.g., “Junior Congregation”). Promoting beyond congregation? Yes. Created facebook event that was “boosted” and J-Connect. Planned for once-a-month.

Rabbi Gilah sent a “shout out” to the teachers and to Dayna for the organization. Lead into High Holidays are rich this year. Morning Minyan, blowing shofar (along w/ workshop), “this is real” book club has had some sessions, with one this Tuesday, Thursday night cooking class to learn how to make Rosh Hashanah foods. We are also set for services, Friday evening (w/ SHN), Friday morning on our own, with co-leaders for each service. Beautiful musics. Kolamite videos. Some live family performances. Much work on getting zoom trained, Machzors. Greeters at beginning of services. Meryl is on top of everything. Publicity; registration. Thank you to Debbie for the Yizkor slide show.

Jane: Meryl: we do have people from outside joining. 86... 117 individuals. Just received one today from WaPo add today.

Sign up sheets: chat vs. av... will be asking shuffle. AV skills: no need to share screen, just “drop in” videos. No need for AV during afternoon sessions on Yom Kippur. Need “stuff” before Friday.

Sukkot & Simcha Torah: both on Zoom.

Taschlich on Sat. afternoon 2 session 5 and 5:30... 9 or 10 possible slots... will be social distanced along the stream. Request to "live stream" taschlich. (will have to look into it) Request to have video clip on website of the Kolamites, if possible.

Rabbi Gilah gave a closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 5:23p

Note: Future meeting dates:

Oct 18

Nov 15

Dec 13 (we may use this date for a mid-year community meeting, to be decided later)

Jan 10

Feb 7

Mar 7

April 11

May 16

June 6 (Annual meeting)