

Kesher Israel Board Meeting Minutes – January 7, 2007

Attendees: Gary Winters, Roz Singer, Jesse Mendelson, Al Altschul, David Barak, Suzette Klein, Isadora Binder, Seth Opert, Gamliel Kronemer, Baruch Fellner, David Epstein.

1. New Member – Jeremy Fogelman, 28 & Under, Single.
2. Mazal tov to Seth Opert on his engagement.
3. December Board Minutes Approved.
4. Financial Report – Gary did not have the numbers from December because of the short New Year's week, but will circulate this week. Baruch said that the comparable numbers from the past that Gary sent last month were helpful, and the shul is on track to where it was last year. There were a lot of year-end contributions and a number of people never got their statement of account at the end of the year. Gary or Al would follow up with the office on that.
5. Purim:
 - a. Seth Opert brought up the issue regarding the shul's current schedule for Purim. Currently, the shul has an early megilla reading right after the Fast, then sends everyone home, then asks them to come back for Shpiel, which doesn't end until close to 11 pm. Seth suggested (not for this year because of the Thursday-Sunday split) that we have early reading (including the children's costume parade), then have a shul-sponsored Break-Fast with pizza, beer and hamentaschen, then right into the Shpiel. We can then have a late reading for those who want it.
 - b. Gamliel likes the idea, as does Jesse, and so does David Barak, who is frustrated by waiting for the costume parade for those who are fasting, so asked if we could maybe make it a bit earlier.
 - c. Seth reported on the Rabbi's suggestion of the Purim schedule – Thursday fast, ends at 6:35 and no reading this year. Saturday night mincha/maariv is 5:20, then we read megilla at maariv at 8:30, then 2nd reading & Shpiel.
 - d. Seth suggested that we still do something, like a Melava Malka after the early reading, then Shpiel, then do a second reading after the party, more like 10:00 or 10:30. Board agreed that is a good idea and Seth will run the following schedule by the Rabbi – i.e., mincha, maariv, megilla reading, melava malka, children's parade, Shpiel, late reading.
 - e. Gamliel said that the last time Purim fell on Sunday, shul did not have an early minyan in the morning with a faster megilla. He suggested that we have two readings – one early (7:30 am) and one late (9:00 am). Baruch said Sunday morning reading is 32 minutes – if not less, period
 - f. Rabbi suggested 8:00 am Shacharit with regular megilla reading, 9:00 am women's reading, late megilla reading at 10:00. Board agreed to this schedule.

6. Sisterhood

- a. Jesse presented the Welcome Packet status that until now, welcome packet has gone out from the shul office and now the sisterhood's letter is ready to go out. Isadora said that there was a Sisterhood Board meeting to discuss objectives in the coming months – focusing on fundraising and social activities in the coming year.
- b. Currently, the Sisterhood is focusing on Purim, the cookbook, cleaning up the Bayit, etc – they understand Welcome Packets are a need, but they don't have the time to put towards coordinating it, so they are handing it back to Welcome Committee and the office.

7. Good and Welfare

- a. **Rabbinic Intern Oneg** – Lengthy discussion last time about increasing attendance at Yoel's shiurim – there will be a shul-sponsored oneg on February 9. We've told Yoel about it, and he's excited about it.
- b. **Renovation Update** – Gary and David Epstein are meeting with the contractor Monday 1/8/07 at 10:30 to do a final walk-through. The glass above aron kodesh is not in yet, and they will find out why it has not been completed yet. The goal is to get a final punch list of items, and also to discuss possible renovations in the social hall.
 - i. David Epstein wanted to know the financial status of what is done and what is left to be done. Gary said \$30K was borrowed on the line of credit and was paid back on Friday. We still have some potential donors that have not contributed, and there are pledges outstanding. Currently, we have enough cash in the bank to pay off the contractor, and we've fully paid off the architect. We've borrowed \$45K from the Bregstone Fund, and we can choose if we want to return the money to the Bregstone Fund or absorb it.
 1. Sam Bregstone donated money a few years ago when he passed away, and made an unrestricted donation to the shul, various chunks of which have been used for various things over the years. David Barak suggested that if we decide to absorb it, we can/should put a plaque for his generosity.
 2. Roz said that Howard Rosen put together a report on the original decisions about the Bregstone Fund, and we should look at that before making a decision.
 3. David Epstein said that fundraising is left to be done, and is against putting a plaque upstairs, but suggested to do something with the courtyard since Milton Gottesman was a big horticulturalist. We had also discussed having some kind of event for him.
 4. David reported that Sharon Freundel pointed out that the two-tone mechitzah is not attractive, so its something to look into. Gary has it on the agenda to talk to the contractor tomorrow.

- c. Dedication/75th Anniversary – Gary is hesitant to do anything until the renovations are completely finished, and so we're shooting for after Shavuot, i.e. sometime in June. The Board generally agreed to that, especially since the High Holiday season gets crazy this year.
 - i. Gamliel said he's been starting to collect the oral history, and is on track.
- d. Fundraiser is March 11 – same structure as last year. Roz has good committee already, and it should be a nice evening.
- e. Beatles concert – Gary encouraged people to go to it, because we want Board participation as much as possible. If you won't go, please consider buying two tickets and donating them.
- f. Next semester of Adult Education begins on Jan 22, and the brochure is due out soon. A few events coming up soon, including a community-sponsored lunch after Pesach, and Fred Lawrence of GW has agreed to be Scholar-in-Residence that Shabbat. We're going to try and leverage more of the talent here in the shul, and get more people to speak at shul-sponsored lunches. Jeremy Bandler is stepping into Pearl Kaplan's spot in Adult Education.
 - i. Baruch mentioned that Stan Kasten, new President of the Nationals, is a possibility. Board thought it was a good idea.
- g. Suzette said the cemeteries need to be monitored. Doreen Blech and Suzette used to do it, and Suzette would be happy to help someone, but cannot do it her own. Gary said there is someone who is willing to do it (not a Board member), and will talk to them and get back with Suzette.
- h. Elana Lederman brought up a mikvah issue – there is a lot of use, but there are desperate shortages of people able to be shomrot. Its been a weekly struggle to cover the nights, so if people know any potential people, please let Elana know.
- i. Mystery Guest Shabbat Dinner is Feb 23; Tu B'shvat Seder is Feb 2; Cholent cook-off is Feb 10-11.
- j. Gary gave plea to give agenda items to Elanit, instead of raising them haphazard at the end of the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.