

## **Kesher Israel Board Meeting Minutes – March 18, 2007**

Attendees: Rabbi Barry Freundel, Gary Winters, Roz Singer, Jesse Mendelson, David Barak, Suzette Klein, Seth Opert, Gamliel Kronemer, Baruch Fellner.

1. Dvar Torah – at the end of davening, the Shir Hakavod is the center of this. There is a debate as to when it should be said, but universally, there is a line in Sheilot & Teshuvot Shevet Halevi: “It is an honored psalm, it should be said slowly and in an honored way.” On the other hand, it is a song of purity and should specifically be said by a child. It is a positive educational experience for a kid, but need to make sure they’re learning something from it, and its not just a performance. On one hand, its important to have kids; but need to make sure we have things in place to make sure it happens the right way.
  - a. Gabbaiim have discussed the end of davening with the Rabbi, and guidelines will be circulated to the board this week.
2. Board minutes will be approved over email because no quorum. Ken W. approved via email during meeting, so February Board minutes are approved.
3. Financial Report:
  - a. Enormous inflow in February for Fundraiser and Beatles concert (\$27K includes Beatles concert and Fundraiser). We also got \$8,200 in Purim Mishloach Manot money. \$4,400 in family dues also came in (without any calls). We’re now at the point of the year where all efforts need to be done to collect dues by the end of June.
  - b. Numbers are in line with a basic month without any major disbursements.
  - c. Shoshana is currently doing a review of people who haven’t paid dues, and all other outstanding amounts (room rentals, etc), and there will be a push to get those moneys.
  - d. D. Barak said that moneys will flow out of Ritual Items fund after Pesach to buy the shtender covers and some tallitot.
  - e. Rabbi suggested that David send one last email to the listserv trying to get people to buy them one last time.
  - f. Rabbi has been talking to people about Torah sponsorship (\$5,000 per Torah), and will talk to David to make sure we aren’t double-dipping with sponsorship.
4. Fundraiser – D. Barak thinks our higher levels of sponsorship should be at least 2 tickets. Someone mentioned to Gary that the levels should be higher (our highest was \$1,000, and that should be adjusted). Roz said we based this on the ability of our community, and will increase it in the future.
  - a. Kol Hakavod to Roz for a great evening going on without a hitch, and thanks to Baruch for speaking.

5. Renovation Update – Gary had a meeting with Bob Gottesman, who liked the renovations. They discussed a dedication and a public thank you for their donations. He was appreciative, but not overly enthusiastic – it involves bringing a bunch of people down from New York, and Bob wanted to talk to Al Moses because he was the connection, so he sent an email to Al. We’re looking at a weekend in June right now. His feeling is that they aren’t looking for a big dedication, but they do want a plaque.
  - a. Rabbi says we also need to memorialize Edward Bregstone, for the donation he gave.
  
6. We are looking to do the Hachnasat Sefer Torah in September as a fundraiser, possibly for ritual items (repairing and buying new items), and we will sell letters, columns, etc. We’re looking to do it on September 9 (Rosh Hashana is on Sept 13-14, and Yom Kippur is on Sept 22).
  - a. Ken Weinstein is working on this with Gamliel, and possibly trying to get R’ Schechter from YU to come and speak for the day.
  - b. In the drive up to Yamim Noraim, we could make some good money out of this, especially with people who don’t stay for RH and YK.
  - c. Gary says we have to be careful, and make sure it lets people know that it will go into the general fund, so it won’t feel like double-dipping.
  - d. Roz says we should make sure to appeal to more than just Keshet members, and Suzette Klein agreed.
  - e. Gary asks Gamliel (and Ken) to put into a proposal for how much we will charge for certain fundraising.
  - f. Jesse wants it stated that there is a lot of requests for money at the same time, and would like to move it back.
  - g. Board agrees to move Hachnasat Sefer Torah to Sunday, November 4.
  - h. Question about where we can march the Torah from, and Rabbi Freundel answered that we could march the sifrei torah from somewhere (Bayit, around the block, Rabbi’s house) to the shul – it doesn’t matter where it comes from. We won’t hold it at a hotel because it is prohibitively expensive.
  
7. D. Barak mentioned that Rosh Hashana is a Thursday/Friday this year, so the Learners Service will be at the shul, not in a hotel.
  
8. Gabbai issues
  - a. Jonathan Frenkel and Shalom Nelson are partly out of commission.
    - i. Three people – Andrew Jakobovics, Tal Kerem and David Levin – were unanimously agreed upon by committee, and have been spoken to. All three are competent, and the gabbaiim would like to be able to train them. Tal comes with a recommendation from Jesse Grauman.
    - ii. The Board agrees, so the gabbaiim will go ahead with the plan.

- iii. Matt Horowitz is deciding whether he wants to be, and if he decides to do so, we can always have another gabbai – it won't be a problem.
  - iv. Current gabbaiim are David Barak, Michael Perkins, Rami Genauer, Jonathan Frenkel, Alan Mendelsohn, and Shalom Nelson, and now Andrew, Tal, and David.
- b. There was a discussion of the issue of children finishing up at the end of davening. There are four places at end of davening where children lead the service – Adon Olam, Yigdal, Anim Zemiroth → Shir Shel Yom, and Ein Keloheinu → Aleinu.
- i. Problem is that there are different expectations around the end of services – it's a relatively new problem because there haven't been many kids around to lead
  - ii. Gabbaiim's recommended guidelines:
    1. Boys should learn the four parts in order, and before moving on to additional sections, they should be comfortable with the first portion
    2. One boy at a time should lead, and gabbaiim should select boy in question.
    3. No additional adults would join boy on the bimah, and the chazzan should leave when the boy comes up.
    4. Boys will have shirts tucked in and be otherwise neat.
    5. Gabbaiim will teach boys how to learn other portions of the davening – its not part of the curriculum anywhere.
      - a. Gary wants to know if this is a concern of the membership, and Rabbi says that people have come up to him and talked about the chaos.
      - b. Gamliel have said that its been the same two little boys for at least three years now, and the Rabbi will talk to them about how to make them more formal, etc.
    6. Jesse's concern is that it's a very formal process and certain kids would be disqualified
    7. Roz says its very cute, but we should make sure that the kids can read Hebrew
    8. D. Barak says that there is a policy for QCing daveners before they go up to daven – same would go for kids. Michael Perkins (and Dave Sloan) say that Shabbat Club is a great way to teach kids these parts of the davening
    9. Seth thinks the one guideline that is too rigid is that parents can't be up there with the child. Jesse agrees.
    10. Baruch thinks there is one rule that should be applied – proficiency. The parent can/should be on the bimah for moral assurance, not for translation and assistance.

- a. Also – the choice to daven should not be the parents' choice, but rather the gabbai's choice.
  - 11. Roz asked about not saying the whole prayer as chazzan, and the Rabbi says it's a problem, but it's the way everyone does it everywhere. Tag teams are ok in theory, but often very difficult to pull off smoothly (dividing up sections will minimize the problem).
  - 12. Gary said that the conversations need to be had with the parents, and he will do so. Suzette is concerned that Keshet is a very unique place and doesn't want to push people away from the shul, and allow them to look around and go elsewhere.
  - 13. Rabbi says visitors are allowed to do it, and should continue to be done so. D. Barak agreed.
9. Pesach morning davening will start at 10 am, not 9 am, to allow people to get a decent amount of sleep before coming to shul.

10. Good and Welfare

- a. **Rabbinic Intern for next year** – It is early, but there is a group of people who vet the candidates. If people want to help out, let Gary and/or Gamliel know.
- b. **Renovation Update** – Contractors have been here most days doing various punchlist things – chairs, override switch, light above Aron Kodesh. All remaining issues are very small.
  - i. Gabbaiim need to be very careful to only bring white wine into sanctuary.
- c. **Table and Chairs** – Social hall tables and chairs need to be replaced, and Gary says we just need to decide on styles, sets, etc.
  - i. It would be very helpful if someone on the Board will take that as their project. Suzette will discuss idea with Joan Pincus and report back.

Meeting adjourned.