

Kesher Israel Board Meeting Minutes – April 15, 2007

Attendees: Rabbi Barry Freundel, Gary Winters, Ken Weinstein, Roz Singer, Marty Ramirez, Jesse Mendelson, Elanit Rothschild, David Barak, Al Altschul, Dave Sloan, Suzette Klein, Jerome Chapman, Seth Opert, Gamliel Kronemer, Sheldon Weisel.

1. Membership Application – Julie Garson, female, under 28 – approved.
2. March minutes will be approved over email.
3. Financial Report:
 - a. The March financial report is not available because the office was unable to complete it before Pesach.
 - b. Gary and Al agree that we need to continue to exert pressure on people to get outstanding money as soon as possible, and certainly before the end of the fiscal year.
 - c. If someone asks how they can get money to the shul, best way is to mail it to the office, not hand it to someone or put it in the box in the social hall.
 - i. If they are in shul with a check, putting it in the box is fine; but if someone asks, we should tell them to mail it.
 - ii. Jerome says to put envelopes in front of shul and make them more prominent to have donation envelopes up there.
 - iii. Four categories of outstanding money:
 1. Currently \$15K from Kol Nidre Appeal – a few of them are big chunks – and everyone will get a personal letter from Gary asking for the donation
 2. Dues – letter as well
 3. Banquet – some people came and did not pay
 4. Room rentals and Kiddush – official policy is that people are supposed to pay in advance, but have not done so
 - iv. At this stage of the year, we have already paid for the Rabbi's children's education, but we do have some significant obligations outstanding, principally the donation to the Rabbi's housing fund and pension.
 - v. David said there will be some significant cost for ritual items over the next few months (but these costs will be offset by donations to cover them)
 - vi. Jerome asked why we don't send bills every month; Gary said it hasn't been our practice, but we will start to send them out more often.
 - vii. Dave Sloan reported that we have not been able to ask complex questions about the shul's financial state, but Josh Sunshine has agreed to be our data-mining person, and will continue to do so after he moves. Right now, it will be the Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Gary, Dave Sloan, and maybe some others. We need to

do a better job of asking people for money, and we need to start putting together a targeted list of solicitations.

1. This will allow us to more easily determine whom to invite to the Kol Nidre pre-solicitation; also can target higher-level sponsors for the banquet
 2. Rabbi has concern about another person seeing the money that goes out from the Welfare Fund, but Dave Sloan said it's a separate database and Josh won't see it.
4. Renovation Update – the contractor is in the middle of completing the punchlist, and it is going very slowly. Gary had correspondence with the contractor about getting the seats in. Gary is continuing to press on other small items.
- a. We still need to get a waterproofer in, and we're still having water problems on the right wall, and the contractor can't figure what it is. The brick does not appear to need repointing, but a professional needs to take care of it.
 - b. Al asked if we have paid the contractor in full, and Gary said we will not make final payment until everything is done.
5. We have set a date for the Gottesman family Shabbat – it will be June 9-10. The family asked Al Moses to speak about Milton Gottesman. Gary's idea is to have a nicely catered dinner on Friday night to thank the largest donors. The schedule for Shabbat morning is unclear right now, but certainly will include Al Moses speaking about Milton – the family does *not* want a lavish affair.
- a. Keshet historical day will have to be another date, and Gamliel will continue to work with the Rabbi and Gary to determine date, speaker, etc.
 - b. Scholar-in-Residence (from JoJo Freundel's yeshiva in Israel) will potentially be June 2-3, and we will work on that as well. There is concern about overshadowing the Gottesman family.
6. The Rabbi mentioned that Kira Sunshine is a mainstay of the mikvah shomeret, and with her leaving, we need to identify some more shomeret. Seth asked for specifications, and the Rabbi gave an incomplete list – shomer Shabbat, shomer kashrut (in and out of the home), only go to halachic prayer services, and willing to cover hair when act as shomeret (entire round trip). There is a letter that goes out to each woman, and there is a confidential vetting process.
7. Gabbai appointment – Matt Horowitz decided he would be a gabbai, so David Barak is nominating him. The Board consents to Matt, and that brings the total to eight, but two are non-functional at this point, and 2 others are very new.
8. Good and Welfare:
- a. Bulletin board – Jerome wants it put back up, and Gary thought Andrew Jakobovics had been taking care of it. Gary said he spoke to Andrew this

morning, and it will be taken care of. Jerome is certain this will have to be discussed in October too.

- b. Suzette talked to Joan Pincus, and we will get an estimate on the cost of new tables and chairs for the social hall. Her time frame was after Pesach, so we can expect it soon.
- c. Gamliel reported that the binders are finally in, and will be stuffed after minyan on Sunday April 22. Roughly half of the cost was covered by advertising. Updates – calendars, directory, etc – will be sent more regularly and able to be put in binder.
- d. Sheldon Weisel asked if we have any current status on the Leisersohn house. Gary reported that Baruch is in somewhat regular contact with sons, and Sheldon wants to make sure we know what is happening with it.
- e. New Daily Prayer Book – David Barak said we're thinking about whether we'd be able to make modifications exactly according to the Keshet customs. Give feedback to David about your thoughts on the issue. David said his opinion is that it is the best English translation out there, and also laid out well, and would be a worthy undertaking.
- f. Shul website – Gary said it is not updated regularly, and asks for a Board member to take lead on this. David Barak said that Alon Cohen is the current webmaster and is working on a new engine to allow authorized users to make their own updates (wiki-style). Gary said that this is taking too long to do, and we need to set a target date – Shavuot was chosen as the date.
 - i. We need to have an ability for people to send information and know it will be there. If people will be editing content themselves, we need to make sure there is an editing/vetting committee, and the Rabbi wants to be on it.
- g. Gamliel and Seth are looking to put out a bulletin for Shavuot.
 - i. Gary will ask David Epstein to write a column on Milton Gottesman.
 - ii. Donations and reasons (memory, honor, etc) to the shul will be listed in the bulletin, but without dollar amounts. Gamliel and Seth said we need to make absolutely certain that the donation list is completely accurate. The database is Death Star-esque fully functional, and can produce such reports.

Meeting adjourned.