

Kesher Israel Board Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2007

Attendees: Rabbi Freundel, Gary Winters, Suzette Klein, Ken Weinstein, Gamliel Kronemer, Elanit Rothschild Jakobovics, David Barak, Dave Sloan, Seth Opert, Shana Siesser, Baruch Fellner, Leon Wieseltier, Elana Lederman, Roslyn Singer, David Epstein

1. Dvar Torah – The investiture of the Rabbi is part of *kavod hatzibur*, not the honor of the rabbi. That's the framework in which you hire a rabbinic personality – it will bring honor to the community: positive fame, and “*kavod*” is a service – bring personal service to the community.
2. Assistant Rabbi
 - a. There was a discussion of whether to hire Yoel Oz, who will receive smicha from YU at the end of June, in a rabbinic assistant position. The Rabbi first addressed the question of what his title would be if the decision were made to hire him, in light of a previous suggestion that Yoel be called a Rabbinic Fellow. Rabbi Freundel prefers that he have the title of Assistant Rabbi. He stated that the Washington Vaad will not accept someone as a member unless his title is “Rabbi” or “Assistant Rabbi.” So without the title of Assistant Rabbi, Yoel would not be able to participate in any Vaad-related activities, i.e., conversion, *beit din*, etc. Rabbi Freundel would want Yoel to participate in these activities. In addition, the title of Assistant Rabbi carries a certain gravitas. Rabbi Freundel acknowledged that the Board has the right to decide whether Yoel should be hired, but he believes that if the board does decide to hire, the title of Assistant Rabbi is important.
 - b. Gary stated that the Board needs to make a decision soon. Yoel has an offer to teach at the Hebrew Academy and needs to make a decision.
 - c. A donor has pledged to provide funds for one half of Yoel's salary for two years. The remainder of the funds will have to be raised by the shul.
 - d. Due to the confidential nature of the issue, the Board went into Executive Session for the remainder of the discussion on the Assistant Rabbi issue.

Gary left the meeting following the discussion of the Assistant Rabbi position and Ken Weinstein, First Vice-President, took over.

3. Table and Chair report by Suzette Klein.
 - a. There is a tentative price of \$4,375 for chairs; \$1080 for tables, not including tax and delivery.
 - b. Ken says that we can get the company to send samples
 - c. Yasher Koach to Suzette for her work on this

4. Renovations

- a. Roz Singer reported that the front row chairs in the women's section are broken.
- b. David Epstein reported that there is a long punch list of things to be done, and this will be put on the list. He reported that the Gottesman family is happy with the renovations. If there is something really serious that we need, we can perhaps present it to them, since they are thinking about honoring and remembering Milt in other ways in the community.
- c. David Barak gave an update on repairs to the outside courtyard. The outside light has been fixed and placed on a timer, and there are locks in place on both doors.

5. Good and Welfare:

- a. David Barak reports that we will finally be ordering the Yamim Noraim table coverings. We have seven people who have expressed interest, so all are taken. They are paying four times the cost of the table covers. David is also placing orders for more tallitot and machzorim.
- b. Elana Lederman reports that a group of volunteers painted the Aron in the Bayit and it looks beautiful. We should thank them in the SAP.
- c. We should also commend David Levin for doing the plantings around the shul and Bayit.

Meeting adjourned.