

## **Kesher Israel Board Meeting Minutes – July 9, 2006**

Attendees: Gary Winters, Ken Weinstein, Roz Singer, Al Altschul, Jesse Mendelson, Elanit Rothschild, David Barak, Jerome Chapman, Elana Lederman, Isadora Binder, Baruch Fellner.

1. Welcome to New People – Jesse Mendelson, Isadora Binder (Sisterhood President), Elana Lederman. Suzette Klein not here, Marty Ramirez not here.
2. How Board and Meetings Function – try for written agenda in advance of every meeting, Elanit will put out reminders as meetings come up, we should convey agenda to Elanit. Board is for major issues – planning, financial, etc. Only change from previous schedule is for some kind of immovable issue – Gary is only person who *has* to be here.
3. Board Committees and Responsibilities – People have to be in charge of some day-to-day responsibilities. Isadora's role is set as Sisterhood and their events.
  - a. Programming Committee has been set up – Jesse, Elanit and others are on it – make sure that Board, Shoshana, etc, know so that people don't step on each other. David Barak will set up a Kesher email alias for programming. Jesse has done a lot of that, and will be Board rep.
  - b. Buildings and Grounds – David has been board rep for the head of buildings and grounds, and will continue to do so.
  - c. Adult Education – Elanit has been head of it, and will continue to do it – arrange speakers, classes, Shabbat learning, etc.
  - d. Al is Treasurer and will continue to handle money issues, with Dave Sloan helping out. Jerome will continue to help Al, and pick up targets of opportunity.
  - e. Jerome has also handled legal portfolio, and cemetery issues, and will continue to do so.
  - f. Personnel – making sure that Shoshana is properly reviewed with comments, and issues and improvement is tracked. Ken will take over for David Epstein, who has done it recently but will be more focused on renovations.
  - g. Children's programming and logistics – Elana will be board rep.
  - h. Fundraising – Roz has done it, and will continue to do so.

- i. Ritual – Handled by gabaaim, and David Barak is rep. Issues will be upcoming, with some turnover coming soon.
  - j. Website – David Barak is rep, but is not webmaster. Alon Cohen is working on re-doing the website now.
4. Gary hasn't decided on board appointee yet, but will soon.
5. Gary's absence – Gary will be in Missoula, MT for 3-4 months beginning in September, and will be out of commission beginning pretty much now, but really 100% beginning in Sept. In his absence, direct all major issues and decisions to the Executive Committee – Ken, Al and Roz (email alias has been set up for them). Gary will continue to be involved in renovations, though. At the urging of Baruch and Jesse, Gary has agreed to make a checklist of what he does when he's gone, and will circulate it to the board to make sure everything gets done.
6. Budget:
  - a. Al handed out the final 2005-2006 budget numbers, and discussed some of the major points on it.
  - b. We were \$8,000 over on our projections for both receipts and expenditures, which indicates good planning in a budget of this size. We ended the year \$44 ahead (on a monthly cash accounting basis).
  - c. We budgeted to raise \$65,000 through general fundraising, with \$20,000 in expenses, with an expected net of \$45,000. Fundraising includes the event at 6<sup>th</sup> & I and the Schochet reception before the Breyer speech. People from Memorial Day stamp event contributed \$400 to the lunch we had for them.
  - d. High Holidays Learners Service – Gary emailed with Patron, who wants to remain anonymous. Part of the issue last year was the lunch and we had to pay extra for not using their catering service. One possibility is doing the service at the hotel and the lunch at Keshet. Roz will talk to the donor about it.
  - e. Projected budget for next year will be given at next meeting.
7. High Holiday Seating – The Board agreed to charge \$50 per seat for downstairs Rosh Hashana service, and put it on the flyer. Jesse will call Suzette to handle a downstairs chart like she does for upstairs seating, and to see who can help now that Doreen is gone. People who can't afford to pay will still be able to attend, and people who show up won't be turned away. David Barak moved to make it \$50 a seat, Al Altschul seconded, and the motion passed.
8. Renovation Status – Not much to report, have done plastering, painting and flooring is scheduled after that. The contractor reports that they're on schedule for the last Shabbat in August (Schildhaus Bat Mitzvah), and we're committed to being in the space for that day even if it isn't finished. The lighting won't be

done, but we'll be there. We'll be in the space even if the contractor has to come in during the week to complete work. Seating is the major issue for end of August; if seats aren't back, we'd rent seating. All signs point to contractor being done on time, and back to the shul in September.

- a. Tisha B'Av – The custodian at Francis School said using the school is ok with him, but Shanna Winters will call the city school's office to make sure we can use the cafeteria for Tisha B'Av.
  - b. 17<sup>th</sup> of Tammuz we're in Keshet.
  - c. David Barak expressed serious concern with 2 issues concerning the test window installed in the downstairs women's section – (1) aesthetic concern, and (2) blinding light concern. As to aesthetics, Gary said that we can't go back to the family and tell them that we don't like the windows, but we will address the concern with too much light. All agreed that excessive light is an issue, and there is a conference call with the architect on Monday 7/10 to discuss possible alternatives.
9. Jesse will ask Shoshana to email the listserv about loss of voicemail due to flooding.
  10. Fundraising status – Al Moses has pledged \$50,000 toward the renovation once we've raised \$200,000, and \$130,000 has been pledged or raised toward that \$200,000. Some donors haven't been contacted, and Gary and David Epstein are working on that.
  11. Assessment – Dues are not going up, but there is a 10% of everyone's dues this year. The policy will be the same as in prior years – finances is not a bar to membership.
  12. Ken brought up issue of an open house after the completion of renovations, and people thought it was a good idea. Ken will handle ongoing relationship with the surrounding community.
  13. An event to honor the memory of Milton Gottesman and to thank the family for their contribution toward the renovation will be discussed in the future.
  14. Tefillin donation – The shul has 20 sets of unused tefillin including some that are hefker sitting in the Bayit. Al moved, Baruch seconded, board voted to donate tefillin aside from a couple to be saved for visitors. David Barak will talk to the Rabbi re whether the Bayit sets are hefker, and Jerry Roschwalb will handle logistics of donating them.
  15. Elanit discussed visiting scholars schedule – JJ Schachter coming in October, Moshe Bernstein coming in November, Avi Ravitzky in December. She is lining up speakers for spring – possibly a chaplain from armed forces for April/May; young scholars weekend like we did last year; and one more speaker TBD. She is

- also working on classes starting in September, and other shiurim with rabbi. Alon Cohen will help with brochure.
- a. Avraham Infeld on Aug 12 – Jesse will coordinate with the Rabbi re speaking in shul or not, and we'll charge \$10 per person for lunch.
  - b. Elanit will look into Weinstein – the lawyer handling the Air Force discrimination issue
16. Programming – Gary brought up the idea of a melave malka (maybe with Simply Tzfat) in December, and a possible retreat Shabbaton at Capital Camps sometime next year. One idea is to do it parallel with DC Minyan, and go together, but do separate minyanim, etc.
17. Rabbinic Intern – Yoel Oz has been selected to serve and we aren't sure if he's accepted. Gary will find out.
18. Dedication of new Sefer Torah is possibility for the spring. 2 independent sefer torah projects and whichever one comes to us, we'll do in the spring. The Board liked the idea of doing a buy-a-letter, buy-a-word, etc.
19. Alexander River Project – The shul has committed to raise \$25,000 over a 5-year period, and we're close to \$10,000. The Green Group has an auction on September 10, an ice cream social, a camping trip, etc. Keshet has become first shul to adopt JNF project, and JNF is using Keshet as an example, so we should make a good example.
20. Mikveh will have fundraiser, annual dinner, maybe in February.
21. Shana Siesser brought up the idea of having a Beatles cover band come as a fundraiser for the shul and/or the Sisterhood. The Board tabled the idea for now, but the sentiment was that it's 100% secular and might not be our cup of tea.
22. Future issues:
- a. Nursery school decision needs to be made. We have determined that we can't use Bayit 2 for a school. The trustees have decided for now to keep Bayit 2 as an investment property; but when the decision was made to buy Bayit 2, it was for the purpose of putting a nursery school there rather than for an investment property. Baruch Fellner expressed the view that once a decision is made not to put a nursery school in Bayit 2, the property should be sold. He would like further board discussion of this issue. Gary generally agreed that Bayit 2 was not bought for a long-term investment, but the question is whether to sell it now or wait. No money from the operating budget is being used to cover the costs of Bayit 2 –costs are being covered by rent (but maintenance issues would have to come from our pocket). This issue will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

b. Whether to rejoin the OU

23. Cemetery lots – Jerome reported that the property has been put on tax sale, two people bid on them, but no action was taken. 2004 bid-off sale, the bidder doesn't have to pay back taxes, and there is now one bidder on the front 900 sq ft lot, and one of the 4000 sq ft back lot. Two foreclosure actions are pending in Superior Court, one has a hearing on Aug 2. Rather than give it away, we'll try to get fair market value. Two months ago, the properties were put on the market for sale, and if we could obtain enough money to pay taxes and make profit, great. We asked for \$80K based on similar lots, and we got an offer right away and the board and trustees approved it. Right before closing, however, the offeror withdrew the offer b/c the listing was mistaken in two respects – 1) the properties had openings on two streets (which it does not); 2) ready-to-build. Jerome said: "The properties are dreck." We re-listed the properties without "ready to build" and have gotten no offers. Its been listed for 2 weeks. If August 2 comes around with nothing else, we'll just say no and leave it go.

24. Housekeeping:

a. Minutes since Aug 2005 will be put on web after review by next meeting