

Keshet Israel Board Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2005

D'var Torah

Jonathan Frenkel reminded us that hearing Shabbat Zachor leyning this week is one of the few “second chances” among time-bound mitzvot.

1. Welcome Committee Update

Jesse Mendelson reviewed Welcome committee accomplishments including Mystery Guest Shabbat dinner which went from 8 hosts and 44 guests in March to 12 hosts and 65 guests this past week. New Member lunch will be held in two weeks at the shul. In the future, we will encourage greater demographic diversity (more family participation) in the Mystery Guest Shabbat Dinner.

2. Budget Update

Gary Winters gave a budget update. The only significant overage is in Salary and Benefits is due to the Rabbi's children's tuition payments. We do have to make a major expenditure to do some repairs to the kitchen in the Freundel household – they've done everything they can do, but it needs a lot of work, so there'll be a big expense for that, on the order of \$15K.

3. Keshet Israel Property Report

Jerome Chapman reported on the Superior Court hearing for foreclosure filed against the smaller of the two lots in contention. Representatives of the buyers (K-Zen development) showed up at the hearing. The case was postponed until December 14th. Now the buyers are aware that the lot itself is not valuable, but might be more viable in combination with the other lot which the synagogue owns. K-Zen offered to have us buy them out, although they could make an offer for the two lots together. Rabbi Freundel and Jerome made overtures to a number of city council-people to seek tax relief, which received a sympathetic hearing from Councilman Evans' staff but was nixed by the tax assessor's office because it was never actually used for its original purpose as a graveyard. The suggestion to use some of the land as a genizah was raised, but generally rejected by the board.

4. Upcoming Events

Jonathan Frenkel encouraged attendance at the Stomp fundraiser.

Lisa Schreier reports that Children's Music class has strong enrollment (11 members and 1 non-member). It will turn a small profit with no expense spent on advertising (dcurbanmoms.com, JPDS, OurKids, Georgetown Current).

5. Renovation Update

David Epstein provided updates on renovations.

There will four parts to the Renovation: Kitchen, Sanctuary, Stairwell, Bathroom. Permits are in the works. Bids covering 85% of the potential costs have been obtained, although

they are still subject to change. Renovations should start soon after Simchat Torah and could close the shul down for 16 weeks. Alternatives have been explored for space. Roof repair has already been conducted. Fundraising efforts have yet to commence.

We have a preliminary estimate for \$93K for renovation of the kitchen. There is potential for large donor gifts to cover that portion. There are many options to compensate for limited use of the upstairs space, but few good options if we are completely excluded from the space. It was noted that we need to take into account educational programming when planning alternatives.