

Kesher Israel Board Meeting Minutes – October 19, 2006

Attendees: Gary Winters, Ken Weinstein, Gamliel Kronemer, Elanit Rothschild, Jerome Chapman, Al Altschul, Roslyn Singer, David Barak, Seth Opert, Rabbi Freundel

1. Approval of previous board minutes will take place over email, since a quorum is not present.
2. **Financial report:**
 - a. Things seem to be on track. Kol Nidrei solicitation looks good as well — those who have made big donations/pledges for the renovation are still contributing regularly, there hasn't been a huge drop-off.
 - b. David Barak - the whites need to be replaced. He will go to the people who have donated before to see if they want to replace them. He needs guidance in terms of pricing, and not setting the bar too low. An official number has never been set. Gary recommends that maybe it should be a multiple of the cost of the item, maybe 3 or 4 times the cost.
 - c. All the white table covers- 7 or 8. Curtains are fine. Torah covers need to be evaluated individually. All present agree that we will require a donation of 4 times the cost in order to have a naming opportunity. David will write a message for the SAP to announce the need for new ritual items.
3. **Renovation Update:**
 - a. Door closers are now in; doors won't be swinging back and forth anymore.
 - b. Meeting with the contractor last week: lighting will come fairly soon.
 - c. Women seats: there was a mistake with the way the cushions were put in, so they were sent back to Tennessee to be fixed.
 - d. Radiator covers: they will put a cap and a very thin piece of wood covering the radiators in the women's section on the main sanctuary level, so it doesn't interfere with the seats.
 - e. Wall: needs to dry out. Gutters are being fixed in November.
 - f. Mrs. Leisersohn is not living in her house next door anymore. The current status of the house is unknown. Gary will speak to Baruch Fellner, who has some sort of relationship with her sons, to see if he will contact them.
 - g. A committee composed of Sheldon Weisel, Seth Opert, Mort Press and David Epstein is currently evaluating two issues with respect to shul properties – how to ensure a satisfactory post-retirement residence for the Rabbi, and the disposition of Bayit II. They will be asked to consider how the potential purchase of the Leisersohn house would fit into any plans.

4. **Spring Fundraiser:**

- a. Roz has already spoken to Sixth & I Synagogue regarding finding a date - March 18 is the only date that really works. Gamliel recommends perhaps to check dates before Purim. February 25th is available at 6th & I.
- b. We must do something to thank and honor the Gottesman family but must do it separately from the fundraiser. That we can hold off until May, or try to do it in February. Perhaps do something over a Shabbat, in conjunction with the 75th anniversary of the building dedication. Maybe invite past rabbis and families. Gary will be in touch with the Gottesman family regarding timing.
- c. Also, we must find a time for the Torah dedication. Rabbi Malka has the Torah, it's finished, and we have to pay \$5,000. It must be used at a bar/bat mitzvah to be "donated" and then he can do anything he wants with it; we can "buy" it and it will belong to Keshet Israel. One possibility is to do something around Shavuot, another is to do it in conjunction with the spring fundraiser (March 18).
- d. The question was raised of how many fundraisers can we do in one year? Perhaps do the Torah dedication near the fundraiser? We should consider doing the fundraiser and Torah dedication together.

5. The board expressed its deep gratitude to Jerome Chapman on his terrific work on the sale of the cemetery plots. The money has arrived and is in the trustee funds.

6. **Mincha/Maariv Schedule:**

- a. Bulletin board is hidden – it needs to be moved.
- b. Jerome brings to our attention that there's a discrepancy between the schedule online and the weekly times in the SAP and announced in shul. The time announced in shul is usually the most accurate. So when setting the schedule for the next year, they are giving a lot of scrutiny to make sure that it's more accurate.
- c. Historical background from the Rabbi: the rationale for the 8:30 pm maariv minyan is because everyone works so no one will come for mincha at 4:00 pm in the winter.
- d. Gary recommends that we set a cutoff time, and once it gets earlier than that time, there is no longer a mincha minyan (i.e., that's when maariv begins at 8:30 pm). The board recommends 6:20 or 6:30 pm.
- e. The Board agreed that once a schedule is made, it will not be deviated from, at least during the week. Shabbat mincha times are subject to change depending on adult education schedule/scholars in residence.

Let the minutes reflect that the first pitch of Game 7 of the NLCS was thrown for a strike.

7. Holidays Wrap-up:

- a. Most things went well. Rabbi Ross was the favorite for high holiday daveners.
- b. Issue with Simchat Torah timing: David Barak proposed that we plan to have Simchat Torah end at 1:30pm and announce it.
 - i. There was no minyan this year until after Hallel.
- c. There is a proposal to have a set schedule for hakafot and time everything to end at a normal time. Must tell people that it will move faster so that they show up earlier.

8. Good and Welfare:

- a. Gamliel would like to work on a set of Keshet Israel publications.
- b. Seth suggests returning to a quarterly newsletter type thing with cute pictures and interesting stories.

Motion to Adjourn, Agreed.