

Synagogue Life Council Meeting
Minutes December 13, 2010

IN ATTENDANCE: Ed Berger, Barbara Brodie, Anna Greenberg, Kathy Hays, Mark Levine, Mary Marcus, Joy Peskin-Owens, Evelyn Sigafus, Keren Winkleman

STAFF: Rabbi Eisen, Lynne Falkow-Strauss, Rabbi Gludt, Linda Roy

GUEST: Meme Aguila

Meme Aguila was present as guest speaking about the 80th Anniversary directory/journal plans. She asked that SLC solicit ads.

Mary Marcus led review of recent Board activities focused on decision regarding the Cantor's contract and invited questions from the SLC.

Klay Kodesh Reports:

Rabbi Gludt

- Report of Kabbalat Siddur Program, Dec. 17.
- School participated in Community Mitzvah Day.
- Shabbat Family Experience shifting times to include Friday evening, Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon. Recent Friday evening Experience was well received.

Linda Roy & USY

- Successful Board retreat.
- USY leading services on Saturday, Jan. 29.
- USY participated in Hanukkah happenings. Sr. USY led play at congregational Hanukkah Party.
- USY participated in Operation Hospitality.
- Maj tournament on Jan. 16 proceeds will benefit USY.
- Travel expenses on rise.

Lynne Falkow-Strauss

- 12 families attended Kindergarten Open House; 10 signed up.
- Overwhelming attendance for Hanukkah celebration.
- 4-year olds sang at recent Women's League lunch as thank you for their preschool efforts.

Rabbi Eisen

- 92Y Live Program continuing in the winter/spring.
- Isaac Greenberg speaking to the congregation Saturday, Jan. 8.
- Reminded SLC about Scholar-in-Residence in February and announced negotiations with Neshamah Carlebach as Scholar-in-Residence in 2011.

Event Reports:

Membership Committee

- At last meeting, discussion revolved around concerns about staff change.
- 47 attended Latkes and Vodkas event.
- Northwest Service still going strong.
- 150 attended Hanukkah Family Celebration.

Affiliate Reports:

Seniors

- Seniors group shaken by two deaths recently. Barb will be working with Seniors to help strengthen their efforts into future.

Men's Club

- Monday Night Football Program is back.

- Upcoming raffle and World-Wide Wrap.

Women's League

- December event well received. Looking forward to successful luncheon events in January/February.
- WL leading services for the congregation, Women's League Shabbat, Jan. 22.

Young Family Task Force Reports:

Religious School Advisory Committee – Kathy Hays

- Last meeting well attended with great deal of dialogue. School will be moving to 2 days a week next year. Impact of that will be discussed.
- Great deal of information re concerns of the parents was shared and addressed.

Family Programming - Dawn Moriarty

- Meeting held yielding list of events plus plethora of programs. General concerns revolved around how to design events that would help build relationships, and consistency of services.

Old Business

SLC Survey will appear in next *Kolenu*.

SLC Accomplishments

- Greeters at services Friday and Saturday services
- Shabbat Family Experience reevaluation and changing format
- Push for young family programming and effort to meet their needs
- Striving to make the congregation more welcoming

Issues still needing to be addressed

- Involving children at services
- Making services more family friendly
- Making Friday evening service experience more welcoming and inspiring
- Changing Shabbat dinner format/menu
- Integration of THA and Religious School families
- Volunteer engagement

New Business

- The question of adequate signage discussed.
- Concern about Shabbat attendance incentive award. Publicity needs to be more specific and focused.
- SLC needs better PR and stronger presence. Perhaps a general invitation to the congregants to participate should be placed in *Kolenu*.
- Young adult/adult only programming.
- There was a great deal of discussion concerning the Board decision regarding the Cantor's contract, how it was handled, how it was communicated, and how we might move forward into the future strongly.