

Kesher Israel Board Meeting – February 18, 2007

Attendees: Rabbi Barry Freundel, Gary Winters, Ken Weinstein, Roz Singer, Al Altschul, Jesse Mendelson, Elanit Jakobovics, David Barak, Elana Lederman, Seth Opert, Gamliel Kronemer, Jerome Chapman, Dave Sloan, Baruch Fellner.

- 1) Dvar Torah
 - a) Rabbi Ian Pear gave a shiur yesterday and left brochures about his new Ba'al Teshuva yeshiva. His first orthodox experience was at Kesher 15 years ago, so we should be proud of ourselves.
 - b) Hachnasat Sefer Torah – The responsa of Divrei Yatziv says what is the mitzvah of writing a sefer torah? He says that you still need to have an educational component along with just dedicating the Torah. The requirement to have a party when you write a Sefer Torah includes the educational component. Kesher was given a very generous donation of a new and beautiful Torah, with 3 conditions: (1) they want it for one Shabbos in April; (2) they want the donated people to be remembered at Yizkor; and (3) they want a Hachnasat Sefer Torah.
 - i) Gamliel agreed to work on it, along with the rededication of the upstairs. Ken will work with Gamliel, especially if its attached to that. This will occur sometime after Shavuot, maybe a Yom Iyun or something like that. Gary will take responsibility of contacting the Gottesman family to work on this.
- 2) New members – David Bogomolny (under 28), Ben Fershein (28-65), Henry and Rachel Brem (married with 4 kids), Jennifer Reed (28-65), Todd Friedman (28-65), Michael and Ari Moskowitz (family). Seth will distribute new buddies.
- 3) Regarding the membership applications – Rabbi has told the office that the last membership page has been changed to make it confidential. Also, Shatnez testing is on the way, we just need a date.
- 4) January Board Minutes Approved.
- 5) January Budget
 - a) This does not reflect the income of the Beatles concert, but does reflect the expenditures. Al said we're behind on dues, but that's always a wild-card. We expect to collect more from the Kol Nidre appeal, and additional bills will go out in the next two weeks.
 - b) Dave Sloan wanted to know why last year we were \$60K in the black, and now we're only \$20K in the black. Baruch said we're down 10% in dues, but wants to know is that a collection issue? Gary said the membership rolls are larger, so it is mostly a collection issue. There are a few changes across the budget, but nothing huge – we're just down across the board.
 - c) Al will give a full membership report at the next meeting.

- 6) March 11 dinner banquet planning is moving forward, the invitations have gone out, and the deadline is Tuesday for signups and ads. Roz asks that we buy higher ticket levels and ads, so we can beat last year's significant profit.
- 7) Ritual Item – David Barak said we ran out of tallitot at 10 am this Shabbat, and we need to get more. Some are wearing out, some were never adequate to begin with, so we need to get more. Rabbi and David will talk about it.
- 8) Purim Schedule
 - a) Rabbi understands the frustrations and difficulties around the late night, but we've been hugely successful in the way its been done until now – if its working that well, why fix it? Rabbi said the priority is the halachic part of the holiday, not the Shpiel. This year argues for the late reading to be earlier rather than later – people will eat before the megilla reading (cant eat before the late megilla reading), or just not come at all. Refreshments are served after early reading while late reading is done, then refreshments are served for late, and then shpiel. Rabbi is concerned with the halachic concerns with making it earlier.
 - b) Final Purim Schedule → Maariv is 6:45, First reading is called for 7:00, and will be over at about 7:40. Late reading will start at 8:00, over at 8:45, shpiel at 9:00, ending about 10:00. Family megilla reading is at 7:00, and kids' costume parade will be immediately afterwards (between the first and second reading). We will do it this way for this year, and then revisit it for future years. We'll send an email about not prepping on Shabbos for Purim costumes, and give people the option of putting the costumes in the Bayit before Shabbos.
 - c) Purim Day Schedule – Shacharit and megilla at 8:00, women's at 9:00 and late reading at 10:00.
 - d) Food for Purim – falafel, pita and dips, hamentaschen, and Israeli salad for 150 people from Pita Plus (if it is parve and delivers).
 - e) Mishloach Manot reminder emails will go out this week – it's a big part of the shul budget so we have to make sure people sign up for it.
- 9) Renovation Update
 - a) David Epstein and Gary had a very long Punch List walk-through, and are working with the contractor on fixing those things. The lights have an override switch and Gary is going to ask the contractor to cover it so people stop hitting it. Chairs in the women's section are a top priority.
- 10) Gamliel reminding people that we need submissions for the Pesach issue of the Kesher Bulletin by March 15.
- 11) Jesse made a plea for Board members to sign up for Mystery Guest dinner.

12) Rabbi asks that people tell him about simchas beforehand so he doesn't have to add an aufruf on to a negligent homicide drasha.

Adjourned at 10:34.