

Minutes: Member Services Committee Meeting, November 25, 2008

Present: Fran Kolin, Bobby Kolin, Elaine Lavine, Barbara Schildcrout, Barbara Ringel, Marcia Muskat, Wendy Small, Edna Rosen, Suellen Eshed

New Member Count: We have 19 new members to date. They continue to trickle in slowly. Six are religious school families, 9 fall into the BEET category, 5 are 20/30s. Six are interfaith, 3 are single members. One I haven't processed yet.

BEET Report:

We have had two events to date: a post-Shabbat service Pot-Luck Dinner, and a Dinner/Show event at the Bitter End.

Suellen reported on the first Pot-Luck Dinner: 25 members showed up to share food and memories of the 60's, which included politics, sports, civic events, demonstrations, concerts, etc. We even had a few new members join us. A good time was had by all.

Marcia reported on the Bitter End and Vintage 6: 35 people met for dinner at the B Bar & Grill, and then attended the Vintage 6 Concert at The Bitter End, which featured BEET member Michael Muskat. In appreciation, Vintage 6 donated money from their ticket sales back to the BEET group. We will use it to facilitate a future event.

Lisa is coordinating the next post-Shabbat service Pot-Luck, to be held on December 19th and already has 15 people bringing food. The topic of conversation will be holiday memories. These directed topics help us to know each other better. Our plan is to briefly attend the congregational Oneg Shabbat, then assemble on the fourth floor in the double classroom for our dinner and socializing.

Barbara S. has offered to call our new members who are BEETs, to ask if they would like to be included on Suellen's email distribution list. I have the new member applications, and will provide Barbara with contact information.

Jewish Comfort Food Fair Report:

Another rousing success that Suellen will report on: we believe that it will be best to skip at least a year before we have the next JCFF. It is a really big undertaking, and we would like to greatly increase the number of people who attend. We may tweak the planning, and change the time of the event, but feel that October is the right time of year, since cold weather is what makes us appreciate comfort food the most.

New Member Shabbat:

David has asked us to change the date of the New Member Shabbat so he can be present. The new date is Friday, January 23rd (a week earlier than originally scheduled). At the end of December, we will send out invitations to our new members, and I will ask David to select representatives from among them to speak that evening.

New Baby List:

I've been providing our president Karen Feuer with the names of the new babies born to parents and grandparents in the congregation, with the idea that she incorporates them into her Rosh Hashanah greetings. Karen feels that there isn't sufficient time at that moment to include them. At the Ritual meeting, we discussed where this might best be incorporated. I suggested that during the Erev Sukkot service, where we are supposed to bring new fruits, might be a good time to include a blessing of the new babies. People would be invited to bring their new family members, or pictures of them, to the service for a special blessing. David feels that this is a possibility, and we will remind him again in the fall to plan for this special event. We will ask Sharon to add that note to the calendar, so we will all remember to extend those invitations. It was pointed out that David will have a new family member at that time as well.

LOVE (Love Our Volunteers Evening):

In our continuing efforts to recognize and honor our volunteers, the Temple has been hosting a Cocktail Party before our Annual Congregational Meeting. This has been a very nice event. We also try to honor our important volunteers with High Holy Day honors, but it is impossible to include everyone that we would like to. The suggestion was made that we not just wait until the HHD or the Annual Meeting to honor our volunteers. To that end, the Ritual Committee and Member Services will work together with David to plan a Friday evening service in the spring that will recognize the work of our volunteers. Date to be announced, although National Volunteer Week is in April. We hope that they could be somehow involved in the service, both with a blessing from the bima, and maybe with a speaker who would talk about the importance of their help on a day-to-day, and also an event basis. There might be a resource at URJ, or maybe one of our local politicians could speak to the topic.

The acronym LOVE might be used as the theme of that evening. Maybe David would ask some of our volunteers to speak about their experiences. We would send out specific invitations to our volunteers, whose names we would get by speaking to the Rabbi, committee chairs, the Board, the office staff, etc. Our goal is to further foster a culture of thanking our people for their invaluable assistance. I pointed out that when I look at the membership list, many, many of our members are already involved in some aspect of volunteerism.

Elaine suggested that perhaps we should start an "Honorable Menshen" list for each event, or pick a group each month to mention in the *Templet* or from the bima. Edna suggested that maybe we could give out a pin as a way of recognizing that these people make it possible for us to do the best possible job, and be the best possible Temple. We all agreed that certificates for volunteerism was not the way to go.

Good & Welfare- Happy Thanksgiving to us all.
Respectfully submitted,
Fran Kolin, V.P., Member Services