



July 21, 2010



A Letter from the President

Dear Ellen,

Our commitment for the new fiscal year is to keep you informed about what's happening in our Kol Shofar Board meetings, so watch for periodic postings highlighting hot topics under deliberation, the chronology of resolutions and a little nachas news for good measure. Board meetings are open to congregants and the meeting dates are listed on our calendar. Please come! Observe for yourself what we do and how we do it, and join in our lively discussions. If you are unable to attend, but want in-depth details, please go to www.kolshofar.org/aboutus to read the minutes.

In keeping with the spirit of creating a more sacred community we opened our July 14th meeting by asking for responses to a spiritually thought provoking question. Our "check-in" is a time for improving and deepening board connectivity by sharing personal thoughts, feelings, ideas and concerns; it helps us learn more about and strengthen our relationships to one another and to the community at large. It also prepares us for segueing into the shul business at hand with a more caring attitude.

After 'check-in' Ron Brown followed with a 215 Blackfield Drive building update. Thanks to our hardworking building partners, committed volunteers and staff the project is on schedule and the office is busily packing up to move back by the end of July. Please note that the office will be closed

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Kol Shofar Board Members

Please feel free to send us an email by clicking on our names, below.

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from Wednesday, July 28th through Monday, August 2nd, reopening on Tuesday, August 3rd. During that time, there will be no phone or computer access. In case of emergency only during our move, you may contact Rabbi Chai Levy at 465-9088.

Also, watch the "J" for an article in the next few weeks about our stunning, (probably) award winning and heart-stoppingly beautiful re-envisioned Kol Shofar. It's too exciting for words! Imagine - we'll be davening under one glorious roof in just a few weeks!

Fay Landau reported on our strategic planning project, MASA (which means journey). The MASA steering committee is charged with addressing critical questions like who we are, what we value, where we are going, our vision for the future, and what we must do to get there. Coming just after the High Holidays: MASA surveys and focus groups. This is a super exciting project that promises a spiritually, culturally and socially enriched future, but it can only succeed with your help. For more information about MASA, see <http://www.kolshofar.org/html-detail-338/>.

Drum roll... what you've all been waiting to hear about... rabbinic coverage status. Scott Waxman, our VP Operations guided the conversation. He clearly and succinctly laid out the complexities of the search process and timing issues. To bring you up to date:

G-d willing, Rabbi Levy will be going on maternity leave around the end of November, returning early March. Fortunately for us, Rabbi emeritus David White agreed to be our interim during Chai's leave, plus we'll invite our inspirational and ritually skilled congregants to lead Shabbat services in the coming months, just like we successfully did during Rabbi Derby's sabbatical.

The consensus of the board was that we need to search for and (hopefully) hire an additional (permanent) Rabbi sooner rather than later. We decided to conform to the 2010 annual RA (Rabbinic Assembly) hiring cycle deadline by submitting our Rabbinic Placement Congregational Questionnaire this fall, and then begin interviewing potential candidates in spring, 2011. If we are lucky enough to find a good fit in this cycle, hiring would not occur until spring 2011 or later. Simultaneous to submitting the application (by October 1st), waiting for responses (December-January) and scheduling interviews (March- April) we will be actively engaged in our MASA strategic learning and evaluation process in order to embark on the interview phase with sufficient self knowledge and confidence about who we are and what we are looking for in a rabbi.

A rabbi search committee (RSC) is being formed and will schedule its first meeting in August. It will be comprised of a broad representation of our congregants. Watch for an email

~~with someone~~
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INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

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inviting you to tell us about yourself if you're interested in applying to serve on this committee.

Rest assured, we take the Rabbi search process very seriously - this may be the most important decision we make in the next several years. We are proceeding cautiously, with deep consideration of the complexities of our situation, responsibility and dreams for the future and will keep you informed as the process unfolds.

And now for Nachas News! I'm very excited to tell you that we've enjoyed an abundance of requests from congregants to get more involved. YEA!! Pam Morton is our new Volunteer Coordinator and will happily talk to you about participation in fresh and exciting shul opportunities. If you are interested, please contact pamelafmorton@msn.com.

The staff and board's purpose and promise is to serve our community's best interests with a spirit of Tikkun Olam, but we need everyone's collective wisdom, help and support to accomplish any and/or all of our goals. We're all in this together - thank you for your shared commitment to an illuminated future.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Hirsch
Board President