

Kol Shofar Community Meeting Organized by MASA December 12, 2010

How Can Kol Shofar Be an EVEN MORE Welcoming Community?

Approximately 50 Kol Shofar congregants gathered to discuss the issue above. Participants chose topics they wanted to explore further in small groups. The following suggestions will be given to strategic planning taskforces, when they are formed after the January 9 committee meeting.

Connections – what we need and how:

Areas to hang out – sitting areas outside and inside

Name tags: everyone always wears one! *culture change. Make them appealing.

Rolling cart for easy access

Mentoring, outreach to old and new members. New member info published with pictures. Connect with volunteer opportunity

Connection training.

Create steps of welcoming

Introductions

Art of conversation

Bring about culture change

Rabbi (and other leaders) touch points for everything

Volunteerism

Orientation – culture and expectations

1:1 interview of new members. Talent list to committee chairs

Publicize committee needs and opportunities. On-line, fairs, mailings

1:1 invitation to join committee

Committees are gates to greater connection for those who want it

Publish board agenda and meeting times (this is already happening and meetings are open)

Annual online, engagement survey of whole congregation

Welcoming children

Attitude: Leadership support for families/kids. Model acceptance and tolerance of children (joyful noise)

Programming: Every Shabbat something. Tot Shabbat, Grandparent Day. Recognize birthdays (a reason to come to KS to celebrate). Babysitting. Jewish program with content

Family room – as a respite not exile

Compromise is critical in order for KS to remain vibrant and grow. But – if we must choose “welcoming young children” vs. quiet/decorum in services, we must choose children and families

Interfaith Families:

Form interfaith committee/taskforce

Identify interfaith members – demographic data

Make current interfaith members feel more welcomed

Identify activities that have more universal appeal, e.g. Tikkun Olam

Improve CKS messaging

Correct misconceptions about conservative synagogue

Media – website, brochure, word of mouth

Clearly share common higher purpose, e.g. ethics, morality, community

1:1 contacts among current interfaith families

Programming for Interfaith

Hebrew learner's services

Participation in B'nei Mitzvah process

Holidays

Dialogue groups to help non-Jewish partner understand spouse's Jewish connection/identity

Outreach to non-members/unaffiliated

Families with young children

Research what other Jewish organizations are doing

Advertise that programs are open to wider community; more collaboration with wider Jewish community

Community Building

Big IDEA: Kol Shofar link-up. What are people looking for? Post list of interests/invitations and opportunities (e.g. "I'm going to the Legion of Honor on 12/24 – who would like to join me?") Possible name: KESHER

Official name tags. Sticker name tags

Saturday night coordinator to schedule 1 event/month (or week): Bingo, games, music – jamming, Havdalah, dancing

Rodef – no conflict. Shabbat unplugged. Coordinator-liaison needed

Forum on web to connect families: comprehensive calendar on what's going on, new member orientation

Chavurah coordinator. ID topics, publicize potential. Groups will self-manage

Kashrut

Suggestion: Keep meet kitchen but return milk kitchen to Kol Shofar's previous standard

Including people's food = including people

Reduce the number of new rules

Enable Coalition lunch to continue by relaxing rules

Sharing food promotes community

Other ideas from participants that were not addressed at this meeting:

How to make those who don't read Hebrew/know the prayers feel more comfortable/knowledgeable during services. Intersperse Hebrew prayers with English teaching through service.

Adult ed – using congregant talent