



Masa **שׁוֹפָר**

How Can Kol Shofar Be an EVEN MORE Welcoming Community?

Notes from A Kol Shofar Community Meeting
December 12, 2010

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.

1. Connections – what we need and how:

- a. **Areas to hang out** – sitting areas outside and inside
- b. **Name tags:** everyone always wears one! *culture change. Make them appealing. Rolling cart for easy access
- c. **Mentoring, outreach to old and new members.** New member info published with pictures. Connect with volunteer opportunity
- d. **Connection training.**
 - i. Create steps of welcoming
 - ii. Introductions
 - iii. Art of conversation
 - iv. Bring about culture change
- e. **Rabbi (and other leaders) touch points for everything**

2. Volunteerism

- a. **Orientation – culture and expectations**
- b. **1:1 interview of new members.** Talent list to committee chairs
- c. **Publicize committee needs and opportunities.** On-line, fairs, mailings
- d. **1:1 invitation to join committee**
- e. **Committees are gates to greater connection for those who want it**
- f. **Publish board agenda and meeting times** (this is already happening and meetings are open)
- g. **Annual online, engagement survey of whole congregation**

3. Welcoming children

- a. **Attitude:** Leadership support for families/kids. Model acceptance and tolerance of children (joyful noise)
- b. **Programming:** Every Shabbat something. Tot Shabbat, Grandparent Day. Recognize birthdays (a reason to come to KS to celebrate). Babysitting. Jewish program with content
- c. **Family room** – as a respite not exile

- d. **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

4. **Interfaith Families:**

a. **Form interfaith committee/taskforce**

- i. Identify interfaith members – demographic data
- ii. Make current interfaith members feel more welcomed
- iii. Identify activities that have more universal appeal, e.g. Tikkun Olam

b. **Improve CKS messaging**

- i. Correct misconceptions about conservative synagogue
- ii. Media – website, brochure, word of mouth
- iii. Clearly share common higher purpose, e.g. ethics, morality, community
- iv. 1:1 contacts among current interfaith families

c. **Programming for Interfaith**

- i. Hebrew learner’s services
- ii. Participation in B’nei Mitzvah process
- iii. Holidays
- iv. Dialogue groups to help non-Jewish partner understand spouse’s Jewish connection/identity

d. **Outreach to non-members/unaffiliated**

- i. Families with young children
- ii. Research what other Jewish organizations are doing
- iii. Advertise that programs are open to wider community; more collaboration with wider Jewish community

5. **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

- a. Official name tags. Sticker name tags
- b. Saturday night coordinator to schedule 1 event/month (or week): Bingo, games, music – jamming, Havdalah, dancing
- c. Rodef – no conflict. Shabbat unplugged. Coordinator-liaison needed
- d. Forum on web to connect families: comprehensive calendar on what’s going on, new member orientation
- e. Chavurah coordinator. ID topics, publicize potential. Groups will self-manage

6. Kashrut

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

- a. Including people's food = including people
- b. Reduce the number of new rules
- c. Enable Coalition lunch to continue by relaxing rules
- d. Sharing food promotes community

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

- 1. 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.**
- 2. Adult ed – using congregant talent**