

## LM Steering Committee Meeting Minutes – 2/26/24

Attendees: Joel Elkins (chair), Howard Fredman, Jules Kamin, Russell Cohen, Jim Rogozen, Fran Grossman, Ben Richards; Absent: Rachel Bernstein

I. Call to Order

II. Reports from members

- a. Finance (Jules/Joel) – SC voted in July to transfer all the leftover funds from the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary fund to the Outreach fund. That was a large, albeit one-time, infusion, so we are trying to make it last by economizing. All three funds (General, Outreach, Chesed) have healthy balances. General is mostly used for kiddushes. Outreach mostly for 20s/30s and other extra-curricular activities. In January it spent \$600 to upgrade the website.
- b. Membership/Outreach (Russell) – Most recent 20s/30s event (Friday night dinner hosted by Bill & Gail) was very successful (almost 20 people, good combination of new and old, lots of food). It was run through OneTable which subsidized \$100 but because OneTable meals cannot be group sponsored, could not use “Library Minyan” in any of the promotional materials. The goal is to have one activity per month, alternating between 20s/30s and full minyan events. Other ideas in the works: March - Oscar Party, April – Mini-Golf, May – Dodger Game or hike. Oscar party is the only one which with a significant cash requirement from the minyan, as the rest are free or paid by the participants. Also thinking of having a 50/50 March Madness pool for fun and to raise funds for tzedakah/outreach.
- c. Communications (Rachel as communicated by Russell in her absence) – Would love to emphasize social media and other external communications, especially for 20s/30s. Graphics have great impact and are easy for her. Will discuss with Joel ways to make newsletter more interactive. Maybe spotlight a different minyan member each week.
- d. Social (Fran) – Job is to assist members who are celebrating major simchas. When someone is sponsoring a kiddush s/he should not have to wait in line. Because preventing everyone else from starting until the host arrives is not feasible, options are reserved tables with food already on the table or else a “get in the front of the line free” pass.

- e. Ritual (Ben) – Michael Berenbaum suggested we do a full repetition of the Musaf Amidah every now and then, especially on Rosh Chodesh. On those days, we can do a hechei kedushah for Shacharit. Everyone agreed and there was no objection. Ben will further research and see if there is any reason not to try. Gabbai that week would have to know well in advance.  
Carl Sunshine has been pushing to combine the three Mishaberachs (Israel, IDF, hostages) into one. RAK has already drafted one for the daily minyan. We can use that one or devise our own. Jim will look into this. It was also agreed that doing them in English can be more meaningful and should not be treated as the non-preferred option.
- f. Education (Jim) – Full slate of Lunch & Learns (One LA last month, Joel Rembaum this coming month, followed by Michael Berenbaum (on current events), Miriam Kanter (on sign language) and Ben Richards (on interesting stories from Talmud). L&L's should not be lectures but should be interactive and text-based.  
Will also try to schedule more Divrei Tefilah, as discussed previously.  
Other ideas: Practical workshops (Pesach prep, seder ideas, primer on Shabbat rituals); studying Pirkei Avot during the omer (perhaps on Shabbat afternoons); in place of a regular drash have a Torah study or teach a melody; more flexibility on timing of drash (before Torah reading or immediately after haftorah); having a one-paragraph mini-drash in the Friday email; Kabbalat Shabbat and/or dinners at people's houses (Joel will speak with Michelle Wolf & Debra Blum)
- g. Gabbais (Howard) – All are doing fine jobs. No major issues.

III. New Charter has been adopted

IV. Livestreaming

- a. Chagim – We did a poll and most people are okay with joint services with livestreaming every now and then (almost evenly split between 5, 7 and 9 times a year), but there is still a solid but vocal minority that do not want any livestreaming. For Pesach this year, a compromise has been reached: Joint w/o livestreaming (separate livestreamed Café TBA) - Days 1 and 7; joint w/ livestreaming (non-livestreamed hashkamah minyan) – Day 2; separate services – Shabbat chol hamoed and Day 8.

In order to better educate people, we can have two people present a combined drash about the competing values represented by livestreaming and not livestreaming. Jim will work on this.

Also, it was agreed that when we do livestream, it is less intrusive when it is done in the sanctuary than when done on the field (with a sound mixer and open wires evident).

- b. Special Shabbatot – Jennifer Low has requested a joint service (w/ livestreaming) for her daughter's aufruf. Given that she is an active member of LM as well as on the TBA board, Committee agreed that this is appropriate. LM will announce that for that Shabbat, it will be joining the other services for a joint simcha. Committee tabled the issue of when someone wants to have a separate LM service with livestreaming.
- V. Purim – In the past, LM has conducted its own service for erev Purim. That changed during COVID. This year, because Purim falls on a Saturday night, there will be a short kid-friendly service upstairs and a full reading with a shpiel in the chapel.
- VI. High Holidays – We have lost many of our regular HH shlichei tzibur for one reason or another, so we would like to recruit a new generation of daveners and therefore need to start this process earlier than usual. We are looking for one or two people to help Ben in this endeavor.
- VII. Meeting adjourned