

DCM Parents Committee Meeting, 7/18/11

Attending the meeting:

Rachel Bergstein
Reuben Jacobson
Dina Epstein
Julia Zuckerman
Davidi Sendor-Israel
Lissy Moscowitz
Elana Broitman
Robbie Gerson
Adam Szubin
Beth Tritter

Tot Shabbat

- Structure of Service
 - Ideally the length should be 45 - 60 minutes with a discrete end, followed by kiddush
 - We should have a set order to the service, singing the same songs and prayers every week, with space (maybe the "Torah service"?) for something new each week.
 - This will lessen the burden on Davidi and will allow for parents' participation and subbing
 - Look into siddurim for kids so they can have a text to hold and use
- Leadership Structure
 - Develop a rotation of parents to be responsible for co-leading with Davidi each week. Once the order is set, this will mostly mean helping with the regular parts and bringing something new for the "creative" part like a new song or story
 - Might consider developing a rotation of parents to fill the time slot after Tot Shabbat and kiddush (and before regular DCM kiddush) with games/activities/ etc.
 - Dina Epstein said she may be willing to take over Tot Shabbat at some point, although she wouldn't want to do it every week.
- Tot Shabbat should be geared to ages 2-5
- Older kids (5+)
 - People were in favor of starting a service for older kids, 5 and up, that could resemble a junior congregation and/or a torah discussion
 - Those present were in favor of paying someone (perhaps a GW student?) to lead
 - Before we go to a pay structure, we will advertise for a DCM member who might be interested in leading this
 - Davidi said he would be happy to do this service or Tot Shabbat. As of now, he is staying with Tot Shabbat
 - Also explore opportunities for older kids to help lead Tot Shabbat
- Other ideas
 - People would like to bring back the kids' singing Adon Olam in the regular service, but the logistics are frustrating because all of the kids are dispersed by the end.
 - In order to maintain the connection between Tot Shabbat families and the rest of the minyan, maybe after the Tot Shabbat kiddush (and instead of the suggested parent activity rotation), all Tot Shabbat families could be encouraged to come

in to the main minyan for the conclusion of the service. That part includes Ein Keloheinu, Aleinu, Anim Zmirot, and Adon Olam, all kid friendly, singing, fun songs. Some expressed hesitation about announcements being given at that time, and RB will check on the possibility of moving announcements to the slot before Ein Keloheinu in order to ease the transition of parents and kids through the end of the service.

Update on recent programs

- Reuben reviewed the recent programs and resources of the Kids Kiddush (suggestion to do this twice a year), Sunrise volunteer opportunity, the new parents' outreach packet, the DCM babysitter list, and the DCM co-op.
- Julia and Miriam will work on updating the babysitter list
- Integrating kids into other DCM programs and committees
- As a way to market and draw attention to events that are "kid-friendly," people expressed interest in a more active parents' listserv (possibly monthly) that highlighted already existing programs that are or can be "family friendly" (e.g., the Sunrise volunteer opportunity, specifying when babysitting will be available at an event)
- Reuben can discuss how best to accomplish this with the LC

Other ideas

- Interest in further holiday programming
- Interest in more volunteer opportunities, especially around Thanksgiving and Christmas
- Interest in Shabbat afternoon casual pool/playground/pot-luck meet-ups