

## **Town Hall Feedback Summary**

Dear Chevre,

In January and February the CY Board hosted two Town Hall Socials that were made available to the community to give feedback and get ideas on how we would like to see CY evolve and grow . The effort, time , and thoughtfulness people put into attending and giving feedback were huge and precious to the Board as we need to make important decisions that effect the entire community.

We are sending out a summary of what we “heard” and some of the actions that the Board has taken and is strongly considering in order to meet the needs of the community better. We know this is long. Feel free to read what is most interesting to you.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** At the end of the e-mail, there will be several items that the Board **WILL** be making decisions on- particularly around Shabbat meeting space and #'s of Shabbats. If you have any opinions that you haven't had a chance to express yet, we hope this will give you some encouragement to do so. (SEND COMMENTS TO BATYA, [LCHAIM@JPS.NET](mailto:LCHAIM@JPS.NET)) Remember, if we make a decision and you didn't tell us your opinion, complaining afterwards won't help much.

Here is a summary (it won't be completely comprehensive of every thought put out so if there is something important that you think we missed, let us know).

### CY IN GENERAL:

It was generally agreed that CY is a great community with lots to offer. People are appreciating that there are many different ways to participate, from Scholar in Residence talks, Adult Ed classes, the CY school, Family education, Shabbat and Holiday services, Drumming/ Music circles, social action and so on.

One person thinks we are offering too much and it is overwhelming and we are being like a full -fledged Temple which is not the preferred flavor for CY.

### SHABBAT SERVICES:

#### **Style:**

People are loving Eli's leadership and how he conducts services. Having the different styles such as “renewal” “traditional” “chanting” seems to have really rather subtle ramifications so that may not be so necessary in the future. \*

(\* Community led services are very different in flavor and content and are not always as well attended )

There were some suggestions around having Shabbats with different themes that relate to the Parsha or have drumming as their core, more sufi dancing shabbats etc.

## SHABBAT SERVICES:

### **Location, Location, Location:**

Though the Center for Conscious Living has worked out in terms of having more space, being accessible for people with allergies, and being a good place to have Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, there is a general feeling that this is just too big a space for our regular services and it isn't conducive to a cozy, close, connected feeling. Some people have hoped we can return to just having services at the **Garden**. \*\* People liked the place that Jeanne and Lynn did their Shabbaton at the **First Congregational Church** and the Board is **seriously considering** this as the location for our services for next year. (It is available...) The Unitarian church was also bounced around. Being at different places has a disconnected feeling for logistical reasons as well as a feeling of "home." Having it at one location is preferred by some members of the community and definitely by the Shabbat coordinator.

\*\* (Returning to The Garden as our regular location is not really an option since we often do get more people than we can accommodate, because of cat allergies excluding some people, and because it doesn't work well for Saturday morning services if it is cold out... not really a good place to have meals. It also makes childcare difficult when we have children attend because there is no childcare room.)

### **MONTEREY SHABBATS:**

These are a welcome addition to CY and have had a nice attendance. Monterey shabbats are not intended to conflict or be a threat to the viability of the community but only an addition. On the contrary, they are there to enhance the community and they have. Everyone from CY is welcome. There will be BOARD DECISIONS necessary around using the CY name and liability issues.

### **SHABBATS WITH TBE:**

Temple Beth El joint shabbats with CY have been well attended and loved by many. Some people have expressed concern that the lines will get too blurry and we will lose our unique identity or that we are somehow going to eventually merge with Temple Beth El. This is not the intention nor the desired outcome of these Shabbats. They are to acknowledge that we do have some members with joint affiliations and that we want to have there not always be a conflict which community someone will attend.

## LIST SERVE/ COMMUNICATIONS:

Appreciation was and has been expressed that we send out regular reminders about our events and that we are doing good outreach with these town hall socials.

There was concern that the Board Minutes were not easily accessible. (The Board has since done a course correction and made sure the minutes are posted on the website and that an e-mail is sent out reminding people that the minutes are available and the link is clear).

There have been many people that have expressed their concern that there are too many political postings on the list-serve. (This has been addressed at several board meetings and people who post frequently are being asked to slow down their postings, limit it to two or three a month).

## INTERFACE WITH THE CY BAR/ BAT MITZVAH FAMILIES:

Since the families of Bar/Bat Mitzvah students make up a significant and lively portion of our membership, a number of people expressed sadness that there is not more interface/ interaction with the rest of the community. One idea expressed was to have a special Shabbat to honor the Bar/Bat Mitzvah families. The Board is open to suggestions about how to integrate families better into CY.

## INCLUSIVITY:

As the CY community grows and changes, it is inevitable that people will feel like they are either more a part of things or less a part of things as these changes occur. It is an ebb and flow. That being said, there are some people who have been not feeling as included and that does concern the Board. It is difficult to find community and it is so very important.

One idea that has come up is the idea of doing one of our regular Shabbats at people's houses... with a limited attendance, just an intimate dinner, not much of a service... This would rotate around, depending upon who wants to host. The idea is to get the feeling back of being a closer community. THIS IS ALSO A BOARD DECISION that we will be looking into. BOARD DECISIONS that we welcome your feedback on: (please respond only if you haven't responded to these issues before)

1. Should we move our services? Should we move them to First Congregational Church? Is there another location that is better that can serve all of our needs?
2. Should we only have two Friday night services per month and have the third one (with Reb Eli) at a private house for just a dinner?
3. How can we integrate Bar/ Bat Mitzvah families into the community? The community into the Bar/ Bat Mitzvah services?
4. Do we continue to do joint services with the Temple?
5. How do we make sure people still feel a sense of community while the community is growing and changing?
6. Additional comments:

We hope all of this helps stimulate your thinking and lets you know what we are up to. Thank you for taking the time to read this and responding.