



## 10/30 Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Attending: Adam Davis, Stuart Drucker, Marla Gordon, Alan Sufrin, Rachel Schiffman, Miriam Brouseau, Matt Wetstein  
Introductions were made and Adam gave an overview on KFAR, its various programs and achievements to date

### Programming:

#### Tzitzit: Voices from the Jewish Fringe

**Oct.** *Y-Love* The Black Hasidic Hip Hop performer in town for a private show on 10/19. Attempts to set up a club event were unsuccessful due to venue availability. Congregations, Hillels and youth groups felt the performance too close to Simchat Torah to garner enough interest. The program will not happen.

**Nov.** *Simply Tsfat* the Hasidic folk trio is available for a Nov 12<sup>th</sup> performance, and our experience with them is that their shows, properly promoted in the Frum community, are profitable and effective in audience building.

**Dec.** *What I like about Jew* the Shticky comedy duo has received considerable press coverage but the committee did not seem to like their material. It was not voted down, but this might not be our program for start of the month.

*Knishmas* We need to secure talent and a venue for this event. It is generally our most successful financially, programmatically and attendance wise. HotHouse, Joes and Subterranean will be approached, in that order.

- Stuart raised the point of Knishmas needing to have a “draw” act this year, suggesting Sarah Aroeste
- Marla felt the “knishmas” name and date draws enough of an audience due w/o overspending on talent

**Next Steps:** Adam and Alan will identify acts available to participate in Knishmas and venue from which to select at the next meeting. **Update:** Shtreiml (harmonica/klez/jam band) is on tour in the time frame and in-budget. Howard Levy might also be interested, giving us two strong draws.

**Jan.** *Moshav Band* One of the best known and loved Jewish/Israeli rock bands may be in town mid-month to play a private wedding. They have never played a club show in Chicago and would make for an excellent feature for a large format event.

*Juez* Elements of this Jazz/Klez/Punk band will be in Chicago mid-month for a Private gig. For the cost of one flight we could arrange for a club show. This would be a backup plan to the KFAR show

**Next Steps:** Investigate the firmness of each group’s availability, venue and potential sponsors.

**Feb.** *Y-Love* J-ARTS is routing the artist through Minneapolis on 1/27/07 and we will piggy back of this on 2/3/07. Venue, Sponsor and Opener are TBD. **Next Steps:** Secure venue.

*Juliet Letters* An Israeli theatre troupe performing Elvis Costello’s cult-favorite chamber will be in country in Feb. If financially feasible, it could be produced with a theatrical producer and the consulate for Valentines.

**March** *Jewish rapper Remedy Ross* (of Wu-Tang Clan) and hip hop sidekick Kosha Dillz will be available for *Hip Hop Hamentashen* (3/3 or 4). Venue, Sponsor and Opener are TBD. **Next Steps:** Secure venue.

*RebbeSoul* (world fusion) will be touring with J-ARTS with possible stops in Peoria and other Midwest points. We could present him in mid/late March. **Next Steps:** Secure venue, approach GATC, Spertus as sponsors

**April** *Esta*, an Israeli world music act, will tour through Arts Midwest. HotHouse approached us to sponsor that show.

*Ayelet Rose Gottlieb*, an Israeli Jazz singer with an exciting arrangement of Shir HaShirim called Mayim Rabim could be available for an interesting program timed to Yom Haatzmaut. Fiscal sponsorship may be available.

**May** *Divahn*, a Sephardic/Mizrahi female act, could be performing in Milwaukee on Lag B’Omer and would be available to do a club show Spertus or in conjunction with a shul.

*Gershon Sizomu*, Rabbi of Abuyudaya (Ugandan Jews) may coming to Anshe Emet. We may be able to do a program with him. Their album was nominated for a Grammy. **Next steps:** Adam to pursue with Rabbi Burg.



- In general, Marla believes we should do fewer, larger programs.
- Adam said perhaps half of these programs would take place, and that generally, only one would take place per month.

### **SHIRIM (Synagogue Hosting Initiative for Renewal in Music)**

Adam raised the need for a new approach for congregational programming- we've booked few of these events due to scheduling and budget limitations. The approach is not comprehensive in its results or appeal to congregations as we'd like.

- Rachel Schiff suggested "Young Adult" outreach approach might work when approaching Bnai Zion in Oak Park
- Stuart thought a more "family" model could generally be a better route in the burbs
- Matt proposed approaching Education Directors
- Marla suggested getting input from congregational leaders on their needs

*Next Steps:* We will continue soliciting acts via SHIRIM and include Education Directors, but Adam will also get input from congregational leaders on their needs to create a better program paradigm. JCUA's congregational outreach approach could be an interesting model combined with a menu approach offering stand alone and comprehensive program options to shuls.

### **J-ARTS (Jewish Artists Regional Touring Services)**

- We are setting up a "Remedy" (x wu-tang) Midwest Tour in conjunction with several organizational sponsors.
- We may tour Blue Fringe in S. California this January.
- Rebbesoul US tour this spring, including stops in Chicago, Denver and Quad cities. More venues being approached

*Note:* We need to look at the number and quality of artists on our roster. We are losing two acts to breakup and should keep our ears open. Also

### **Semitic Cinematic Series**

- Alan pitched three films to screen as part of the series: Awake Zion, Divahn and Cut. A proper venue is needed.
- Stuart suggested we talk to Donna Yates, who just finished producing the Chicago Festival of Israeli Cinema.
- The use of synagogues was brought up and debated- it was agreed that we should seek alternative venues.

*Update:* Agudas Achim in Uptown has offered their space, and though it is off the beaten path, and a synagogue, they DO have a state of the art projection and sound system. Alan and Adam are arranging a "Synagogue Spookagogue" event on Oct. 31 to screen Goelm and Dybbuk. Mimi Rosenbush, formerly of Jewish Film Foundation, wants to help us with the series.

### **Artistic Associates**

- Alan outlined a possible model for the Borscht / Café Series (Songwriters and Poets Circles)
- Artists are being sought for the Yom HaatzMa'art Exhibit, a gallery is being secured.
- 4 dancers led by Leah Kahn are pitching us on a "Jewish Modern Dance Piece"

### **Funding/Development**

- Adam pointed out that with the extent of our planning, we need to secure funding to support existing programs.
- Of the individuals making donations, the majority dollars were from donors between the ages of 30 and 45.
- The new NFJC study should be a powerful tool for educating the Federation, foundations and potential donors.
- A limited qty. of "New Year" appeal letters went out to "big fish" and prior donors
- This has netted us \$1580 so far. We anticipate another \$1000 by 10/30
- We need to do a better job with grants, individual approaches and sponsorships
- Marla brought up the need to plan an annual fundraiser, possibly in June

### *Next Steps:*

- Adam will continue to approach individual donors ala "moves management."
- Adam will send "one sheets" to the Donor Advised Funds department of JUF

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday October 23rd**