

KEHILAT MORESHET AVRAHAM

Year in Summary, 2017 – 2018

Presented by KMA President, Alexis H. Silverman

The vaad, committees, the Rav, individuals, and the whole kehila work together to sustain and grow our kehila. Our kehila is dynamic, with constant goals, challenges, needs and initiatives. This past year's activities built on what has been learned and achieved over the last couple of years. It takes a lot of people and energy to keep up with our kehila and none of that is taken for granted.

Our community celebrated bnei mitzvah, Shabbat chatan, baby namings, anniversaries, birthdays and giyusim l'tzahal. We've welcomed visitors from North and South America and interfaith groups.

Our chessed committee continues to support people and families during illness and lifecycle events. We've expanded our activities to include new undertakings like the Soapbox Project and joining the rotation of kehilot providing meals for lone soldiers. Our mishloach manot project combined chessed and fundraising.

Rabbi Kleiner represents KMA in the tnua, in the community and in an interfaith group. He meets with members of the community and the public looking for a kehila, for a place for a simcha, for counsel, for one on one lessons and provides spiritual leadership and education for our community.

Our tefillot have been enriched by the addition of new Torah readers and the participation of our children. Attendance at all Shabbat tefillot are on the rise. We continue to maintain the only Masorti minyan in South Jerusalem twice weekly. Tefillot Yeladim is faithfully and enjoyable (that's an important point) attended by a core group of children who often bring friends.

Our gan is continually in demand with a fabulous reputation in the neighborhood. Families are sending their 2nd, 3rd and even 4th child to our gan. We've worked diligently with the gan this year to ensure great and satisfied staff, foster relationships with the kehila, with the staff and the community.

KMA is participating with the neighborhood in projects like the community garden and the Purim carnival with NOAM and the matnas as well as the Rav participating in local school siddur ceremonies held in our building.

We may take it for granted, but it is no small feat to assure a Kiddush every Shabbat. Not only do we have Kiddush, we find interesting and different reasons and themes for

our kiddushim. Kiddush has become an important part of our welcoming spirit as a kehila.

Many of us spent a wonderful Shabbat together at our 3rd Annual Shabbaton. We relaxed, we sang, we davened and we played together. It is a time we have grown to look forward to as well as a time to assess ourselves and look toward how we can progress.

We came out in mass to enjoy truly special events and to support Bayit Cham in order to finish the year and to send the children to camp.

Our membership since 2016 until today fluctuates between 155 – 161 individual members (people not households). We've had broader leadership and participation by a variety of members in limmud, the shabbaton, tikun leil Shavuot and tekes Yom HaShoah.

Our first ever Host or Be Hosted Friday night dinner was met with great enthusiasm. We plan to do it again in the coming year as well as having more communal meals.

Our traditional events such as the Yom Hashoah tekes and Tisha B'Av continue to bring in large crowds for a heartfelt sincere experience. We are already working in preparation for the Yamim Noraim which last year were well attended with meaningful tefillot by our shlichei tzibur.

Thanks to your feedback, comments and suggestions, we have some ideas already in the works for next year – “meters, greeters and seaters” for Shabbat morning, bringing new tunes and songs into the tefilah, a fundraising event for the kehila, more individual learning with the Rabbi and other people who want to teach one on one, adding a third option for limmud that is less text based and more experiential as well as other ideas.

The vaad welcomes your ideas, your leadership and your volunteerism. Thank you all for contributing to a wonderful year and looking forward to the coming year.