**President Board Report: December 2016**

In the past month, the following events occurred: 1) many wonderful Shabbat services; 2) a visit and presentation by Lynne Butner, Senior Regional Director for NFTY Southwest (North American Federation of Temple Youth) on December 4 at TBE with our teens, youth, and parents; 3) a Leadership Meeting facilitated by Jim Rosenthal on December 4; 4) the Judaica Shop Boutique for Chanukah from December 11 until Chanukah; and 5) the funeral of our beloved Budget Committee Chairperson and member Steve Halper on December 13.

Upcoming events include: 1) (tentatively) the dedication of our new front doors tomorrow, December 16; 2) Shabbat Chanukah Dinner, Service, Driedels & Dessert on December 30; and 3) Breakfast for residents of Camp Hope on the morning of December 25 provided by members of TBE.

I was extremely saddened by the loss of our friend and member, Steve Halper, who was taken from us so suddenly in early December. He was such a dedicated member and able Budget Committee Chairperson who took the time to help us with our finances and assist in so many capacities throughout his years here in Las Cruces. We give our deepest condolences to his wife, Jane, and family. He was so helpful to me in my role as president, and I will always appreciate his support. May his memory be for blessing.

Thank you to our Leadership Committee for their involvement in trying to define who we are and where we need to go. Our meetings, facilitated by Jim Rosenthal, are extremely insightful and educational. We will continue to keep you posted on our progress.

This year’s congregational dinner, the FestivUS event, will be held on Saturday, January 21, 2017. All congregants are invited to attend and we expect to all Board members to attend and help. Dee, Ann, and I have been planning the details, and I have a chart with a list of assigned tasks for all of us. In addition, I would like to stick with the past tradition of all of us wearing white shirts and black slacks or black skirts. Please also wear your Board nametag. Invitations to congregants will be sent out on January 8. We are requesting that they RSVP to me so we can get a general head counts. We believe this will be a fun, welcoming, congregational celebration with lots of great dinner items—hors’ d’oeuvres, cheese selections, pasta, lasagna, desserts, coffee, tea, sparkling drinks, and wine. We also plan to celebrate our new members as well, which is something Diane is working on, I believe. Thank you all for everything that you do.

And I want to wish you a Happy Chanukah and Happy New Year!