**Rabbi’s Report –Board Meeting**

**July 21, 2016**

* I am working with the Religious School committee, the Adult Education Committee, and the Religious Practices committee as the new school year and High Holy Days will be coming fast!
* We still have a chance to acquire more copies of the new High Holy Day prayerbook, Mishkan Hanefesh, for this year. Two donors have come forward. I will check and see what type of donations they have in mind.
* After 19 people attended our first session on central principles in Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz’s book, *The Soul of Jewish Social Justice,* on Monday, June 27, five attended the second session this past Monday. I will be doing a session on Rabbi Jill Jacobs’ *There Shall Be No Needy* on a Monday night in August.
* I am serving on the Children’s Reading Alliance by-laws revision committee as a community representative. I continue to convene a monthly Third Thursday clergy breakfast. There will be an initial community program for the Las Cruces Interfaith Coalition for Compassion happening on August 9. I will keep you posted.
* I helped to organize and participated in a Candlelight Vigil on July 9 for the victims of shootings in Baton Rouge, St. Paul and Dallas of the Orlando shootings. A letter-to-the-editor about the event, which was not covered by local press, appeared in the Las Cruces Sun-News on Tuesday of this week. I was the primary writer of the letter, and it was signed by Pastor Jared Carson of Peace Lutheran Church and Bishop Oscar Cantu of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Las Cruces.
* I presented a talk featuring several of my songs and the values expressed in them at First Christian Church during their worship on Sunday, June 26.
* I led music at Las Cruces Peace Camp, held at the Unitarian Universalist Church, on June 27, June 30 and July 1.
* I attended, on Wednesday, June 29, a meeting of state religious and organizational leaders in Albuquerque, NM which featured a presentation by the Rev. William Barber, a member of the national board of the NAACP. I began today by sounding the shofar and explaining its significance.
* I presented a House Concert on July 7 for the local organization Kaleidoscope, which focuses on building community by helping people share their stories.
* I will be attending NewCAJE, a conference for Jewish Educators, at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois on July 31-August 3. I will leave on July 30 to be there for the Sunday morning start to the convention. I will return on Thursday, August 4.
* I will be co-officiating at my brother’s wedding on Labor Day weekend. I will arrange for service substitutes for Friday night and Shabbat morning for that weekend.

