**Rabbi’s Report –Board Meeting**

**October 20, 2016**

* Please remember that we will celebrate Simchat Torah on Sunday 10/23 at 5:30 pm with a potluck dinner and 6:30 pm with our service to begin and end the reading of the Torah. The Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah morning service at 10 am on 10/24 will include Yizkor prayers.
* During High Holy Days, 76 individual members of our community participated in our worship services with a reading part, an individual Aliyah, singing in the choir or carrying the Torah/Hagbah. With the addition of people who took part in group aliyot, the number was probably closer to 100. Thank you to everyone who agreed to participate in advance or who came up to the bimah on the spur of the moment. Service attendance during High Holy Days was around 100 for each service other than Kol Nidre, which was about 120. 40 attended our Rosh Hashanah Family service, and 22 attended our Yom Kippur family service. We had up to 15 people at the Yom Kippur afternoon discussion/study sessions.
* Many thanks to the Mensch Club for coordinating the building of the Sukkah!!!!
* An anonymous donor has come forward with a contribution to complete our complement of copies of *Mishkan Hanefesh* so that the congregation can use the prayerbook for worship at all services. I will explore options related to our copies of Gates of Repentance. Also, many thanks to Rose Jacobs for updating the Yizkor booklet for this year to prepare it for final publication.
* Does the Board feel that we should do anything special on Friday night, 11/11 as part of the Shabbos Project that the Jewish Federation of El Paso is sponsoring? I can make it a bit like Shabbat Across America in March. Other thoughts?
* The final changes in the Temple directory are now complete. I had been waiting for responses from a few congregants on the exact text for their listing. It will be sent to the printer as early as tomorrow. Many thanks to Bob Kimball for his extensive preparatory work on the directory.
* I am working with Terri Sugarman and Aggie Saltman to create a brochure that can be shared at TBE Ren Faire book on November 6. We will do our best to complete it in time.
* I am working with the Adult Education Committee to create our second annual panel discussion (on November 20 at 2pm) featuring local Religious Leaders. The likely theme this year is Humility.
* I continue to convene a monthly Third Thursday clergy breakfast, and I serve on the steering committee of the Las Cruces Interfaith Coalition for Compassion, and on the NMSU Interfaith Council as Executive Advisor.
* I took part musically at the International Peace Day event at Young Park on Wednesday, September 21, and sang at the Yom Hashir/Day of Song event in El Paso on September 25. I spoke at a forum on Immigration sponsored by the Las Cruces City Council on Thursday, September 29, and gave a brief presentation at a forum sponsored by PFLAG and Peace Lutheran Church on October 6 on LGBTQ inclusion in faith communities. On October 19, I gave a presentation on Judaism at Morningstar United Methodist Church as part of their “Tolerance” series which is featuring speakers from a variety of religious groups.
* I will be attending Shabbat Shira, the fall workshop on worship and music at Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute Camp in Wisconsin on November 3-6. I have already lined up service leaders on November 5 and I am working on 11/4 (Family Service).