**Rabbi’s Report –Board Meeting**

**September 15, 2016**

* Religious School’s first full Sunday session was held this past Sunday. We have 27 students from pre-school through Machon.
* The Religious Practices committee met to review High Holy Day preparations. We have had 24 responses to the Yizkor Booklet mailing and 12 responses for participation in High Holy day services. We ended up with commitments to order 55 new sets *of Mishkan Hanfesh*, the new High Holy Day prayerbook from the Central Conference of American Rabbis. That will allow us to use the prayerbook for our Yom Kippur afternoon through concluding services on October 12. Parts are being assigned for High Holy day worship beginning this week.
* We had 35 participants at our “Shabbat Under the Stars” Family service on Friday, September 9. There was no additional cost involved in meeting the Park and Recreation department’s insurance requirements. Our service was held with a football practice, soccer and nearby picnic dinners happening all around us.
* A group in El Paso is sponsoring “Day of Song/Yom Shir,” featuring Jewish Blues artist Saul Kaye, on September 25. I will be attending and performing as well.
* I contacted Robyn Helzner to let her know that her program, “Kreplach and Dim Sum: Yes, there are Jews in China!” is on for Monday, January 23.
* 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.
* There will be a celebration of International Peace Day at Young Park on Wednesday, September 21 at 6:00-9:00 pm. I will be taking part in the program musically at 7:30-8:00 pm, including singing one song with Nicole Martinez, Director of the Mesilla Valley Community of Hope.
* I will be participating in a forum on Immigration sponsored by the Las Cruces City Council on Thursday, September 29. I will also participate in a forum sponsored by PFLAG and Peace Lutheran Church on October 6 on LGBTQ inclusion in faith communities.
* I offered a session on Leadership at the North American Federation of Temple Youth’s Southwest Region Leadership Training Institute on Saturday, August 27.
* The Interfaith Coalition for Compassion’s first program, a discussion on respect, brought 43 people together for thoughtful conversation on August 23.
* I spoke at the Wednesday Breakfast at Temple on August 31, including elements of the Leadership and Respect discussions in my presentation.
* There is a chance that I may attend Shabbat Shirah, the fall workshop on worship and music at Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute Camp in Wisconsin on November 3-6. I will keep you posted.