

Minutes, Temple Beth-El, February 15, 2018

Trustees Present: Susan Brown, Dee Cook, Diane Fleishman, Jeff Lewis, Michael Mandel, Susan Michelson, Ned Rubin, Ellen Torres, Rabbi Larry Karol (ex-officio) Art Lorbeer (Mensch Club)

Trustees Absent: Allen Blum, Jeff Brown, Michael Lieberman, Pearie Bruder

Guest(s): None

Call to order: Meeting was called to order by President Ellen Torres at 7:07.

Invocation: Rabbi Karol gave the invocation.

Acceptance of minutes: Michael Mandel moved that the January 18, 2018 meeting minutes be approved. Ned Rubin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Leadership/Board Reports

Rabbi's Report: The Religious School hosted Temple's annual Tu Bish'vat seder on January 31. Pearie Bruder coordinated Hamentaschen Baking on February 11. There will be another baking session on February 21. Religious School families will distribute Mishloach Manot bags to selected congregants between February 25 and 28. The remaining religious school sessions on Sundays are February 25, March 4 and 11, April 1 (Matzo Brei morning!) and April 9, 22, and 29. The last morning is still scheduled for May 6. The B'nai Mitzvah schedule for the next few months is Kaila Brown on May 26, Derek Hyman on June 2, and Hannah Saltman on June 30. The Rabbi thanked the Social Action/Adult Education Committee for the program on Sunday, February 11, presenting the audio of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech at Temple Emanuel on March 12, 1961. Robyn Helzner is set to return to TBE on Monday February 19. The Rabbi enrolled TBE as a site for Shabbat Across America, the National Jewish Outreach Program's annual event, on March 9. He worked with Alden Solovy to arrange a visit based on the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso grant. We will likely need another \$800-\$1000 to cover his visit. The rabbi's discretionary fund can cover some of that extra cost.

The El Paso Jewish Community is again coordinating Yom Hashir/Day of Song on October 7. They will be bringing either Chava Mirel or Naomi Less, both of whom are top level songwriters and leaders of Jewish music. The Rabbi told Kristin Kimmelman, the coordinator of the program, that we would be interested to have the performer-in-residence come to TBE that Friday night. We could do so for about \$800. The Temple could perhaps raise the funds, money from his discretionary fund can cover part of this cost. The Rabbi continues to visit the ill and to write a column for the Las Cruces Bulletin on the first Friday of the month. He will write a message for the *El Paso Jewish Voice* in March on Passover.

The Rabbi now serves on the Las Cruces Health Policy Review Committee, which meets on the third Thursday of the month at 10 am at City Hall. He is also serving on the Las Cruces Public Schools Ethnic Studies Task Force, which meets on the last Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm. The Rabbi and Rhonda will visit New York and he may attend the Reform Pension Board's retirement seminar in Chicago on April 22-24 to prepare for the eventual conclusion of his

active congregational rabbinate. The Rabbi noted that the ad for Robyn Helzner was supposed to be in the Sun News Pulse section today, but it wasn't there.

President's Report: President Ellen Torres thanked Jennifer Blazer for her bookkeeping assistance and noted that Stu Fleishman would need to step down as Treasurer, Executive Committee member and Board member to help his wife after her accident. She thanked Stu for his work. Michael Mandel is willing to become Treasurer, and will join the Executive Committee and take Stu's seat on the Board. Art Lorbeer is willing to become Mensch Club representative. She thanked them. Ellen noted that the Leadership Group has effectively merged with the Nominating Committee.

TBE is moving forward to bring Alden Solovy at the end of April and early May. Some Temple funds may be needed. The oral history project is making good progress. Ellen thanked everyone involved in the Martin Luther King presentation, especially Ned Rubin and the Social Action/Adult Education group. Ellen noted that the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso would like to have a TBE member on the Council.

Treasurer's Report: Ellen gave the Treasurer's report because Jennifer Blazer couldn't attend.

Jeff Lewis gave accolades to Ned Rubin for the quality of the Martin Luther King Program. There was a discussion about the video of the program. Ned Rubin said that he could make copies.

Dee Cook moved that Michael Mandel be selected to join the board and replace Stuart Fleischman. Jeff Lewis seconded. It passed unanimously. Susan Michelson moved that Michael Mandel be appointed Treasurer. Diane Fleishman seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Dee Cook reported that the second night Seder will be at Picacho Country Club again. It will be on March 31st. More information will come out next week.

Ellen Torres went through the committee reports (see attached)

Diane Fleishman discussed the possibility of the Membership Committee sponsoring a social outing such as going to the Casino in El Paso, the race track or going to a Chihuahua game. Everyone agreed that this was a good idea. She also discussed having a brunch for new members.

Old Business

- A. Administrative tasks group will be meeting this week with Rabbi Karol. Rabbi discussed the need for looking at the overall administration of the office. We need to have a committee to look into this.

- B. Ellen brought the David Brandhurst Plaque. She suggested that the plaque be placed on the right hand side of the entrance door.
- C. Shed Update. Jeff Lewis reported that the last coat was supposed to be applied this morning but it rained. A committee will be overseeing what is going into the shed and ensuring that it remains organized.
- D. Storage Rooms. Jeff Lewis and Jeff Brown looked into and catalogued the storage areas. There was a discussion on giving the The Gates of Prayer books to congregants and the rest could be buried.
- E. Fund Raising Ideas. Jeff Lewis discussed having a Bingo night. Jeff and Jeff are going to look into how to set it up. Art discussed a "Make your best dish night." Diane Fleishman mentioned a chile cook off. Restaurants brought their best chile or tacos.
- F. Donation Letter. Ellen reviewed the donation letter. There was also a discussion of putting a solar light at the driveway entrance. Art Lorbeer was asked to make a sign for the driveway. Ned Rubin made a motion to approve the letter, include the name of the Board of Trustees and mail it out. Jeff Lewis seconded it. The motion was passed.
- G. Events. Ellen discussed the upcoming events

New Business

- A. New Mexico Historical Society Speaker. Susan Michelson discussed the possibility of bringing in a speaker. She recommended Richard Meltzer who speaks on the Swastika in New Mexico. Jeff Brown will talk about it next month.
- B. Treasurer Tasks. Jennifer Blazer, our bookkeeper, will come to the next meeting to discuss this.
- C. Jewish Community Relations Council (CRC). JFGEP wants TBE to send a representative to the Council.
- D. Other. We discussed the pros and cons of keeping the front door locked during services. It was suggested that we keep the door open and have the Board Representative wear the panic button.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:49.

Susan Brown, Recording Secretary for this meeting.

Committee Reports:

Budget Committee, Allen Blum, chair: The Budget Committee will soon begin the process of developing a Budget for Temple Beth-El for the fiscal year 2018 to 2019.

Please be advised that all Committee Chairpersons who have budgetary responsibility will be receiving financial information pertaining to their specific committee, which has a budget. This financial information will be forwarded during the month of March 2018 and it is

requested that you review your specific budget and as compared to what the committee has spent during the last 9 months during the current fiscal year of 2017 – 2018.

The Budget Committee's plan is to present the 2018 – 2019 Budget to the Board of Trustees during the May Board of Trustees meeting.

Building and Grounds, Jerry Silverman, Norm Mazer, Jeff Lewis chairs, Jerry Silverman reporting: The request by FSG (the parking lot LED people) to El Paso Electric for rebate money for our project has been approved. I have provided the necessary paperwork, i.e. tax information and billing information, to FSG so that they can order the lighting material.

I have requested a proposal from FSG to replace all of the lights in the community room with LED lamps. Presently there are 10 burned out lamps out of the 45 in the fixtures. Replacing bulbs on an annual basis is expensive. Last year we paid approximately \$150 for bulb replacements in the room. The alternative to changing to LEDs would be to replace all of the existing bulbs with new ones. I will be doing a cost analysis once I have all of the cost information.

Repair work continues on the repair of the Jennair oven. Additional parts have been ordered by the service technician after his visit this week. The oven has been deactivated so it no longer heats up inadvertently.

The representatives from Dimar performed an inspection of the "Sewer Backflow" and the Fire alarm systems on Feb 8, 2018. These are annual inspections that are required by the City of Las Cruces. The results were positive. However, several of the fire extinguishers require service along with the replacement of the four batteries that provide the backup power to the fire alarm system. They will be providing a proposal on the costs of the needed items.

I will be requesting detailed cost information on the B & G expenses from the treasurer so that I can get a better look at actual costs to date vs my expected costs plan.

History, Jeff Brown, chair: The committee held an oral history training workshop on January 21 and conducted interviews on January 28 and other days. Nan Rubin has led training at the workshop and in her home. The following individuals have conducted interviews: Susan Michelson, Dee Cook, Jeff Brown, Emily Rasmussen and Sammi Armstrong. Interviewees so far include: Bea Klein, Michael Mandel, Brian McCuller, Sandy Levinson, Jane Grider, Tanah Hemingway, Phil Alkon, Dan Tapper, Louise Baskey and Julie Seton. The committee plans additional trainings. Leora Zeitlin and Stuart Kelter have offered to conduct additional interviews, and committee members are arranging more interviews towards our minimum grant goal of at least 25 interviews. We have developed one transcript, and Rose Jacobs has volunteered to develop other transcripts. The committee will also need to organize and scan/save many documents. Two members received a speaker proposal for TBE from the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society.

Israel, Phil Alkon, chair: Yom Ha'Atzmaut 2018 will be held on April 22 at Temple Mount Sinai at 12:00 – 3:00 pm. 300 attendees are expected. There are 13 participating organizations including TBE. Others may join. The Consul General in Houston will be contacted about potential resources. Eitan Lavi will see whether Israeli Bonds could be available as children's competition prizes. The committee discussed publicity; invitations to non-Jewish interested congregations/organizations; security; food services; tables for booths; the gift shop; the sound system; decorations; a projector and screen; jumping balloons; bicycle decorating and a parade; Israeli Dancers; and kid's games and competitions. The committee discussed blowing a shofar to start the event; a color guard; performance of Hatikva; the invocation by Rabbi Zeidman; a speech about Israel; and the presentation of the El Paso City Proclamation.

Library, Linda Kruger, chair: The report will appear as a column in the March Adelante.

Membership and Outreach, Diane Fleishman, chair: Karen and Robert Ford-Pierce will be in Las Cruces to talk to their builder on Feb. 17 -25. They plan to go services on Saturday morning. I invited them to the Robin Helzner event and will be meeting with them while they are here.

Nominations/Leadership, Jim Rosenthal, chair: The committee will at its next meeting on February 18 discuss nominating candidates for the Board and discuss creating the leadership training program.

Social Action (Ned Rubin, chair) and **Adult Education**, no chair: Rabbi Karol, Sue Mazer, Ned Rubin, Jeff Lewis, Avis Lewis, Ruth Rubin, Rose Jacobs, Betty Rosse, and Susan Fitzgerald attended the meeting. Dr. Bobbie Green, from the NAACP and NMSU (with whom we are co-sponsoring the MLK event) was a guest.

The Rabbi designed a wonderful program brochure, including a copy of the front page of the newspaper in Worcester, MA from the day following Dr. King's presentation at Temple Emanuel. The only topic of discussion was the upcoming MLK event and addressing any logistical issues. We discussed getting permission from Sonoma Springs Church next door to use their parking lot for overflow parking; setting up of the Social Hall; and audio/visual facilities in the synagogue. We discussed additional community outreach and invitations.

Depending upon the interest in this event, we may want to plan a second one, perhaps during Passover and around the time of MLK's assassination.

Set up for this event will be on Saturday afternoon, 2/10 at about 2 pm. Please come and help. We will also open the temple on the following day, Sunday, 2/11 at 12 for any additional set up required.

At the end of our meeting, Dr. Green expressed heartfelt thanks to Temple Beth-El for undertaking this event and inviting the NAACP to co-sponsor this with us. She seemed quite moved by our desire and motivation to include the African American community in something we might have simply done on our own.

The Social Action and Adult Education Committees will develop a potential Constitutional amendment for their merger.

Technology Committee, Dave Zeemont, chair: Kosh has received our payment and ordered a wireless router for our social hall. It has been received. Rabbi Karol made an appointment for it to be installed on Friday.

Youth Committee, Leora Zeitlin, chair: BETY and BEMY are planning the Purim carnival for the evening of February 28. There is talk of a short trip to Albuquerque for high schoolers the first weekend of March to meet the Albuquerque and Santa Fe youth groups, and attend a comedy/cultural event at the JCC.