

MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces, New Mexico

Date: October 22, 2015

Trustees Present: Ann Berkson, Allen Blum, Paul Feil, David Fishman, Renee Frank, Leslie Glater, Monika Kimball, Ned Rubin, Ellen Torres, Erich Zameret, Rabbi Karol (ex-officio),

Trustees Absent: Diane Fleishman, Mark Saltman, Dave Zeemont

Guest(s): none present

Opening:

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by President Monika Kimball at 7:00 pm.

Invocation: The Rabbi read Prayer for Our Country as the Invocation.

Acceptance of Minutes (as corrected, if applicable): The minutes of the last meeting were approved as amended earlier.

Leadership / Board Reports

- A. Rabbi's Report:** The Rabbi reported that nearly 40 people attended the Erev Sukkot Service on 9/27/15, 33 at our Shabbat Sukkot Under the Stars service at Veterans Memorial Park on 10/2/15, and 30 on Simchat Torah on 10/4/15. The Rabbi will be moderating a panel of local clergy on Thankfulness/Gratitude sponsored by the Adult Education Committee on Sunday, November 22 at 2:00 pm here at Temple. He leaves on November 3 for the URJ Biennial convention, and he will return on November 8.

- B. President's Report:** Monika Kimball stated that we have some minor roof damage from the recent hailstorm, which we will get repaired. We were given \$1,010.55 from our insurance company to cover the repairs. Ruth Rubin has agreed to assist in the Temple office and assist the Rabbi, which is greatly appreciated. The New Mexico Jewish Historical Society will be coming to Las Cruces for a Historical Society event on November 14 and 15. They will be attending services that weekend, Friday, November 13. Monika asked Board members to attend services that

night. The Dues Committee will be meeting soon and giving the Board a report. The Emergency Preparedness Ad Hoc Committee, headed by Mark Saltman, will give a report at the next Board meeting as he was absent. The Mensch Club members will meet with Dave Zeemont and the Rabbi to write a constitution as they need to have more official documentation for their committee. Brenda Parrish's HOA committee would like to rent our social hall for their annual meeting next November, and they will pay us a fee to use the hall.

- C. Treasurer's Report:** Paul Feil reported that members should have received their annual Temple statement recently. He brought copies of the Temple's general expenses and receivables statements for us to review. Paul and the Board had a discussion on how to manage money that is paid to, for instance, Sisterhood or Mensch Club, as they are auxiliary organizations within the Temple Bylaws and governed by the 501c3. An important consideration is to recognize the donations that individual members make to the Temple and the various organizations under the Temple umbrella. Ann Berkson made a motion that all monies that are paid to the various auxiliary organizations are funneled through the Temple budget. David Fishman seconded the motion. Monika called for a vote. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Committee Reports

- A. Sisterhood Report:** Leslie Glater reported that the Sisterhood meeting yesterday was postponed due to bad weather, so her report will be given next month.
- B. Mensch Club Report:** Dave Zeemont was absent, so no report was given this month.
- C. Long-Range/Strategic Planning Committee:** Chair Allen Blum stated that the group will hold a meeting soon to set up their key objectives to complete their SWOT analysis for the Temple (S - Strengths, W - Weakness, O - Opportunities, T - Threats).
- D. Adult Education Committee:** Chair Ellen Torres stated that the October 11 event was a successful and informative presentation by Julie Seton, who talked about her grandfather, Ernest Thompson Seton, co-founder of the Boy Scouts of America. The next event will be a panel discussion on Thankfulness with local clergymen and women on November 22, the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving. They are planning a panel discussion on

Israel with some of our Temple scholars in January. The Dona Ana Lyric Opera Company has confirmed its performance of NMSU Bel Canto Scholarship winners on Sunday, January 31. Another plan is to host the NMSU Gospel Choir in March. The Di Kavene Kapelye Klezmer group from Albuquerque has agreed to perform at the JFFF on April 17 in conjunction with Adult Ed. Member Sue Mazer is the Adult Ed liaison to the Social Action Committee. Adult Ed is co-sponsoring the Candidates' Forum with Social Action on Monday, October 26. The next Adult Ed meeting will be held in February.

- E. **Religious Practices Committee:** The Rabbi reported that the committee will be meeting soon. Jeff Lewis will be taking over as chairperson. Additional Religious Practices items were listed in the Rabbi's report above as well.
- F. **Religious School Committee:** The Rabbi reported briefly on this committee as well since Mark Saltman was absent.
- G. **Marketing and Public Relations Committee:** Chair Renee Frank stated her group met on Tuesday, October 20, 2015. They want to develop templates for media releases to make it easier for people to get information. They want to ensure that the releases are consistent. This will be developed into a hard copy packet as well as be put online on the Temple website. They will meet with all the committee chairs and affiliate organizations to get feedback and to set this up. They are also going to set up an official email address to use as a point of contact for the media. The next project will be the new member packet, and they are coordinating with Diane Fleishman, Membership Chairperson. They will look into putting the membership packet on the website. They also want to develop a professional logo for the Temple.
- H. **Social Action Committee:** Chair Ned Rubin said his committee just held a meeting yesterday, Wednesday, October 21. They set up a dedicated email to communicate with the community. There will be a Candidates' Forum this Monday, January 26 from 6:00-8:30 pm, co-sponsored with Adult Education. Jim Rosenthal will vet the questions. Jerry Nachison will be the timekeeper. Win Jacobs will be the moderator. Eight candidates have agreed to participate, including all three mayoral candidates and several city council candidates. The event is open to the congregation and community. Questions are being collected by email, but people can submit questions that night as well. The two Committees will provide refreshments. Ned also stated that they are organizing the Poverty

Forum to be held in January and identifying possible speakers. That event will be co-sponsored by Adult Education as well.

Old Business

- A. **Emergency Preparedness / Security Management Update:** This was postponed as Mark Saltman was absent. The group should be meeting next week.
- B. **Temple Directory Update:** A hard copy of the directory is available in the Temple office along with being available online as well. Thanks to Monika and Bob Kimball for their work on updating the information for the directory.

New Business

- A. **ID Buttons:** Ann Berkson reported on the idea of having nametags or ID buttons for Temple members. Visitors would be given a temporary ID tag. Ann will look into the cost of the buttons. This is a practice at other synagogues in other communities.
- B. **Temple Beth El Family Festivus on January 23:** An ad hoc committee was formed for the Festivus event on January 23 consisting of the following members—Allen Blum, Lynn Zeemont, Michele Blum, Renee Frank, Diane Fleishman, Rhonda Karol, and Monika Kimball. Ann Berkson and Leslie Glater have also joined the committee. This will be the Board-sponsored annual activity, in lieu of the annual Board dinner for the congregation. Each Board member is being asked to donate \$50.00 to support this event, to provide wine, sparkling cider, and refreshments. There may also be a raffle for a nice basket. In addition, there will be music. Monika has asked Arthur Berkeley to spin the music for dancing. Invitations will be sent out by postcard, and people will need to RSVP. The next committee meeting will be on Monday, November 2 at 5:30 pm.
- C. **Affiliation with the Jewish Federation of El Paso and/or Albuquerque:** We are currently affiliated with Albuquerque, but most of us have a proximity-based connection to the city of El Paso. By affiliating with El Paso, we would have our Temple events publicized through that Federation. The Federation would then be able to send out fundraising requests to all of our members, but it would be up to the individuals to donate or not. There is no fee to affiliate. We tabled this discussion to the next Board meeting.

Guest Comments

A. **If any guests are present, they are invited to make comments:** None present.

Executive Session:

A. There was a reapplication for membership by Ralph Orner. Paul made a motion for a vote. Ann seconded the motion. Monika called for vote. The response was unanimous to approve.

Next Meeting Dates:

The date of the next Executive Board meeting was set for: Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 6:00 pm.

The date of the next Board meeting was set for: Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by President Monika Kimball at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Torres