

MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces, New Mexico

Date: September 24, 2015

Trustees Present: Allen Blum, Paul Feil, David Fishman, Diane Fleishman, Renee Frank, Monika Kimball, Ned Rubin, Mark Saltman, Ellen Torres, Dave Zeemont

Trustees Absent: Ann Berkson, Leslie Glater, Rabbi Karol (ex-officio), Erich Zameret

Guest(s): Marieka Brown (representing Sisterhood in Leslie Glater's absence)

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by President Monika Kimball at 7:05

Invocation: Dave Zeemont read the invocation to open the meeting, "For Autumn."

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

Leadership / Board Reports

- A. Rabbi's Report:** Religious School has planned Sukkah decorating for Sunday, September 27 at 4:00 pm, preceding the 5:45 pm service. The Friday, October 2, 6:00 pm Family Shabbat service and picnic will be at Veterans' Memorial Park for the whole congregation, planned by the Religious School Committee (no 7:30 pm service). Eighty people plus the children who joined the Torah processional took part in High Holy Days worship. Three participants from the Creativity for Peace summer camp program (Palestinian and Israeli Jewish teen girls) will speak at a program to be held at Temple on Wednesday, October 14, 7:00 pm. My current community positions include: Executive Advisor of the NMSU Interfaith Council and Secretary of the Peace Village Board. I will attend the Union for Reform Judaism biennial convention in Orlando, Florida, November 4-8. My book group on Judaism and Aging and Introduction to Judaism class will begin in October.
- B. President's Report:** Monika Kimball stated that the Temple received \$8,668 from Mary Fitzgerald's estate along with \$300 from the sale of her jewelry. Monika and the Rabbi met with Sergeant Baker from the Las

Cruces Police Department regarding safety and security. The Executive Board also met with Julie Seton, who owns Indelible Enterprises, an emergency preparedness company. Monika, Mark Saltman, and the Rabbi met with APEX Technologies to investigate the installation of outside camera costs. Monika, Allen Blum, and Paul Feil met with Lisa Willman, CPA, to better understand items on the Treasurer's report. We are planning to bury a large amount of obsolete prayer books under the yet to be installed additional brick walkway and fountain area, once we get a backhoe on property. We saved \$529.00 with Campbell Insurance, thanks to Renee Frank's work on that. It was reported to Monika that someone went to Hobby Lobby for Rosh Hashanah cards and was told by a clerk: "We are a good Christian company and do not sell any of that stuff." Monika said that, with our approval, she is going to speak with the manager about that. Monika also asked us to send any agenda items to her a week before board meetings, prior to when the Executive Committee meets. Allen Blum praised Monika for her President's speech, given at the Kol Nidre service.

- C. **Treasurer's Report:** Paul Feil handed out his Treasurer's Report. September information was not available yet, so he reviewed the August information. The budget Paul presented is available for review. Monika reported that the URJ fees are changing—they will be charging 4% of a Temple's operating budgets, which will cause our fees to increase to almost \$8,000 annually. We're currently paying \$5,320. It won't affect us this year, but will by 2017, so we need to be aware and prepared.

Committee Reports

- A. **Sisterhood Report:** Marieka Brown, stepping in for Leslie Glater, stated that Sisterhood made \$200 from the Challah sale and \$175 from the honey sale. Fifteen people purchased New Year's greetings for the brochure, which garnered \$306. The Rosh Hashanah oneg came together nicely thanks to the coordination of Rhonda Karol. The Break the Fast offered a wonderful array of Jewish foods thanks to the excellent organization of Michele Blum and Lynn Zeemont. Ned Rubin mentioned that he brought a tax deduction form for people that make donations (i.e., for the rummage sale). He asked that the form be made available to members.
- B. **Mensch Club Report:** Dave Zeemont handed out the Mensch Club Constitution and budget, which had been requested. Dave said that he

needs people Sunday, 9/27, to help build and decorate the Sukkah, which he will oversee. Dave was also approached by a Temple member to consider setting up a Jewish Film Festival. Some films can be shown at the Rio Grande Theater, at the Temple, and possibly outside. Dave is interested in pursuing this, but needs donors to pay for the rights for the films.

- C. **Long-Range/Strategic Planning Committee:** Chair Allen Blum stated that the group is meeting on October 6 and plans 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 next event, 10/11, will be a presentation by Julie Seton, who will talk about her grandfather, Ernest Thomas Seton, co-founder of the Boy Scouts of America. The Dona Ana Lyric Opera Company has confirmed its performance of NMSU Bel Canto Scholarship winners on February 7. The Di Kavene Kapelye Klezmer group from Albuquerque has agreed to perform at the JFFF on April 17 in conjunction with Adult Ed. In addition, Jeffrey Marquez has joined the committee. Jim Rosenthal's Book Club, which runs under the auspices of Adult Ed, is starting again. Their dues go towards supporting Adult Ed as well. Member Sue Mazer has agreed to be the Adult Ed liaison to the Social Action Committee. The next Adult Ed meeting will be held on Monday, October 12 at 11:00 am.
- E. **Religious Practices Committee:** Monika spoke for this committee. She said that Stuart Kelter will step down as chairperson, but will stay on the committee. Jeff Lewis will take over as chair shortly. The group is reviewing the new High Holy Day prayer book and will consider purchasing more copies. We currently have 35.
- F. **Religious School Committee:** Co-chair Mark Saltman praised Marieka Brown for her work with the children during High Holy Days. Marieka, Jeanne Abkes, and Pearie Bruder spearheaded activities for Temple children during High Holy Days so that their parents could attend services. The Sunday school session prior to Rosh Hashanah was great. Marieka had a beekeeper (and bee rescuer), Anthony Gutierrez, come in to talk to the students, and he gave a fantastic presentation on bees and honey, which tied in beautifully with Rosh Hashanah. In addition, Monika wanted to give kudos to Rhonda Karol for the apples and honey provided at the Temple door when people left Rosh Hashanah services and for the honey sticks on the table at the Break the Fast.

- G. **Marketing and Public Relations Committee:** Chair Renee Frank stated her group will be meeting soon to develop a membership packet, and will dovetail with Diane Fleishman, Membership Chair. Monika recommended that the committee find additional businesses that might place ads in the Adelante newsletter. It was suggested that we could perhaps get ads to pay for the directory as well.
- H. **Social Action Committee:** Chair Ned Rubin said that he would like to invite candidates in the upcoming election to speak at Temple in an event that would be open to the congregation and community. His group would solicit questions from attendees. The Committee also plans to provide refreshments. Ned also reported that Casa de Peregrinos is in need of volunteers, and he would like to get out this information to our members in an E-Blast. Marieka mentioned that children are allowed to help as well. Monika said that Maggie Feil and Julie Seton, who work with Temple youth, should be informed about this. Ned also mentioned that he wants to co-host an event with the Adult Education Committee on the topic of poverty, to educate people about its underlying aspects.

Old Business

- A. **Temple Directory:** Monika and Bob Kimball are updating the Temple membership directory. They are cross-checking the various databases to ensure that they all align.
- B. **Review of Survey--What is Meaningful about TBE Membership:** Ned Rubin took the responses to the congregational survey sent out by the Rabbi, and divided them into four categories—1. Faith/Spirituality, 2. A Sense of Community, 3. Appreciation of Social Action/Justice, and 4. Learning/Study/Education. He disaggregated the data—25 members valued Faith and Spirituality, 50 valued Community, 10 valued Social Action/Justice, and 16 valued Learning/Education. Ned is willing to present the information to the congregation. He suggested that the information could be printed in the Adelante. Ned also mentioned that there were wonderful comments about the Rabbi in the survey responses. Ned recommended that we send out the results of the survey in an email again, after congregants read the report, to prompt additional specific information about what the categories mean to them.

- C. **Board Announcement Sign-Ups:** We passed the Board Announcement sign-up sheet around to get additional sign-ups.

New Business

- A. **Security / Emergency Planning:** Allen Blum reported about the APEX Technologies camera system, which was costly. He will call other companies to find less costly plans. The Executive Committee met last week with Julie Seton, who has an emergency preparedness company, Indelible Enterprises. Julie proposed that we hold a two-hour workshop that she would facilitate for \$600. This could lead to 16 hours of planning with a group of Temple members to establish an emergency preparedness plan, and which would cost an additional and larger fee. We discussed the importance of having a plan. Mark Saltman suggested establishing an ad hoc committee to set up a plan and have it reviewed by either Julie or the police or fire department. Monika will contact Julie to discuss this further, including the possibility of hiring her for the initial workshop. Mark agreed to contact people and head up the initial planning for the Emergency Preparedness ad hoc committee.
- B. **Wine & Cheese Social Event for Congregation:** An ad hoc committee was formed for the Wine and Cheese event in January consisting of the following members— Allen Blum, Lynn Zeemont, Michele Blum, Renee Frank, Diane Fleishman, and Monika Kimball.

Guest Comments

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

Executive Session: Two families have applied for TBE membership—1. Neil and Lisa Rosendorf, and 2. Rosemarie Livigni and Thomas Saiers. Monika proposed that we vote on their membership. Dave made a motion that we approve these memberships. Marieka seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve these memberships.

The date of the next meeting was set for: Thursday, October 22, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

The date of the next Executive Board meeting was set for: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at 6:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned by President Monika Kimball at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Torres