

President Board Report: June 15, 2017

Welcome & Norms Activity

Welcome to a new fiscal year and a “new” Board. I look forward to us working together and setting a positive tone as we debate, discuss, plan, and build partnerships. First and most important as an opening activity, I highly endorse the adoption of basic norms that we will work together to honor. Effective groups generally have a set of norms that govern individual behavior, facilitate the work of the group, and enable the group to accomplish the task. On the handout I have provided examples of norms, and I recommend that, like last year, we establish a set of norms that ensure that all individuals have the opportunity to contribute in the meeting, to increase productivity and effectiveness, and to facilitate the achievement of goals. I’m going to give everyone an index card and ask that you reflect on and record no more than three behaviors that you consider ideal for a group. Then, let’s spend a few moments going around and sharing your ideas. At the end, we can reflect on what we’ve heard, and then I will collect the cards and type up our list of norms that we can finalize at our next meeting.

Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso—June 14 Open House & Annual Meeting

Last night, 11 of us—Rabbi and Rhonda, Jeff and Avis Lewis, Diane Fleishman, Sue Brown, Jeff Brown, Phil and Sally Alkon, and Fred and me, attended the Jewish Federation’s Annual Meeting and Open House. We met representatives from many of their affiliates, mingled with everyone, shared information about Temple Beth-El, and heard from President Eitan Lavi, Executive Director Daniel Chejfec, and speaker Bizu Riki Mulu, an Ethiopian Falasha Jew, who left Ethiopia as a child to emigrate to Israel. She spent most of her life trying to get her family out of Ethiopia and into Israel, facing many obstacles from the Ethiopian government. Her story was relevant and fascinating. Temple Beth-El demonstrated that we can provide excellent representation, and I appreciate everyone who was able to attend. It was a great night that we spent together.

Sisterhood’s Girls’ Night Out—Thursday, June 22

Sisterhood is sponsoring their annual Girls’ Night Out Asian Fusion Dinner at the home of Shirley Sieng in Picacho Hills. It should be a lovely dinner and experience for all who attend.

Rabbi’s Sing-a-long & Havdalah—Saturday, June 17, 7:30 pm

This Saturday the Rabbi and the Adult Education Committee will continue the tradition of hosting a Sing-a-long event in June to celebrate music from 50 years ago, hit songs from 1967. This is an enjoyable event for all and I highly recommend that people attend.

Baby Joshua Karol

On Friday, June 9, I received a call from Ruth Ann Sugarman, who wanted Temple Beth-El to consider giving a gift or finding a way to honor baby Joshua Karol. Perhaps we could consider purchasing a brick or a leaf. Comments or thoughts?

Sanctuary Congregation

On Monday, June 5, I received an email from Dr. Dan Allen regarding the Leo Baeck Temple board in Los Angeles, California, who approved a proposal to declare LBT a Sanctuary Congregation. I responded to Dr. Allen and thanked him for his email. I told him I would forward it to our Social Action Committee Chair, Ned Rubin, which I did.

Adult Education Committee: New Chair Needed

Rose Jacobs has informed me that she has too much on her plate and is stepping down after one year of being the chair. I will work on looking for a new Adult Education Committee Chair. I am open to suggestions.

Website Facilitator Needed

Bob Kimball has informed me that he will be stepping down from managing the Temple website as of December 2017. He is willing to train his replacement. I am looking for someone who is tech savvy and willing to take this on. If you know anyone in the Temple who can do this, please let me know. I have already asked one person and hope that he or she will take this on.