

President Board Report: August 17, 2017

Reminder to Bring \$10: 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. At the June Board meeting, we decided to each contribute \$10.00. I am collecting the money and will purchase some kind of Treasury or Savings Bond and a mezuzah for the door to the baby's room.

Adult Education Committee: New Chair Needed

We still need a chair for the Adult Education Committee, as Jane Grider has decided not to take this on. The next two Grant-sponsored events—Rabbi Bob Alper and culinary expert Tina Wasserman, along with the film “Challah Rising”-- will be co-sponsored by Adult Ed and the Board. We are very much in need of a chair to help coordinate some aspects of these types of events. If any of you would be willing to step up and fill this role, it would be much appreciated.

Thank You Notes:

We received a thank you note from Casey Rosenberg for the book from the Temple that was given to her in honor of her Bat Mitzvah. We also received a thank you letter from Eitan Lavi, President of the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso, for participating in their June 14 Open House at their new offices.

The Irving Batkin Memorial Scholarship Fund:

The corpus of the Irving Batkin Memorial Scholarship Fund, which was established in 1980 as a memorial to Mike's grandfather, Irving Batkin, is now approximately \$20,000. The primary purpose of the fund is to promote the advancement of Jewish education among the members of TBE and to preserve the memory of Irving Batkin. The Batkin Scholarship identifies four Trustees of the fund—the Rabbi, the Temple President, the Temple Treasurer, and a Batkin family representative. This group, Allen, the Rabbi, Mike Batkin, and me have met twice this year—February 26 and July 25. We reviewed the Revised Charter document, giving feedback to the verbiage. Mike is in the process of refining the document in more detail, and has sent it to us for review. Once the document is finalized, we will meet to sign it, and bring it to the Board for review. The Rabbi has volunteered to draft an application for Temple members to apply for scholarships, which be reviewed and selected by the Committee/Batkin Trustees. The scholarship funds come from the interest, not the corpus of the fund. In addition, it should be noted that Mike planned to match any donations given to the fund by July 31, but he instead contributed \$3,600, four time the amount of the funds (\$900) that had been donated by our members. Mike is a very generous individual who has the best interests of Temple Beth-El and the Jewish education of our members at heart. He is also going to contribute a generous sum to help fund the “Challah Rising” film. One thing to take note of, Mike does not always want his donations to be made public.

Update on our May 7 Board Training: Board Goals

At our May 7 Board Training facilitated by URJ trainer Jim Cherney, we took the day to do some needed self-reflection through engaging in a variety of activities and discussions. Jim helped us to establish important goals and an action plan for this coming year. At the training, the Board said they would be committed to accomplish the following: 1) We will assist the Rabbi in establishing an administrative task force; **2) We will share personal stories and Board profiles in the Adelante that we hope will encourage congregants to become involved in leadership roles;** 3) **We will facilitate a leadership development training program to encourage congregants to become more involved in leadership opportunities;** 4) **We will develop a plan to recognize and thank our Temple volunteers and our members in general (in addition to the FestivUS event);** 5) We will establish focus groups to discuss people's concerns; and 6) We will adopt a Board Covenant or Brit Avodah to clarify expectations and responsibilities of Board members.

- We need another Board member to write their personal story/Board profile for the September Adelante.
- Our thank you calls to members is meeting one of our goals.
- Jim Rosenthal, the Rabbi, and I will be meeting in about a week to discuss the initiation of our leadership development training program.