

## **President Board Report: September 27, 2017**

### **Review of our Board Goals:**

At our May 7 Board Training, we took the day to do some needed self-reflection through engaging in a variety of activities and discussions. We established important goals and an action plan for this coming year. At the training, we committed to accomplish the following:

1. We will assist the Rabbi in establishing an administrative task force—Still need to do this!
2. We will share personal stories and Board profiles in the Adelante that we hope will encourage congregants to become involved in leadership roles—Need a writer for October Adelante
3. We will facilitate a leadership development training program to encourage congregants to become more involved in leadership opportunities—Jim Rosenthal, the Rabbi, and I are working on this. Jim has written a letter that he plans to send you asking for some of you to participate in our new Leadership Development/Nominating Committee, which will help develop and support leaders for TBE now and in the future. We need some of you to step up and join this program, which will meet periodically and will also set the tone for leadership and governance into the future.
4. We will develop a plan to recognize and thank our Temple volunteers and our members in general (in addition to the FestivUS event)—Report on the phone calls
5. We will establish focus groups to discuss people's concerns—Still need to decide how and when to do this.
6. We will adopt a Board Covenant or Brit Avodah to clarify expectations and responsibilities of Board members—Could be like our Norms or could take another form.

### **Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso / Grant 2018 Update:**

As a fairly consistent Board for the past couple of years, we have worked collaboratively to organize and present high quality and well-attended programs such as musician and performer Robyn Helzner on the Jews of China, Rabbi and comedian Bob Alper on the healing aspects of humor, the documentary film "Challah Rising in the Desert" about the many strands of Jews in New Mexico, and the upcoming Jewish culinary program with cookbook writer Tina Wasserman.

Several of our programs have been funded by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso. We are in the process of writing a grant for 2018 programs, one of which will include a series of theatrical vignettes about the history of Temple Beth-El and the Jewish community of southern New Mexico. We will be collecting information for this from interviews with many of our founding members along with others in the community—along with the help of Dr. Jeff Brown and Dr. Wil Kilroy, head of the NMSU Theatre Department. We are also going to write a small grant to fund Robyn Helzner to return in January with a program on Sephardic Jews and a grant to bring writer, poet, and teacher Alden Solovy as well.

In order to continue receiving grant funds, we need to participate in the annual Jewish Federation fundraising campaign to help raise funds to underwrite these projects. While voluntary, we hope the congregation will respond positively to

these upcoming calls and support the Jewish Federation's fundraising efforts. I will need your help with the calling campaign. We need to select a date that a group of Board members and other willing congregants can meet here at Temple to make calls to our congregants. Sue Bendalin, the Federation Campaign Director, is willing to join us to support our efforts. Ideas? Thoughts?