

## **President Board Report: January 19, 2017**

**FestivUS:** The FestivUS is this Saturday. I want to thank everyone for all of the things they have done to make this a great event—Allen for getting the wine; Renee for getting the invitations printed; Susan Michelson, Pearie, Sue Brown, and Allen for labeling and stamping the invitations; Susan & Pearie for working on the centerpieces; Allen, Ned, Jeff, Mike, and Erick for helping to arrange the furniture and move the doors this Friday; for everyone who will help set up and clean up; Allen, Ned, and Jeff for serving the wine; Mike and Erich for being door greeters; the Rabbi for coordinating the music; Rhonda for coordinating games and fun for the children; and especially thank you to Dee and Ann for working with me to plan the whole event, buy the food, and organize everything. I know it will be a wonderful event. As of Sunday night, I had 94 people who RSVP'ed. It's going to be a buffet style vegetarian dinner with appetizers, cheeses and wine, lasagna, salad, and desserts. We also plan to introduce and celebrate our new members and tentative members, so please greet them after they've been introduced and make them feel welcome. We have approximately 11 new and tentative members attending.

**Scheidt Seminar:** I will be attending the URJ's Scheidt Seminar for Temple Presidents on February 9-12 in San Diego. My hope is to learn a lot and to bring back much needed, valuable information and contacts to help us into the future. I will take lots of notes and share what I've learned at our February board meeting.

**Update from Mike Batkin:** Mike Batkin called me on Sunday to let me know that he has been in touch with Jerry Rubin, Executor of the Harry Garbar Estate to whom we made a request for \$56,000 per Mike Batkin's urging. Mr. Rubin has not made a decision yet whether he will be able to give us any money or not, but Mike will let us know. Mike also wants to have a meeting with me, the Rabbi, and Allen, to discuss the Batkin fund. This is tentatively set for Sunday, February 26 at 1:00 pm here at TBE. We'll report what is discussed at the March Board meeting. Mike also invited me and Fred to attend the next movie being sponsored by the Jewish Federation, "The Caborca Jew: A Mexican Story," at the Alamo Drafthouse Theater in El Paso this coming Sunday, January 22, so we will attend and let you know how it is. He said he is also a sponsor of the film festival.

**Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso Grant Update:** We met on Monday, January 16 to discuss how to finalize the grant funds and to decide which scholars we will invite. We also wrote the questionnaire that we need to present to all program attendees, as we need to survey them on how they felt about the program. This is one of the grant requirements. In addition, after my request in the Eblast, we received 10 responses from congregants who offered to bring refreshments to the program. I hope many of you are able to attend the Robyn Helzner event as it should be a fantastic program.