

President Board Report: March 16, 2017

URJ Board Training: Sunday, May 7: We will be holding our URJ facilitated Board Training on May 7. Jim Cherney of Denver will be arriving on Saturday, May 6, and we plan to hold a Board reception for him at my house. We have some funds to pay for food and wine. Then on Sunday, we plan to meet at 10:30 am here in the Social Hall to begin our work together. He has contacted some of you to get your input, and we look forward to working together to build unity and move forward as a Board team. This is very important work that we will do together to help us unify our goals, our mission, and our vision, and I appreciate you taking the time to participate. We have 80% of us committed to attend, along with Jim Rosenthal. I have asked him to join us due to his history with the temple, with the nominating committee, and with the Board. I believe his participation is invaluable. Those unable to participate are Allen Blum, Pearie Bruder, and possibly Susan Michelson. We cannot afford to have anyone else missing, so please plan to attend. I ask that we all bring food for a potluck lunch on Sunday, May 7. We can discuss that later as we get closer to May. This training is specifically designated for current Board members only, per Mr. Cherney's request, so we will not be inviting other individuals at this time, except for Jim Rosenthal. Our ad hoc Leadership Team, however, plans to continue meeting after Mr. Cherney's visit and plans to develop a Leadership training for newer Board members and any continuing Board members as well. If we have a slate of nominees for the new Board, then Mr. Cherney is open to us inviting the new Board members to the training.

Mike Batkin: On February 26, we held our meeting with Mike Batkin, the Rabbi, Allen, and me to discuss the Batkin fund. We will report on this later in the meeting. One important point is that Mike has offered to match all contributions made towards the Irving Batkin Memorial Scholarship Fund up to a total of \$1800. This applies to all donations we receive by July 31, 2017.

How Do You Measure Success?

At the URJ Scheidt Seminar that I attended in February, they gave us many materials to review. One important document included the Union for Reform Judaism Presidents' Manual 2017. I am almost finished reading it, and have found many valuable pieces of information. Chapter 7 focuses on "How Do You Measure Success?" I have taken the information from this chapter and typed up a handout with key questions that I feel would be beneficial for you to respond to. It is titled: "How Do You Measure Success?" I have sent this to you ahead of time so that we may discuss your responses tonight at our meeting.

1. As a synagogue, how are we doing right now?
2. What are we doing well?
3. What are we doing that is not working so well?
4. What should we look at to measure success? What is our "yardstick"?
5. Are we helping congregants build deep **relationships** with people who will be there for them in difficult times and times of joy? How are we doing this?
6. Are we building **meaning** by bringing Jewish tradition and wisdom to the challenges our congregants face? How are we doing this?
7. Are we having **impact** on our congregants and the world around them? How are we doing this?

I believe that this exercise is valuable in assessing significant measures of our role as leaders and how we are working to improve the relationships, meaning, and impact that our synagogue is having on our congregants.

In addition, we received two “thank you” emails—1) one from the Center for Spiritual Living for the \$5,400 donation from the Brandhorst Estate, and 2) one from El Caldito for the donation of food valued at \$250. Also, Jerry Silverman met with an oven repair person on Monday, March 6 to check one of the ovens. The repairman recalibrated the oven so that it will now be approximately 350 degrees when the temperature selected is 350 degrees. They were unable to simulate the failures that were reported by some of the TBE bakers. Therefore, an oven thermometer was left by the oven to allow any of our bakers to get an indication of the approximate oven temperature when they use the oven. Jerry wants to be notified if anyone continues having issues. He also tightened up and replaced screws on one of the foyer benches that was in need of repair.

We are still looking for a TBE replacement for the open seat on the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso’s Board. Pearie indicated that she might be interested, and I forwarded her the Jewish Federation Board information from their president. There are 11 meetings a year, plus they expect a \$54.00 contribution from each Board member in order to have voting privileges. In addition, one of our two Jewish Federation Board members will need to sit on the Grant Committee to review next year’s grant submissions. If we want to continue our very valuable affiliation with the Jewish Federation, which allows us to submit grant requests annually and participate in their activities, we need to have two able candidates who are willing to be Board members.