

President Board Report: November 16, 2017

Revisiting 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—Jeff Brown has met with the Rabbi about this. We can also look at possibly consolidating some of our more administratively-oriented committees and consolidate their tasks under this umbrella. We have looked at these tasks and planned to come back tonight to discuss this more.
2. We are sharing personal stories and Board profiles in the Adelante that we hope will encourage congregants to become involved in leadership roles—Ned said he would write one for November, Dee will write one for December, and Pearie will write one for January.
3. We have established a leadership development training program to encourage congregants to become more involved in leadership opportunities. Under the facilitation of Jim Rosenthal, we are in the process of working together to develop a program that will reach out to the Temple community and encourage members to value becoming a TBE leader. This group is an ad hoc part of the Nominating Committee, and will help develop and support leaders for TBE now and in the future. Several Board members have stepped up to join this program—Pearie Bruder, Michael Mandel, Sue Brown, Jeff Brown, the Rabbi, and me. We have met twice and plan to meet again next Monday. This group will set the tone for leadership and governance into the future.
4. We made calls to recognize and thank our Temple volunteers and our members in general (in addition to the FestivUS event). I also encourage us to recognize new members again at the January 2018 Festivus dinner, like we did last year. It was well-received and helped appreciate our new members. We are ready to set up the Festivus planning team again as well, so let me know if you want to help join in the plans.
5. We have not yet established focus groups to discuss people's concerns, but I have contacted Renee Frank about her ideas for the Strategic Planning Committee, the umbrella under which the focus groups could live, as she said she would work on this. I will let you know when I hear back from her.
6. Our Norms, which we've written at the beginning of the past two fiscal years, represent a Board Covenant or Brit Avodah to clarify expectations and responsibilities of Board members.

New Board Secretary

As you may have heard, Diane is going to step down from being on the Executive Committee, and I have asked Jeff Brown to take her place. I just wanted to get your formal approval for this action. Do we need a motion or a vote or just a general approval? I also want to thank Jeff for jumping in and organizing the committee reports and most recent minutes and agenda.

Baby Josh

Baby Joshua Karol has sent us a very sweet thank you note for our mezuzah gift and gift card. (I will pass around the thank you note for everyone to see.)

Repayment Due to BETY: \$417.19

We need to briefly discuss the need to approve a repayment to BETY that Leora has been asking for since last spring. The Temple needs to repay money that BETY

advanced for expenses incurred during a youth group trip to Phoenix. BETY advanced funds to then-advisor Andrea Orzoff. BETY took this out of its own bank account and now needs to be reimbursed. Leora provided Allen receipts last spring. The reimbursement can no longer be delayed.

Rep for Jewish Education Council

I received an email from Kristin Kimmelman, the Secretarion of the Jewish Federation. They are looking for representatives from each of their affiliates to sit on the newly created Jewish Education Council. If anyone is interested, let me know. The purpose is to improve the state of Jewish education in the El Paso/Las Cruces region by providing a meeting space for the organizations providing Jewish education in our region.

Get-Together with Neighboring Board

Our next door neighbor, Sonoma Springs Church, is requesting that our two boards meet for lunch or dinner very soon. I recommend we think about a mid-December date between our two December holidays, or just after New Year's. Give me your thoughts, but we should set a date.

Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso / Grant 2018 Update:

In order to continue receiving grant funds, we have agreed 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. Just to remind you, we have selected this Sunday, November 19 at 5:00 pm to meet here at Temple to make calls to our congregants. Sue Bendalin, the Federation Campaign Director, is plans to join us to support our efforts. In order to get through our membership directory, we will need most of our Board and a few additional people to make the calls. I again need a commitment from you to do this. We have chosen this coming weekend since it is the weekend after the Tina Wasserman event, and we can refer to that and our other grant programs (Performer Robyn Helzner and Comedian Bob Alper) when we talk about the benefits we've received from Federation grants.