

Rabbi's Report –Board Meeting

April 20, 2017

- Copies of the directory continue to be distributed as people come to Temple for various programs. I will make a few corrections and send out a PDF to members only next week.
- Temple will mark Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day (which is on 4/24) as part of our Shabbat service this coming Friday at 7pm. Our Family Shabbat Service on May 5 will include a celebration of Israel's 69 years.
- Music for the Jewish Food and Folk Festival is ready to go and I will get the sound system on Saturday afternoon and put it up after its arrival at Temple.
- We have two sessions of Hebrew School and one full session of Sunday classes (4/30) plus the shortened last day (5/7) remaining in our Religious School year.
- I will attend the next Social Action Chavurah meeting on 4/29 at the home of Yossi and Susan Lapid.
- Our Tanakh Study group on Wednesdays is welcoming several members of the local community to study with us each week. We have about 10 people attending on a regular basis.
- There is \$1500 from an anonymous donation given to Temple last fall that is earmarked for High Holy Day prayers to complete our collection. We will make the full switch to the new prayerbook this year. I will be checking on congregations that might want some of our copies of Gates of Repentance.
- I continue to convene a monthly Third Thursday clergy breakfast and will serve on the NMSU Interfaith Council as Executive Advisor during 2017-2018. I am still taking part in a Friday discussion group at St. Albert the Great Parish that is focusing on the American Values/Religious Voices letters.
- I am scheduled to perform an online concert on May 9, 2017 at 6pm MDT for "Harmony in Unison," an online anthology on Facebook of concerts organized by Jewish musical artists Stacy Beyer and Beth Schafer. Facebook users can join the group to hear concerts from various performers 5 days a week.
- I gained many insights about congregational and community life from the Central Conference of American Rabbis convention on March 19-23 in Atlanta. There were thoughts about how to deal with the current rapid news cycle, anti-Semitism, working for justice in the community, the nature of ethics, developing a personal leadership mission (see mine in column 2), recognizing and combating hatred, relations between Palestinians and Israelis, and how to approach the Bible in modern times.
- My monthly article in the *Las Cruces Bulletin* on April 7, 2017 focused again on the American Values/Religious Voices campaign. The next column will appear on May 5. My Passover message appeared in the Jewish Voice in El Paso. My op-ed about hatred and cooperation was featured in the Las Cruces Sun-News on March 23, 2017.
- In a session at the CCAR Convention on the topic of Spiritual Courage, Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz challenged us to write a leadership mission statement at the beginning of the session that would apply to the greater community, not just the congregation. Here is my statement: *My leadership mission is to enable all people to recognize their common humanity through engaging in sacred text study and worship, sharing of cultural wisdom, developing musical fellowship and creativity, and to foster healing that can overcome the hatred in our world.*
- Rhonda and I expect to go to New York City for a birth celebration in our immediate family in late May or early June. The likely dates we will be gone would be around Memorial Day until around June 8. We are waiting to make our reservations until about a week from now and will keep you posted. I have service leaders lined up for Shavuot on May 30/31 and will also get the service leaders for any Friday night/Saturday that I am gone.