

## **Rabbi's Report –Board Meeting August 17, 2017**

- I have been working with the Religious School Committee to prepare registration materials for 2017-2018. All of our teachers are returning our students in Pre-K through 7<sup>th</sup> grade are returning as well. Religious School will begin with an orientation morning on Sunday, August 27.
- The Religious Practices Committee met in late July to plan for High Holy Days and to discuss ongoing Shabbat worship. We received our copies of Mishkan Hanefesh for High Holy Days to complete our complement of prayerbooks needed for a full transition to the new book. Copies of Mishkan T'failah for a House of Mourning also arrived on July 21.
- I have been in touch with Rabbi Bob Alper about his appearance at Temple Beth-El on Friday, August 25 and Saturday, August 26. He is eager to join us! He will be arriving on Thursday evening, 8/24. He was set to do an interview with Mike Cook of the Las Cruces Bulletin today. There will be ads (at a modest price) in both local newspapers. Susan Fitzgerald will interview him on her program next Friday on KTAL-LP, the new community FM station at 101.5 FM.
- The third installment of my book review series on Tuesday, 8/29 at 7pm, will focus on Rabbi Mark H. Levin's book, PRAYING THE BIBLE.
- I was interviewed by Peter Goodman for KTAL-LP FM. The interview was run at least on Sunday, August 13 (and may have been on August 6 as well).
- I gave remarks to open a local vigil for Charlottesville this past Sunday at Plaza de las Cruces. My remarks are on my blog.
- I attended NewCAJE at St. Mary's College in Moraga, California on August 5-9. I gained many insights on leadership in the school and congregational setting, community building (through music and in general), character education, and teaching Hebrew prayers along with values. I attended a session on Jews in popular music and the Jewish role in creating the comics about superheroes and comic book industry (that session was taught by a local rabbi). It was good to see long-time colleagues and meet new people as well.
- Rhonda and I plan to attend the URJ Biennial in Boston on December 6-10. Rhonda may attend only for Shabbat. I may also be attending the Pacific Association of Reform Rabbis convention in Palm Springs in early January. I will let you know if Shabbat Shira, the music workshop held in Wisconsin on the first weekend in November, will be a possibility for me.
- I continue to coordinate a monthly clergy breakfast on the third Thursday of the month.
- There was an article about me as a Jewish singer/songwriter in the Las Cruces Bulletin on Friday, July 21.
- I continue to keep in touch with congregants in the process of treatment, recuperation and healing.
- I will continue as Executive Advisor on the NMSU Interfaith Council this coming year.