

## Rabbi's Report –Board Meeting February 16, 2017

- I am putting the finishing touches on the Temple directory. I hope to have it at the printer by February 21.
- Our Tu B'shvat Seder and Tree Planting on February 12 was an enjoyable event put together by the Religious School Committee! Nearly 50 people attended the event.



- The series on the book WISE AGING is meeting weekly on Wednesdays until we finish the book at our March 8 session.
- Judaism: Roots and Rituals will complete fall/winter series on February 28.
- There are five B'nai Mitzvah coming up in 2017: Sadie Carvlin on February 18, Mateo Garcia-Bryce on June 24, Casey Rosenberg on July 29; Michael Bruder on December 2; and Joshua Rosenberg on December 30.
- I continue to convene a monthly Third Thursday clergy breakfast, and I serve on the steering committee of the Las Cruces Interfaith Coalition for Compassion (ICC), and on the NMSU Interfaith Council as Executive Advisor.
- I led a discussion for the community on February 7 at Temple on letters in the American Values/Religious Voices Campaign. Religious Scholars/Professors at American universities and seminaries are sending a letter daily to our new national leaders on faith values that have often been expressed as part of the American character in the past. There will be another session in early March.
- I spoke to the Wednesday breakfast on Humility on January 25.
- On January 26, I performed a 50-minute live online concert for



"Harmony in Unison," an online anthology on Facebook of concerts organized by Jewish singer/songwriters Stacy Beyer and Beth Schafer. Facebook users can join the Facebook group to hear concerts from various performers 5 days a week.

- On February 3, 2017, I joined with Bishop Oscar Cantu of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Las Cruces, Radwan Jallad of the Islamic Center of Las Cruces, and Pastor Jared Carson of Peace Lutheran Church in developing a faith statement entitled "Welcoming the Stranger" and organizing and leading an interfaith prayer service (attended by 140 people) at St. Albert the Great Newman Parish. The faith statement is available on my blog. I did also take part in a Unity gathering at the Islamic Center earlier that week.



- Our choir enjoyed singing with Robyn Helzner at her program on January 23, which drew 115 people to an enjoyable evening of stories and song. I may have the choir sing at our service on March 3, which has been added by the National Jewish Outreach program as a "Shabbat Across America" site because we are having a service and a dinner. The choir will sing at the JFFF again this year.



- I will be attending the Central Conference of American Rabbis convention in Atlanta, GA on March 19-23. It will not involve a Friday night. My brother will be attending also, so we will share room expenses at the Hotel.
- My monthly article in the *Las Cruces Bulletin* on February 3, 2017 focused on the American Values/Religious Voices campaign. That issue also included a profile of me as a columnist for the paper.