

Rabbi's Report –Board Meeting July 20, 2017

- I will be working with the Religious School Committee to prepare registration materials for 2017-2018. We will proceed with plans as if all of our teachers are returning with alternative plans if Kaitlyn Mead and Sarah Mindlin find jobs outside Las Cruces. Religious School will begin with an orientation morning on Sunday, August 27.
- I will be meeting with the Religious Practices Committee to plan for High Holy Days and to discuss ongoing Shabbat worship. I have placed the order for the remainder of our complement of Mishkan Hanefesh for High Holy Days. A group of congregants came forward with donations for the purchase of Mishkan T'failah for a House of Mourning. I have ordered 50 copies of that book. All of the books from Central Conference of American Rabbis press will arrive in the same shipment in the next few days.
- 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!
- The second installment of my book review series on Tuesday, 7/25 at 7pm, will focus on Rabbi Dennis Ross' book, ALL POLITICS IS RELIGIOUS. The third session on Tuesday, 8/29 will focus on Rabbi Mark H. Levin's book, PRAYING THE BIBLE.
- As I was involved in speaking about the important of preserving our land and environment in our area in years past, I have been speaking from my faith perspective in relation to the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument. I am doing this as an independent clergy leader, representing myself and my own understanding of Judaism.
- I will be attending NewCAJE at St. Mary's College in Moraga, California on August 5-9. I have gained many insights for our education programming over the past two years at this convention and hope to do so again. I have been asked to host and perform at an open mic session on August 7. Rhonda and I plan to attend the URJ Biennial in Boston on December 6-10. 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 will be an article about me as a Jewish singer/songwriter in the Las Cruces Bulletin on Friday, July 21. Mike Cook interviewed me on July 11 for this piece.
- I had the opportunity to get a tour from our son, Adam, of Central Synagogue at 55th St. and Lexington Avenue in New York City. Adam will be leaving the congregation for another position in a different arena of work next week.
- Rhonda and I visited the Neue Galerie on 86th Street on July 16, which features the famous “Woman in Gold” portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer. On July 18, we visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art, which includes this copy of Maimonides' Mishneh Torah law code from the 1400s.



