

Rabbi's Report –Board Meeting

June 15, 2017

- Plans for Religious School for the 2017-2018 year are under way. We have put together a tentative calendar and roster (based on the families that are now members of the congregation and sending their children).
- We will be putting in our order for copies of *Mishkan Hanefesh* for High Holy days funded by an anonymous donation of \$1500 presented to Temple last fall. I have posted on the rabbis' conference Facebook page inquiring what we might be able to do.
- I will be presenting a series of book review and discussion on three books this summer:
 - Tuesday, June 27 at 7:00 pm** - *After They Closed the Gates: Jewish Illegal Immigration to the United States, 1921-1965*, by Libby Garland (University of Chicago Press).
 - Tuesday, July 25 at 7:00 pm** - *All Politics Is Religious: Speaking Faith to the Media, Policy Makers and Community*, by Dennis S. Ross (Jewish Lights Publishing).
 - Tuesday, August 29 at 7:00 pm** - *Praying the Bible: Finding Personal Meaning in the Siddur, Ending Boredom & Making Each Prayer Experience Unique*, by Rabbi Mark H. Levin (Jewish Lights Publishing).
- 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 performed an online concert on May 9, 2017 on the "Harmony in Unison" Facebook page.
- I attended a community-wide summit on increasing school attendance at the elementary level on April 25, 2017. I delivered the benediction at the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso annual meeting last night.
- My monthly article in the *Las Cruces Bulletin* on May 5, 2017 focused on the walls that we put up between one another that we could, if we tried, take down. My column on June 2 presented biblical and rabbinic views about how to approach one's enemies, with the possibility of, eventually, making them into friends.
- Rhonda and I had had a good few days in NYC with our grandson, his parents, and other family members and friends. I will be joining Rhonda in NYC from 7/12-7/19 for more grandparent time (I will get service substitutes and rabbinic coverage). I will be attending the NewCAJE Jewish Educators convention at St. Paul's College in Moraga, CA on August 5-9 (with a Saturday service substitute). Rhonda and I are planning to attend the URJ Biennial in Boston on December 6-10, 2017.

Photos of – Karols and Schnurs before the B'rit Milah on June 8; Pop and Joshua and Nan and Joshua; with Rabbi David Saperstein and Rabbi Rick Jacobs of the URJ and "the rabbis Karol" after the B'rit Milah; and with Rabbi Harry Rosenfeld of Congregation Albert on Monday, June 5 in Albuquerque after our dinner celebrating our 36th ordination anniversary.

