

Rabbi's Report –Board Meeting October 19, 2017

- Religious School is back on a regular schedule following our fall holidays.
- We had 67 participants in High Holy Day worship who read individual parts, plus many others who join group aliyot and other group readings. I heard many positive comments about the new prayerbook.
- I am organizing an Interfaith Dialogue program for the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving, November 19 at Temple. This will be our third annual event. I have contacted several clergy (I now have four besides me) who are interested in taking part, and will bring others into the mix soon. We are considering a short list of themes and will make a decision soon on the topic/title of our program.
- Kevin Altman of AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) will be speaking on Friday, October 20 at Temple. His colleague, Rebecca Gerbert, is not going to be able to make it this time. Kevin will speak just before the end of the service about the work of AIPAC.
- Judaism: Roots and Rituals, my Introduction to Judaism course, began a new series this past Tuesday night. I have four students. I have two other students interested in conversion who moved to Las Cruces after beginning their studies in Judaism with colleagues in other cities in the southwest.
- I have been in touch with the Las Cruces Bulletin and the Las Cruces Sun-News to arrange for ads for Tina Wasserman's visit on November 10-12. I placed information about her programs and the Matzo Ball Open on the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso website.
- I will be a participant in the interview process for a new chief of police for Las Cruces during meetings for that purpose next Friday, October 27.
- I will be performing for the "Harmony in Unison" Facebook page this coming Monday, October 23 at 7:00 pm.
- I will be attending Shabbat Shira, the fall worship and music workshop that will be held at Olin-Sang-Ruby camp in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin on November 2-5. That program is one of the best teaching events offered by the Reform movement on developing new ideas and strengthening tried and true approaches for congregational worship. There will be about 70 participants from around the country. I have already arranged for Shabbat service leaders for that weekend.
- Rhonda and I are registered for the URJ Biennial in Boston on December 6-10. I am in the process of arranging for service leaders for that weekend.
- I plan to attend the Pacific Association of Reform Rabbis convention in Palm Springs on January 7-11.
- I continue to keep in touch with congregants in the process of treatment, recuperation and healing.
- I continue to coordinate a monthly clergy breakfast on the third Thursday of the month.
- I am serving as Executive Advisor on the NMSU Interfaith Council this year.
- I attended a meeting this morning (held at Sonoma Springs Church next door) of the El Paso Sector Border Community Liaison Program, which is an ongoing project of the regional Border Patrol. It brings together Border Patrol agents with local organizations that deal with issues related to border and immigration concerns. The conversation was very productive.
- I took part in the Boy Scout review panel at which Aaron Hyman was approved to become an Eagle Scout on October 2.