

Rabbi's Report –Board Meeting

September 27, 2017

- Religious School is well underway with our veteran faculty and an enrollment of 21 students, including 3 in a post-Bar/Bat Mitzvah program where students accumulate points through a variety of projects and through meetings with me.
- The Religious School Committee helped to set the stage for High Holy Days. Part assignments are mostly out at this point, with a few slots to fill for Yom Kippur afternoon. We had 46 people take part in Rosh Hashanah services, not counting those who took part in the group Aliyot. A number of congregants have responded to the extra requests to read. We used *Mishkan T'filah for a House of Mourning* for the first time at the minyan at the Marquez household on September 19. We used *Mishkan HaLev* for Selichot on September 16. Response to *Mishkan Hanefesh* has been very positive after Rosh Hashanah services.
- I participated in a prayer vigil for young people who were beneficiaries of the DACA program at St. Anthony's Church in Anthony on September 10, responding to a call by Bishop Oscar Cantu.
- I served on a panel put together by the City Human Resources department to review questions that will be put to the police chief candidates who will be interviewing for that position in the near future. That meeting was yesterday, 9/26.
- I will be performing for the "Harmony in Unison" Facebook page on Monday, October 23 at 7:00 pm.
- Rhonda and I plan to attend the URJ Biennial in Boston on December 6-10. I hope to sign up for that convention before Yom Kippur. I will be attending the Pacific Association of Reform Rabbis convention in Palm Springs on January 7-11. I did sign up for 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 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 still serving as Executive Advisor on the NMSU Interfaith Council this year.
- 15 congregants submitted responses to my questions about apologies for my sermon for Yom Kippur evening. I will likely be using that sermon as the basis for my Las Cruces bulletin article on October 6. I also submitted the October column for the El Paso Jewish Voice.