

## **President Board Report: August 18, 2016**

First of all, I want to say that we have many dedicated congregants and Board members who put their efforts into making our Temple the strong-minded Jewish community that it has become. Sometimes I think if it wasn't for such an intense, and sometimes stubborn, group of people, we wouldn't have made it out of such horrific atrocities to carry on our traditions and religious spirit as long as we have. So, bravo for stubbornness, integrity, and grit. I want to thank the Rabbi for his perseverance as our worship leader, continually reminding us to reflect and be thankful, to praise God, and to value our families and friends.

My Cousin Carole, my mother's niece, died a few days ago. She was a generous, strong, Jewish woman who was a role model for all who knew her. Her death, and even more so, her life, reminds me of the importance of being a strong Jewish woman who knows that the challenges before me are God's way of telling me that I can handle it and that He is only testing me to see if I know how strong I really am.

Current events since I last saw you include the following: 1) Renee's meeting with door artist John Northcutt; 2) an online "Zoom" meeting between URJ North America Board member Steve Sherman, Allen, and me about the benefits of URJ and the opportunity to reduce our annual dues; 3) a meeting with the Zeemonts regarding final disposition from the Brandhorst estate and going forward with the Renaissance Fair booth; 4) the Jewish Federation of El Paso grant writing workshop attended by our own Bill Stein; and 5) the establishment of the Rabbi review committee and the work they have started.

I appreciate that Mark Saltman has agreed to attend tonight's meeting to share information about the Security Committee's work and our enhanced role in security as Board members, and I appreciate that Bill Stein has agreed to attend to discuss the tentative plan to write a grant proposal to the Jewish Federation of El Paso. By attending their grant writing workshop, he has made us eligible to write a proposal and to potentially fund a future educational program of some kind that will benefit our community.

Along with all of the worship and educational events of our Temple community, the beginning of our Religious School year, and the upcoming High Holy Days, I hope this meeting addresses your concerns and enlightens you regarding the issues at hand.