

## **President Board Report: July 21, 2016**

This has been a very glum time for our world with multiple killings, whether by police or angry citizens or by terrorists. It is hard to fathom. Oftentimes, our little world of Temple Beth-El here in Las Cruces is a primary place of support to find solace, to work with others to bring about social justice, and to pray to God for spiritual support. One positive action that we were able to take was to bring a donation of \$700 to Camp Hope to support the good work they do to help the homeless and downtrodden in our community. The Rabbi, Ned, my husband Fred, and I went over there on July 6 to meet with the director and present her with our donation. We appreciate everyone who was able to donate funds, and we look forward to doing this again sometime in the near future.

I held an Adult Education Committee transition meeting on July 13, to hand over the reigns to Rose Jacobs and Ruth Rubin, co-chairs for 2016-2017. The committee members all attended as well, and we planned out the events for this coming year. I gave Rose my complete binder with two years' worth of press releases, agendas, minutes, budgets, news contacts, and notes, and gave her a jump drive with all documents saved on it. I was happy to do this and feel this provided a good example of how make a transition to new leadership as seamless as possible.

Rose Jacobs and her husband Lionel are wonderful new members who want so much to assist our Temple in any way they can. As I mentioned last month, she has asked to be given permission to send out greeting cards to members as they have done in their other congregations. In order to facilitate this, she will meet with Bob Kimball to get needed information from the Rakefet database in order to send out electronic greeting cards to our members for birthdays, anniversaries, etc, at no cost to the Temple. She has volunteered to pay the \$20 member fee to Blue Mountain or one of the other online greeting card companies and will send out the cards throughout the year. She has offered to volunteer in the Temple office as well to assist the Rabbi with needed tasks. I think it is important to support members with their requests to assist and volunteer, to encourage inclusiveness, and to continue building community engagement and community spirit.

As mentioned last month, Ned and I have organized a review committee to get feedback from member's regarding the Rabbi's work and relationships with the congregation by interviewing members who have experienced specific contact points, i.e., Bar Mitzvahs, funerals, and committee work. We will report back to you after our review is completed.

I want to particularly thank the Executive Board and the Rabbi for their collaborative work over these past couple of months. And thank you all for your dedication and work on behalf of our wonderful Temple.