

President Board Report: June 23, 2016

I want to welcome everyone to our 2016-2017 new Board. I know we will have a great year. Thank you for your dedication and service to Temple Beth-El and congratulations to our newest members: Sue Brown, Pearie Bruder, Jeff Lewis (Mensch Club Rep), Michael Lieberman, and Susan Michelson, and congrats to Ann Berkson and Allen Blum for their reelection.

Temple Beth-El has had an eventful two months. First, we held our Annual Congregational Meeting on May 10, elected this Board as a slate, and approved the ability of the Board to vote electronically when necessary. We held two more successful Social Action Candidate Forums on May 17 and 24, had a successful Sisterhood Rummage Sale on May 22, and observed the passing of two of our beloved congregants, Abe Pomerantz on May 15 and Marianne Zeitlin on June 4. They will be sorely missed.

Our current Board voted electronically to collect donations for Camp Hope at the Adult Education's "Musical Walk Down Memory Lane" with Rabbi Karol, collecting \$336, and voted to continue collecting donations throughout June, after which we will present Camp Hope with the total donations. I also highly encourage you to put a donation in the Tzedakah box in the Temple entranceway, if you haven't already done so.

The Adult Ed sponsored musical event on June 4, with 67 attendees, was a fun-filled night of hit songs from 1966 led by Rabbi Karol's expert guitar playing, singing, and sharing his knowledge of musical history. The Mensch Club, under the able leadership of Jeff Lewis, has already held a couple of meetings and shown the film Berlin 36.

Our congregation observed Shavuot on June 11 and 12 with a wonderful bagel brunch on June 12, sponsored by Rabbi and Rhonda Karol. Then on June 14 a large contingent from our Temple attended the El Paso Jewish Federation's Annual Meeting at Ardovino's Desert Crossing restaurant in Sunland Park to recognize our two members who were elected to the Federation's Board, Bill Stein and Dave Zeemont, and to honor our two Volunteers of the Year, Rebecca Berkson and Aggie Saltman, for all their dedication and work on the JFFF. On June 18 our congregation celebrated the Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Saltman with the Saltman family. It was a very special occasion and Jacob did a wonderful job.

An item that has come to my attention is the problem with the hanging doors between the Social Hall and the Sanctuary. Bob Kimball has completed some research and gotten us an estimate from Specialty Doors, Inc. in Redondo Beach, California. He presented me with four options: 1) To really fix the problem, tear down the existing track and buy something heavy duty to really support the heavy doors—very expensive. 2) Buy the minimum number and replace the worst hangers—would cost \$2,300 and get us by for about 5 years. 3) Buy 40 new hangers

and replace all the bad hangers. We would have extras we could use to replace additional hangers as they break. With 40 new assemblies, we could get by for 20 years--\$7,610. 4) Finally, buy 20 hangers so we would have enough parts to get by for many years--\$3,800. Bob is also going to talk to a machinist in Cloudcroft to see if he can make the hangers for us.

New member Rose Jacobs would like to establish a Sunshine Committee where she collects everyone's birthdays, anniversaries, Yahrzeit dates, and sends out cards for those events plus get well cards. It's a wonderful idea, and she did this for congregations she has belonged to in the past. It won't cost anything, as she will use one of the free, online greeting card companies like Blue Mountain. I am hoping you will support her in this effort. I would like to give her the go-ahead to do this. She will need access to our database on Rakefet.

Another amazing idea from Lionel and Rose Jacobs is hosting Shabbat potlucks called Shabbarbecues. They've done this in other congregations with great success, attracting large congregational attendance at Shabbat services. I would like us to consider this idea and come up with a way to make this happen.

Finally, based on the Rabbi's contract, it identifies that "the Rabbi will receive a formal, oral performance review at least annually provided by a committee organized and chaired by the TBE president." To honor this contract point, we plan to establish a review committee to assess the Rabbi and congregational relationship prior to our Semi-Annual meeting in October, after High Holy Days.