

Rabbi's Report –Board Meeting November 17, 2016

- Many thanks to the Board of Trustees for their leadership at the Special Congregational Meeting on November 10, 2016. I appreciate the opportunity to create an agreement with the congregation to continue our relationship over the next few years in a way that will enable the congregation to grow in fostering positive ties among members and to create meaningful programming.
- “Humble Enough? An Interfaith Conversation” is set to go on Sunday, 11/20 at 2pm. Panel members had a preference of presenting to the group and then going to a table to facilitate a discussion on predetermined questions among those present. The program will be held in the Social Hall.
- The final changes in the Temple directory are now complete. I had been waiting for responses from a few congregants on the exact text for their listing. It will be sent to the printer in the next few days. Many thanks to Bob Kimball for his extensive preparatory work on the directory.
- The Las Cruces Bulletin has asked me to pen a monthly column for the Religion pages of their newspaper. I have told them that I would be very happy to do so. I will, as always, keep in mind the importance of being a reasonable and responsible voice for the greater community and in representing the Jewish community.
- I have been keeping track of congregants who have gone through surgery and those in continuing recovery.
- I am working with the Youth Committee on shoring up our Youth program (in relation to their presentation tonight).
- I will be meeting with the Religious Practices Committee again soon to discuss High Holy days and congregational participation in ongoing worship.
- Marsha San Filippo called me to ask if Temple wanted to do something for

Chanukah in the midst of the Christmas Tree lighting event on the Plaza downtown on Saturday, 12/3. As the whole event is about Christmas, I am inclined not to do anything, but if anyone has another thought, please let me know.

- The Jewish Community of El Paso will be lighting a Menorah at San Jacinto Plaza on Wednesday, December 28 at 6pm. I may go down there for that event. They are wondering if various congregations want to participate as well with their presence or with music.
- Rabbi David Paskin and Menachem Creditor have assembled songs from various Jewish musical artists for a new online album, “There is Hope,” featuring songs on that theme. My song “Natatah Simchah V’Libi” (You Put Joy in My Heart) is included on the album.
- Jewish singers Stacey Beyer and Beth Schafer are coordinating a series of “Facebook Live” performances of Jewish singers to present songs that offer a positive and hopeful message. They invited to offer a performance. We will be signing up for specific dates soon.
- I continue to convene a monthly Third Thursday clergy breakfast, and I serve on the steering committee of the Las Cruces Interfaith Coalition for Compassion, and on the NMSU Interfaith Council as Executive Advisor.
- Shabbat Shira, the fall workshop on worship and music at Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute Camp in Wisconsin on November 3-6, was an enriching and multi-faceted experience in terms of networking and learning. I have already shared a song or two that we sang over the weekend. My sessions on the power of us, how certain songs can explain a particular text from Jewish tradition, and the creative process were very valuable, and conversations with colleagues touched upon all aspects of congregational life. Go to rabbilarrykarol.blogspot.com to read my post on the weekend.