

Rabbi's Report –Board Meeting

December 15, 2016

- I am still waiting for a go-ahead on the Temple Directory.
- I have been keeping track of congregants who have gone through surgery and those in continuing recovery. I will be making phone calls and a couple of visits over the next two weeks.
- Lynne Butner's visit on December 4 was successful in creating some energy around our youth programming. Following that meeting, Amy Asin, the URJ Vice-President for Strengthening Congregations, consulted with me on December 7 about leadership in our congregation. She said that there is a good possibility for the URJ to send someone to us to do some leadership consultation and training.
- The Adult Education program, "Humble Enough? An Interfaith Conversation" brought 50 people together for presentations by our panelists and small group discussion on the theme of humility. The event was covered on the front page of the Las Cruces Sun-News on Thanksgiving Day and featured in photos in the Las Cruces Bulletin on December 9. The program was the centerpiece of my first monthly column in the Las Cruces Bulletin on December 2.
- Temple Beth-El is listed as a partnering organization in the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso Chanukah Celebration at San Jacinto Plaza on Wednesday, December 28. Our Religious School students are decorating a large dreidel that will be used at the program. I do plan to attend.
- Our Religious School students will be asked to write about freedom, and to draw a picture on theme of freedom, for the Chanukah service on Friday, December 30. Our choir (hopefully with singers of all ages) will take part in that service. I will send out an email urging congregants to make latkes to share that night!
- I made presentations on Chanukah on December 5 and 6 at Valley View Elementary School; at the Amistad Advanced Pre-School of the Las Cruces Public Schools on December 9; and at J. Paul Taylor Academy (with Rebecca, Ann, Mia and Lilah Berkson) on December 14.
- The dedication for the New front doors has been postponed until December 23.
- I will be offering the first session in a series of discussions on the book WISE AGING on Wednesday, December 21.
- There are four B'nai Mitzvah coming up in 2017: Sadie Carvlin on February 18, Mateo Garcia-Bryce on June 25, Casey Rosenberg on July 29; and Michael Bruder on December 2.
- It was my turn to submit a rabbi's column for the El Paso Jewish Voice. It will appear in the January issue.
- 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.
- I recently hosted meetings at Temple for groups in which I participate: the NMSU Interfaith Council's monthly meeting on December 1; a Great Conversation session on December 12; and a special gathering for local clergy led by statewide non-profit, Interfaith Worker Justice, on December 15.
- I will be performing a 20-minute live online concert for "Harmony in Unison," an online anthology of concerts organized by Jewish singer/songwriters Stacy Beyer and Beth Schafer. I will perform on January 26.
- Rhonda and I will be in Albuquerque/Santa Fe on December 26-27 to view the "Fractured Faiths" exhibit at the New Mexico History Museum.
- I may be attending the Central Conference of American Rabbis convention in March. I will keep you posted on that possibility. It will not involve a Friday night.
- I attended a dinner with Temple Mount Sinai congregants in El Paso on Saturday, December 10 with their weekend scholar-in-residence, Rabbi Gary Zola, director of the American Jewish Archives. Rabbi Zola was ordained the year after me. The TMS congregation were encouraging about pursuing joint programming with them a couple of times a year and, perhaps, even a pulpit exchange between Rabbi Zeidman and me. I said that those are good ideas to explore.