

**Meeting of the Board of Trustees**  
**Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces, New Mexico**

**MINUTES**

**October 18, 2018**

**Trustees Present:** Jeff Brown, Dee Cook, Cheryl Decker, Jeff Lewis, Michael Mandel, Ned Rubin, Ruth Rubin, Ellen Torres, Rabbi Larry Karol (ex-officio)

**Trustees Absent:** Sue Brown, Pearie Bruder, Luke Duddridge, Diane Fleishman, Joanne Turnbull

**Guests:** Steve Haydu, Jim Rosenthal

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Ellen Torres at 7:06 pm.

**Invocation:** Rabbi Karol gave the invocation.

**Acceptance of Minutes:** Ruth Rubin moved accepting the September 20, 2018 minutes, and Michael Mandel seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

**Leadership / Board Reports**

- A. Rabbi's Report. The Rabbi distributed a report about his activities. It will be printed in the Adelante. His handout included a thank you letter from our guest singer Chana Mirel. He reported about Sukkot and Simchat Torah services and about the recent play "Memories," in which he led the audience in singing and took part in a panel discussion. He is working with the Social Action Committee for an interreligious dialogue program to be held on either November 11 or November 18. He is partnering with Rose Jacobs to update the Temple directory. It should be ready by Chanukah. He will write an article about interfaith activities for the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society's publication Legacies. He and Rhonda Karol attended the installation of their daughter-in-law Juli as assistant Rabbi at Congregation Rodeph Sholom in New York City. He will attend the Shabbat Shira music/worship workshop in Wisconsin on November 1-4, 2018. There will be a health policies meeting soon. Jeff Lewis reminded Board members about the Empty Bowls event scheduled for Friday during this part of the agenda.
  
- B. President's Report. President Ellen Torres reported about the Matzo Ball Golf Tournament that will be held on October 21. There are 33 sponsors and 22 golf teams lined up so far. She thanked Lynn Zeemont, Dee Cook, Ann Berkson and other volunteers for their fine work. Ellen noted that discussions have continued with the Center for Spiritual Living about the Renaissance Faire deli booth. She thanked all participants in the play "Memories" and especially thanked playwright and director Wil Kilroy. The Board discussed sending Wil a thank you card or writing to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (Dean Enrico Pontelli) to express their appreciation of Wil's work. Fred Torres helped tally questionnaire data from most of the Jewish Federation grant-funded events of 2017 and 2018,

with some data tallied by Jane Grider. The questionnaire data and invoices from the play will be submitted to the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso. Ellen discussed the two grants submitted to the Federation for 2019 appearances at TBE by Julie Silver (a Jewish song leader and social activist) and Ken Kanter (who would lead three days of workshops about the history of Jewish liturgy and popular music). She passed out copies of the proposals. Ellen reminded Board members that they should participate in the Leadership workshops scheduled for October 28, December 16 and February 10. Ellen noted that the Strategic Planning Committee will probably be able to present its report at the November Board meeting. Webmaster Steve Haydu took photos of newer Board members during this part of the agenda.

- A. Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Michael Mandel discussed our budget. His handouts noted that early dues submissions have begun to plateau, and that Yizkor donations were larger than High Holidays donations.

**Committee Reports:** Written reports are attached to these minutes. Guest Jim Rosenthal met yesterday with his committee and the Rabbi to shape the October 28 workshop. He and Ellen Torres asked Board members to identify and invite potential leaders for October 28. Jim discussed his participation on an on-line small congregations URJ leadership workshop, and the Board discussed URJ workshops at Biennials and other meetings about leadership and small congregations. Jim voted that the 2019 nominating process is now under way. Ned Rubin reminded members that it is vital to train committee chairs and co-chairs as well as to invite them to the workshop. Jeff Brown led a discussion about publicizing this event and other events via E-Blasts. .

### **Old Business:**

Ellen Torres and Michael Mandel will discuss the Renaissance Faire with Dave Zeemont. The Center for Spiritual Living's share of deli proceed may be 20%. The Board discussed potential dates for a corned beef Deli Dinner. Potential dates might be around December 8 or December 9. Joanne Turnbull will write an Adelante column in November. Board members discussed having future columns about committee activities that could include Social Action or History. Board members reviewed announcement dates and one member signed the list for March 15. Ned Rubin discussed the October candidate forums.

### **New Business:**

The Ways and Means Committee will develop a flyer and donation form for the A Night At The Auction fundraiser. The Board Installation Service will be at 7:00 on November 16 at the Temple. Board members discussed issues involving the scheduling of onegs. Rose Jacobs will call a meeting of JFFF sub-committee chairs for December 12. Since the new Web format seems to have deleted items that were previously listed on our Web page, or it re-installed earlier versions of articles, Jeff Brown asked members to report any omissions or glitches that they see prior to an October 22 communications meeting.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Date of Next Executive Board Meeting: **Tuesday, December 3 @ 6:00 pm** at Temple

Date of Next Board of Trustees Meeting: **Thursday, December 13 @ 7:00 pm** at Temple.

Respectfully Submitted, Jeff Brown

**Committee and Group Reports:**

**Adult Education Committee**, Ned Rubin, Chair: Report is attached to Social Action Committee report.

**Dues Committee**, Michael Mandel, chair: Second quarter dues statements will be sent out.

**History Committee**, Jeff Brown, Chair: Dee Cook, Susan Michelson, Nan Rubin, Jeff Brown, Ellen Torres and Rabbi Karol met with Wil Kilroy to review his draft script for the October 7 play. Nan and Jeff placed photographs from three old Sisterhood scrapbooks that were falling apart into acid free sleeves placed in three new binders. Nan and Jeff selected photographs for potential slides, and Nan converted them into slides and slotted them into the play. Nan selected music for the play. Wil completed the script, recruited eleven actors, and made all arrangements at the ASNMSU-CFTA Theatre for the play. Committee members, Ellen and the Rabbi attended dress rehearsals. Ellen and Jane Grider completed the questionnaire, and Ellen contacted many Temple leaders and members who graciously served as ushers, handed out programs and questionnaires, got people to sign in, and served refreshments. Jane staffed the photograph table after the play. Irv Ross and Ellen supplied the refreshments. The Rabbi completed the play handbook, arranged for printing and binding, and picked up the materials. Jeff and Wil arranged publicity. Fred Torres tallied multi-year questionnaire results with help from Jane Grider. The play was very successful, and including the actors (who first learned about Judaism from the play), there were 181 people present in the Theatre for the play. The Rabbi, Wil, Jeff and most of the actors participated in a panel discussion after the play. Nan arranged to videotape the performance and panel. The audience enjoyed the excellent reception and many viewed the Sisterhood scrapbooks. This was a great group project! We thank the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso for funding the grant that assisted the oral history project and that made the play possible.

**Library Committee**, Linda Kruger, Chair: Assuming ability to muster Mensch Club volunteers to help box 8-10 shelves of Young Adult books that haven't circulated in a decade, & store them somewhere in the Temple building, that should be completed as close to 11/1 as is reasonable. I await instructions from the Board as to where to put them. There is room in the 1st class room on the left of that corridor where they'd stack neatly in a corner, not invading religious school space. The ultimate decision for disposal and what to keep depends on query answers from other URJ temple libraries that "have been there,

done that." The ultimate decision must be based on time-consuming research and is not the Library's priority for the foreseeable future.

**Mensch Club**, Luke Duddridge, Representative: It has been a routine month for the Mensch Club. We met to assemble the Sukkah and we met a second time to dis-assemble the Sukkah. Added by David Decker: The next regular monthly meeting has been moved from October 21 to October 24, and will probably take place immediately after the Wednesday Breakfast Group meeting.

**Nominating Committee**, Jim Rosenthal, Chair: The Nominating Committee is moving ahead on its leadership series, which begins later this month, and the nominating process, too. We are meeting this week to work on both of these.

Our first leadership presentation is Rabbi Karol's "Defining Spirituality," on Sunday, October 28 at 2 p.m. in the TBE Steinborn Social Hall. Two more presentations are scheduled: "Leadership Styles and Skills," by Ellen Torres on Sunday, December 16 at 2 pm in the Social Hall and "Exploring our Temple, with Sue Brown and Ann Berkson on Sunday, February 10 at 2 p.m. We see these interactive presentations as opportunities for board of trustees members and other individuals in leadership positions - as well as all congregants - to get together to learn about various aspects of leadership, Judaism and Temple Beth-El.

These leadership presentations also will allow the Nominating Committee to begin the nomination process by identifying and connecting with individuals who may become future leaders, including potential candidates for the board of trustees as well as other positions of responsibility.

**Sisterhood**, Dee Cook, Representative: Sisterhood had a successful High Holiday Rosh Hashanah oneg and Break Fast. We thank everyone who came to the rescue of the Break Fast while Cheryl was under the weather. The RH oneg was simplified this year but people were busy cleaning up late into the evening. We have to work on this problem for next year. We still have openings for our Friday onegs.

**Social Action Committee**, Ned Rubin, Chair: The October 4 meeting was spent reviewing and editing questions for the candidates for the two candidate forums. We have received confirmations from most of the candidates. Jonathan Allen, candidate for House District 35 never responded to any attempts to reach him. Ben Rawson, candidate for County Commission seat for District 3 refused to participate. All tasks for the candidate forums were assigned and final arrangements were made.

**Youth Committee**, Leora Zeitlin, Chair: BETY and BEMY had an opening ice-cream party to plan the fall semester. They organized the annual food drive for the High Holidays, and BETY or BEMY kids announced it at every service. They gathered at the end of September to load all the bags into the truck from Casa De Peregrinos. They are planning a dessert and game night for the congregation from 7:00 to 9:00 on October 27, with details to follow.