

President Board Report: June 21, 2018

Norms or B'rit:

The meaning of the Hebrew word “b’rit” is a covenant, pact, or treaty. It is one of the Hebrew Scriptures’ most important concepts, appearing over 270 times. In a lot of ways, a b’rit is like a set of Norms that we agree to. So, Norms are our Board’s B’rit, covenant, pact, or treaty. I believe it is important at the beginning of each new Board year, to reaffirm our Norms or our covenant or B’rit with each other. That’s why I asked you to write your set of proposed Norms for the year. I only received this information from our newer folks, which I appreciate, but I also would like the rest of you to give me your set of Norms for this new year and this new Board so that we can reaffirm our commitment to each other to work together in the best way possible. I can collect them now, if you have yours, and I will consolidate the list so that we can vote on them or agree upon them no later than our July Board meeting. If you don’t have them, please get them to me in the next few days—by email, if possible.

Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso Annual Meeting:

On Wednesday, June 6, about 17 of us from TBE attended the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso’s Annual Meeting at the beautiful home of incoming President Janet Wechter. We heard from several speakers, including Inna Lapidus-Kinbere, the director of the Jewish Community Center in Riga, Latvia, which is supported by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. The night’s program reaffirmed the importance of our participation in the Jewish Federation as we could visualize the support it provides for Jews worldwide. We were asked to select a TBE Volunteer of the Year, and as you know, Dave Zeemont was our choice. He was thrilled at being our choice, and was called to the podium to be recognized and receive a beautiful glass plaque with his name etched on it. We also recognized Dave in the Adelante with a very nice article (thank you, Dee) and photograph.

Jewish Federation Annual Campaign 2018

We again will be holding an Annual Campaign Calling Session, one of the requirements of receiving a grant from the Federation. The Federation held their sessions on May 16 and 17, and we have committed to holding our calling session on Wednesday, June 27, here at TBE at 6:00 pm. I hope many of you will join us to ask our members to make pledges to support the amazing work of the Jewish Federation worldwide. To date, Campaign 2018 has 254 Pledges of \$263,757.00. Their goal is \$600,000, so there is still a need to make calls. Campaign Director, Sue Bendalin, joins me in asking each of you and our members to give generously when considering the Jewish Federation and the many agencies they support. Our gifts determine how much they can provide in grants and programming to support local, national, and international causes. Remember, every dollar contributed changes a life for the better. I look forward to seeing many of you on Wednesday. Thank you to those who have already told me they’ll be there.

Leadership Series:

As we have mentioned, we will be holding our Board Orientation and Dinner on August 12, and I am hoping all Board members can attend. Besides dinner and some social time together, we have a reflective activity planned as well. This orientation will be a lead-in to the Nominating Committee's upcoming Leadership Series, brief yet engaging workshops on key topics such as "Defining Spirituality," "Leadership Styles and Skills," and "Exploring Our Temple." While this series will be open to all Temple members, I highly urge you (our trustees) to participate in these workshops. We're setting a foundation to build strong leaders, which is crucial to the future and legacy of our temple. These workshops are intended to provide the needed support for those of you, and others, who have stepped up or will step up to be involved as temple leaders, so please attend. I will keep you posted. So far, the dates for the first three are Sunday, October 28, Sunday, December 16, and Sunday, February 10, all at 2:00 pm. Future topics may include Congregational Governance, Financial Responsibility, and Our Mission-Vision-and Values.