

President Board Report: 9-20-18

Update on High Holidays, Break the Fast, and Cheryl Decker

We had very engaging High Holiday services, and I want to thank Rabbi Karol and all who participated for their dedication and hard work to make this a memorable High Holiday season. Break-the-Fast was a phenomenal amount of work, but we couldn't have pulled it off without many of you and many of our dedicated congregants who pulled through for us when one of our own had a serious medical situation. I was participating in Yom Kippur morning services when I noticed that I had missed a call from Dave Decker. I walked to the temple office to return his call, only to discover that Cheryl was out of commission due to terrible pain in her neck area. They were both more worried about helping with Break-the-Fast than about Cheryl, and I told Dave that his first concern needed to be his wife and that we would take over the meal without any need for them to worry. He ended up taking Cheryl to the ER magnet on Main Street twice during the night and early morning, and then finally took her directly to Mountain View due to excruciating pain in her neck. He kept in touch with me and let me know that she had a form of arthritis in the ball and socket between her neck and spine that made it almost impossible for her to move her neck. They kept her overnight and may be performing a surgery, possibly a removal of a bone spur, to alleviate her pain. I told them that we were all sending them our love and prayers during this difficult time. I want to thank the following people for stepping up to help me keep our Break-the-Fast well-organized: Dee Cook, Rhonda Karol, Lynn Zeemont, Ruth Rubin, Terri Sugarman, Avis Lewis, Becca Krebs, Steve Haydu, and of course, Carmen Alvarez & her sister Bertha. Many other people offered to help, but we had everything under control. Sometimes praying to God takes many different forms, and is not always conventional. At times, helping your community is as valuable as reciting prayers in the sanctuary.

Fundraisers

- Matzo Ball Open Golf Tournament: Sunday, October 21 at 2:00 pm at Picacho Hills Country Club; Chairs Lynn Zeemont, Michael Mandel, Dee Cook, and me. This is coming along nicely with about \$2,200 or more in hole sponsorships. We have about 10 or more foursomes. I don't have an update on the raffle prizes, but perhaps Michael can share more about this. I feel the event is making progress and should pull in a decent net profit.
- Pastrami Booth at the Renaissance Faire: November 3 & 4 at Young Park; Chairs Dave Zeemont and Jeff Lewis. Dave informed me that the Center for Spiritual Living does want to co-sponsor the booth with us again this year. He is setting up a meeting for us to talk about the shared responsibilities.
- Jewish Food and Folk Festival, Sunday, April 7, 2019; Chairs Rose Jacobs and Francine Feinberg, Volunteer Coordinators Susan Michelson and Susan Quinn.
- More info to come on other potential fundraisers

Thank You Calls to Congregants

I hope you have all completed your calls, as the end of Yom Kippur was our deadline. I want to hear any comments you have from the calls you made.

"Memories: A Temple in Las Cruces"

- We hope to see you at the Sunday, October 7, 2:00 pm theatrical performance of our members' personal stories, performed by NMSU theater students at the NMSU Center for the Arts at the corner of Espina and University. This theatrical production has been funded by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso. Please join us for a phenomenal experience, a panel discussion, and refreshments on Sunday, October 7, at 2 pm at the NMSU theater. Thank you to Jeff Brown and the History Committee for all their work on this project.

Leadership Workshops: I strongly encourage you all to attend these events!

- On Sunday, October 28 at 2:00 pm here in the TBE Steinborn Social Hall, Rabbi Karol will present a workshop on "Defining Spirituality"
- On Sunday, December 16 at 2:00 pm in the Social Hall, I will present a workshop on "Leadership Styles and Skills," and
- On Sunday, February 10 at 2:00 pm, Sue Brown and Ann Berkson will present a workshop on "Exploring our Temple."