

## Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces, New Mexico

### MINUTES

December 13, 2018

**Trustees Present:** Jeff Brown, Pearie Bruder, Dee Cook, Cheryl Decker, Luke Duddridge, Diane Fleishman, Jeff Lewis, Michael Mandel, Ruth Rubin, Ned Rubin, Ellen Torres, Joanne Turnbull, Rabbi Larry Karol (ex-officio)

**Trustees Absent:** Susan Brown, Art Lorbeer

**Guest(s):** Mike Lieberman, Lorraine Padilla, Nina Salmon, Dave Zeemont, Lynn Zeemont

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Ellen Torres at 7:05 p.m.

**Invocation:** Rabbi Karol led the Board in the invocation.

**Acceptance of Minutes:** Ned Rubin moved accepting the November 15, 2018 Board Minutes, and Michael Mandel seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

### **Leadership/Board Reports**

Lynn Zeemont, Nina Salmon (Executive Director, Mesilla Valley Hospice,) and Lorraine Padilla (Director of Human and Community Relations, Mesilla Valley Hospice) met with the Board to receive a \$1,000 donation to the Hospice that was funded by the Matzo Ball Open Golf Tournament's profits. Ned Rubin took a photograph. The Board applauded the Hospice's activities and thanked Lynn Zeemont for leading the golf tournament.

Mike Lieberman made a presentation about hearing loops that could be installed in the Temple. While a full project could be expensive, members discussed options for potential ways to assist TBE members who have hearing difficulties. Luke Duddridge moved to set up a test of the system that Mike had discussed, with Ned Rubin seconding. The motion passed unanimously. Mike said that members have pledged \$1,000 towards the ultimate project and that there might be additional assistance from Temple groups.

**Rabbi's Report.** The Rabbi has three students in his Introduction to Judaism course. He asked the Board to discuss his annual parsonage allowance, which sets a cap on the amount of Temple funding that he may attribute towards his parsonage costs. The amount has been a maximum of \$19,000 per year in recent years. Pearie moved to allot a maximum of \$19,000 towards the Rabbi's parsonage in calendar year 2019, with Luke Duddridge seconding. This motion passed unanimously. The Rabbi noted that David Baltuch will accompany him on the piano in services on December 21. He is working on the Directory with Rose Jacobs.

**President's Report.** President Ellen Torres discussed our proceeds from the Matzo Ball Open and the Renaissance Faire. The Temple had \$13,283 in MBO revenues, with \$6,157.50 in

expenses and the \$1,000 donation to the Mesilla Valley Hospice, providing a net profit of \$6,125.50. The Renaissance Faire had \$5,281.65 in revenues, \$2,591.27 in expenses, and \$710 in fees to the Dona Ana County Arts Council, producing a profit of \$578.81 for the Center for Spiritual Living and a \$1,350.57 net profit for the Temple. We may receive some additional revenues after expenses by selling more pastrami. Rose Jacobs has written to Ellen and committee members about plans for the JFFF. Ned Rubin noted that JFFF leaders are preparing a detailed notebook so that any future JFFF directors will know what steps to take.

President Ellen noted that Sue Brown will step down from the Board, and she proposed Luke Duddridge as the new Board member. Michael Mandel moved that Luke be appointed to the Board for the remainder of Sue's term (to the May 2020 congregational meeting), with Pearie Bruder seconding. This passed unanimously. Art Lorbeer will replace Luke as the Mensch Club representative to the Board until May 2019, and another representative will be selected by the Mensch Club at that time. Ellen discussed the December 16 and March 3 leadership workshops. She noted that the Batkin Scholarships will receive \$1,280 from the overall Batkin Endowment's proceeds for this year. The Endowment is supervised by the Jewish Federation of Greater El Paso. She noted that receipts are being provided to JFGEP for this year's grant-funded programs. We will keep better organized records in future years for JFGEP grants.

**Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Michael Mandel and Board members discussed our most recent financial statement. Members noted that our funds at Merrill Lynch do not generate much revenue. Luke Duddridge moved shifting the funds to Charles Schwab, with Michael Mandel seconding. The motion passed with 9 yes votes and 2 abstentions. The Rabbi mentioned that some of the dues payments to CCAR have been listed by our bookkeeper as uncategorized expenditures.

### **Committee Reports:**

Written reports are attached to these minutes.

### **Old Business:**

Members made contributions for the previously approved gift certificate for Wil Kilroy. Ned Rubin suggested that committee chairs write Adelante columns about their committees, what the committees do, and how Temple members can become involved. He will write the January column for the Adult Education and Social Action Committees. Dee Cook, Cheryl Decker and Joanne Turnbull gave an update on the January 26 "A Night At The Auction" event. They distributed a mostly-completed list of goods and services that will be part of the auction. Rebecca Berkson will prepare a catalogue by January 2, and the committee is preparing bid sheets. Some items will be sold via live auction.

Ned Rubin will work with Steve Haydu to see if our Web site can handle video streaming. The Board agreed to an idea from Mike Lieberman that we switch out the sticky door alarm key pad with a pad from another door that has had little use. The Rabbi will contact the alarm

company. The Board discussed at length the Strategic Planning Committee's report. Some suggested changes will be reviewed by the Religious Practices Committee. Dee Cook moved to table the discussion for the present moment, with Joanne Turnbull seconding. The motion passed unanimously. The Board discussed again the issue of older prayer books that are no longer used. The Rabbi said that other Temples are very reluctantly interring them. Luke Duddridge moved to begin the process of interring Temple Beth El's older prayer books, with Pearie Bruder seconding. The motion passed unanimously. A committee may be created to develop and supervise this process.

### **New Business:**

Since almost all of our current Mishkan HaNefesh High Holy Day prayer books were needed during the 2018 services, Jeff Brown moved to purchase 10 sets once sufficient donations have been raised. The estimated total cost was \$330. Diane Fleishman seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. The Rabbi will ask for donations in the Adelante or through E-Blasts.

Jeff Brown discussed the History Committee. He has stepped down as chair, but will remain a member. Committee members have agreed to create a council form of government. Jeff discussed the March 10 speaker Richard Melzer; the committee's March 17 History Day plans; and its need for a scanning carrel and space to store historic records. There appears to be space at present in the Rabbi's classroom. The Board's consensus was to approve the carrel and storage. Jeff will check into the costs for a carrel.

The Board concurred with dates slated for Executive Committee and Board meetings and the Annual Congregational Meeting for the period through May 2019.

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 pm.

**Date of Next Executive Board Meeting: Monday, January 2 @ 6:00 p.m. at Temple.**

**Date of Next Board of Trustees Meeting: Thursday, January 17 @ 7:00 p.m. at Temple.**

**Future Dates: Executive Committee on Mondays:** February 4; March 4, April 8, May 6

**Future Dates: Board of Trustees on Thursdays:** February 21; March 21; April 18

**Annual Meeting:** Thursday, May 9

Respectfully Submitted, Jeff Brown

### **Committee and Group Reports:**

**Adult Education Committee,** Ned Rubin, Chair: Report combined with Social Action Committee report.

**Building and Grounds Committee:** Chairs, Jerry Silverman, Norm Mazer, Jeff Lewis: The air-conditioning filters for the 5 systems on the roof were replaced by Airserv as part of our maintenance program. They will be changed again in April along with extensive testing of the Air-conditioning and Heating functions.

Final payments were sent to FSG to cover the costs of the installation of the LED lighting in the parking lot and the community room.

Rabbi Larry and Jerry Silverman met with the Allied Alarm Company technician and were instructed on how to replace the batteries in the doorbell camera.

**History Committee,** Jeff Brown, Dee Cook, Linda Kruger, Susan Michelson, Nan Rubin - committee council: Jeff Brown is stepping down as chair. The committee agreed to begin a council system of governance. The committee met on December 10 to discuss requesting a carrel area for scanning as well as storage space in the Temple for historic photos and records; experimenting with Susan Michelson's wand scanner; posting some materials from the October 7 oral history project and play; plans for the March 17 History Day at the Temple; and plans for the March 10 presentation by Dr. Richard Melzer on the Swastika in New Mexico History and Culture. Steve Haydu has posted historic materials on the TBE Web site.

**Israel Committee,** Phil Alkon, chair: The Committee will meet on December 17 to plan a public forum about "What We All Need to Know About Israel and Anti-Semitism."

**Library Committee,** Linda Kruger, Chair: Dave Decker will help move Young Adult books that have been placed in cartons into another storage area of the building that Mensch Club members oversee. Linda will consult with Allen Palanker about the best way to dispose of them. These are titles that have not circulated during my 13 years of Temple membership and working in the Library. She has set aside a handful of titles that, in her estimation, would be wise to retain according to criteria established by the AJL (Association of Jewish Libraries).

This project is NOT a priority. Cataloging the adult collection, occasional new titles gifted to the Juvenile collection, and overseeing the very good, charming new E-book collection (E as in Easy) geared to children 1 to 3 years old) are the priorities for the foreseeable future. All cataloged titles are available immediately on the Temple's Web site. Click on either Library or Study at the top of the screen to open the Library catalog. There are now over 2,300 titles listed. Retrospective titles in Jewish art, Jewish history & fiction await RE-cataloging in electronic format.

The Library supports all adult classes, programs and lectures offered by the Temple, and in the past under different rabbis it had been involved in the Religious School curriculum for the younger children. Because of Rhonda Karol's own very fine classroom collection, that no longer pertains.

**Mensch Club**, Art Lorbeer, Representative: Art Lorbeer has returned and will represent the Mensch Club going forward. This report covers events during his absence.

The club members discussed various options for raising funds. Several possible activities to raise funds were mentioned.

Men's Bake sale – is to be scheduled

Deli night – postponed

Car wash – is a dead issue due to insurance and location issues.

Movie night – a second movie remains possible with perhaps a more popular film

Talent night – needs more discussion

Monthly day trips are to start up again. The first trip will be scheduled at the next meeting.

A motion was made and passed to have the Mensch club provide one member to assist with door security for Erev Shabbat going forward. The Mensch Club Vice President is to set up a list and establish a rotation. This process is now in effect and coverage is provided through January 2019 as follows:

**Dates for Mensch Club Volunteers**

12/07/18 Steven Haydu

12/14/18 Jeff Lewis

12/21/18 Dave Decker

12/28/18 Luke Duddridge

01/04/19 Art Lorbeer

01/11/19 Luke Duddridge

01/18/19 Norm Mazer

01/25/19 Dave Decker

**Nominating Committee:** Jim Rosenthal, Chair: The Nominating Committee will hold its second leadership workshop on Sunday, December 16 at TBE. Ellen Torres will present a workshop on “Leadership Styles and Skills.” On Sunday, March 3, Ann Berkson and Sue Brown will present the third leadership workshop on “Exploring Our Temple.”

**Social Action Committee,** Ned Rubin, Chair: The committee met on December 4. Members discussed a new program for the Temple and the community at large. The consensus was to do a forum on **immigration**. This idea arose from a conversation Joanne Turnbull had with a TBE religious school class and later at the Interfaith conversation held at the Temple. None of the kids in the religious school class knew who Emma Lazarus was or knew about the poem on the base of the Statue of Liberty, *The New Colossus*. As a result of this and subsequent conversations, the committee decided to integrate a discussion of the poem and the history of Emma Lazarus into a fuller conversation about immigration, taking place over two successive weeks in February, 2019. Further details of the programming will be worked out during the

next meeting of the committee, Wednesday, 12/19 at 6:30. All are welcome to participate and contribute their ideas.

**Youth**, Leora Zeitlin, chair: Several BETY and BEMY teens attended the communal TBE Hanukkah dinner and celebration on Friday evening, and on the following day, Amalia Zeitlin took four of the teens to El Paso for a joint afternoon event with MSTY teens (the youth group from Temple Mt. Sinai). The teens went ice skating, and then had a Hanukkah party at an El Paso home. Looking ahead: helping to serve breakfast at Camp Hope on Christmas morning.