

President Board Report: 2-21-19

2019 Julie Silver Event

Julie Silver will be performing on Wednesday, May 15 here at Temple Beth-El. We will need the following to be done: publicity in The Bulletin, the LC Sun-News, and the Jewish Federation's Jewish Voice; possibly a radio spot (need to find out how much that will be), a crew to bring refreshments and to set up and clean up, people at the admission table to collect the entrance fee, get people to sign in, and to hand out the surveys that need to be completed, and greeters and ushers to make people feel welcome and to help seat them. We will also need the Rabbi to open the event with a brief welcome and introduction. In addition, we need you all to attend and participate in the supporting roles I've mentioned, if you're in town. We also need to decide on an admission fee--\$10 or \$15. Let's discuss this.

Security Concerns

We have always been worried about security, as Jews and as human beings, in our ever more violent society. Since Pittsburgh, our security concerns have become even more pointed. At our last Board meeting, the Board agreed that I should write a letter to our congregants. We at first thought about writing a letter due to our overall financial issues, but then we thought that asking for funds to support security at our events would be more productive and specific. We can discuss the letter I've written, and I'm of course open to your suggestions and revisions. We are hoping to be able to afford security guards or off-duty police at all of our bigger, more publicized or politicized events. Mark Saltman is also following up on the security training offered by LCPD, and he is here tonight to give us an update.

Batkin Scholarship Funds for 2019 (repeated item)

The Irving Batkin Memorial Scholarship Fund at Temple Beth-El will again be available in 2019. Our members can apply for funds for Jewish educational opportunities. Please talk with the Rabbi to find out more about it and to get an application. Last year we were able to give scholarships to three of our religious school students for Jewish educational programs that they wanted to attend. In order to fulfill the mission of this scholarship fund, the foundation must continue to grow its asset base so that the distributions we receive increase. We will remind our members to please consider making contributions to the Batkin Scholarship Fund so that this goal may be accomplished. Our continued support helps direct the earnings of the fund to care for the vulnerable, sustain Jewish life, educate our students, and to serve as an advocate for Jews in need.

Nominating Committee

A big concern we have at this time of year is finding dedicated members who are willing to step up to Board of Trustee positions. If you know of anyone interested, please let us know. We also need to ensure that we have qualified Board members who can fill Executive Committee positions. The Nominating Committee has been meeting every two weeks to review potential nominees. We have all been making calls and meeting with these folks. We'll let you know who will be on the slate as we get closer to the Annual Meeting.

New Fundraiser: “A Night at the Auction”

As you know, on January 26, 2019 from 6:00-9:00 pm at the Temple, we held our first “Night at the Auction,” a new addition to our fundraising efforts. I want to thank Dee Cook, Cheryl Decker, and Joanne Turnbull, the new chairs of our Ways and Means Committee, for their fabulous idea and hard work. This event brought in just under \$10,000. There were no expenses as all of those involved (Dee, Cheryl, Joanne, Ann Berkson, Paula Kramer, Rebecca Berkson, and possibly others) donated the dinner items, auction booklets, and decorations. This was such a successful night of fun and community engagement. Thank you for all of your work! We look forward to doing this again next year as well.

Immigration Forums

On February 6 and 13, the Social Action Committee sponsored two different immigration forums. On February 6, Nan Rubin gave a detailed presentation on the poem “The New Colossus” by Emma Lazarus. On February 13, several speakers gave various perspectives on immigration. First, former TBE member and NMSU History professor Neal Rosendorf presented a detailed historical perspective on immigration. Then we heard from two attorneys—our own Mark Saltman, a Federal prosecutor, and our own Barbara Mandel, a Federal public defender, along with an immigration judge. Both programs were fascinating in their own right, and provided much food for thought for the 60+ people who attended each forum. Thank you to Ned Rubin, Nan Rubin, and the Adult Ed/Social Action Committees who did a wonderful job sponsoring these events.

Israel and the Longest Hatred

On Sunday, February 24, the Israel Committee will hold a public community forum on anti-Semitism. The group will present videos on anti-semitism, information on the BDS movement, and have a Q&A session at the end. Thanks to Phil Alkon and the Israel Committee for sponsoring this event. I hope you are all able to attend.

Our Next Leadership Workshop—3rd in Our Series

On Sunday, March 3, 2019 at 2:00 pm in the TBE Social Hall, Sue Brown and Ann Berkson will present a workshop on “Exploring our Temple.” This event will be an informative and engaging workshop on the details and history about Temple Beth-El. We need you all to attend and ask you each to bring a refreshment item. Please encourage others to attend as well. Please put this on your calendar.

The Swastika in New Mexico History and Culture

On Sunday, March 10, Dr. Richard Meltzer, a retired historian from UNM, will speak at TBE on the history of the swastika. He will talk about the completely different meaning it has in New Mexico compared to being a symbol of extreme hate and barbarism under the Nazi regime in Germany. His presentation is sponsored by the NM Jewish Historical Society and the Historical Society of New Mexico’s Speakers Bureau. I hope you are able to attend.