

Temple Beth El

Notes from Board of Directors Meeting, September 15, 2022

Meeting began at 6:05 pm, held on Zoom

Attended by: Joel Siegel, Cherri Hudson—Brown, Donna Popky, Dee Cook, Steve Haydu, Diane Fleishman, Lynn Zeemont, Nan Rubin, Wendee Lorbeer, Rabbi Evette. Additionally Alison Mann, guest for presenting new members.

Absent: Deb Leyndyke, Martha Roditti, Luke Duddridge, Pearie Bruder

Meeting called order 6:05, Rabbi offered a prayer

The first question was if everyone had seen the agenda. It was agreed to add to the agenda

- Discussion of library
- Discussion to support congregation of Las Vegas, NM with their capital fund to re-purchase their old synagogue building.

Motion to approve minutes from August meeting – there were no comments or questions. Motion seconded, minutes accepted without modification.

Recording stopped 6:12, to break into Executive session. Executive Committee met in executive session with the board listening but not commenting. The Executive Committee was unable to meet prior to the board meeting to make a recommendation on new members.

Alison Mann had firsthand knowledge of all of the five following applicants. She presented each with great enthusiasm, among them are old members returning, eager volunteers, person(s) who left Las Cruces and have returned, fluent Hebrew readers, and some that she has personally known since the 1990s.

- Jon Bairnsfather and David Newman
- Katherine Barit
- Lenore Hindin
- Sherry Gara
- Jill Kerr

Recording resumed at 6:19 with return to full board and. Motion to welcome all applicants as new members made by Wendee, seconded by Steve H. and Donna Popky, no further discussion. All will be welcomed as new members.

Membership committee

Alison presented, standing in for Martha Roditti. Membership reports that welcome gift baskets for almost all new members from 2021 have been delivered; a few left to deliver. Alison then left the meeting.

Rabbi report

Rabbi's report has been distributed before the meeting, see Attachment A. She is sending links to activities. (?) Learning sessions now are occurring Tue, Wed, Thu and Saturday. New members are coming to these sessions. High Holiday plans are progressing. Many opportunities to participate still available. Sukkot plans in progress. Dave Decker is making building plans according to Rabbi's conceptual design. Selichot is Saturday night 09/17. Morningstar Methodist is having a meeting on presenting gun violence. Rabbi thinks it very important that we were invited. Religious school is progressing nicely.

Wendee, Nan, others showed appreciation for Rabbi's efforts.

Rabbi and Nan discussed the Rabbi installation weekend. November 4-6 has been set aside. Wendee noted that the Jewish Federation is eager to sponsor a Friday Oneg and is calling Joanne Turnbull regularly about it. They want clarity. However Rabbi does not want a celebration to take away from the sanctity of Shabbat. She suggested having the "main event" after Havdalah Saturday night. Cherri also suggested Sunday brunch. Diane reported there is no religious school that Sunday, 11/06, so this would be good timing. Joel mentioned we can still have an Oneg in honor of the Rabbi. Steve Haydu mentioned that local clergy could be invited. Nan and Rabbi should meet to determine what will be the order of events.

Lynn Z. left at meeting 6:43.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer's report was sent by e-mail ahead of the meeting. Joel noted high points:

- Income tracking ahead of the plan, very large pledge inflow in July (\$40,000) and August (\$17,000). This income is ahead of planned income schedule.
- As to income vs. budget, income may be ahead of budget by year's end owing to new members and their pledges. This is offset by pledge reduction appeals from time to time which are confidential.
- Rabbi will get a new monitor, no substantive change to our financial position.
- Matzo Ball income may be ahead of payment to Picacho Hills Country Club expense, we acutally budgeted payment to PHCC ahead of income. No material deviation

John Schwedinger was hired to do tech support and is doing very well for us. Several members were complimentary. It was noted that he has been asked to support Social Action Committee candidates' forum, and High Holidays when he can.

Ways and Means Report

Wendee Lorbeer has December 4 penciled in for a fundraiser. A local renowned artist has left a legacy of valuable pieces, which we would show and sell, with 50% to artist. Apparently, the person knowing the renowned artist and her family is Allison (?).

It is also a good date for the Arts Community at large, not a lot else going on that day. Michael Mandel has sway in the Dona Ana Arts Council (DAAC), can help get the word out. Two of our new members are artists, too. Donna Popky knows some artists. Board was enthusiastic about such an event.

President's Report

Nan said we need a policy as to how we should / or should not solicit members for charities outside of our own. For example, Las Vegas congregation seeking to purchase their original building. Rabbi suggests a very small committee to disburse money to causes; members would have donated (optional or obligatory?) to a fund. Diane was in favor of advising but not soliciting donation opportunities. Nan said we could ask people to write guest contributions to Adelante "what is my favorite charity and why?" Steve suggested further consideration, as we would not come to resolution immediately.

Nan discussed High Holiday security with Mark Saltman. Mark will hire the security firm for physical guard presence.

Dee noted that we will have outdoor Oneg after Rosh Hashanah. Diane said 39 people have indicated they will be present at Rosh Hashanah. Rabbi prefers not to have to lock up, i.e., be the last one there. More generally it should not be upon her for any Shabbats. It should fall upon the Ushers to lock up.

Religious Practices

Religious Practices report has been distributed before the meeting, see Attachment B.

Parts have been assigned for Erev Rosh Hashanah and Rosh Hashanah. Cherri will contact Stuart Kelter and Leora Zeitlin to have them let people know what their parts are. Parts for Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur will be assigned later.

Religious School

Religious Practices report has been distributed before the meeting, see Attachment C. Children are enjoying the turf and playing outside. A worthwhile investment.

Social Action

Social Action is planning to host candidates' debate, October 11, 18, and 25. Two Commissioner candidates are attending. Other have not yet responded. Time limitations will be imposed on speakers.

Other comments

Steve H. says we need to have a mission statement for the library. Steve is contacting Linda Kruger the Chair of the Library committee to determine what type of catalog we are currently using and will research other options as needed. We need to have an up-to-date calendar on the Temple web site. We were using the Temple's Google calendar until Steve could no longer access it. Somebody should take on updating the Temple's standing ad in the Las Cruces Bulletin. Wendee volunteered.

Shabbat service announcements – At least one Board member should be present for every service. Rabbi added that she considers this essential, without the Board being active and present is generally not good for the Temple. We agreed to get ourselves (i.e. the Board) organized to make this happen. Who is doing the spreadsheet? It looks like Steve will update and send out the spreadsheet for board members to sign up.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51.

Commented [SH1]: Rabbi gave an example of something that worked well in another congregation in which everyone donated a few extra dollars (sum to be set) and this fund would go towards projects put forward by the congregation and prioritized by a committee of 3.

Attachment A

RABBI'S REPORT TO TBELC BOARD SEPTEMBER 2022

Shabbat Activities Notification has been by the weekly e-blasts. These announcements have included links for translations and Hebrew-English texts. Efforts to introduce new melodies are accompanied by YouTube links to the artists. In addition, the CCAR has a "flip book" which our folks at home can use at home. This will keep new visitors to our "broadcast" from feeling excluded.

- Kabbalat Shabbats are Friday nights @ 6:30, with a Sisterhood sponsored Oneg
- Shabbat Shachrits are Saturday mornings @ a new time, 10:30am after the weekly Talmud study. 1st and 3rd Saturdays are stripped-down to allow maximum time for Torah study. 2nd and 4th Saturdays include a full torah service.
- No food is currently available after Saturday services. I think that is a miss. I would like to implement a dairy/pescatarian potluck kiddish following activities shabbat morning. We are Jews. We do food.

Learning Opportunities Throughout the Week:

- Tuesdays: Short Story Group
- Wednesdays: Tanakh study class with Rabbi Emeritus Larry Karol;
- Thursdays: Intro to Mussar with Rabbi Evette. We have had 3 classes, and the group keeps growing (we now have 23 participants). The group is coalescing and would like to continue after the haggim.
- Shabbat Mornings Talmud Study Group

Future Important Dates:

9/18 Memorial Service for Dave Zeemont, 5:00pm at [Temple Beth El Las Cruces](#).

High Holy Days Schedule of Services

The asterisk * indicates a service with parts to be given out:

Slichot: Saturday eve., **9/17, 7:00pm**

Erev Rosh Hashanah*: Sunday eve., **Sept. 25, 8:00 p.m.**

Rosh Hashanah, 1st day*: Monday, **Sept. 26:** Family service at **9:00 a.m.** and Morning service at **10:00 a.m.**

Tashlich: Monday afternoon.

Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day: Tuesday, **Sept. 27** Torah study and Shofar service: **10 a.m.**

Shabbat Shuvah: Saturday Morning at **10:15**, short service & group short story reading:

Kol Nidre (Erev Yom Kippur)*: Tuesday, October at **8:00 p.m.**

Yom Kippur: Wednesday, October 5, with Family Service at **9:00 a.m.**, Morning Service* at **10:00 a.m.**, Afternoon Congregational Sharing at **1:30 p.m.**, Jonah text study at **3:30 p.m.**, Healing service **4:30 pm.**, and Yizkor* and Neila* from **5:30 p.m.** until 7:15 p.m.

Havdallah & Break-the-Fast 7:15 pm. (Congregational break-fast after Yom Kippur is under discussion due to Covid. Watch e-blasts)

Sukkot begins Sunday evening, October 9-18, 2022

Shofar Across Borders Join me and other members of TBELC, Jewish Federation of El Paso, and the Juarez Jewish Community for this important event taking place on **Sunday, September 18**, from **2-2:30pm**.

Interfaith Efforts to Reduce Gun Violence - Morningstar United Methodist Church, September 20, 6:00pm



Attachment B

Religious Practices Committee Report: August/Sept. 2022

RPC met three times since the last Board meeting — August 23, August 29, and Sept. 13 — mainly to plan for the High Holidays.

Aug. 23: Stuart Kelter, Ruth Rubin, Patrick Quinn, Erich Zameret, Leora Zeitlin, Joanne Turnbull, Rabbi Evette in attendance.

Aug. 29: Stuart Kelter, Ruth Rubin, Patrick Quinn, Debbie Levy, Leora Zeitlin, Cherri Hudson-Brown, Erich Zameret, Rabbi Evette Lutman in attendance.

Sept. 13: Rabbi Evette, Stuart and Leora at the temple. Erich, Ruth, Cherri on Zoom.

This report summarizes longer minutes taken at all the meetings by Leora Zeitlin.

Installation service:

At both August meetings, we discussed an installation service and what it might look like. Nan Rubin originally brought up the idea with Rabbi Evette, and separately with Stuart and Leora. While we know that TBE had such a service for Rabbi Karol, we're not certain we had them for previous rabbis. The RPC did not think it was its responsibility to plan an installation service, though someone from the RPC might serve on a special committee that the Board appoints to plan it.

High Holidays:

Congregational parts: At the Aug. 23 meeting, we had a long conversation about High Holiday practices at the temple and began planning for this year. Rabbi Evette would send out an email inviting congregants to volunteer to have a reading, as we have done in the past. The letter would also include whether the congregant prefers to read in English and/or Hebrew, sing, read from Torah, etc., and whether they will attend in person or on Zoom. At the Aug. 29 meeting, we worked out a system for collecting these emails and assigning parts. Cheryl Decker would receive the emails and bring to the RPC. On Sept. 13, we had received quite a few responses, and we assigned congregational parts for Erev Rosh Hashanah and first day of Rosh Hashanah. We'll have another meeting to assign parts for Yom Kippur, and to assign aliyot for all Torah readings.

There was more than one discussion about how much time is spent for each congregant to walk up to the bimah, and whether a hand mic should be used. We decided against the hand mic so that Zoom participants will hear everything better.

Rabbi Evette will work with the Religious School to include children in the HHD services.

Rosh Hashanah Torah readings: Rabbi Evette and Stuart decided outside of the meeting to read the Akedah (Binding of Isaac) on Day 1, and have a Torah discussion of the Hagar story on Day 2.

Yom Kippur: Kol Nidre: we generally use three different singers, and we'll do that again this year: Rabbi Evette, Stuart Kelter, and Amalia Zeitlin will chant Kol Nidre in whatever order Rabbi Evette wants.

Rabbi Evette wants to lead a Healing Service on the afternoon of Yom Kippur. Discussion about whether to include the “Martyrology” in the afternoon service, and some other ways that we have been creative with the afternoon service in the past. We may do some “Storah-telling,” in which a story from the Torah is acted out. In any case, Rabbi Evette will lead a Healing Service in the afternoon, followed by Yizkor, followed by Neilah, the closing service.

Mahzors:

- Can Zoom participants use the “Mishkan Ha-nefesh” flip-book that was used for the past two years? We need to investigate. There usually is a cost, but CCAR made it free during covid.
- Do we want to order an enlarged set of Mahzors for the temple? Rabbi Karol used his own. There is a large-sized “Pulpit Edition” and there is also a “Large Print Edition.”
- Do many congregants still have their mahzorim from last year or from two years ago? Discussion as to who has the sign-up sheets for those, and how will they get returned to the Temple. We will send an email that asks people to bring their mahzor with them if they are attending in person.

Attachment C

Religious School Report

Religious school got off to a great start; however, we are short a teacher for the fifth grade. Rebecca and Sheri are teaching for now.

We had a good turnout at apple picking and a visit to a service dog training center. This week we are going to a Family Learning Day at Temple Mt Sinai.

Then we are off for 3 weeks for a public school break. We will have 3 teaching sessions in October.