

Presidential Message

September 2018

Happy New Year! We celebrate all kinds of new years this time of year. New school year... new fiscal year... and, of course a new year for Jews around the world. With the Rosh Hashanah tied to the harvest, it makes a certain amount of sense that there's a celebration associated with the completion of the hard work of farming. In our modern Western world, however, the new school year and fiscal year mark the end of a restful summer season and the beginning of the work year. Of course, the summer was still a period of hard work for your Temple leadership.

Rabbi Marc and Sherry Barnes have been preparing for the High Holidays. They've also been running services throughout the summer. Sherry has been supporting the lay-led services. Marc led two spectacular community services: an Independence Day weekend service with Beth El and Ziv's Bat Mitzvah service with Rabbi Rosenberg and the other community Rabbis. They have also led our other summer events such as the annual barbecue service and the annual Bagels and Brachas hike at Bluff Point. They have also been working on two more not-to-be-missed events this fall. First, Simchat Torah on September 30 will be a community-wide progressive event, making the rounds at the area synagogues and culminating at Temple Emanu-El. Second, the Artist in Residence weekend with Feliza & Or Zohar will be taking place October 26-28. Special thanks to Gail Weber, Bob Linden, Jo Michaelson, Merrill Mazzella, and Sue Fornara for helping to organize this special event.

Armi Rowe and Jennifer Zettler, along with Religious School Committee Chair Caryn Novick have spent the summer getting the Religious School ready for the new year. I'm truly thrilled to report that with so many teacher openings this year; they have been able to fill all of the staff positions. We'll have another fall highlight for the school on October 5 when we honor Marc Goldsmith and Barbara Kallan on their retirement. If you or your children have been participants in our Religious School, please be sure to come and honor Marc and Barbara.

Geoff Hausmann and the Buildings and Grounds committee have been fixing up the building for the fall. You'll be glad to know that our air conditioning has been repaired in the school wing and the sanctuary. We've also filled the cracks in the parking lot and installed new lighting over the parking lot.

As for me? At the Annual Meeting you gave me the go-ahead to pursue bringing Beth El onto our campus. Along with Gail Weber, Chris Rock, Scott Zettler, and Jo Michaelson, I've had several summer meetings with Beth El's leadership.

We've spent much of the time considering what it means to share a campus, and opinions vary on what the Dayton Road of the future will look like. We're working to ensure that we retain our identity and take advantage of our congregation's strength while still providing a spiritual home that will meet the needs of Beth El. These have been friendly discussions, but not easy ones, and a concrete vision still evades us. Once Beth El and we agree on a vision, you can expect a Town Hall meeting to share that with you. In the meantime, I do want to hear your thoughts on this. Feel free to grab me during onegs, the High Holidays, and Sunday Bagels, and let me know what you think.

Looking forward to another exciting year at Temple Emanu-El. *Shanah Tovah!*