

# Presidential Message

July 2019

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you for trusting us to steer Temple Emanu-El along its mission path: "Building a vibrant community through Reform Judaism."

For those who are "newish" to Temple Emanu-El, this is my second time serving as president. The first time was in 2011. The 8-year time frame has me in a different place in my life. My personal goals are "more mature," I've added another hole to my belt (on the wrong side of the holes), and I forget words. Not quite what 2011 Jonathan would have wanted for 2019 Jonathan.

Some things, however, do stay the same. I looked back to my first Bulletin article and there were three things I wanted members of our congregation to be able to say about Temple Emanu-El.

1. Temple Emanu-El is a spiritual home where I am comfortable with my Jewish identity and feel valued as a member.
2. The Jewish experience at services is moving and motivating.
3. Temple Emanu-El is a place where youth embrace their Jewish identity.

I intend to keep these as the goals I'd like the Board to focus on.

The Board can't achieve this in a bubble. Working together and communicating will be key. In the spirit of working together, we always need volunteers for any of our many committees. Volunteering is fulfilling, builds relationships, and helps us with our mission. In the spirit of open communication, my messages to you during the year will be about progress toward our mission, goals and summaries of the minutes of the Board meetings to ensure information is shared. The Board of Trustees asks that you communicate with us to make sure we are on the right path.

Before I go running wild into the exciting Temple future (hope you enjoy the ride), I'd be remiss to not recognize Sean Bendick for his two terms as president. Sean was at the helm through the challenging times of an interim rabbi, and the hiring and support of a new rabbi. We are now through the stages of change. We are on solid religious and cultural footing with Rabbi Marc being firmly established in our congregation and in the community.

Thank you, Sean, for keeping us on a path toward "Building a vibrant community through Reform Judaism."

I'll see everyone at Temple!

P.s.  
Did I mention that Sherry is awesome?

Jonathan Rowe