

# Presidential Message

January 2020

I hope you had a great Hanukkah. Last month we had a tremendous start to the Hanukkah season with the annual Brotherhood Latke dinner. Chef Mike Reinhard led the charge of masterfully preparing brisket, barbecue chicken, green beans, potatoes, carrots, salad, cake and of course, latkes (lots of them). Line chefs Brian Alpert, Stan Bloustein, Geoff Hausmann and Scott Zettler (hiding his secret identity as Brotherhood President) had not a single injury in the 8 hours of prepping and slicing. Attendance for the dinner was excellent, with a full house in the social hall. It was incredibly nice to see such a wide range of attendees; from babies to those with vast life-experience.

As per tradition, the Annual Travel Raffle tickets were drawn at the Latke Dinner. Thank you to John Murphy for leading this very important fund raiser as well as all of those who took on the challenging task of selling raffle tickets. I also want to thank those of you who purchased tickets, and of course the individuals, businesses and families that donated the prizes. I am not exaggerating when I say that the existence of our Temple is dependent upon all of you. *רִבְתָּה תָוֹךְ הַ*

On a personal note, by the time you are reading this article, I have started a new job. I'm happy to share with you the background on that in person. My new career will require me to be traveling quite often. My reason for sharing is that I am unsure of how this will impact my ability to remain President of the Board of Trustees. In particular, I can't ensure my presence at our regularly scheduled Board meetings. The Board has been discussing this and Jo-el Fernandez has worked with the Board to determine our path. We will try a technology solution to start (video conferencing, teleconference, etc). If my lack of actual presence is a detriment to effective oversight of the business of the congregation, we will move to plan B.

You may be aware that Caren Savel, the Executive Director of the JFEC, has been moving the community toward a vision of a centralized Jewish campus that could include constructing a new multipurpose building near our property to house the Federation and other useful services. This is in the visioning/feasibility stage and we have three of our congregants on the newly established Board. The campus will not require any funds coming from Temple Emanu-El. We will still focus on our mission and our finances first. However, I do strongly support a centralized community with flexible meeting and social space, senior services, learning centers for all denominations of Judaism and more. A gym perhaps...?

I wrote in my article two months ago that members of the Board will be hosting meetings at their homes to share with you some of the things going on in the community (such as the community campus idea) and also to get your feedback on the state of the congregation. Hopefully by the time this article has been published, someone reached out to you to participate. If not, feel free to contact me, Jo-el or the office.

Shalom!

Jonathan