

President's Report
Annual Meeting, Sunday, May 6, 2018

The past two years have been busier than I, as your President, or I am sure most of you ever expected. And yet, because of this I have been truly honored and blessed to have served you and enjoyed being a part of this wonderful Jewish community. It has been the most engaging opportunity to know so many of you on a more personal level. Even in a two-year term I have embraced you as my family through miracle births, illness and recovery, holidays, Bar and Bat Mitzvot, and sadly through the loss of friends, Blessed Be Their Memory.

The most important thing I can say to you is Todah Rabah! Thank you for your support and gifts of time, energy and incredible talents. Thank you for your wisdom and ideas, your feed-back and for sharing your laughter and family life events with me. And lastly, thank you to the entire congregation for your critiques and advice. It was important.

I did feel from the beginning that it would be so important to be visible and available, and also to be active in all areas of Temple life, particularly in a period of transition for Emanu-El. Lastly, it was important to make every effort possible to prepare, not only for the two years ahead, but for the many years thereafter.

Those of you who have watched the Academy Awards are familiar with the long lists of thank you's by the winners. (You may have seen one of this year's winners, jokingly stating that she "did it all herself."). Never happens. I, too, am in that situation, but know that you are all in my thoughts. At our Annual Meeting I can be more expansive with my appreciation.

Now, rather than cover the last 24 months in its entirety which would put you all asleep, I will cover only a few of the events that have marked our Temple during this period. To view a more extensive reckoning see the Title, "What We Have Accomplished" in a separate Bulletin article.

RABBINICAL SEARCHES:

The Interim Rabbi Search Committee, ably led by Karen Newborn with a terrific committee, had an extremely difficult task, replacing a rabbi who had been with us for 36 years. This, an unenviable task as we had little experience in such an adventure. Dozens of meetings and words were necessary to complete the task. Mazel Tov!

With regard to our settled rabbi search, this being co-chaired by Jenn Lampron and David Belsky, and again with a very outstanding and broad-based committee. This process is so much more involved, with a comprehensive survey of our congregational input, both online and at numerous group meetings. We are focusing also on the financial aspects of this endeavor as well as a more direct and flexible process, choosing to prioritize the outstanding program at Hebrew Rabbinical School, while open to other venues. The search process has made it mandatory for the final candidates to spend a week-end with us, leading services, teaching Torah, and opportunities to meet and greet.

CANTORIAL CLERGY:

As my term began, Cantor Vera had recently joined us. Search Chairman, Kevin Miller and his Committee hit a home run and we are so pleased to have her leadership as part of our clergy. It was my pleasure, along with the outstanding effort and expertise of Fred Feldman as Religious Practice Chair, to extend the Cantor's contract for an additional two years. In addition to her regular activities the Cantor is aware of our need for more leyners and is currently teaching a Trope Class. Moreover, she is involved in the Merrimack Valley's efforts to assist refugees.

RABBI KORINOW'S GALA:

Words cannot adequately express the incredible detail and hard work that was required to make this event as professional and exciting as it was. It was, indeed, a national occasion. Chaired by Rhoda

Feldman and Eva Valentine, it became a high-lite celebration of which any organization would be proud. So many must be thanked, but in the respect of space I will mention Nancy, Jenn, Sherry, Fred, Sharyn and Robin. The entire Committee was honored at the Gala. It is certain that the afternoon was an occasion that our Rabbi and his family will never forget. In addition to the joy it brought to everyone, we raised \$23,000 for the Temple.

U.R.J.:

In order to run our Temple as efficiently as possible, while maintaining key religious, social and maintenance services, we found it necessary to re-negotiate our contract with the U.R.J. We now have an official and ongoing arrangement with U.R.J. that substantially cuts our financial obligation by 90% while maintaining essentially our joint effort

BRADFORD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY:

Two years ago, the Bradford Christian Academy contracted with Temple Emanu-El in order to have a new home for their outstanding High School program. I believe this may be the only arrangement of its kind in the country? Not only has this provided a base of operations for the school but benefits the Temple financially. It may not be widely known that the Academy put over \$35,000 of physical improvements into the Temple. The relationship is warm and of mutual respect for our religious traditions. It is a learning opportunity for all. I invited the Academy faculty, students and choir to our Yom HaShoah service and Youth Challenge in 2017 and the M.L.K. service the last two years. The Academy was active in both. Recently, I was asked by the Academy to consider adjusting the rental agreement. We were able to reach a fair and equitable short-term agreement which also extends the length of the contract.

ADULT EDUCATION:

The Adult Education Committee, formerly under the leadership of Fred Feldman (aka the official Temple photographer), and for the last two years under the Chairmanship of Karen Newborn, has flourished. Karen joined forces with Paula Breger, our esteemed Librarian to bring us our outstanding Author Series. We have witnessed significant attendance growth, both by the congregation and the wider community.

RENEWAL OF RELIGIOUS PRACTICE & SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEES:

I am so grateful for those who came forward to re-vitalize these essential committees. They have been key to bringing fresh ideas to our Shabbat services and even greater attention to the larger community's needs. Our Board also voted to officially align ourselves with the Merrimack Valley's efforts to assist newer Americans. This group brings members and leaders of different faiths together in working for shared beliefs. We have also reached out a hand of friendship to the Muslim Community, the Armenian Church of Haverhill and lastly, Calvary Baptist, with regard to the Annual M.L.K. Breakfast

REFORM-STYLE SHABBAT:

Through the Religious Practice Committee and our Board, we have arranged for a Reform Shabbat service the first Saturday of each month. Also, in the planning stage are two additional Friday evening services without a special theme.

There are so many Temple achievements and so little space to recount. I hope you will glance at the article which is also included in this Bulletin.

I would like to finish up here with a final thank you to the best Board, Executive Board, Committees and congregation with which one could hope to work. And thank you to all our anonymous donors. How could we prosper without you?

My very best to Loren Goldstein, your incoming President. I am confident of his ability to carry us through the next two years wonderfully with your help. And he blows a mean shofar!