

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For those of us who stayed in the Pittsburgh area during this past winter we can finally breathe a sigh of relief. We experienced a deep freeze and many inches of snowfall that brought things to a halt, but spring is finally here. My flowers are beginning to bloom and the trees are starting to turn green. We are looking forward to the return of our snowbirds and to building the momentum again in our synagogue. This past winter was the first that I can remember where we had to cancel three consecutive services and a movie night due to inclement weather.

In spite of the harsh winter, we had services, a movie night, a Purim celebration with delicious Hamentashen baked by our members and a successful StockGame culminated by a special pasta dinner. My thanks to everyone who baked and cooked and promoted the StockGame as well as all of you who came to services and supported our activities. While it was cold and blustery outside, it was certainly warm and welcoming inside our Temple. Let us look forward to a productive season when we will pray, socialize, and work together for the success of Temple B'nai Israel. If you have not been to a service lately, please join us for a meaningful experience. Like the rejuvenation that comes with spring, I am hopeful and optimistic about our future. We have many members who care deeply and enjoy what we have to offer. There are challenges in our declining membership which means that we should all partake in the opportunities available, whether it is attending a service, donating time or energy, or doing something for a member who needs help, you yourself can become inspired and bring meaning into your life. Think about what Temple B'nai Israel means to you. Likewise, what does being Jewish mean to you?

Is there anything that we can do to better meet your needs so that you will increase your overall involvement? Are there any educational opportunities that would be of interest to you? We need each and every one of you who possibly can join us for a service or an event to be there. If you have any suggestions please do hesitate to call me or email me and I will listen. Who amongst us cares about Temple B'nai Israel? I know that I do and I also know that so many of you do. It would be wonderful to see at this season of renewal, a renewed commitment of participation and action.

In February, a committee of four reached out and conducted a search for a High Holy Day Cantor. I am very happy to report that our search was successful. We have hired Andrea Schwalberg to sing for us over the holidays. Her voice is beautiful and spiritual and we are excited that our holiday services will be enhanced by Andrea. I am confident that the congregation will be pleased with our selection. It may seem early to think about the High Holy Days in April, but as you know time really does fly.

Finally, I hope that you decide to enrich your life and the lives of others by being a vital part of what Temple B'nai Israel has to offer. Let us all make a commitment to revive our interest in one of the most meaningful parts of our lives.

Kol Tuv,
Janice Greenwald