

President's Message

06-Dec-2009 General Membership Meeting

When I tried to brainstorm with my husband about what approach I should take with my final Presidents message, Norm suggested that I simply stand up and say "Good Bye". I guess Norm is as tired of hearing me as some of you might be!

Of course I can't leave it that simply...

I took some time to read the final Presidents' messages from my predecessors. Of course each presidency is different. We are unique people, we each had a different set of issues come our way, we each had different boards. Some years great obstacles were dealt with, some years wonderful accomplishments were met. No one president was better or worse than another, just different. I suppose if we could combine talents, collectively a perfect synagogue leader could be created. Even then, probably not.

As I read the reports from past presidents a common thread seemed to become clear;

- The job was not taken for granted
- It is clear that the efforts to do the best possible job are important to each president
- Sincere appreciation for a supportive and responsible board is evident in each report I read
- Gratefulness for the committee chairs and committee members who really are the ones that keep this Temple going
- The excitement of meeting and getting to know members outside of the usual circle of friends
- A true appreciation of the incredible tasks that come with the job of being a TBO Rabbi
- Acknowledgement that this position would have been so much more difficult without the support of family and friends

All these points are true for me as well. I did not take this for granted, I tried to do the best I could always knowing that I wasn't perfect. I had two years of wonderful board members, who shared thoughts freely and listened to others with respect, always arriving at a consensus. This job does provide an overview of each committee's responsibility; it is so impressive the time and energy provided on a volunteer basis to TBO.

This position also required me to step outside of my comfort zone and really try to talk and listen to members who I had not previously known; this might be one of the best unexpected areas of becoming President. I have had great respect for each Rabbi I have met. Rabbi Marshall of course this extends to you as well, and I look forward to working with you for many more years.

Finally, the support of friends and family. Norm, other than insisting that each of my ORacle articles exclude all adverbs and adjectives, with only bulleted items – you have been an incredible support system. I love you.

To my mentors and wonderful friends, Cheryl Waldbaum, Vicky Romero and Heidi Piel, I would have driven myself, or more likely Norm, crazy if it had not been for your support and guidance. Knowing that I could call you and discuss questions, approaches and my insecurities, helped me stay on my feet and move forward. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Ron, thank you for taking on the role of President. I look forward to working with you and look forward with anticipation the accomplishments you will bring to Temple Beth Or. May you find as much support as I have, may your tenure be rewarding and exciting.