

Shana Tovah

My sincere wish to all of you for a year of good health, comfort healing and peace for you and your loved ones.

What can we work toward achieving greater success?

Why did I assume the role as your president?

What is my role as your president

What is my dream for B'nai Jehudah?

I. We can continue to build a B'nai Jehudah community in which every member:

- ✓ will feel a sense of pride just by telling someone you are a member.
- ✓ will feel Enriched & inspired to be all we can be.
- ✓ will feel a sense of belonging, and that we all really matter .
- ✓ will be focused on our purpose of Jewish Meaning, Connection and Continuity and living our values of Open Hearts, Holiness and Common Decency.

II. Why did I assume the role as your President?

I had just completed 9 years of Board Service for the JCC. But This Temple has been my safe haven. I feel that I matter and I feel the love from many people in this congregation. But serving on the Board much less as an officer was not on my radar.

- 1) When Howard Wizig a Past President and Nominating Committee Chair called to tell me the Nominating**

Committee had voted to submit my name to the Board for approval if I would accept. I told him I would give it serious thought. But, I wanted Sheila, the love of my Life to support my decision.

2) A few days later I called to give him my answer. I told him it is difficult for a 5' 9" fellow to say no to a 6 ft 7 fella. One other time in my life I felt the need to make a serious commitment.

It was April of 1979. Ewing Kauffman, the founder and owner of the Kansas City Royals dreamed to start a project to train 100,000 Kansas Citizens in the life saving skills of CPR. He hired me to formulate a plan. After 90 days I presented my plan to Mr. K. He said Ken I like your plan, and I want you to be the Project Coordinator. A two year volunteer engagement? With three young children and a new business. I did not have the time or resources. A week later I came to his office to give him my answer of NO.

During that month Major League Baseball Players were ready to go on strike. Mr. K was on the Commissioners Committee to negotiate with the Union. Just as I was about to say no, Mr. K's secretary Eloise came in office to tell him that the commissioner was on the phone with the other baseball owners committee to discuss a union proposal. Mr K looked at me and then at Eloise and said tell them I am talking to Ken on the CPR project. And that is more

important. They can call me tonight and tell me what was decided. Guess what I changed my mind. I felt his passion to make a commitment to save lives.

I had the same feeling of commitment when I gave Howard my answer. Our Board, Clergy and so many of you have worked so hard to serve this congregation as well as the Greater Kansas City community. We are a work in progress. I could not say no.

III. What is my role as a your president? My job description is outlined in our Congregation's bylaws. My belief is that I can serve you best by:

- 1) Being your Scout- by Gathering information to assess what we can do to make more people feel a sense of connection and that they matter.**
- 2) By Being the Chief Listener with empathy to as many people in this congregation as possible to learn what we are doing well. And asking what we need to do better.**
- 3) By supporting an Capital Building Campaign. Our Home needs some major repairs and an we need a more sacred environment. The Campaign Task Force has made tremendous progress over the last two years. In late October the Task Force will present a report to our Board with a proposal for the next step.**

Among you sits many leaders with incredible gifts. None of us are natural leaders. I do not believe they exist. We are situational leaders. Take President Franklin Roosevelt. He lead us out of a Depression and through WWII. However When Eleanor Roosevelt prevailed upon him to allow Jews to immigrate to U.S, and when she suggested he sponsor anti-lynching laws to prevent the KKK from hanging African Americans. He did neither. Do you believe this was the leader you would expect in this situation .

IV. What do I dream for B'nai Jehudah?

I dream that everyone in this congregation will greet every human being we meet in this building or out in the community as if they are the most important person in the world. If we do that we will be true to our purpose and will be living our values. We will one very special congregational.

- 1) Last Friday evening at services Colleen, our Musical Director gave us an exercise at the conclusion of services. She said: Look into their eyes of the person next to you and see a slice of God. That touched my heart. For when I come to services and look into your eyes, I see a slice of God. I love you and I am inspired by you. Shana Tovah**