

TEMPLE BETH EL ANNUAL MEETING
May 22, 2019

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CARL WEINBERG – PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Good evening and welcome to the 2019 Annual Meeting of Temple Beth El. My name is Carl Weinberg, and I am honored to serve as your President.

We have accomplished a great deal this year, and there are so many people to thank. Our administrative team – Linda, Mindy, Ellen, Alberto and Rad – they deserve special thanks for holding down the fort during Steve Lander's illness earlier this year. A special shout-out to Alberto, who begins his 45th year at Temple Beth El. A special note of gratitude to Ellen, who is leaving us after fourteen years of service. And of course Steve, we're glad you're back and healthy and continuing to inspire us with your commitment to every TBE member.

Lisa Gittelman-Udi, our Director of Congregational Learning, leads our education team and does so much more than that every day. Even though many TBE children attend day schools, our Religious School is growing, which is a testament to Lisa's outstanding leadership. Cantor Moshe Bear and our beloved Judy Aronin deserve special thanks for training our B'nai Mitzvah students – and along with our teachers and clergy – inspiring them to develop a lifelong love of Judaism. And if you've noticed a lot more young children and young families in the building, much of the credit goes to Jami Fener, our Young Families Coordinator.

I want to thank the more than 150 of our members who have made a pledge to the Campaign for Temple Beth El. We've already raised about \$2.7 million for the endowment and capital improvements. Our architects and engineers are hard at work on the elevator project, and the earnings from the endowment are helping to stabilize our operating budget.

The Campaign has accomplished a great deal already, but I know we can do better. If everyone pledges to the Campaign, I'm crazy enough to believe that we can eventually raise at least \$5 million. If you haven't met with one of the volunteer Campaign representatives yet, please see me tonight and we will set a time.

And if you're over the age of 65, please attend the Campaign's informational meeting on planned giving, scheduled for June 18th. You'll receive your invitation in the next few days.

For any synagogue, the clergy are the most important leaders. And I'm delighted to report that Rabbi Hammerman has been every bit as outstanding in his 31st year at Temple Beth El as he was during Years 1 through 30. And Rabbi, special congratulations on the publication of *Mensch Marks*.

We have been blessed by having Magda Fishman as our Cantor for the last five years. Although she is away this week at the Cantors Assembly Convention, during her remaining weeks at TBE I urge you to express your gratitude to Cantor Fishman for elevating our spirituality through song.

At this point I'm supposed to describe our other accomplishments from this year. And we certainly have achieved a great deal. 45 new members including over a dozen young families, continued financial stability, many new and exciting programs, strong attendance at services and events, and security protocols that the experts say are ahead of the curve. These are all things we have achieved this year, and you can find the details in the written reports that are available to you.

But that's just the checklist version of how we did this year, and I don't think it tells the full story. Let's dig a little deeper.

At last year's Annual Meeting, I outlined five reasons why TBE has been thriving while many other synagogues are in decline. First is our conscious effort to be friendly and inviting. Second is the way we link inclusiveness with acting respectfully. Third is the way our programs focus on building and strengthening relationships. Fourth is the value we place on both stability and experimentation. And last is our commitment to music as one of the best ways to build community and promote spirituality.

While we should always strive to improve, I think we do a really good job of being friendly and inviting. I hear about it constantly from guests and from new members – whether it's because of the greeters at services, or our Ambassadors who bring new members their welcome bag, or our office staff on the phone, or anyone here when you introduce yourself to someone you don't know.

Our programs, from Shababimbam to Reyt and everything in between, focus on building relationships. We can tell because once a program ends, nobody seems to leave! And speaking of Reyt, this is my annual commercial to join our Hope in Motion team and donate to Stamford Hospital. We experimented with several new programs this year, especially for young families. You can read about them in our Young Families report. And led by Cantor Fishman, music remained at the center of so much of what we do – and we are already planning an outstanding musical program for next year.

But in one of the five areas – respectful behavior – I think we moved backward this year. I don't mean Cantor Fishman's resignation per se, although it was the precipitating event. I'm talking about how we permitted a disappointing outcome to affect our relationships with each other.

I have to accept my own share of responsibility for this. When I notified the congregation of Cantor Fishman's decision, I failed to acknowledge our congregation's enormous gratitude for all that she has accomplished at Temple Beth El. And I should have had more empathy for the disappointment that many congregants were feeling. I need to do better, especially over the next several weeks.

We all know how easy it can be to erode the wonderful spiritual community that we have been building. And that would be a terrible loss, not just for us but for future Jewish generations.

In one of our meetings, Rabbi Hammerman reminded us that younger generations – the children and young adults who are forming their Jewish identities – who are deciding whether or not to have a Jewish identity – they are watching us, watching what we do and how we behave towards each other. Do we create ruptures in our spiritual community? Or do we have respect and affection for people with whom we disagree? What these young people see – what we show them – will determine whether they strengthen their Jewish identity – or let it wither.

Dana and I joined Temple Beth El almost twenty years ago. We were at the tail end of the "must join" era. TBE has changed a lot over these twenty years. We're a lot friendlier and much more inclusive. Our religious services honor our traditions and uplift our spirits. The quality and diversity of our programming is unmatched. Our commitment to music – from Hazzan Rabinowitz to Cantor Fishman and beyond – is unbending.

As one of our members wrote to me recently, we are on our way to becoming the destination synagogue in Fairfield County. We have the power to continue this upward trajectory. Our best days can lie ahead. It's up to us.

Thank you all for your commitment, your support and your efforts on behalf of Temple Beth El. And thank you as always for the privilege of serving you.

STEVEN LANDER - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – ANNUAL MEETING 2019

For the past 12 years I have said, "Wow...What a Year this has been." Every year we wonder how we will top the previous year both financially and programmatically. However, I must say the 2018-19 fiscal year has been a great year!

The year was filled with program successes from Adult Ed to special programming to special Shabbats and holiday programming. Our fundraising committee did a great job in exceeding our High Holy Days Appeal goal once again, and had another socially and financially successful Temple Rock, despite the fact that I was out on medical leave a month before the event. Our Temple Rock Committee did a great job in stepping up. Our Cantor's Concert scheduled for June 13 looks like it will be another great event.

Mazal Tov to Sylvan and Honni on being honored this year. Special thanks to the Mann Family Foundation, not only for its support of the Cantor's Concert, but also for the programming grants that support Young Families programming and much, much more.

A special shout out to Carl and Eileen for holding everything together while I was out. Everything seemed to run smoothly, or they did a good job covering it up!

To Rob Cohen and Sue Frieden, thank you for your continued support in making sure our budgeting is kept on track with monthly reporting to the Board of Trustees. It is always great to exceed budget expectations.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank our professional team. We are so fortunate to have such a talented team that works together on behalf of Temple Beth El. Their love of their work and dedication shows in everything they do. I wish Cantor Fishman well and will miss her voice daily in the halls of our Temple. And a special shout out to the rest of our team: Mindy, Linda, Ellen, Beth, Alberto and Rad. Their dedication and commitment is more than I have ever seen in all of the staff I have worked with over the many years of my career. We are so lucky to have you. We wish Ellen well in her new endeavors.

To our EC and Board - *Yasher Koach* on a great year. To Carl, our fearless leader, many thanks for the endless hours you spend to help make TBE an even more special place and thank you for stepping up to do an extra year; and to our Sisterhood and Men's Club leadership, thank you for all you do.

Please join us for the Annual Cantor's Concert on Thursday, June 13 at 7:00 p.m., and be sure to submit your journal ad in honor of Sylvan and Honni Pomerantz.

And finally thank you to my Beth El Family for your good wishes, prayers and support while I was out on medical leave.

Looking forward to another great year.

LISA GITTELMAN-UDI - DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING REPORT- ANNUAL MEETING 2019

Religious School

A total of 81 students attended our religious education programs for children from preschool through grade 7.

This year in Religious School, we continued to incorporate project based learning and interactive activities into our religious education program including the following:

- All School Shabbat Drum Circle
- 5th and 6th Grade Hanukkah Lock Box Challenge
- Kindergarten, First, and Second Grade Hanukkah Trip to Brighton Gardens
- All School "Help a Family for Hanukkah" mitzvah project with Jewish Family Services
- All School Noah's Ark Day program planned by Jami Fener with Greenwich Audubon Society
- 5th and 6th grade Online Hebrew reading stations and interactive Hebrew reading games
- 5th Grade Edible Shtetl Project
- 5th grade Masada diorama project
- 6th Grade Israel Projects
- 5th Grade Tzedakah Fair
- 5th and 6th Grade Julia's Star Family Program led by volunteers from the Anti-Defamation League
- All School Tu B'Shevat Ice Cream Seder
- Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade model Passover Seder
- Kabbalat Shabbat services led entirely by students in Kindergarten through grade 6
- 3rd Grade Shabbat in a Bag
- 4th Grade Seder Plates and Mezuzah holders
- 7th Grade Mock B'rit Milah, Mock Wedding, and cemetery visit
- 7th Grade art project
- 7th Grade Trip to NYC
- 5th and 6th Grade food drive for Jewish Family Services
- All School Hamantaschen baking
- 6th Grade Tallit making project
- 3rd-6th Grade Israel Twenty Questions Interactive Game
- All School Mitzvah Day

We continue to work to incorporate the use of computer software and online apps and programs into our Hebrew reading program for 3rd through 6th graders in the classroom to the best of our ability. We also encourage parents and students to take advantage of the Hebrew apps and online classroom resources that support the educational materials we use in the classroom.

In the coming year, we hope to incorporate STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Music) programming into our curriculum for every grade of religious school.

Teen/Youth Programs

This year's teen activities at TBE included serving as madrichim at our High Holy Days Children's Program, handing out candy at our Simchat Torah celebration, helping at the Hanukkah Dinner and a Hanukkah "After Party," running the Purim Carnival, a trip to NYC with Rabbi and Mara Hammerman, a Teen Speaker Program and several social activities aimed at

children in grades 5-8. We had 15-35 participants at nearly every program. Many thanks to the parents who planned and implemented the teen speaker program and social activities. Thanks also to Rabbi and Mara Hammerman for running the trip to Jewish NYC and for helping plan and implement many of our teen programs. We are also very much appreciative of the Mann Family Grant that helps make our teen programs possible.

This year, we had 10 volunteer teen madrichim (student aides) helping in our classes on Sunday mornings, three of whom also volunteered their time whenever they were able on Thursday afternoons. It says a lot about our teens' commitment to TBE and to Jewish learning that so many continue to stay involved with our school long after they finish seventh grade.

Adult Learning

Our calendar was full of learning activities for adults this year, including the annual Hoffman Lecture, Rabbi Hammerman and Cantor Fishman's Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class, Sue Shapiro's Hebrew reading class, weekly Israeli dance sessions, the three part "Life After Death of a Loved One, Disruption, and Divorce sessions, the Immigration – Fact and Fiction program, Ancient Wisdom for the Modern World, an Interfaith educational series, the launch of Rabbi Hammerman's new book, several Shabbat evening speaker programs, and the screening of the film, *Who Will Write Our History*. Quite a few adult education programs were planned and implemented by the TBE Sisterhood, Men's Club, the Keruv Committee and other TBE groups. The monthly TBE Discussion Group continues to thrive as well.

Early Childhood Programming

Teva Kids: This year, in addition to the regular monthly K'tanim program for 3 and 4-year-olds on Sunday mornings, we offered a 10-session program for preschool age children. This program met on Sunday mornings. Each session included activities involving science, nature, technology, mathematics, and engineering and Jewish values and stories. These programs were greatly appreciated by student participants and their parents.

Family Holiday Activities

This year's celebrations included the High Holy Days Children's programs, the Sukkah decorating party, the Sukkot children's program and Pizza in the Hut, the Rabbi's Sukkah Hop, the Simchat Torah celebration, the Hanukkah Dinner and After Party, The Tu B'Shevat Ice Cream Seder, Hands on Havdalah, the Purim Carnival, Kids in the Round Shabbat morning service, the Lag B'Omer Fire Festival, and the upcoming Shavuot celebration and Backyard Shabbat program.

Many thanks to Rabbi Hammerman, Cantor Fishman, Steve Lander, Jami Fener, Eileen H. Rosner, the TBE Religious School Teachers, Beth Silver, the TBE Board of Education, the TBE Board of Trustees, the Men's Club, Sisterhood, and every individual and TBE committee who help make our educational programs truly excellent.

JAMI FENER - YOUNG FAMILY COORDINATOR REPORT – ANNUAL MEETING 2019

Membership

The investment in Young Family programming is having a significant impact on membership

- 40 young families are TBE members
- 12 joined in 2018/19, 2 have already joined for 2019/20
- TBE's discounted membership rates for Young Families boosted membership significantly (underwritten in part by the Mann Foundation's grant)
- Religious School enrollment increased by 5%, due in part to the tuition support provided by the Mann Foundation's grant

Leadership

Young Family members are taking on lay leadership roles at TBE

- 4 current Board members are from Young Families including one who also serves on the Executive Committee
- 2 of the 4 newly nominated Board members are from Young Families
- 3 Men's Club officers (including the President) are from Young Families
- 1 of this year's Temple Rock co-chairs (in charge of the entire back-office function for tickets, sponsorships and the auctions) is from a Young Family

Volunteerism

Here are examples of ways that Young Families are volunteering actively at TBE

- Parent meetings are held several times a year to discuss upcoming programming
- Produced the lip-dub video that TBE used as this year's High Holiday greeting
- Served as photographers at several TBE events and programs during the year
- Organized and implemented new programs for 5th/6th graders (Club 56)
- Organized and helped to implement new programs for K-2nd graders (Kids U, Hands-on Havdalah, Kids-in-the-Round Shabbat service, BabyBimBam, etc.)
- Served as parent volunteers at TBE's Purim Carnival, family Shabbat dinners, and many other events during the year

Programs and Events

Here are some of TBE's programs and events during FY2018/19 that were geared to Young Families

- Inaugural BabyBimBam event for families with children ages 0-18 months (5 families attended)
- ShaBaBimBam twice-a-month on Saturday mornings for families with children up to 5 years old, followed by a congregational Shabbat luncheon (~20 families attend at least semi-regularly, with up to 12 families at any given SBBM program)
- Increase in programming geared to children aging out of ShaBaBimBam (ages 4-8) with programs offered such as
 - Inaugural Kids-in-the-Round Shabbat morning service, for children ages 4-8, led by Cantor Fishman (4 Young Families attended)
 - Kids U offsite event on a Sunday afternoon (~10 Young Families attended)
 - Hands-On Havdalah, led by Rabbi Hammerman and Cantor Fishman, geared to families with children ages 4-8 (~15 families / 40 people attended)
- Increase in programming to attract more families, with children of all ages

- Friday night babysitting during services twice-a-month (typically 3-5 children attend)
- Backyard Shabbat (July): BYO Shabbat dinner on the TBE lawn and Shabbat-themed prayers and music (~15 families attended)
- BBQ and Barechu (August): Congregational barbecue and Shabbat evening service (~250 attendees including ~25 Young Families)
- High Holidays Young Families Worship Service for children up to 4 years old (~20 Young Families attended), pre-school Sunday morning educational programs (each one meets once-a-month)
 - K'tanim: Focuses on Jewish holidays and basic rituals (4 enrollees)
 - Teva Kids (new this year): Judaic-themed STEAM program (13 enrollees)
- Erev Sukkot Blessing of the Animals, led by Rabbi Hammerman (~12 families attended)
- Noah's Ark Day Program with live animals provided by the Greenwich Audubon Society (~70 children participated)
- Hanukkah Dinner and Shabbat service (~120 people attended the dinner, ~200 people attended the service)
- Tu B'Shevat Ice Cream Seder for families with children ages 3-12, led by Rabbi Hammerman and Religious School teachers and students (~85 people attended)
- Purim Family Service and Megillah Reading, led by Rabbi Hammerman and Cantor Fishman, followed by the TBE Purim Carnival (~200 people attended)
- (Upcoming) Lag-Ba-Omer Fire Festival – last year ~30 families attended

ROBERT COHEN – TREASURER - FINANCIAL REPORT – ANNUAL MEETING 2019

I am pleased to report that for this fiscal year ending June 30th we will, once again, come out much better than we had budgeted. That is primarily due to excellent cost controls, thanks to our Executive Director - who watches every dollar like a hawk - and excellent results from membership retention and growth.

This result is in spite of unforeseen expenses for augmented security, but which was partially offset by a generous outpouring of funds at Temple Rock. We are also blessed by the generous funding by the Mann family and Gibor Foundation which help support us in many ways.

To give you a broad idea of income and expenses:

Dues are some 55% of income

The annual appeal is about 18%

Other fundraising roughly 7 to 10%

Fees (primarily Religious School and B'nai Mitzvah) 6 to 10%

Expenses are not able to be reduced any lower if we are to be able to provide the level of service and support that you expect and wish to have. In fact, expenses will rise this coming year in order to cover recurring security costs and raises for the excellent staff in line with their contracts.

Major costs are headed by personnel and associated costs plus medical of 58% to 62%
Facilities run us about 20% Religious School and B'nai Mitzvah expenses run some 11 to 13%

We continue to be vigilant going forward to ensure the long-term financial health of our Temple. As many of you know, last year we embarked on a major fundraising effort - the first major one in many years here on Roxbury Road. We have begun to see how that effort will affect our operations currently and, more significantly, on an ongoing basis in the future.

Alas, normal operating costs do rise every year, despite our best efforts, and we continually struggle to raise the incremental revenue that is required. We expect a modest dues increase, but somewhat larger than in the past few years, as we, as well as all other houses of worship, try to deal with added security costs. We have set a template of small annual dues increases in line with inflation instead of trying to minimize the number of increases but then requesting a large catch-up amount.

Please be assured that our controls are strong, and we take our fiduciary responsibility very seriously. As part of our commitment to that end, we are one of the temples in the minority that undertake a full annual outside audit of our books.

STEVEN SOSNICK - FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE REPORT – ANNUAL MEETING 2019

This year our congregation showed its generosity.

We began the year with concerns about how the Annual Appeal would fare while we are actively raising money for the Campaign for Temple Beth El. We asked Campaign donors for amounts that would not affect their Appeal gifts, but we remained unsure whether that would indeed be the case. The Appeal is our largest source of funds after dues, so it is critical that we achieve our budget target. It was gratifying to tally \$307,000 (including honors and flowers), was above our budgeted \$300,000.

Temple Rock is our next largest fundraising event. Those of you who were there saw our congregation at its best, as Past Presidents Sylvan Pomerantz and Alan Kalter led an unprecedented success of a paddle raise. The tragic events at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh caused most Jewish organizations to reassess their security needs (a requirement that was hammered home more recently in Poway, CA). Improved security is costly, however, and we were facing the need for both new equipment and hiring guards. Sylvan and Alan laid out our needs, and we responded - raising \$42,500 for a wide range of security related projects. While we face an ongoing need to pay for security guards, it was most encouraging to know that some of those costs were defrayed and to find that most of our required assets, like cameras and lighting, were financed by 90 Temple Rock attendees (along with a few who responded after the event).

The success of the paddle raise may have negatively impacted Temple Rock's auction results, however. Outside of the paddle raise, Temple Rock yielded about \$83,000, which was down from prior years. We also missed the cost-cutting prowess of Steve Lander, who was ill during the event planning. As a result, our costs escalated to about \$24,000. Since we can't plan on repeating the success of the paddle raise - and we certainly hope that circumstances don't give us such a galvanizing event - we need to consider new approaches for the auction and return to much tighter budgeting of expenses.

We look forward to the upcoming Cantor's Concert on June 13th, when we will be honoring Honni and Sylvan Pomerantz and saying farewell to Cantor Fishman. We are already discussing the entertainment for next year's Cantor's Concert, along with a potential musical event that would serve as a fall fundraiser. We'll let you know once any details are finalized. In addition, we hosted a Comedy Night last fall. Those are typically only marginally profitable, but they serve as wonderful social events and enjoyed by all.

Fundraising at Temple Beth El went well in 2018-19. We hope to match or exceed that success in the coming year. Much of that will depend on the national and local economy, which is beyond our control, but we like to think that we can always rely on the generosity of Temple Beth El members.

PETER KEMPNER - CAMPAIGN FOR TEMPLE BETH EL REPORT – ANNUAL MEETING 2019

As of May 15th, the Campaign has raised a total of \$2,673,000.00.

We are pleased to report that a broad-based number of congregants have participated and pledged to the Campaign - a total of 153 congregants.

There will be a blanket widespread reach-out to the balance of the congregation to surpass \$3,000,000 by July 1st and move towards \$3,500,000 to \$4,000,000 by the end of the summer.

The elevator project is under way and construction will begin within the next 90-120 days.

The Planned Giving component to the Campaign has already achieved real success and will continue well beyond when the Campaign comes to an end.

There will be an informational meeting on June 18th for members who are interested in donating to TBE through their wills and estates, as well as through other forms of Planned Giving.



LESLIE HEYISON – SISTERHOOD REPORT - ANNUAL MEETING 2019

TBE Sisterhood has over 250 members which is remarkable and a testament to the vibrancy and spirit at TBE. This past year, Sisterhood focused on new member outreach, experimentation with new programming and Mitzvah projects.

Mitzvah projects:

- Clothing Drive for those in need in the US and overseas in October
- Feminine care product collection to help women in *Inspirica* shelter live with dignity (**New**)
- Collected three carloads of women's office attire for *Dress for Success* (**New**)

In addition to membership dues, Sisterhood raised money through the following fundraisers this year:

- Clothing Drive mentioned above
- Annual High Holiday and Passover Food Sales
- Mah Jongg Tournament fundraiser
- Jewelry & Accessories Bazaar this past April (**New**)
- L&T "Do Good" Fundraiser

What have Sisterhood dues and fundraising monies supported this year?

Spirituality & Traditions

- Yom Kippur Break Fast every fall
- The Women's Seder – funded Haggadah and Seder plates
- Sisterhood Shabbat service and luncheon led entirely by women
- Life Lights pamphlets providing inspiration and support for life's challenges

Religious School and Teens

- Bagels and Coffee to welcome Religious School parents
- Purim Carnival support for the Moon Bounce, games and refreshments
- Chanukah candles, gelt and dreidels for the Religious School children
- Starbucks' gift cards and Chanukah wishes to our college freshman
- Tanachs given to those who have become B'nai Mitzvah

Education

- Historian Mark Albertson's lectures on Women of Valor - Helen Keller and Golda Meir

Musical Programming

- Rock Shabbat service in November
- Mediterranean Shabbat service a few weeks ago
- Cantor's Concert, this year honoring Sylvan and Honni Pomerantz

Fostering Community spirit

- Annual BBQ and Barechu in August
- Annual Sisterhood brunch with guest speaker from the CT Women's Hall of Fame
- Curtain Call dinner and show (**New**)

SEAN ALTMAN - MEN'S CLUB REPORT – ANNUAL MEETING 2019

The Men's Club has served Temple Beth El in many ways over the past year. We started the year with our annual Bimah and Sukkah building for the holidays. We also continued our Steak & Scotch in the Sukkah dinner. This was a highly successful event with over 60 people attending. Everyone there had a great time and we are planning on repeating it this year.

We are involved in many direct and indirect ways: From working with our youth during the World-Wide-Wrap (learning to wrap tefillin) to delivering Yom HaShoah Yellow Candles to raise funds for Holocaust education and programming. We also partner with the Sisterhood to sponsor many events held by the Religious School.

We hosted a lecture by Peter Roseman who wrote a book called "Sandwich'd: My Life Between the Breads". This was a great event and brought people of the synagogue together from the Men's Club, Sisterhood, and congregation as a whole.

At our Men's Club Shabbat this year, we brought in a speaker named Debbie Riegel who works with JNF programs for Israelis with special needs who would like to serve in the Israeli Defense Force. The event was a great success. Even though there was a snowstorm, we had about 100 people in attendance. In addition, it was great to get Debbie's message out about helping these special individuals.

We will be presenting our annual scholarships for the Men's Club, and I am proud to say that this year we had some outstanding applicants. These individuals have shown a strong desire to provide community service and support local as well as human interest causes in the community. They have made a difference in their efforts and we are very proud to have them as part of our congregation.

We also have an upcoming blood drive and health fair on Sunday June 23rd. We have several representatives from various fields in medicine, and other health related professions, who will give their time to help our congregation.

Finally, we are planning on having a speaker come in September from the Israel Cancer Research Fund. He will be discussing important advances in medicine to help with cancer treatments. Israel is at the center of cancer research, and we are very much looking forward to hearing how we can help with this important work.

We have wonderful partners in the Sisterhood. Thank you to President Leslie Heyison for always being willing to collaborate where possible, and to the Sisterhood members who have helped out at several of our events.

The Men's Club cannot function without the leadership of those who give their time to help plan, coordinate and run events. I am thankful to the other officers and board members for their time and commitment. However, we need more men to step up and take on a leadership role. If we want to see the Men's Club continue doing this important work, we need your help. Please be in touch with me on how you can help.

My personal thanks to Rabbi Hammerman, Cantor Fishman, Steven Lander, the entire office staff and the Men's Club board. Without their commitment none of these great things can happen. Thank you to everyone here who helps us succeed.