

## President's Report

What is the state of our synagogue? Strong. We have a great, efficient facility. We are fortunate to have staff that are caring and dedicated. But ultimately, we have you. Our membership makes us strong. This is a theme with me, if you can tell.

The past year's financial success was built upon the Torah Dedication event that Will Rogers organized last year. That final fundraiser of the year benefitted us this year and will do so into the next. In the past, I have mentioned fundraising as an issue that TI needs to better address. The Mah Jongg Tournament is part of the answer. Continued support of the Calendar is another. We will continue to look for additional creative fundraising events as we move forward.

This past year we signed Rabbi Emily Barton to another 3 year contract. I'd like to thank Brian Pearl, Don Schoen, and Justin Schoen for their efforts in negotiating that contract with the rabbi. We are happy to have her continue to lead us into the future.

This past year we received a very generous gift from Lou and Marilyn Hurwitz to construct an addition to our facility that will house a mikvah. With the loss of Beth El Jacob we lost access to a community mikvah, and the Hurwitz's are correcting that. I have had the occasion to use a mikvah for 2 of my children, and my wife Christina has made use of it also. A mikvah has been a tool by the Lederman families since my mom got dipped at Beth El in the mid-60's.

In addition to the mikvah, our architect created renderings for a new outdoor space on the west side of our property. This includes additional gardens, a new playground, and beautiful outdoor spaces to congregate. We are asking for your help to make this exciting project a reality. Please consider a gift towards this project. Renderings are available for download to see the mikvah, garden, and playground spaces. Please reach out to Justin Schoen with questions or to donate.

With those successes, we also lost a key part of Tifereth when Barb Berven retired at the end of 2019. In December, we threw a retirement party that almost made her reconsider! We will miss having her around as she meant a lot to our members, staff, and leadership. Fortunately, we were able to find Christy Rothlauf

who took over as our new Business Manager in January. Christy has held the position for 4 months now, and having worked closely with her, I can say she is doing great. Christy comes to us with decades of similar experience. Kristen Davis is still with us and has moved into an expanded role as our Communications & Programming Coordinator.

How can this report be complete without mentioning COVID-19? Yes, we are still in lockdown mode as I write this, but we are adapting. Rabbi has been leading Zoom services and coordinating additional digital programming to keep the congregation together. I thank her for those efforts. We've had to cancel or modify many of our regular religious and life-cycle events, and thank everyone for their understanding during this difficult time. Our people have survived through much worse, and we will survive this.

I have no doubt that with your continued support, we will grow and become stronger each year. Thank you for your tireless support of myself and this organization.

Jacob Lederman