

President's Message July/August 2003

In assuming the President's job this month, it has forced me to take a hard look at myself, our temple and our congregation — what makes us who we are, and why do people want to be members of our congregation.

What we offer is the chance to matter. In a congregation of this size, each one of us is important. Each little thing that you can do for the congregation is vital to its survival. We are a volunteer congregation. Other than work on the building that we cannot do, we perform every task of a larger congregation, just on a smaller scale. There are opportunities for doing things here that you might not be able to do in a larger congregation. Our members read the entire Torah portion on the High Holidays. What an honor and a privilege this is. Could I do this in a larger temple? I don't know.

I have seen many people talk and write about how we need to get more people to volunteer. I am here to tell you that I love being a lay Torah reader. For others, it may be that you get to blow the Shofar on Rosh Hashanah. Whatever it is that you would like to do in this temple is possible. There is no huge bureaucracy stopping you, just a family that cares about each other.

My goals for the upcoming two years of my presidency are simple. I would like to see more community-oriented events. I will be proposing some events of my own over the coming months. I would love to hear from you about events that you would like to see in our community. The first will be lay-led Shabbat services. There will be two this summer on July 25th and August 15th. These will be short services beginning at 6:30. After services, we are planning on having a potluck dairy dinner.

I want us to continue be a friendly community that cares about each other. I will be proposing a few ideas that I have for making us a more caring community. I again ask you for your ideas. For the next two years, I am at your service. Use me to make a difference for our congregation.

Howie