

## **President's Message Summer 2006**

What a past few weeks at the center: Bat Mitzvahs for the Berkowitz, Bauch and Finkelstein families. Followed up by maybe my favorite service ever, a confirmation class of 9 lovely young women, 2 of them being my daughters, along with a Shavuot celebration and a wonderful end of the school year program. There is something wonderful about family celebrations in a synagogue. To me, it seems to be a way to mark special moments in time. Too many times, we are running around doing things and forget that spirituality in our lives helps keep us centered, grounded and more connected with society and the world as a whole. This also marked the end of my children's formal Hebrew education. I have spent the last 12 years being a part of this Hebrew school and I am going to miss the weekly/monthly gettogethers with my friends. I hope that I do not lose contact with the parents of the current school children and I will try and be around at times, but it certainly won't be as much as it has in the past.

If you were lucky enough to be at any of these services, I think it gives a great idea of who we are, and what makes our temple so special. The feel that our Rabbi exudes while leading a service is something I have not felt anywhere else in my many years of attending temples and Bar/Bat Mitzvahs around the area. I hope none of us take our temple and our Rabbi for granted, as they are both very special.

The Sunday school looks to be in good shape, as the current group of parents looks to be very committed to ensuring the Jewish education of their children. It was wonderful looking over the assembly on Sunday and seeing so many happy children.

I urge you to attend the general meeting of the congregation on June 11th. Breakfast will start at 9:30 and the meeting will begin at 10AM.

And in closing, I hope you will all join with me in wishing our cantor, Karen, the very best in her future. Karen has been our student cantor for two years and was invested as a full cantor in May. Karen, from the Jewish Center, we wish you all the best in your life and in your cantorial career.

Howie Hirsch