

President's Message September 2007

My original thoughts at being honored with the presidency consisted of how can I take on all of the tasks necessary to see our spiritual home continue to grow and be successful. However, upon reflection, I realize what great shape we are in. Our temple has no debt, has wonderful volunteers heading all of the committees, and we are moving forward on many fronts. With this wonderful support, my initial fears were calmed. However, as Howie Hirsch has pointed out, we do need to seek out new members. If each of us can mention to Jewish friends what an inviting religious experience we provide, we can put this temporary issue behind us.

The Jewish Center has been our family's spiritual home for the last ten years. Our children, Sarah, Brandon, Carin and Ricki have each contributed in their own ways. I still amaze myself that attending services improves my developing Hebrew skills, as well as giving me a sense of well-being to face the new week.

Since becoming president, I have had the privilege of participating in a new member conversion service held at the mikvah in Teaneck, NJ, affiliated with Temple Emeth. It brought back warm memories of our family's mikvah experience some fifteen years ago. It is truly an awesome experience, and one in which all members of our congregations can participate. I was honored that Rabbi Lewis allowed me to officiate on behalf of our Temple in this event.

I look forward to meeting you at services.

L'Shalom,
Jim Arvesen (arvesen@att.net)