

President's Message April 2009

I believe that the cat is out of the bag. I am now a lame duck president, just like George W., Bill Clinton and eventually Barack Obama. However, you will not be able to get rid of me that quickly since now I will be Immediate Past President and have a seat on the [Board of Trustees](#). Also, in that capacity, I will even have a vote. In order to promote debate and discussion, our Temple president has a vote if only there is a tie (I am assuming that the Board meeting has a quorum, which we do almost all of the time).

At our Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 7, we will vote on new officers. We are in the process of encouraging nominees, and I hope to see several new faces on the Board for next year. I realize that we have been wedded to meeting the first Monday evening of every month; however I believe other convenient dates can also be considered.

For me, personally, it has been a growing experience. Previously I had been treasurer of our temple, another job that requires contact with essentially every member of the congregation. I am glad that we are small enough that I have been able to get to know each of you, at least adequately enough to know you when I see you at services.

I have benefited tremendously from improving my Hebrew with Howie Hirsch and Charlotte Fels. I hope I can continue to improve in this area. It is also interesting that our little outpost in Warren County is coveted by both [United Jewish Communities of MetroWest NJ](#) and the [Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties](#). I have cast my personal time into the fray with the latter organization, and serve on the Board of JFEDSHAW. Our Temple also has a presence with the regional office of the [Union for Reform Judaism](#). It has been a rewarding use of my time helping both individuals and Temples that are experiencing financial difficulties in these difficult times.

As I embark on a new career in marketing financial planning software to the financial planning community, I know that I will be able to balance this new challenge with time for our Temple. We have been members for over fifteen years, our children had Bar & Bat Mitzvahs and were confirmed, and Rabbi Lewis even helped my wife and me renew our marriage vows after thirty wonderful years. Thank you to all in our Congregation for helping to make these simchas possible.

Please contact me at arvesen@att.net or by phone at 917-941-4332 for any questions or comments.

Shalom,

Jim Arvesen

