

## President's Message May 2013

Last night while interviewing a prospective rabbi, he asked a very interesting question of Kelsey and Alex. He asked what their most significant Jewish moment was. While they were answering, it got me thinking about what the most significant Jewish moment in my life was.

I have it narrowed down to two moments, and I would like to share them with you. The first moment occurred when I became the treasurer of the temple 14 years ago. On Yom Kippur I was to give the High Holiday appeal as well as chant Torah for the first time since my Bar Mitzvah, which was 30 years earlier. I had practiced my Torah portion of three lines for at least 3 months and had it down to the point where I was very confident about it. The appeal I had written between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, had practiced it twice and was very nervous about giving the speech. When my name was called for my aliyah and I did the blessings, I looked at the Torah being expected to read it for the first time in a very long time. I began to shake. At that moment, I could feel the awesomeness and holiness in our Torah.

The second moment was when the adult B'nai Mitzvah class that Charlotte and I had taught was called to the Torah. Every one of the seven women was scared of reading from the Torah. But to watch each one of them come to the Torah, recite the blessings and read or chant from the Torah was truly inspiring to me.

In this vein, I hope that every one of you will take the opportunity that we will have to be able to perform one of the 613 Mitzvot that are listed in the Torah. This mitzvah is to be able to write your own Torah. Since the chance of any of us writing a complete Torah is very, very slim, we can, with the help of Sofer Winer, complete a letter in our new Torah. In my life, I have never had the opportunity to do this, and am anxious, nervous and excited about getting this opportunity.

Please join me and let's make this a great day at the temple, one that will not soon be forgotten.

Love, Howie