

President's Message December 2013

The past six weeks exemplified the tight, coherent community of our wonderful congregation. We collectively participated with the McMullen family in the joy of Alex's becoming a bat mitzvah. Kudos to Alex. She showed great poise in leading the Saturday service with [Rabbi Zamore](#). At the conclusion of Alex's service, several attendees told me how impressed they were with the level of participation of our b'nai mitzvah students.

From the time my family joined the temple, this level of participation has had the greatest impression on me. It is a testament to our students and their families' commitment to the Jewish religion and our community. It is complementary to our Sunday School teachers and b'nai mitzvah tutors in their preparation of our youth to perform at such a high level. Also, at the conclusion of Alex's bat mitvah, several attendees approached me with the observation of the outpouring warmth of our temple community. We received similar comments from non-members at High Holy Day Services. Warmth, commitment, and support are the backbone of our congregation's success.

Unfortunately life is not always joyous. Beyond festive holidays and times of celebration, our warmth, commitment, and support are demonstrated during challenging times as well; as with the passing of our beloved Mike Weiner. Our rabbi and congregation stood beside the Weiner family during the funeral and Shiva, comforting them as best we knew how. As Mike would have wanted, we kept it "simple"; we were there, we expressed our condolences, and we reflected on all the good times we and our children shared with Mike. This is the way Mike would have wanted it. For Mike's family, we will always be there for you. For Mike, you will be missed by us all.

Mo Bauer

(For Rabbi Emerita Lewis' eulogy for Mike, see [In Loving Memory of Michael Weiner](#))