

## ROSH HASHANAH SPEECH – 2014

### President Twyla Sable

L'Shanah Tovah to each and every one of you.

I stand here as your President and speak to you Lev b' Lev, Heart to Heart. This synagogue has a huge heart and a place for everyone in it to feel welcome and appreciated. Let us think of this synagogue as one huge heart and soul with many places in it to keep us moving forward. Everyone should be welcomed, loved and respected and we must continue our effort to do that.

We are a congregation where diversity is embraced and made a part of our everyday life. Congregation Beth Yam is a tapestry of spiritual, educational, cultural and social activities.

One of the places of the heart in addition to family and friends is what it means to be Jewish through membership in a synagogue. By becoming a member, you give and receive the support and friendship of the entire congregation. We work together, laugh together and disagree, but we all worship together. We believe in the culture of philanthropy in the Lowcountry. We are not only here to worship but also here to educate our young people as well as our older members.

By being a member of CBY, your dues are a mitzvah. You have made a choice to give to the community through tzedakah. The membership growth of CBY has been remarkable, in 2004 we were 176 member families. In 2014, we have grown to well over 300 member families.

You need to understand that with all this growth, comes a lot of work and sometimes a little less space for educating over 50 children in the Religious School, trying to program all preferences in events and the obligation to our cultural philosophy.

We have a very good partnership and relationship and another heart beat with our staff starting with our Rabbi, Rabbi Bloom who has been our spiritual leader for five years, Student Cantor Nancy Dubin, Adriana Urato our soloist, David Kimbell, music director, our choir and our pianist Larry Mercer as well as our office staff.

There are tough days, but everybody tries hard to get the job done even on those stressful days. All the committee chair people and their committee members work hard to keep the heart of the synagogue pumping.

The heart rhythm of two women who worked tirelessly are Judy Bluestone and Pennie Meiselman, my heroines in preparing all the High Holy Day materials and organizing the honors so that many people are recognized. The heart continues to beat with the Men's Club providing all the ushers and the Sisterhood for providing all the greeters under the leadership of Judie Aronson and Sharon Bass.

This volunteer leadership and participation is what makes everything work. It is done for all to observe these High Holy Days.

On any given day this synagogue is full of beating hearts with meetings, religious school classes, 92<sup>nd</sup> St. Y series, social justice programming, soup kitchen volunteers, Family Promise, adult education programs, membership events and of course, fund-raising events which help keep our Shul's heart beating.

We need to extend our financial commitment to the Synagogue and I am asking for full participation of this Congregation to this year's Friends Campaign that helps support the daily operations as I have outlined above. We cannot fall short of this goal. The beating heart of Beth Yam has many parts, the most important part is the observance of our Jewish faith in this beautiful community, but all of the other parts are critical to the heartbeat of the life of Beth Yam.

In closing, I would like to read a chorus of Lev b'Lev by Cantor Beth Schafer.

“Lev b'Lev, heart to heart  
Where my hand stops your hand starts  
In a circle of love that has no end  
Lev b'Lev, heart to heart  
God's been with us from the start  
In this complicated world, you'll need a friend  
So I'll keep you close to me  
And God will be with us. Lev b'Lev”

L'Shanah Tovah Tikatevu v' Tikotemu

May you be written and sealed in the Book of Life