

ROSH HASHANAH SPEECH
by President Twyla Sable
2015

L'Shanah tovah to all of you. This is an exciting day for our temple. This is the dawn of the *Mishkan Hanefesh* for all of us to not only read, but also to treasure and find comfort.

This synagogue is a place for everyone to be welcomed, appreciated and treated with respect. Our Board of Directors strive to treat all of you with respect and courtesy following the Hebrew term *derek erez*, living by the Torah in the modern world. We all should behave as *mensch*.

We are a congregation where diversity of our backgrounds is embraced and made a part of our everyday life. Our temple is a tapestry of spiritual, educational, cultural and social activities. Just stop by on any given day, but especially on Sundays, with our 50 children in our religious school classrooms, excitedly participating in learning about Judaism. This year we will have 6 B'nai Mitzvah and we have 14 post B'nai Mitzvah students. The parents of our religious schoolchildren have a strong commitment to making this school the best. This past year we were pleased to be able to grant scholarships from contributions to 9 children who attended Jewish overnight camps. Even Rabbi Bloom went to camp for one week with the children. The camp children, as well as all of those attending religious school classes will be participating in Shabbat services throughout this coming year.

When you become a member, you give and receive the support and friendship of the entire congregation. By being a member of our temple, your dues are a mitzvah. The membership growth of CBY has been remarkable; in 2004 we were 176 member families. In 2015, we have grown to over 310 member families.

At this temple we have always offered aliyahs and honors to all of our members, not just those who are workers, donors and congregants, no one is left out. Please remember when you are asked for an honor please say yes! It is an honor and a mitzvah to be asked. For those who say no thank you, I respect stage fright; I understand but help us all by participating now and throughout the year when called upon. When everyone participates, it is an honor for all of us.

This temple has a very good partnership and relationship with our staff beginning with Rabbi Bloom who has been our spiritual leader for six years, Adriana Urato, Cantorial Soloist, Student Cantor Nancy Dubin, David Kimbell, music director, our choir and our pianist, Tom Tehiel as well as our office staff. When the office is busy as it has been since June, everybody focuses on getting the job done, even on the most stressful days. We have two vice-presidents, Pennie Meiselman and Elaine Lust, who have gone above and beyond, preparing the High Holy Days materials and

organizing the many honors so that as many people as possible are recognized. Additional accolades go to the Men's Club for providing the ushers and to Sharon Bass from the Membership Committee who leads the greeters who make us feel welcome when we attend the High Holy Day services. This volunteer leadership and participation is what makes everything work. It is done so all of us have meaningful High Holy Days.

This is a busy place almost every day. Throughout any given day, you will find meetings, religious school classes, 92stY series, social action programming, Family Promise, adult education programs, membership events and of course, fund-raising events which help keep this place going.

Please sign up for the Beth Yam trip to Israel led by Rabbi Bloom, leaving on February 13, 2016. It is a trip not only for those who have never been to Israel but also for those who have been there before. We have 10 people joining us on the trip. Please join Bob and me on this exciting trip. You can sign up by going to www.bethyam.org and scrolling to "[trip to Israel](#)." If you have any questions, please ask me.

"The book of life doesn't begin today, on Rosh Hashanah, it began when you were born. The book is not written and sealed; you get to edit it, decide what parts you want to emphasize and remember. Shanah tovah means both a good year and a good change. Today you can change the rest of your life. It is never too late." By Rabbi Laura Geller

From my home to your home, L'Shanah tovah tikatevu, may you all be inscribed for a good year.