

President Pennie Meiselman's Rosh Hashanah Speech – 2016

Thank you Rabbi Bloom, Student Cantor Daniel Geigerman, David Kimball our Music Director, Tom Teil our accompanist, and our beautiful and inspiring High Holy Days choir.

We are all part of a special and unique congregation here at Beth Yam. Over 90 percent of our members have moved here from somewhere else. Without their families and close friends. We have all met new people and forged close friendships and have become a family.

I am so proud to be in the leadership of our caring community which always steps up in a big way to give aid and assistance when any of us are in need.

What does it mean to be a member of CBY? I paid my dues, therefore I am a member. Yet there is much more to being a member of our vibrant community.

We have many diverse committees to become involved in, You can help shape the direction of our programs. Since we are in the beginning of the New Year, how about a New Years resolution to join one of our many committees. Join the Social Action Committee which is involved in social justice for the greater lowcountry, or Adult Education which enables us to enrich our Jewish knowledge or perhaps the Ritual Committee which is committed to enrich our Jewish souls. You can also become an involved member in one of our affiliate organizations, Sisterhood or Mens Club. There are a dozen other committees you can choose to be an active participant in.

Hopefully your involvement will grow and you will want to serve as a member of our Board of Directors and then you too can be standing here, as I am, looking out with pride at our CBY family.

This is our synagogue. This is our community. The very best way to integrate yourself into our community is being involved. If you have interests or ideas, make them known. I encourage all of you to step forward to become more active, even if it's only one more thing than you did last year.

Our inspiring High Holy Days doesn't just happen. It is truly a labor of love for our 2 Vice Presidents, Elaine Lust and Jack Miller along with David Kurjan, Chairman of our Ritual Committee. Thank you. Thank you to Sue Gostanian and Sisterhood for providing all the desserts at Selichott. Thank you also to Men's Club and their President Alan Krumholz for providing ushers and to Sharon Bass from the Membership Committee who organizes the greeters for the High Holy Days to make everyone feel welcome.

As we begin the Jewish year 5777, we recommit ourselves to the education of all of our congregants. Our Religious School is entering a new era in Jewish education through the implementation of technology. The rabbi is introducing an adult b'nai mitzvah class to his existing educational programs. Our Adult Education Committee will be taking all of us on a year-long journey on exploring our roots—Jewish immigration to the United States.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors and on behalf of my family, near and far, may the year 5777 be a year of peace and security here, in Israel and the world over for all of us.

I wish you a happy, healthy and sweet new year,
L'shana tova, tikatva