

**President Ted David**  
**Erev Yom Kippur Message**  
**September 17, 2010**

Good Evening, Shabbat Shalom and L'Shona Tova. A Happy and Healthy New Year to all.

I am delighted tonight to share the bimah with Rabbi Bloom, with the Presiding Officer Mike Werner, our cantorial soloist Jaquely Schmidt (Jaquely, you were elegant tonight chanting Kol Nidre) and the enhanced, diverse vibrant choir. Thanks to our past presidents for participating in tonight's service. We owe you our appreciation for creating the foundations on which CBY has grown. A special "thank you" to Carol Gimbel, daughter of Joe and Judy Gimbel, who played so beautifully tonight. Joe and Judy, you must be very proud. And, again, thanks to all the volunteers who have made the HHDs so memorable

It is great to look out at a full house of congregants and visitors observing Yom Kippur and celebrating Shabbat at the same time. The Rabbis call Yom Kippur the Shabbat of Shabbats. When both days converge, it is even more of a sacred experience to be able to worship together.

Last week on Rosh Hashanah I described our new home as many houses coming together as the community, the family, the spirit, the tradition, the culture of Judaism in the Low Country. Our home is a house of worship, a house of learning and education, a house of caring, a house of social justice – Tikun Olam, a house of sociability, and a "big tent" for the worship and the cultural needs of the wide variety of Jewish beliefs among our members.

Each of us has the obligation to sustain and grow that spirit and continue the tradition started nearly 30 years ago by some very forward looking people. To sustain the spirit, we need resources – both money and people. On Rosh Hashanah I talked with you about monetary resources. Today I want to talk about people resources and what you can do to sustain the Jewish heritage in the Low Country.

You all know that CBY takes on an amazing number of activities – our programs and services to our members and the community – adult education, ritual, outreach, Religious school, social action, care, music, social, youth, cemetery as well as our infrastructure activities to maintain and enhance our facility, our membership and our financial health. We do all of this with a small paid staff and an enormous number of volunteers. We are the classic Volunteer driven organization!!!

You, as volunteers, participate in CBY governance and take on the programs and projects and tasks that enable CBY to do so much to sustain the spirit of Judaism in the Low Country. Of our 300+ adult members, approximately 100 participate in CBY committees, projects and programs – that's great, about 1/3 of our members drive the organization. However, many of those individuals participate in up to 7 or 8 activities and some of them are getting tired. The reason that some individuals participate in so many activities is simple – those members are there when we need them, ready to participate and ready to give their time to CBY needs. They participate for many reasons, but as I have heard from 2 volunteers in the just the last few days, you do it mostly so you can give back to CBY what CBY has given to you.

I would like to see more members involved. Many CBY committees have worthwhile projects that are not being accomplished for lack of volunteer resources. Most committees and task forces are seeking

new members to continue and to strengthen CBY programs and services. The way you participate is entirely up to you.

All CBY members are or have been successful in your careers. You all have special skills and capabilities and interests. Were you/are you an educator, a writer, an accountant, a scientist, a physician, a social worker, a broker, a small business owner, an organizer, an administrator, a computer gu-ru, an attorney, an engineer, a real estate manager, systems analyst, a homemaker? Do you have skills in marketing, in communication, in health care, in management, in accounting, in office administration, in sales, in carpentry, in financé? Have you been a synagogue officer or leader? Have you been or are you now involved in other not-for-profit organizations? Are you just interested in participating? Let us know what you have done, let us know your interests, your joys, and your passions and I'm sure that we have a CBY activity that will give you joy and pleasure. What turns you on? Let us know. I invite you to share with me your interests and your skills so we can put those capabilities to work.

I have heard members say "been there done that", I'm retired now and just want to enjoy my retirement. Or, I am so busy with my job and family that I don't have time. I understand that and respect that. However, if you can spare some time, we can use you on short term projects and task forces as well as on the committees that make the Congregation tick.

As you are aware, this year we are initiating our Leadership Growth program – Hay'Ahtid, the Future -- to build a cadre of future leaders for CBY and to keep the pipeline of leadership full for future generations. I am delighted to report that we have 17 participants in the program for this year. We are looking for this to be the first of a series of such programs.

So my message on this Day of Atonement and this Shabbat is GET INVOLVED. Help to lead and grow CBY so that we remain the spirit of Judaism in the Low Country. I encourage you to think of your participation as another investment in our family, in our community, in our future.

Jeri and I and the Board of Directors again wish you Shabbat Shalom and wish for each of you and your families L'Shana Tova, a Happy and Sweet New Year. May God inscribe us and seal us in the Book of Life.