

Yom Kippur Remarks (Kol Nidrei)

September 18, 2018

President Judy Bluestone

Good Yom Tov Everyone,

Ten nights ago I stood on this bima talking about progress and change. Well, tonight I'm going to say a few words about change...this time I mean the kind that jingles, the kind that used to contain real metals, the kind that has enabled CBY to move steadily forward. Oh, boy you say, now's the time for me to catch a little shut-eye but please stay with me for a few minutes while I point out a few truths about this dynamic congregation. From time to time I have heard people say that a Jewish person shouldn't have to pay to pray. But we are not a European or Middle Eastern country where governments support the faith communities nor are we a theocracy and thank God we are not. Jewish congregations are supported by annual commitment (dues)... and philanthropy, for dues alone cannot cover our operating expenses nor provide for the aspects that make **this full service** congregation rise way above all others south of the Broad. Quoting from a very wise man who quoted an even wiser source...a Pirkei Avot...."Where there is no bread, there can be no Torah, where there is no Torah there is no bread." Torah sustains us and by extension our job is to sustain our house of worship. We do this in many ways.

First, our dues which only cover about 65% of our expenses and we make every effort to keep them as low as possible and we provide assistance where needed;

Second, our various fundraising efforts planned and creatively executed by CBY's truly dedicated fundraising committee led by Dave Solomon and advisor Alan Meiselman: our business directory whose quantity and quality has increased manyfold; our Dine Together program where members can socialize at area restaurants and earn a bit for the congregation, the semi annual gala and auction and our many funds...**general**, to which we can donate and **restricted** funds dedicated to a specific temple or community need by the donor.

Third...Many of us do not realize the extent to which our generous members anonymously support the extra programs from which we gain so much. This is the fifth year that CBY has engaged a **student cantor** who brings her beautiful voice, new music and a presence to our high holy day worship, sings at Shabbat services monthly, teaches in the religious school and phones pastoral schools at our area senior living communities. The program has been entirely underwritten by private donors; **The March of the Living**, an international program which takes high school students to Poland and Israel to learn about the Holocaust and the State of Israel... totally funded privately and anonymously. **Israel Independence Day** celebrations are completely underwritten by anonymous donors, **special Holocaust remembrance events**, **benches for our foyer**, the **beautiful art work and Judaica** new **Torah** dedicated about eight years ago and the delightful **Meron Torah**...I'm sure that you get the idea...gifts graciously given to CBY from the heart which make this such a special place.

Now it's my privilege to announce a brand new gift to our congregation from Neil and Stephen, the sons of Judie and Joel Aronson. To honor the memory of their beloved Judie who was passionate about bringing attention to social injustice and inequality south of the Broad, they have established the Judie Aronson Social Justice Fund. It will provide scholarships to area high school seniors who demonstrate an active concern for social justice and also fund the Judie

Aronson Memorial Lectureship open to the entire community which will bring nationally recognized speakers on social justice concerns to Hilton Head. We are so grateful for this living legacy.

Fourth, recognizing that we must plan for the future, CBY established an **endowment fund** which is in its sixth year. The **CBY Endowment Fund** was developed to support the congregation and its programs in perpetuity and is funded in the form of bequests and gifts. All families or individuals who make a legacy gift or a current gift will become members of the CBY Guardian Society.

And now I come to the **CBY Friends Campaign**, our annual plus giving program, whose funds go entirely to operating funds to supplement our budget. This campaign asks each member family to contribute to the best of their ability and support the financial needs of our extraordinary congregation.

I am honored to announce that the 2018-19 campaign chairs are former CBY presidents Pennie Meiselman and Stan Bluestone, who will soon be mailing a request to you for participation. These two dedicated CBY leaders have undertaken the highest form of mitzvah...encouraging others to engage in acts of charity. Please respond with a gift large or small...if you're an annual contributor, please consider increasing this year; if you have never donated, give yourself the good feeling of being part of this really important campaign. Every donation is valued!

We are so fortunate to have a beautiful place to worship and an extraordinarily dedicated and energetic Rabbi Bloom who leads us with enthusiasm and sensitivity, humor and erudition. Thank you for bringing your special gifts to us.

The future of Judaism depends upon the synagogue. Without it, who will educate our children? Who will help us celebrate *simchas* and mourn with us when we lose a loved one? Who will provide moral leadership in a turbulent world? Who will help sustain us within the context of our incredible history of survival and contribution to the world? Who will be the voice for us when we experience challenges from the greater community? In these uncertain times it is critical that we as a Jewish community remain united and strong.

Thank you in advance for your generous response.

I wish each of you *g'mar chatima tovah* - May you be sealed in the Book of Life for a good year.