

Good evening to all of you, beloved members of Congregation Beth Israel

Welcome to our 164th Annual Meeting!

I would like begin by honoring our retiring Board Members.

With his unique style of telling it as he sees it, **David Goldwyn** has been an enormously valuable member and leader. He contributed to the success of our community in more than one way. A few highlights come to mind: David and Tiffany chaired The Taste of Temple twice. They inspired us, so Bianca and I followed them and chaired the Taste of Temple twice plus the fall fundraiser in 2016...I remember that because that was only days before our daughter Shira was born, on Rosh Hashanah 2016. David and Tiffany also chaired the Fall Fundraiser. During all that time David was the chair of the Development Committee and did a fantastic job. David served in our Executive Committee and served as CBI representative on the Oregon Jewish Community Foundation Board. David has also chaired our Life & Legacy outreach. David, you have been an important reason for our success. You and Tiffany are wonderful friends. Thank you!

As the Chair of the Education Committee, **Bonnie Davis** successfully guided our Religious School reaccreditation with the Association of Reform Jewish Educators. She led our Education Committee in partnership with CBI staff through implementing the letter writing days and activities for Torah Connects, the CBI project to repair our Torah scrolls with Sofer on Site, where families had the opportunity to help write letters in the scrolls, including the Holocaust scroll. Over the COVID-19 pandemic, Bonnie and the Education Committee worked with Education Director Ben Sandler and staff as we transitioned to a year of virtual learning and then back to in-person classes. Bonnie's insight as a leader, parent, and medical professional brought reassurance and advice on how to proceed safely and wisely back to in-person learning. Our Education Director and all of us are grateful for Bonnie's dedication and leadership. Bonnie and Barry are good and fun friends. Thank you, Bonnie!

I would like to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your President for the past two years. It has been immensely rewarding, valuable, interesting and fun for me. I hope that it has been of benefit to our Beth Israel community, as well.

We have a World Class Clergy Team here lead by our Senior Rabbi Michael Cahana. They lead us in navigating the unprecedented time of uncertainty. They are determined to keep us standing up, together. They have been diligently following the health advisories and listening to many of our concerns. They have worked creatively to adapt and adjust, and provide a safe and reasonable plan to sustain the mission we share.

We cannot thank our clergy enough for their dedication, hard work, creativity and genuine care for our community.

I would like to thank the members of the Board of Trustees for their selfless dedication to the affairs of the Institution. They served at a high level of commitment. They sacrificed their time

and resources to work for the good of CBI at no financial cost to the institution. There are so many of you that we need to thank... so many! We are a vibrant community with many contributing to our success. I cannot name all of you tonight but please accept my thanks.

I would, however like to recognize a few of our committee chairs for bending over backwards to get things done regardless of circumstances, traffic....then no traffic, but...mask mandates, social distancing, etc. They found a way forward, they were resilient, worked hard and smart, again, at no cost to the Institution:

Susan Milstein, Adult Education Committee
Jack Menashe, Building and Grounds Committee
Dick Solomon and Don Spiegel, Cemetery Committee
Bonnie Davis, Education Committee
Libby Schwartz, Personnel Committee
Sally Rosenfeld, Social Action Committee
Bill June, Safety and Security Committee
Naomi Derner, Finance Committee
Shoshana Lansberg, WRJ/Beth Israel Sisterhood

We could not have done it without you! Thank you!!!

We have an unbelievable, dedicated and level headed Executive Director, Josh Kashinsky, to which we are extraordinarily appreciative.

Before anything, I would like to take this moment to thank your family: your wife, Michelle, your daughters Rosie and Fifi for sharing you with us. Your family has been more than supportive and understanding.

Every championship team and any successful organization needs a steady hand. Josh is that steady hand for us, making the best of the hand that was dealt to us, always. We thank you for everything you continue to do, Josh. And, you have done so many things. As usual for Josh, he doesn't want to accept all the credit. He thoughtfully inventories the staff who make it all possible.

So, we sat down and went over the names together:

- Education Director Ben Sandler does a great job managing religious school and all the COVID protocols, keeping our programming vibrant and adapting.
- Education Coordinator Elisabeth Pierson supports Religious School teachers, moving Religious School registration into Shulcloud, learning quickly on the job.
- Laura Robinson, Clergy Assistant & Cemetery Coordinator, is doing a great job managing clergy calendars, helping support clergy needs, transferring our cemetery information to our new database (Cemify), doing a fantastic job supporting families dealing with death.

- Tracy Manaster Alifanz, our Communications Director, makes sure our communications are timely and engaging (including Facebook interactions), builds relationships with local news outlets, and supports Sisterhood and our Social Action Committee
- Accounts Payable Specialist Linda Bridges keeps our bills paid, is always willing to help out (especially with transition in the Finance Department), and has been researching new mail machines
- Orsi Nagy, Office Administrator, for updating and streamlining tributes process, supporting the Sisterhood pop up gift shop, being the first person most congregants talk to, picking up a lot of slack with all of the transition in the finance department
- Facilities Manager Dallas Van Winkle tirelessly supports all of our in person events with set ups and security, works on streaming set ups in all our different spaces, trained and hired a whole new staff
- Susie Young, Facilities Manager, trained and hired a whole new staff, and manages all the vendors and rentals as we open up,
- Melissa Altzner, CFO, keeps on top of all of our finances while integrating new staff and dealing with staff transitions, and always being a thought partner to the Finance Committee and Josh
- Program Director Chelsea Ferguson picks up all of the slack for our programs, especially managing the technology and juggling as we move between online/in person/hybrid, always being willing to say “yes”, helping support all of the new office staff and maintain morale, and being a thought partner for Josh

To all of you, I would like you to know that your efforts do not go unnoticed. We appreciate you! Josh appreciates you! I wrote a personal card to each of you to thank you for your contribution and continued support. We cannot thank you enough.

Josh, one more thing that proves ones more how much we need you. We wanted to do something special and keep it a secret from you, so obviously we couldn't ask you to double check our work....well....as you may imagine, it didn't go well:

The Jewish Federation of Greater Portland had accepted applications for THE LAURIE ROGOWAY OUTSTANDING JEWISH PROFESSIONAL AWARD. Of course, we thought about you and immediately embarked on the application process. As part of the application we needed to collect letters of recommendations and that was not hard, as many people wanted to step forward and nominate Josh. We finally ended up with letters from Christie Moore, who was the engine of the initiative, from past Executive Director Sydney Baer, from Rabbi Rachel Joseph...and a long letter from me. So....what could go wrong? Well, we found out later that executive directors do not qualify for the award. Well....that would have never happened if you were involved in the project....you do pay attention to details, you do read the fine print....so, with embarrassment, we have to admit that without your help we failed...

But, in our eyes, you are an Outstanding Jewish Professional and we would like to present to you this binder with all the letters that were ready to be submitted to nominate you!!! We hope you know how much we appreciate you.

Josh, I have a small gift for you, a piece of art that I brought from Israel, by Gerstein and a book Plato and Platypus Walk into a Bar...Understanding Philosophy Through Jokes.

We, collectively, also have a gift certificate for you to go wine tasting in the Oregon Wine Country, good for four people.

And now, looking forward, I would like to introduce to you a very special person, a very special leader.

- She sings in the Kol Echad (the CBI Choir)
- She currently serves in the Safety and Security Committee, the Executive Committee and she chairs the Personnel Committee.
- She is a Past President of OPB, Past President of the Oregon Chapter of Area Jewish Committee and the President of Oregon Women Lawyers.
- She is over qualified....

Dear congregants, we are all so lucky! Our future President of the CBI Board the Trustees, who will succeed me, please welcome our own **Libby Schwartz!!!**

Libby, would you like to say a few words?

Libby, I wish you luck. You will be supported and you'll do very well. Congratulations!

I thank you all, for your attention.

Onwards and upwards toward our 165th year.

Thank you and good evening!