

As we approach the High Holidays I hope that the high temperatures of this past summer are but a mere memory. We managed to survive the record setting heat and our shul provided a cool place to pray throughout the summer, both literally and figuratively. During July our wonderful congregants stepped forward and provided meaningful Torah discussions in the absence of our Rabbi who was enjoying a well deserved vacation. He recharged his batteries and we are now entering into another exciting year of programming and worship.

First up on the agenda is the Mark A. Siegel Scholar-in-Residence weekend which we moved to September of this year to take advantage of the speaker – Professor Judith Hauptman --who was coming to participate in the community wide Selihot program. We have made the program as inclusive as possible and affordable for our membership by securing underwriting for the Shabbat dinner and the Sunday morning breakfast, so please take advantage of this opportunity to freely participate in this wonderful weekend.

Meanwhile, all the other committees are busy planning and moving forward with events for this coming year. You have all seen the invitation to join in a luncheon to honor Larry Broman and Mark Kreditor in October. These gentlemen are great role models as they have given unselfishly over the years and continue to be actively engaged in many areas of the synagogue. It is thanks to volunteers like these gentlemen that High Holiday services have come off so well and our fund raising efforts are becoming more sophisticated.

We are starting another Adult B'nai Mitzvah class this year. I can tell you from personal experience that is a life altering program. The instructors are two terrific women – Leslie Morgan and Elizabeth Stein. If you were on the fence, let this serve as a gentle push.

The revitalized Social Action committee has great plans for the coming year so don't be bashful, give Marilyn or Larry Guzick a call and see how you can help. Along the same lines, I am sure Rusty Dworkin over at the Men's Club or Alisone Kopita/Elissa Wolf at Sisterhood, or Howie and Patti Fields (Chai Lights) would love to hear from you as well. Of course, there is a group for just about any age in our synagogue, from tots (Tot Shabbat) to young people to young couples all part of our community. So when someone asks you what the benefits of membership are at Congregation Beth Torah you can answer by referencing any of the myriad groups that are eager to have you join them.

For those of you whose memory is like mine, I readily admit that the following comes close to repeating what I said last year but it is just as important if not more so this year as we face an uncertain economy, it is very important that we reach beyond our own community to raise the operating funds we need so I offer this again for your consideration and action. **We are about to start putting together our annual directory which is a major fund raising opportunity. If each of our member units were to approach just one of the businesses they frequent and convince them to place a quarter page ad in our directory, we would be able to raise \$20,000 to surpass the budgeted \$12,000. If the quarter page ad were a half page instead, it would mean**

\$30,000. The nice thing about this effort is that the money is not necessarily coming from within the Beth Torah community. So, let's make this year the one of outreach.

As we continue to grow and the needs of our congregation expand, we need to grow our professional staff to keep pace with our needs. The more effective we are in reaching out beyond our congregation for funds, the better off we will all be. Let's make this directory our most successful one to date!!

See you in shul.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a light gray rectangular box.