



Tony

Congregation Beth Torah

President's Column

August 2010

Happy New Year

There is the old joke about our Jewish holidays, some years they are early and some they are late but never are they on time. I'm forced to disagree. In the past few years I've found myself becoming more attuned to the rhythm of the Jewish calendar and the ordering of events, Shabbat readings, and the various holidays. Admittedly this is mostly because I have spent more time at shul, participating and celebrating in the various events and rituals that occur throughout the year. Now, I'm not about to explain the cycle of leap years nor which readings are doubled up on a given year. For now, I'll rely upon my iPhone and take comfort that "there's an app for that"—but of course not on Shabbat or Yom Tov. These are also options for you, come to shul on Shabbat or a holiday, find an online tool to learn or even just answer that one question you might have, or use the library that we have at Beth Torah.

While it is not the new year on the secular calendar, Beth Torah has already started our new 'membership' year and I must express deep appreciation to those who are stepping down after serving on Beth Torah's Board of Directors chairing various committees or on the Executive Committee. Many are taking a well deserved break and will be enjoying the programming that we offer without worrying about the details that make them a success. A few have moved into other leadership roles to help expand the programming that we have to offer. It is volunteers like this, and those who continue to give of their time either on the board or in the myriad of other ways, who give Beth Torah its unique character.

With the high holidays only a few weeks away we are already off to a quick and energetic start to 5771. As you read this we'll be full swing into a very abbreviated "Shul Shopping" season. Our new membership VP, Cheryl Drazin, and our Membership Co-Chairs Robin Brown and Vicki Burnstein have taken on the challenge of having less time to let all who walk into our Shul, young or old, married or single learn about us and all that we have to offer. They, and Beth Torah, need your help to do that. Mostly at this time of year but somewhat throughout the year we need a strong and diverse membership committee. It is the membership committee that is on the frontline of integrating new members into Beth Torah and tending to needs of our various constituencies. This is a great way to get involved on the more social side of our community so please take some time to contact Cheryl at membership-vp@congregationbethtorah.org or leave a message with Cathey at the synagogue office at 972.234.1542 x227.