



# KOL TIKVAH

THE VOICE OF HOPE



## TEMPLE B'NAI TIKVAH

July / August, 2020 • Tammuz / Av / Elul, 5780

[VIEW OUR CALENDAR ►](#)

### Inside this issue:

[Rabbi's Message](#)  
[Life Cycle Events](#)  
[Yahrzeits](#)

[Donations](#)  
[Life & Legacy](#)  
[Social Action](#)

[Adult Education](#)  
[Past President's Message](#)  
[President's Message](#)

## RABBI'S MESSAGE — Coming to Temple Even When You Can't



**By Rabbi Mark Glickman**

I write these words on a Friday afternoon, and as I do so, I'm preparing to go to Temple tonight. But tonight, when I go to Temple, I'm not going to get gussied up, climb into my car, and drive to Britannia as I've done for years now. Instead, tonight I'll dress up only the upper half of my body, and then I'll walk downstairs to my makeshift basement studio, turn on my computer, and join you for services.

These days, "going to Temple" just ain't what it used to be.

It is, of course, unfortunate that we can't be with one another in person for worship, study, and schmoozing these days. God willing, we'll be able to start gathering in person soon.

But one thing we've learned during this shutdown is that Temple is much more than a building. It's been a struggle, of course, but in so many ways, we have maintained our vitality as a congregation even during these times when, for the most part, we only see one another through our computer screens and smartphones. We've gathered for worship, we've studied together, we've checked in with one another on the phone, we've maintained our bonds as a congregation despite the physical distance that we've been maintaining.

Our congregation, you see, is a *kehillah kedoshah*, a sacred community, even when we can't gather in the same room. That's because Temple is the people who make up our congregational family. And Temple is the songs we sing. And Temple is the prayers we pray. And Temple is the care we show,

and the kindness we display, and the compassion we exhibit for one another at every possible moment. And all of these things are what we do even when we can't gather. Even during a pandemic.

Over the years, we Jews have gotten pretty good at not getting too dependent on specific places. We've set down roots everywhere, it seems, but often we then need to uproot ourselves – sometimes quite suddenly – and move to another place. Along the way, we've become quite skillful at relocating. And now that we're in an age of technology, we find that our skill at relocating has set us up quite well for un-locating.

So, my friends, wherever you are, I hope you'll "come to Temple" sometime soon. You can come to Temple online, or over your phone, or even as you read these words. Yes, our Temple is our building, but it is so much more. As we yearn to see each other in person again, let's be thankful for the bonds that we share even when we can't.

# LIFE CYCLE EVENTS

## Condolences

- Caron Glickman, on the loss of her great aunt Cindy Burby
- Josh Hesslein, on the loss of his grandmother Peg Hesslein

## Healing Prayers

David Adelman, Diane Arnold, Harvey Balakofsky, Allan Banbury, Sherry Banbury, Eleanor Bannister, Steve Baylin, Harold Beaumander, Stan Boticnick, Marsha Carnat, Sarabeth Carnat, Ryan Carswell, Yael bat Chava, Murray Cornberg, Bob Dudder, Debbie Dudder, Donna Dudder, Louis Frimet, Darren Ginter, Nancy Green, Carole Kert, Sophia Lang, Jason McKinney, Valerie Murphy, Hadassah Amy O'Reilly, Carla Pasternak, Ruthie Rubin, Hineini bat Ruth, Beverly Sheckter, Pat Smolensky, Elijah Waverman, Miriam bat Yael

# YAHREZITS

## TO BE READ ON JULY 3-9

Esther Toby Eisenstadt	Solomon Kustan	Myrna Diane Levine	Eilene Lezack
Bronya Logvinskaya	Max Nathanson	Laja Zomer	Ann Pasternak
Stephen Roll	Colleen Smolkin	M. David Spindel	

## TO BE READ ON JULY 10-16

David Berkovits	Judith Borenstein	Juana Cudsko de Asrilian	Sam Eichler
Max Eisenstadt	Harold Hutchinson	Saul Rosenbaum	Harry Karlinsky
Raymond Singer	Henry Krygier	William Staum	Harold Levy
Ralph Welikovitsh	Phil Pomerance		

## TO BE READ ON JULY 17-23

Emily Finkleman	Diane Freedman	Ben Gallay	Louis Korman
Phyllis Krygier	Richard Light	Jean Lower	Gary Lutz
Morry Rogers	Rose Winograd		

## TO BE READ ON JULY 24-30

Harry Baecker	Morris Calman	Ruth Carnat	Toby Conn
Sam Cramer	Dora Finkelman	Ike Hashman	Gertrude Singer

## TO BE READ ON JULY 31 - AUGUST 6

Gella Bing-Weihs	Philip Ereshefsky	Evelyn Frankel	Avrum Rotbart
Adolph Schacter	Elayne Schecter	Rose Silberberg	

## TO BE READ ON AUGUST 7 - AUGUST 13

Florence Abrams	Bea Kahn	Molly Aron	Rose Klasser
Florence Elman	Bertha Nemerovsky	Betty Gorrin	Phyllis Rackow
Benek Herman	Pearl Schwartz	Sima Tannenbaum	Pauline Wallace

## TO BE READ ON AUGUST 14 - AUGUST 20

Ethel Baker	Bertha Devins	Dora Freiman-Ptak	Gerry Goodman
Allan Kornberg	Symie Maslove	Boris Men	Patricia Palter
David Rubin	Hyman Schwartz	Augusta (Goldie) Steinberg	Pauline Smolkin
Norma Wise			

## TO BE READ ON AUGUST 21 - AUGUST 27

Dora Florence	Susan Frankel	Anatoly Geskin	Rachel Harris
Iser Maslove	Adelle Rubin	Richard Edwyn Stanleigh	

## TO BE READ AUGUST 28 - SEPTEMBER 3

Michael Andersen	Gertie Belkin	Morris Carnat	Gloria Chappe
Jerry Greif	Harry Kreitzer	Maurice Levine	Joseph Loomer
Freda Sautman	Lena Rose Schwartz	Kurt Sonnenschein	Sylvia Staum

# DONATIONS

TO	FROM	OCCASION
<b>BUILDING FUND</b>		
Temple	Calgary Actor's Studio Inc.	
Temple	Molly Ross	In memory of Celia Kornberg
<b>CALGARY BB4CK FUND</b>		
Temple	Jacob Barsky & Fran Goresht	In memory of Harold Barsky
<b>CARING COMMUNITY</b>		
Kayko Driedger-Hesslein & Josh Hesslein	Susan Podlog	Condolences
<b>DAN ARATO FUND</b>		
Ellen & Eric Men	Judith & Peter Arato	Mazel Tov
<b>GENERAL OPERATIONS</b>		
Josh Hesslein and family	Betsy Jameson	Condolences
Kayko Driedger-Hesslein & Josh Hesslein	Roz Mendelson	Condolences
Josh Hesslein	Roz & Danny Oppenheim	Condolences
Temple	Betsy Jameson	
Josh Hesslein and family	Roz Mendelson & David Hodgins	Condolences
<b>RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND</b>		
Rabbi Mark Glickman	Karen & Brian Abrams	Condolences
Rabbi Mark Glickman	Sylva Nathanson & Pat O'Connor	Condolences
Rabbi Glickman	Emmanuel & Janice Vomberg	Condolences
Rabbi Mark & Caron Glickman	Judith & Jerry Spevakow	Condolences
Rabbi Mark Glickman	Cheryl & Morley Shore	Condolences
Rabbi Glickman	Michele Doctoroff & Ted Switzer	Condolences
Rabbi Glickman and Family	Frank Rackow	Condolences
Temple	Rick Phillips	
Rabbi Glickman	Mona Bell	In Memory of Rabbi Glickman's father, Ron
Rabbi Glickman	Lori & Bryan Helfenbaum	Condolences
Ken Drabinsky	Sari Shernofsky	Condolences
Rabbi Mark & Caron Glickman	Ayala Roudstein & Marc Ereshefsky	Condolences
Temple	Barbara & Keith Samuels	In memory of Sam Samuels
Rabbi Mark & Caron Glickman	Norma Karlinsky	In memory of Ron Glickman
Rabbi Glickman	Jerry Snukal	Condolences
<b>SMOLKIN MEMORIAL WALL</b>		
Temple	Leonard Himelfarb	In memory of Vera Himelfarb
Temple	Colin & Brenda-Ann Marks	In memory of our mothers Minnie Sive & Rebecca Marks
<b>SOCIAL ACTION FUND</b>		
Becky Hampton	Debby & Barry Smolkin	Special Birthday

## In the Year 2060

At the AGM you heard that Temple's financial management is very solid. You also heard about the shortfalls occurring because of COVID-19, and the anticipation that we are very likely to have zero casino income in 2020 and 2021 (depending on when the government re-opens casinos).

**Now please enter the Future with me.** It is 2060, 40 years have passed, and some Temple members have concluded their very full lives, living well into their 90s. The majority of them designated 5% or more of their estates to the LIFE & LEGACY program, to ensure the long-term financial stability of the Calgary Jewish Community. These members had determined that their legacy gift could benefit their children and grandchildren by offsetting estate taxes, and they would also be living out the last stage of their philanthropic goals. And they were correct.

If even half of our current congregation commit to joining LIFE & LEGACY, like the individuals imagined above, then Temple will have exceeded our target of \$5 million for our endowment fund. This endowment would support Temple's building and operations, ensure no deficits, and probably would even permit a decrease in Temple's annual dues. Endowments are very beneficial to non-profits as they guarantee consistent funding year over year.

**Now compare that to the present, 2020.** Temple does not yet have any meaningful endowment income, in spite of many conversations for many years. Every time problems like economic downturns happen, our fiscal managers struggle to ensure Temple's ongoing programs can continue. That being said, we have had the amazingly good fortune of being accepted into the Harold Grinspoon Foundation LIFE & LEGACY Program, which could help ensure our economic future.

**Legacy giving is a Jewish kind of thing.** We want to ensure the sustainability of Temple's incredible list of programs. Furthermore, we want the breadth and the depth of that programming to exist for our children and grandchildren.

The lesson of COVID-19 is very clear: *Temple must build an endowment from which it can receive income every year to sustain us through difficult times.*

Thank you to the 31 families who have made the commitment to sustaining Jewish life at Temple B'nai Tikvah! And to the rest of you: please join us!

Go online to learn more about legacy giving, and how you can help ensure the future of our community for generations to come! Or, at Temple, contact Bonnie Kaplan ([bonniejoykaplan@gmail.com](mailto:bonniejoykaplan@gmail.com)).



IMAGINE IF YOU COULD  
PROVIDE A GIFT TO THE  
JEWISH COMMUNITY THAT  
WOULD LAST FOREVER

### TEMPLE B'NAI TIKVAH IS PROUD TO BE A PARTNER IN CALGARY'S LIFE & LEGACY™ ENDOWMENT INITIATIVE

LIFE & LEGACY is designed to help you create permanent legacy gifts, demonstrating your belief in the continuity of Jewish life in Calgary for generations to come.

#### The Temple Legacy Circle

Anonymous (3)	Steve Eichler & Tracey Rumig	Betsy Jameson	Naomi Johansen
Judy & Ron Bing	Daniel & Roslyn Oppenheim	Jack & Donna Newton	Nadine & David Drexler
Bonnie Kaplan & Richard Conte	Tibor Kaldor & Megan MacFarland	Lisa Welikovitsh & Mark Paidra	Sid Horovitz
Gertrude Cohos	Alex A. Osten	Joshua Hesslein	Carolyn Devins
Sauna L. Switzer	Larry & Tina Stanleigh	Annie Brodsky	Sara Hastings-Simon
Cheryl & Morley Shore	Michele Doctoroff & Ted Switzer	Norman & Kathy Schachar	Jennifer Eiserman
Peta Glezerson		Roz Mendelson & David Hodgins	Ashley Runka Owens & Dustin Owens
Susan Light			
Jane Paterson			

To learn more about how to create your Jewish legacy and join the Temple Legacy Circle, contact Bonnie Kaplan at 403-245-0568 or [bonniejoykaplan@gmail.com](mailto:bonniejoykaplan@gmail.com).



temple b'nai tikvah  
a reform jewish community



# Until we are all free, we are none of us free

*By the Social Action Steering Committee*

You will most likely be reading this in early July, but it is mid-June as I write it. In the last few weeks, there have been thousands of solidarity actions all around the world for Black Lives Matter, including here in Calgary. These protests were sparked when George Floyd, a Black American man, was murdered by a police officer. Police forces all over the US and even in Canada have responded to these protests by brutalizing thousands of protestors and bystanders, largely targeting Black people. For some, this was the last straw in the long chain of systemic discrimination and police brutality faced by Black, Indigenous and racialized Americans. For others, it was a wake-up call, prompting us to re-examine the relationship that our own countries have with some of its peoples. White supremacy, the system that upholds anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism, is the same system that upholds antisemitism. As Jews, we need to pursue justice for the many Black, Indigenous, and racialized people whose lives have been taken by systemic racism and state violence. We also need to identify our own biases, the things we don't know and the things that we could be doing better.

If you feel confused, overwhelmed or helpless, you are not alone. We in the Social Action Steering Committee have put together a brief list of resources to help you learn more about the current state of racism and police brutality in Canada and the US, as well as places that you can support. We are also in the process of identifying further actions we can take as a Temple community. If you have any ideas or would like to help out, please contact Nadine Drexler ([n.drexler@shaw.ca](mailto:n.drexler@shaw.ca)) or Ayala Roudstein ([aroudstein@gmail.com](mailto:aroudstein@gmail.com))

## **General overview:**

[Video: Yavilah McCoy's keynote address invites us to pursue justice \[Jewishly\]](#)

[Article: Chris Harrison - "Black Jews are tired"](#)

[Video: Peggy McIntosh - "How Studying Privilege Systems Can Strengthen Compassion"](#)

[Video: John Oliver explains the current state of police brutality in the US](#)

## **Canada-specific sources:**

[Video: Global News segment - "Being Black in Canada"](#)

[Article: Natasha Simpson - "Canada has race-based violence too"](#)

[Article: Sandy Hudson - "We must defund the police. It is the only option"](#)

[Article: Nancy McDonald - "Canada's prisons are the new residential schools"](#)

## **Comprehensive resource lists:**

[Welcome to Black Canada](#)

[Anti-Racism for Beginners](#)

[A Guide to Talking to Your White Jewish Family About Anti-Black Racism](#)

## **To support anti-racism work in Alberta, you can donate to:**

[Calgary Black Empowerment Fund](#)

[Canadian Cultural Mosaic Foundation](#)

[The Africa Centre's Youth Empowerment Initiative](#)

[Black Health Alliance](#)

## THE KOL TIKVAH TEAM

**Rabbi** Mark Glickman - [rabbiglickman@bnaitikvah.ca](mailto:rabbiglickman@bnaitikvah.ca)

**President** Josh Hesslein - [president@bnaitikvah.ca](mailto:president@bnaitikvah.ca)

**Executive Director** Danny Oppenheim - [ed@bnaitikvah.ca](mailto:ed@bnaitikvah.ca)

**Office Administrator** Patricia Martin - [office@bnaitikvah.ca](mailto:office@bnaitikvah.ca)

**Bookkeeper** Connie Harding - [bookkeeper@bnaitikvah.ca](mailto:bookkeeper@bnaitikvah.ca)

**Kol Tikvah Editors** Monica Lis, Marsha Levy - [monica.lis.temple@gmail.com](mailto:monica.lis.temple@gmail.com) **Layout** Katherine Pickering

**Temple B'nai Tikvah Communications Team** Marsha Levy, Monica Lis, Jay Palter, Susan Rubin

**Volunteer Kol Tikvah Proofreaders** Allan Bell, Marcia Bell, Elaine Hashman, Jane Paterson, Myron Podlog, Alex Zisman

## Adult Education July-August

In May we initiated sharing of remote adult Jewish learning opportunities through the weekly e-blast, including lectures, webinars, concerts, etc. This has been developed into "Michele's Corner" wherein each week Michele Doctoroff will be posting her picks for online Jewish Learning. Look for these each week in Wednesday's e-blast.

Please look for remote Lunch and Learn and Dessert and Learn talks from Temple over the summer months. If you are interested in giving a virtual talk, please contact Jennifer Eiserman at [jennifer.eiserman@icloud.com](mailto:jennifer.eiserman@icloud.com).

Torah study goes online this summer! Please look for announcements in the e-blast regarding virtual Torah and Java to be held during the week, rather than on Shabbat. If you would like to lead discussion on a parashah, please contact Jennifer Eiserman at [jennifer.eiserman@icloud.com](mailto:jennifer.eiserman@icloud.com).

I wish everyone a good summer, safely enjoying the warm weather and glorious green spaces that our city and the provincial and national parks offer us.

— Jennifer Eiserman, Adult Education Chair

## (PAST) PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Delivered at the AGM*



**Cynthia Simmons, Temple President**

I have a greeting card that sits on my desk with one of those sayings that can seem simplistic, but from which I derive comfort. It says "Show up. Breathe. Do your Best. Be Kind. Repeat."

Good evening everyone. Two years ago, in my New President's speech I stated that my vision for Temple was that we become a flourishing congregation of Reform Jews in Western Canada. I promised to be here often, and to contribute my efforts

to the good work and energy already here. I also promised that I would work with you to grow this congregation and to secure its financial future. And even though we are currently besieged by unprecedented challenges, I believe we have been successful in meeting those goals.

For most of the year things have gone very well. Our membership numbers have continued to grow – moving from 313 families to over 320 at last report. We are entering this time of financial uncertainty in a relatively strong position – we finished the year with revenues exceeding expenses.

And while we are expecting that next year, unlike this one, our membership will remain flat and our expenses will exceed our revenues, we have savings and should be able to weather a difficult financial year. Next year will be challenging, but with your continued membership and support we will see our way through. As Peter and Ron said in their membership committee report: "Your presence as a member is the most valuable contribution to the community at this difficult time."

Over the year there has been much that we can be proud of.

- The Welcome Back BBQ being catered by Shabba – the food truck operated by the Syrian refugee family that Temple helped to sponsor.
- The continued success of Pride Shabbat – and the expression by attendees of their joy at finding such a welcoming congregation.
- The Simchat Torah dedication of our new Torah clothed in its beautiful cover and magnificent breast plate.
- Our Religious School enrollment remained steady at 60 students. And we have plans to offer ongoing Jewish education in the Fall, with or without our ability to physically gather our children and young people.
- Our congregants' participation in ARZA Canada moved from 57 member families in 2018 to 251 individual members in 2019. ARZA, as you know, supports the Reform movement in Israel, and with increased membership comes increased influence.
- Our influence in the North American Reform movement is also growing. Six of us attended the URJ Biennial in Chicago – a new all-time high

*Continued on page 7...*

...Continued from page 6

from B'nai Tikvah. In addition, Ayala Roudstein, Jay Palter, Josh Hesslein, and Peter Driftmier are all involved with CCRJ national governance or initiatives ranging from Branding to Tikkun Olam strategies.

- We were able to fully staff our "Christmas time" Casino, the results being over \$67,000 flowing to our bottom line this year. The Donna Riback Shabbat School Fund was established by her children, with regular distributions flowing each year to the School. Michele Doctoroff took over as librarian and set up a book-cart where extra books were sold for a small donation. This too supported our School by raising over \$300. We also began our distributions from the Torah fund in support of educational activities. Thank you again to all those who contributed to the Torah fund project both financially and through your volunteer efforts, resulting in a "bottom line" of over \$142,000 being raised for Temple use.
- Work on the 1st year of the Life and Legacy project has resulted in 30 families submitting letters of intent to leave a portion of their estates to Temple. As a result, the Harold Grinspoon Foundation sent \$7,500 to help us cover costs related to the project and for broader Temple needs.
- The Hanukkah party, organized by Julia Cornester, was a success with 70 people attending. There was much laughter and spinning of dreidels – both plastic and human.
- The URJ Congregational Survey was completed with initial positive results, and more in-depth analysis to come later this year.
- The Constitution Committee completed their work and presented the proposed new Constitution at a meeting of the Board. This document is ready to be presented to the congregation for approval, but the decision was made to call a special meeting for this purpose later in the Fall when we can, hopefully, gather in person once again.
- The Purim party was organized and included musical entertainment and beverages, plus babysitting downstairs. We expected a good turnout and then COVID came. Our Purim party went ahead with much reduced attendance.

And then the shutdown began. We had one service in the Chapel with social distancing, disinfectant-wiped prayer books, and a sharing of pre-cut challah. There was a live streaming of Hannah Billings' Bat Mitzvah that included her immediate family and a few Temple leaders. But we quickly learned that these modifications were not enough and the movement to Zoom services began and there we remain.

In many ways the pandemic has helped us to know each other better. We look into each other's faces as we worship. We see into each other's living-rooms and basements. And with the establishment of our check-up call lists, we speak with each other frequently. We have, through all of this, continued to be a place of care and worship.

Still it would be remiss of me to avoid the topic of the division that has developed in our congregation. We are a congregation made up of individuals who have different views of our path forward. Many of us are here at this meeting so that we can have a voice in choosing that path. I feel strongly that the majority of our member volunteers take time out of their lives to contribute to the building of this Temple community. They give of their energy, their intelligence, and, importantly, their hearts. I appreciate all that they do to create a community that is striving each day to build a better world. We are a community that can disagree on the best path to take, but when we agree on what it is we are aiming for, we will find ourselves gathering together at the end of those different paths. I ask that when you exercise your voice, be it on the budget or the candidates for Board positions, that you do so with the best interest of Temple in mind. As a congregation we strive to do holy work. This is a difficult but worthwhile endeavor, and one I hope we can continue to pursue long into the future.

Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard over the last year. To the Rabbi who works tirelessly and has provided me with such encouragement and support. I will miss our (almost) daily chats. Thank you Danny and all of our staff. You do so much! Never watching the clock and working hard to support all of our congregants. Thank you to the members who volunteer by driving, cooking, running the media, phoning, writing, visiting others when possible, and more. Thank you especially to the Executive and the Board who have been here for regular meetings, for special meetings, for in-person and Zoom meetings, even when those meetings ran for hours over time. As I say so very often, the work you do makes a difference.

Please welcome our new President Josh Hesslein. Most evidence points to a challenging year next year, with so many unknowns going forward. He has shown his love and dedication by moving into the position of President – and refusing to run in terror when faced with so many unknowns. I look forward to your leadership and your humour Josh. We will do our best to ease your path and help to make your presidency one defined by financial stability, spiritual growth, and importantly, joy.

## (INCOMING) PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Josh Hesslein, Temple President**

I've been thinking a lot recently about the unprecedented times we live in... and how much I wish I were starting my service as the incoming President during *precedented* times.

Things are changing, both around us in the world, and within our community. We've been stuck in our homes, and when we go out, we've been wearing masks. For the first time in the living memory of any synagogue anywhere, our Rabbi and Board have begged members *not* to come to services in the sanctuary. We're worried about the effect of a stagnant economy on Temple finances, and about ensuring that this congregation is here for our children and their children.

The next few years are going to be defined by how we respond and adapt to the changes we're seeing. We're going to need to find ways to provide stability, community, a sense of congregational purpose and value for our members, and to showcase the best in Jewish values to our city, our province and country.

Fortunately, we have a lot going for us.

We have a terrific Board, Rabbi, and staff, full of creative and experienced minds committed to helping bring about a bright future for this shul. These leaders will work hard to continually be worthy of your trust this term.

We have a solid financial footing thanks to excellent management from our Treasurer, Bookkeeper and Executive staff, who will continue working to keep us financially sustainable and ready to meet the challenges we'll face.

We have the internet, which is doing its job of keeping us connected until we can see you in person again. The list of languages we Jews have written in now includes HTML and Emoji. 🍷👉

We have a diverse membership ready to connect, learn, and pray with us, leading us to the projects we'll need to undertake as a congregation. We'll find ways to make sure we're responding to your needs and bringing Jewish value to your lives.

We have an ongoing commitment to be a force for good in the broader Calgary community; demonstrated this past year by feeding thousands through our Social Action Committee, marching in the Calgary Pride parade, and sitting as a founding member congregation of the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good.

We have our Reform Judaism, which is inclusive, innovative, experimental, and ready to adapt itself to new realities.

And we have three thousand years of experience responding to tough times like these while finding joy and purpose during them. We're the people who vacated Egypt before the bread rose. Thrived in Babylonia. Married kings while living in Persia. We've fled homes all over the world, only to return home again having added new depth and meaning to our Jewish traditions while in exile.

So I guess I'm kind of excited to be stepping up right now. We'll make the changes we need to make, keep the things we need to keep, and come out all the stronger and more resilient for it. There are some tough times ahead, but I'm encouraged by the strength I see in our community and the leaders who have stepped forward to help us through to more precedented times. I look forward to moving forward with you.

### Thank you!

... To everyone who worked so hard to put our first-ever online AGM together: it involved a remarkable amount of thought, time, and work for the meeting to run as smoothly as it did.

... To the Board I've served with this past year: in particular Ron Plucer, Rebecca Krel, and Jeff Booke who won't be returning to the Board this year. Our synagogue is better for your service.

... To our outgoing President Cynthia Simmons, who has served the past two years with dedication, expertise, and empathy. I'm glad to be able to rely on your experience as Past President.

... To Betsy Jameson and Terry Bell, who have both rotated off the Executive Committee, but will remain on the Board in the coming year. I'm grateful for your continued service.

... And to incoming Board members Deborah Book, Elaine Harris, Sylva Nathanson, Josh Orzech, Ashley Owens, Susan Rubin, and Rebecca Silverberg for volunteering their time and energy to making our congregation a wonderful place to be. I look forward to working with you this year.