

# *Letter from the President*

This is my final letter as President of Congregation Beth Israel. After six years as President, I am stepping down. I owe CBI a debt of gratitude for the wonderful Hebrew education I received as a child, and for how warmly I was welcomed back as an adult.

As President, I have taken my responsibilities very seriously and made sincere efforts to respect our traditions, create a welcoming environment, and keep the peace — even in the most trying times such as the fire, and change in clergy. I know I have not pleased everyone but I always tried to do what I felt was in the best interest for the future of CBI.

My experience as President has given me the opportunity to learn more about Judaism. While I've always maintained Jewish traditions in my life, as a scientist I struggled with the existence of G-d. Attending services weekly, reading the Haftorah and getting involved with all aspects of synagogue life, I found meaning and connection between the Torah and my life today. This will remain with me forever. It was a privilege and honor to serve as your President.

Executive Vice President & former President Paul Skulsky has agreed to accept the nomination for President. He is highly experienced from his days as a past President to currently serving as Chairperson of the ritual committee. His dedication is endless and I am confident that Paul will be an outstanding President.

Although Robin and I are moving to Delaware, I plan to remain on the board as Executive Vice President. I will miss being on the Bimah and doing the Haftorah on a weekly basis, but do plan to be here as much as possible even though we're a four hour drive away.

Thinking back to the goals I had when I took over for Alan Mantis six years ago, I am proud of what was accomplished.

We no longer hide our existence in Hempstead. Our illuminated sign now stands prominently on the front lawn for everyone to see. Our building is no longer in disarray. I am proud of our "Rose" garden and grounds.

Most importantly our services are much more meaningful today. There is joy in our sanctuary. Rabbi Abe has proven himself to be a talented, compassionate, knowledgeable spiritual leader and I am convinced that he can attract new members and lead us to a promising future.

Unfortunately in today's world, one of the priorities for the new administration will be security. We want you to always feel safe at Congregation Beth Israel, and we want you to know that we are taking a number of precautionary steps to put you all at ease.

I want to thank all the board members, and congregants, past and present who have supported me during these last six years. Robin and I have made many friends here and we plan to keep in close contact. Sadly, we have lost many friends here too. Each time I am in the sanctuary and look around the room, I see their smiling faces in their respective seats. They remain forever in our hearts.

I urge you all continue to be active or become more active. Come to services. Tell your friends about CBI. I'm optimistic that our future is bright.



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THE JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup> WESTERN WALL EVENT HAS BEEN POSTPONED

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