



TEMPLE BETH HATFILOH
— A CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE —

Dear Fellow TBH Supporters,

There are a number of reasons why each of us has chosen to make Olympia home. For some it was education, for others it was their career. Some came for family, others for lifestyle freedoms. Regardless of the reasons, we as Jews want and need a spiritual home; a gathering place to celebrate, worship, learn and mourn. Jewish ritual helps us move through the dark times as well as the bright times because as humans we experience the gamut of sorrow and joy throughout our lives. We seek and value Jewish Community.

In 1994 when I chose to make Olympia my home, the small vibrant Jewish Shul was the primary attraction. I had the honor of hosting Rabbi Seth, Rabbi Yohanna, and Ozi when Rabbi Seth came to interview and meet with our TBH community. Much has happened in that decade and a half. I left Olympia in 2006 for Seattle. And when the time came for me to uproot myself once again, this community of friends beckoned me.

The specialness of our community hit home when I had an accident resulting in a broken arm. Many friends from TBH came to my aid. They cooked for me, drove me to medical appointments, helped with house work and provided healing support. I felt surrounded by caring *mishpachah*. I know of other TBH members who received healing support at times of sorrow or illness. We have built an amazing community spirit.

It takes a strong spiritual leader to set the tone for religious observance, discourse and integrity. In our small community our Rabbi is always in the limelight. Rabbi Seth has helped TBH to move beyond the growing pains and achieve maturity. Our TBH Board Members, staff and volunteers provide direction, support and energy to keep our community vibrant and strong. They are always there to welcome new members and nurture long standing congregants; celebrate Shabbat, holidays and *simchas*; educate our children and provide adult education as well as arts and culture events.

As a returning congregant, I compare what was then to what is now. I am heartened to see that TBH has maintained a core integrity and openness while becoming somewhat more progressive. Our community is able to be inclusive and listen to diverse voices. It is something to be treasured.

For each of us lies the responsibility to keep this community thriving and growing for future generations and wandering Jews who will make Olympia their home. This Hanukkah Season please join me in making a donation to TBH to maintain our vibrant community.

Many thanks,

Laura Hurtado-Webb, TBH member