



Kol Nidre Speech
September 15, 2021 - 9 Tishrei, 5782

To all of you here in our beautiful sanctuary, as well as to those of you streaming in from the comfort and safety of your home, David and I wish to express a very warm welcome as we usher in the days of Awe, the holiest time of the year, and the start of a brand new 5782.

Once again we are honored to welcome Cantor David Acker and his family. Cantor Acker, we are so appreciative to have you here to enrich our High Holiday services.

While this year has been one of many unforeseen challenges, we also have so much to be grateful for. The heart and soul of Temple Beth-El has always been through religious connection and community engagement. We have sought to not only maintain these connections, but also grow them through our online services and programming. Notable among these have been our Social Justice and Adult Education programs, the Science in the Synagogue series, the cooking series and a host of other opportunities to connect with one another and the greater community.

It gives me great joy to announce that despite the enormous challenges, this year our membership has increased by more than 20 family units. Also, we were able to once again enjoy our Annual Temple Beth-El picnic in person at Meyer's Park where we welcomed our new TBE members and kibitzed with friends, old and new. Many thanks to Julie Page and her wonderful crew for organizing our picnic event and making sure it could safely happen!

Connections and engagement were also sustained by our Caring Committee, which has provided support to members in need; I know from many conversations how much this has been well received and greatly appreciated.

David and I wish to thank the numerous individuals who have stepped up and volunteered their time to make our many programs and services a reality. A hearty thank you to: Rabbi Safman, Nancy Emerson, Ross Brann, Liz Hess, Myra Berkowitz, Rabbi Brody, Ron Ehrenberg, Jerry Davis, Julie Page, Robin Koran, Evelyn Kalish, Rhoda Janis, & Lise Rosenfield.

In addition, we wish to thank our current and past board members for their continued time and commitment to Temple Beth-El. We thank Elliot Shapiro, Ariel Avgar, Stephen Pope, Myra Berkowitz, Julie Page, Randy Ehrenberg, Eric Alani, Rochelle Projansky, Jonathan Green, Tyson Merrill, Gail Zussman, Robyn Koran, Yossie Bronsnick, and Michael Tokman. We would also like to take a moment to acknowledge all those who have agreed to chair one of the many committees that add so much to our community: Jerry Dietz, Jerry Davis, Roy Luft, Todd Olson, Ross Brann, Julie Page, Myra Berkowitz, Liz Hess, Stephen Pope, Rochelle Proujansky, Phil Proujansky, Jeff Silber and Marjorie Hoffman. And a huge thank you to the many others who have also contributed in ways large and small behind the scenes.

During this past year we have said goodbye to our long-time Office secretary, Jane Griffith and most recently, we have said "Hello and Welcome" to our new TBE Administrative Coordinator, Adeena Brown. Adeena brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to this new position. In the coming weeks, we hope you will join us in welcoming Adeena to our Temple Beth-El community.

As we say goodbye to 5781, we look ahead to 5782 with a message of hope and continued engagement. There are a myriad of ways to stay connected: daily minyanim, weekly Shabbat services, holiday services ; volunteering for a specific project or an ongoing committee; enjoying the ongoing Adult Education series, or one of the many other scheduled opportunities; we urge you to find your niche within our Temple community.

While active participation and volunteers are critical to sustaining our vibrant and enriching community, Temple Beth-El also requires your continued financial support. In the coming weeks, you will receive your dues notification. Thank you in advance for your timely dues payments.

By now we hope that you are quite comfortable with Shul Cloud, our online service that supports our website. Through Shul Cloud you can safely, electronically pay your dues, as well as make donations. And as I hope you are aware, Membership Dues does not cover all of our necessary operating expenses. We depend mightily on our collective Fund Raising efforts to make up the deficit not covered by dues. It's likely that not many of you are aware that this summer's wild storms caused extensive damage to our building. A donation to the Capital Improvement Fund will help to offset costs to repair the damage.

At this time of year, our annual Kol Nidre appeal is in full swing. If you haven't already done so, you can make your donation online or download the form and put a check in the mail. We look forward to your generous donations!

Another opportunity to financially support TBE is through the Rabbi Scott and Sharon Glass Endowment Fund which was created in 2019 with the goal of reaching \$2 million to create a solid future for Temple Beth-El. Through the generous philanthropy of the lead donors, donations made by the congregation will be matched 3 to 1 if the congregation can raise \$500,000 over the next 5 years. If we meet this goal, the endowment will receive an additional \$1.5 million dollars in matching funds!!! I genuinely believe that through the combined donations of our entire congregation, we can achieve this goal. Please consider making whatever contribution is within your means to benefit the continuation and thriving future of our synagogue. **Last year we exceeded our goal of \$100,000...this year we are about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way there. Please remember, a donation to the endowment campaign is an investment in the future of Temple Beth-El.**

In closing, I would like to thank Rabbi Safman, Cantor Acker and Rabbi Brody for providing a meaningful holiday experience. Many thanks to all those who have volunteered to participate in the services, and to our technicians, Terry Kelleher and Emerson Schryver.

I also want to publicly thank my amazing and very talented co-president, David Weiner. David has done so much of the heavy lifting of this year's presidential tasks of mammoth proportions! He often burned the midnight oil and has volunteered untold hours to ensure that the multiple and often technical aspects

of our synagogue's services and programs materialized, and that the building, as well as the website would be operating smoothly.

Thank you David!!

David and I wish you all a healthy and sweet New Year.

G'mar Cḣatima Tova. May we all be written in the Book of Life for 5782.