

Why Barnert Matters?

By Rebecca McKinnon, Barnert Temple President

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Friends,

Now that September is here, we are all gearing up for the fall and High Holidays.

For many of us, that has meant the end of vacation, back to school, back to work, back to the jam-packed, busy lives we lead that often leave us with little time for ourselves.

When this happens it is easy for us to say “ugh, sorry I just don’t have time” or “I’d love to but I’m so busy right now...”when we get invited to participate in things socially or otherwise.

Yet, most times when I’ve said no, it’s left me feeling a little sad. *What was it other than a lack of time that was holding me back?*

Because we all know that, deep within: no matter how busy we are, we can and *do* find time to do whatever it is that is most important to us.

So what matters to me most these days? My family and friends of course but also my *k’hillah k’doshah*, OUR sacred Barnert community.

But why? What is it that makes Barnert so special and different from all the other communities in my life?

For me, I have found at Barnert a community of relationships that give my life meaning and purpose, belonging and blessing.

At Barnert I connect with people differently. It’s not just because we are Jewish -- because so many of our members are not. Each and every one of us joined Barnert for one reason or another. *We remain* here because this is a home, where people really do care. A home, where we feel safe asking what it means to live Jewishly in the 21st century. A home that guides us, and models what living Jewishly is all about.

One of the great blessings of Judaism is that it mandates our coming together as community. That’s the reason why many of our prayers require a minyan. In this day and age with technology being ever present in everything we do, nothing makes me happier than being at a Barnert event or a Barnert committee meeting where I get to interact with people I genuinely like, people whose values I share, people who want to grow and become more as I do. I would have never met them without Barnert bringing us together.

So, as you begin to gear up for the New Year, I invite you to come spend more time with us. Come take a walk in our garden – I can promise you someone will be there to give you a tour! Join us for a pot luck Shabbat dinner, take a class, practice yoga with us or come to any of our Men's Club or Sisterhood events – you'll be sure to eat well, have fun and often learn something too.

As a member of Barnert Temple, *you* help shape the community of people who will be there for you and with you. The blessing in that is a feeling of deep satisfaction and gratitude to be part of a community that celebrates life's gifts together.

I look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Warmly,

Rebecca