

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**June 2010**

In the job of synagogue leadership June is always a time to reflect on what we have accomplished in the past year and to think about the challenges we still face. I can start out right away and tell you that the *Mitzvah of a Lifetime* project has been an incredible success. Not only have we restored five of our Sifrei Torah, but we have done Tzedakah ourselves and donated one torah to Ahavas Shalom in Newark. As of this writing the program has raised more than \$200,000. We owe a great debt of gratitude to the project chair, Lesley Brooks. The recession we have experienced these last two years made this project ever so important. Many of our members have been suffering and needed our assistance to remain affiliated with the synagogue and provide a good Jewish education for their children. In the last two years we have given an extraordinary amount in dues assistance and religious school grants to accomplish this goal. Lesley's work in driving the *Mitzvah of a Lifetime* program and getting all of us to participate truly showed that we are part of a very caring community. We all raised this money so NONE of us would be left behind, even in the most desperate of economic times. The recession has started to ease up and people are getting back on their feet. If we have been able to help you in the past two years and things are starting to get a little better, I am asking you to reassess your needs so we can continue to help those in need or newly in need.

Another success to report about the last year will affect our community for many years to come. It is my pleasure to report to you that we have successfully negotiated and signed a contract with Rabbi Mallach to be our Rabbi for the next 10 years. His spiritual guidance and caring for the community is truly a blessing on all of us and we are fortunate to continue to have that blessing for many years to come.

One of the more difficult challenges we face now and in the future is in growing of our membership. To help us, I turn to all of you. You are the best ambassadors to the greater Jewish community we can ever have. If you have gotten spiritual guidance from our clergy, tell people about your experience. If you were beaming with pride when your child was called to the Torah and confident, tell people. If your children in the Early Childhood Program are learning and happy when they come home from school, then ask other parents to bring their children to join with yours. If you have enjoyed the programming that Women's League, Men's Club and Hazak have offered, then bring a friend. These are small suggestions that I am making to you, but you would be surprised how far a good report can go in the community. And besides, it couldn't hurt!

Have a great summer!

David Glass