

Synagogue work is often very challenging, but one of the things I feel strongly about is the synagogue's obligation to educate the Jewish children in our area. Each and every one of us as members of the Temple share in that responsibility. By maintaining our affiliation with the Temple as a lifelong commitment we are fulfilling that responsibility. I also feel it is the obligation of the Temple officers and trustees to facilitate this educational responsibility efficiently and wisely. One of our goals this year is to build a more cohesive educational program for the synagogue. To achieve this goal we have created a Board of Education (BOE) for Temple Beth Ahm Yisrael. This BOE will oversee all education programs for the youth of our community. The mandate of this Board is to create a pipeline of students that begins with the 2's in our Early Childhood Program and continues all the way to graduation in 11<sup>th</sup> grade from our Teen Institute. We have a great Early Childhood Program, a super Religious School, and an awesome Teen Institute at TBAY. The challenge has always been transitioning students from one program to the next and not letting any of our TBAY kids fall through the cracks. The frontline in meeting this challenge is being met by the new BOE Chairman Fran Sandler and two of her Board members Sue Blanco and Tracy Smith who have been personally reaching out to parents of students who are aging out of our Early Childhood Program and asking them to enroll their children in Religious School at the Kindergarten level. As the year progresses, the BOE will be reviewing all of our programs and processes to make sure we are fulfilling the community's responsibility in the best possible way.

One other goal we have as a community is tikun olam (healing the world). The realities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century are going to be focused more and more on our environment and the conservation of natural resources. With this in mind, we as a community have an obligation to reduce our carbon footprint on the world to make it a cleaner better place. This spring we formed a Solar Energy Committee to explore how TBAY can use solar energy to help us as a community heal the world, while at the same time reducing our energy costs for the Temple. The committee has been working at a steady pace and our hopes are that by the end of this year we can have a solar energy solution for Temple Beth Ahm Yisrael.

I outlined above two of the larger goals we have for this year. We want to work on Adult Education this year as well. Look for the reintroduction of the Scholar in Residence program later in the fall. Israel Awareness is also important; the plight of Gilad Shalit has not gone unnoticed by members of our community. I urge you to sign up to say a Psalm for Gilad Shalit on Simḥat Torah. Look for flyers, emails and announcements about this over the High Holidays.

I wish all of you a Happy New Year. Please look forward to an active productive year for Temple Beth Ahm Yisrael.

David Glass