

ADDRESS TO THE CONGREGATION  
OCTOBER 6, 2003

RABBI URECKI, CANTOR WEISS, MEMBERS OF  
THE BOARD, MY FELLOW CONGREGANTS AND  
GUESTS:

THIS IS THE SECOND OPPORTUNITY THAT I  
HAVE HAD TO ADDRESS THE CONGREGATION  
SINCE BECOMING PRESIDENT IN THE FALL OF  
2001. AS MY TERM IN OFFICE IS ABOUT TO END, IT  
IS ALSO MY LAST ADDRESS. I AM PLEASED TO  
REPORT THAT DURING THE LAST TWELVE  
MONTHS, THE SYNAGOGUE HAS GENERALLY  
PROSPERED AND WE HAVE NOT BEEN  
CONFRONTED WITH ANY SINGLE PROBLEM OF  
SUCH MAJOR PROPORTIONS AS TO DOMINATE

ALL ELSE AND CAUSE THE BOARD TO REPITITAVILY FIXATE ON A RESOLUTION. AS YOU MAY RECALL, THIS IS IN STARK CONTRAST TO THE YEAR BEFORE.

TO THE CONTRARY, THIS PAST YEAR HAS LARGELY BEEN ONE OF DEALING WITH THE DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES AT B'NAI JACOB AND ROUTINE AFFAIRS, TOGETHER WITH PLANNING AND PREPARING FOR FUTURE PROJECTS, ENDEAVORS AND OPPORTUNITIES. FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE PRESIDENT, YEAR TWO WAS LESS EVENTFUL AND LESS STRESSFUL THAN YEAR ONE.

NONETHELESS, OUR CONGREGATION IS NOT WITHOUT ISSUES. DEPENDING UPON ONE'S POINT OF VIEW, THESE ISSUES MAY BE PROBLEMS OR

THEY MAY BE OPPORTUNITIES. IN MANY WAYS, IT WILL BE UP TO US, THE MEMBERS OF B'NAI JACOB, TO MAKE OF THEM WHAT WE WILL.

LET ME BEGIN WITH A RECAP, OR A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE SYNAGOGUE AND ITS MEMBERSHIP. IN THIS PAST YEAR, THE SYNAGOGUE HAD 218 MEMBER FAMILIES PAYING A TOTAL OF \$179,635. IN DUES. THAT COMPARES TO THE YEAR BEFORE, WHEN WE HAD 227 MEMBER FAMILIES PAYING \$190,335. IN DUES. BETWEEN 2001 – 02 AND 2002 – 03, WE HAD A NET LOSS OF 9 “DUES PAYING” MEMBER FAMILIES AND \$10,700. IN DUES. MEMBERSHIP WAS LOST FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS: MOVING FROM THE COMMUNITY, DEATH, RESIGNATION AND, IN SOME INSTANCES, REMOVAL FROM THE

ROLLS DUE TO A CHRONIC AND CONSISTENT FAILURE TO PAY DUES. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, DURING THE YEAR WE GAINED 6 NEW ACTIVE AND PARTICIPATING MEMBER FAMILIES.

YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT OF OUR CURRENT 218 MEMBER FAMILIES, 40 OF THEM, APPROXIMATELY 18%, ARE PAYING DUES AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF \$2,000. PER YEAR. THIS ACCOUNTS FOR 44% OF OUR TOTAL DUES. ON THE OTHER END, 96 FAMILIES, 44% OF THE MEMBERSHIP PAY A TOTAL OF SOME 16% OF OUR DUES. NOW, I COULD DAZZLE - OR BORE - YOU WITH A COMPLETE LIST OF THIS STATISTICAL BREAKDOWN, BUT I SUSPECT MOST, MAYBE ALL, OF YOU WILL BE PLEASED THAT I WILL NOT. I WILL, HOWEVER, SAY THAT WE CONTINUE TO

HAVE A NUMBER OF MEMBERS WHO HAVE WHAT CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS SEVERLY DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS WITH THE SYNAGOGUE – IN SOME INSTANCES WITH A BALANCE ON THEIR ACCOUNTS IN THE THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS. WE HAVE MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT MADE PAYMENTS, OR HAVE MADE ONLY NOMINAL PAYMENTS, ON THEIR DUES IN TWO, THREE OR FOUR YEARS. SOME HAVE NEVER MADE A PAYMENT. FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, THIS SITUATION MUST BE ADDRESSED.

CLEARLY, B'NAI JACOB IS NOT LIKELY TO EVER PROHIBIT PARTICIPATION IN SYNAGOGUE LIFE AND ACTIVITIES TO THOSE WHO DO NOT MAKE DUES PAYMENTS. WE ARE QUITE COGNIZANT OF THE ON GOING BALANCING THAT

MUST BE DONE IN THE ECONOMICS OF LIFE AND LIVING. YOUR BOARD WOULD HOPE THAT THE SYNAGOGUE WOULD BE A PRIORITY IN THAT REGARD FOR EACH OF ITS MEMBERS. OF COURSE, WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING ANYONE'S PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND SITUATION. THE BOARD DOES MONITOR ITS FINANCES, AS IT MUST, AS OUR EXPENSES AND FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS CONTINUE AND OUR EXPENSES ARE IN EXCESS OF OUR DUES INCOME. I SUSPECT THAT THERE WILL BE MORE ON THIS IN THE MONTHS AND YEARS AHEAD.

THIS PAST YEAR, NON-DUES CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO THE SYNAGOGUE WERE DOWN. THIS IS EVEN AFTER ADJUSTMENTS WERE MADE TO

TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE RELATIVELY LARGE REQUESTS RECEIVED IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

DURING THIS PAST YEAR, IN ADDITION TO ROUTINE AND ONGOING EXPENSES, THE SYNAGOGUE HAD SOME \$24,000. IN CAPITAL EXPENDITURES. THESE INCLUDED THE REPLACEMENT OF THE AIR CONDITIONING UNIT FOR THE GYMNASIUM, REPLACEMENT OF SUB-FLOORING IN THE SANCTUARY, PAINTING OF CLASSROOMS, THE RABBI'S STUDY AND HOUSE AND THE PURCHASE OF NEW, MUCH NEEDED, TABLES FOR THE SOCIAL HALL. FORTUNATELY, THE FINANCIAL MARKETS HAVE REVERSED THE TREND OF THE LAST FEW YEARS AND OUR TOTAL INVESTMENT DOLLARS ARE UP THIS YEAR, THOUGH STILL BELOW THEIR HIGHS OF THE MID

TO LATE '90's. THROUGH PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT OF OUR FUNDS, WITH A FOCUS ON PRESERVATION OF PRINCIPAL AND CONSERVATIVE GROWTH, WITH SOME INCOME, WE HOPE THAT WE WILL ENJOY POSITIVE FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. WE ARE SOLVENT. INDEED, WE HAVE NEARLY \$2,000,000.00 IN VARIOUS FUNDS. WHILE THIS MAY SEEM LARGE, IT IS NOT A HUGE SUM FOR AN ORGANIZATION OF THIS SIZE, WITH THE EXPENSES AND OBLIGATIONS THAT WE HAVE. WE OPERATE ON WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY A CASH BASIS – WE HAVE NO DEBT. IN MANAGING OUR FUNDS, WE PREFER TO SPEND ONLY INCOME ON THOSE AMOUNTS AND NOT THE PRINCIPAL ITSELF.



DURING MY ADDRESS LAST YEAR, I MENTIONED THE SYNAGOGUE'S NEED FOR A NEW TELEPHONE SYSTEM. SHORTLY AFTER, DUE TO THE GENEROSITY OF SUSAN COWEN, A MODERN DIGITAL TELEPHONE SYSTEM WAS INSTALLED – CONSIDERABLY UPGRADING THE RELIABILITY AND CAPABILITY OF OUR TELEPHONES. IN FACT, I HAVE NOT HEARD A SINGLE TELEPHONE RELATED COMPLAINT SINCE ITS INSTALLATION.

SIMILARLY, DURING THE COURSE OF THE YEAR, THE VESTIBULE AND CLOAK ROOM OUTSIDE THE SANCTUARY ON THE ELIZABETH STREET SIDE WERE BEAUTIFULLY WALL PAPERED AND PAINTED BY MIKE AND MELINDA SUSSER. THE IMPROVEMENT IN THE AREA IS

IMMEDIATELY NOTICEABLE AND GREATLY APPRECIATED.

THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF MRS. BETTY SCHOENBAUM, THE SYNAGOGUE'S COMPUTERS, INCLUDING THOSE USED BY OUR CHILDREN, ARE BEING UPGRADED, IMPROVED AND NETWORKED.

THE BOARD MEMBERSHIP IS TALENTED AND DEDICATED. MEETINGS HAVE BEEN WELL ATTENDED AND THE INTEREST AND TIME COMMITMENT MADE BY THE BOARD MEMBERS HAS BEEN EXCELLENT. WE HAVE DEALT WITH MANY ISSUES AND QUESTIONS. DEBATE HAS CERTAINLY BEEN SPIRITED AT TIMES, AS IT SHOULD BE. TO ALL WHO HAVE SERVED THE SYNAGOGUE AS BOARD MEMBERS DURING THIS

PAST YEAR, I SAY THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

OTHER GROUPS HAVE ALSO BEEN ACTIVE. THE LADIES AUXILIARY, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF SHARON RUBIN AND, LATER, LINDA BLOOM HAS PROVIDED MANY SERVICES TO THE SHUL. AS I WILL ADDRESS SHORTLY, I KNOW THAT THE BOARD LOOKS FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE LADIES AUXILIARY IN FUTURE DEVELOPMENT ENDEAVORS, PARTICULARLY IN AREAS OF DECORATING, FURNISHING AND REFURBISHING SPACE. THE AUXILIARY, THROUGH THE SALE OF LEAVES AND STONES ON THE TREE OF LIFE PLAQUES IN THE LOBBY, HAS BECOME ONE OF, IF NOT THE, PRIMARY RECIPIENTS OF CONTRIBUTIONS AT

THE SYNAGOGUE. I HOPE AND BELIEVE THAT THE AUXILIARY WILL BE A PARTNER TO THE BOARD IN THESE EFFORTS.

SIMILARLY, THE MENS' CLUB, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF BOB MORGENSTERN HAS ADDED TO OUR PROGRAMING. IN FACT, THE EVENING AT THE SHUL WHEN OUR NEIGHBOR, CHEF DAN, COOKED KOSHER - JOINTLY SPONSORED BY THE MENS' CLUB AND THE LADIES AUXILIARY WAS NOT ONLY ENJOYABLE, BUT HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. BOB AND MY WIFE, JANET, DID A FINE JOB WORKING WITH CHEF DAN TO CREATE A WONDERFUL EVENING. I, LIKE MANY OF YOU, LOOK FORWARD TO THE SEQUEL -CHEF DAN COOKS KOSHER II - IN THE COMING YEAR.

OTHERS HAVE GIVEN OF THEIR TIME AND TALENTS, WITHOUT WHICH THE SYNAGOGUE WOULD SIMPLY NOT BE WHAT IT IS TODAY. RUTH ELAM HAS BEEN INVALUABLE IN ASSISTING IN THE OFFICE AND WITH THE OPERATIONS. BARRY OGRIN HAS AGAIN PROVIDED US WITH EXCELLENT SERVICES AS OUR TREASURER AND FINANCIAL OVERSEER. JEAN AND ELLIOT URECKI ARE SEEMINGLY OMNIPRESENT HERE AT THE SHUL. THEY DON'T RECEIVE, AND DON'T SEEK, DAILY THANKS FOR THEIR EFFORTS. I AM PLEASED TO OFFER THEM PUBLIC THANKS HERE AND NOW. WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT YOU HAVE FORSAKEN THE OREGON DUCKS AND BECOME WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEERS.

OTHERS ALSO DESERVE RECOGNITION FOR THEIR TIME AND EFFORTS. I COULD NEVER NAME THEM ALL, AND WILL CERTAINLY, INADVERTANTLY, LEAVE OUT SOME WHO SHOULD BE INCLUDED. I ASSURE YOU THAT THIS IS AN ERROR OF IGNORANCE ON MY PART AND NOT AN INTENTIONAL FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE THOSE WHO SHOULD BE.

I OFFER THANKS TO GARY SHEFF FOR HIS SERVICES AND, OF COURSE, TO THE BRITTANY WOODS DUO OF STEVE RUBIN AND TED KANNER, EACH OF WHOM CONTINUE TO SHOULDER CONSIDERABLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SYNAGOGUE, ITS OPERATIONS AND ITS BETTERMENT.

NO THANKS WOULD BE COMPLETE WITHOUT REMEMBERING THE SERVICES OF TERRY COOPER AND NANCY MORTON. EACH ARE VALUABLE AND DEDICATED EMPLOYEES OF THE SYNAGOGUE. IN FACT, NANCY HAS BEEN WITH THE SYNAGOGUE FOR 25 YEARS NOW. THEY ARE EACH DESERVING OF OUR THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

CANTOR WEISS, IT HAS BEEN OUR PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU INTO OUR SYNAGOGUE DURING THE HIGH HOLIDAYS FOR 13 YEARS NOW. ONCE AGAIN, YOU HAVE ADDED TO THE BEAUTY AND THE ENJOYMENT OF OUR SERVICES. WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR LEADING US DURING THE REMAINDER OF OUR

SERVICES TODAY AND WISH YOU A SAFE RETURN TO DENVER ON TUESDAY.

I ALSO WANT TO THANK MY FRIENDS, RABBI AND MARILYN URECKI. LAST YEAR, WHEN I ADDRESSED THE CONGREGATION, I RECOUNTED HOW MUCH EACH OF US DEPENDS ON AND HAVE BEEN IMPROVED BY OUR ASSOCIATION WITH THESE EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE, RECOUNTING THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AVAILABILITY AND ACTIVITIES. I THOUGHT ABOUT SIMPLY REPEATING THE SAME WORDS, FIGURING NO ONE WOULD REALLY REMEMBER. BUT THAT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT – MAYBE EASIER, BUT NOT RIGHT. RABBI AND MARILYN, I BELIEVE THAT EACH OF YOU KNOW HOW THE MEMBERS OF B'NAI JACOB FEEL ABOUT YOU. THIS



SYNAGOGUE TODAY IS, IN MANY WAYS, A REFLECTION OF YOU, YOUR EFFORTS, YOUR CHARISMA, YOUR SCHOLARSHIP, YOUR LEADERSHIP, YOUR CARING, YOUR COOKING (MARILYN'S, NOT YOUR'S RABBI), YOUR TEACHING, YOUR TENDING, YOUR PLANNING, YOUR PROGRAMING, . . . . . YOUR FRIENDSHIP. AND JUST THINK, YOU ONLY HAVE TWO BAT MITZVAH'S TO GO. ON BEHALF OF THE CONGREGATION, I THANK EACH OF YOU FOR BEING HERE AND FOR BEING SUCH INTEGRAL PARTS OF OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR JEWISH LIVES.

DURING THE PAST YEAR, THE BOARD HAS TAKEN STEPS TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF B'NAI JACOB. A LONG RANGE PLANNING

COMMITTEE WAS FORMED AND ABLY CHAIRED BY MARC SLOTNICK. THIS COMMITTEE HAS DONE A GOOD DEAL OF WORK ALREADY AND WILL CONTINUE TO OVER THE COMING YEAR – LOOKING AT ISSUES INVOLVING THE SYNAGOGUE’S PHYSICAL PLANT AND ITS PROGRAMING. BOTH ARE OF VITAL IMPORTANCE. THE PHYSICAL PLANT, BECAUSE WE HAVE A BUILDING WHICH WAS DESIGNED AND BUILT OVER 50 YEARS AGO AND IS IN NEED OF UPGRADING AND MODIFICATION. THE PROGRAMING, BECAUSE WE ARE A DIFFERENT CONGREGATION THAN WE WERE WHEN THIS STRUCTURE WAS BUILT. IN FACT, WE ARE A DIFFERENT CONGREGARTION THEN WE WERE JUST FIFTEEN YEARS AGO. OUR DEMOGRAPHICS

ARE NOT JUST CHANGING – THEY HAVE CHANGED. THE BOARD AND THE OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE SYNAGOGUE CERTAINLY RECOGNIZE THIS AND ARE TAKING STEPS TO MEET THE CHANGED AND CHANGING NEEDS OF OUR CONGREGANTS. WORKING WITH THE RABBI, OUR ALREADY VARIED AND INTERESTING PROGRAMMING WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE – INCREASING THE INVOLVMENT OF OUR ALREADY ACTIVE AND ENGAGED MEMBERSHIP.

THESE ARE EXCITING TIMES ON BOTH FRONTS. WITH REGARD TO THE PHYSICAL PLANT, THE LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE HAS PROPOSED, AND THE BOARD HAS AGREED TO PURSUE, THE ADDITION OF A NEW MULTI-

PURPOSE ROOM TO THE BUILDING. THOUGH IN THE EARLY PLANNING STAGES, A 1600 SQUARE FOOT ROOM CAN BE BUILT ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE SANCTUARY. SUCH AN ADDITION WOULD PROVIDE MUCH NEEDED, HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE AND VALUABLE SPACE TO OUR FACILITIES. THIS ROOM WILL BE USED FOR MEETINGS, LUNCHEONS, DINNERS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES. IT WILL BE MORE ACCESIBLE AND USER FRIENDLY THAN THE GYMNASIUM. ACCESS, LIGHTING AND ACCOUSTICS WILL BE MODERN AND A CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT.

AS A PART OF THE EARLY PLANNING, THIS ADDITION WILL INCLUDE NEW, MODERN A.D.A. COMPLIANT REST ROOMS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ATTRACTIVE, WELL LIT,

PRINCIPAL ENTRANCE TO THE BUILDING DIRECTLY FROM THE PARKING LOT. THIS ENTRANCE WILL PROVIDE DIRECT ACCESS TO A HALLWAY LEADING TO THE SANCTUARY AS WELL AS THE NEW MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM – ELIMINATING THE NEED FOR MANY, VISITORS AND CONGREGANTS ALIKE, TO ENTER THE SANCTUARY BY WAY OF THE GYMNASIUM. STEVE RUBIN HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH ARCHITECTS IN COMING UP WITH PRELIMINARY PLANS FOR THIS ADDITION, WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE CONGREGATION SHORTLY. PLEASE NOTE, THE BOARD HAS NOT APPROVED CONSTRUCTION, BUT IT HAS APPROVED THE CONCEPT AND THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROJECT.

OF COURSE, SUCH CONSTRUCTION WILL NOT BE INEXPENSIVE. IN FACT, IT WILL REQUIRE A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN – A BUILDING FUND – IN ORDER TO REACH FRUITION. DETAILS OF SUCH A CAMPAIGN WILL NEED TO BE COMPLETED. IT HAS BEEN MANY YEARS SINCE THIS CONGREGATION UNDERTOOK SUCH AN EFFORT. WE CURRENTLY HAVE NO ONGOING BUILDING FUND. IN FACT, I SUSPECT THAT WE WILL NEED TO LOOK AT PLEDGES OVER TIME AND BORROWING AGAINST SUCH PLEDGES TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION. NONETHELESS, I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT PLANS WILL BE COMPLETED AND THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO PROCEED WITH THIS MOST WORTHY ENDEAVOR. I ENCOURAGE YOUR ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT FOR IT.

LAST YEAR, IN THIS ADDRESS, I EXPRESSED MY PERSONAL BELIEF THAT THE SANCTUARY IS IN NEED OF A SUBSTANTIAL RENOVATION. I STILL BELIEVE THAT. I ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE BOARD HAS REACHED A SIMILAR, ALBEIT INFORMAL, CONCLUSION. IT HAS BEEN MANY YEARS SINCE THE SANCTUARY WAS RECARPETED AND FULLY PAINTED. THE PEWS – THE SEATS – CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE. LEG AND HIP ROOM IS NOT INCREASING ON ITS OWN. I HAVE TO ASSUME THAT THE CONGREGANTS IN THE 1940's WERE SHORTER AND SKINNER AND HAD STURDIER BACKS. THIS NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED AND THE LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE AND THE BOARD RECOGNIZE THAT. IT IS MY PERSONAL HOPE THAT WHEN A CAPITAL

CAMPAIGN BEGINS, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO INCLUDE FUNDING FOR BOTH THE NEW MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM AND THE SANCTUARY IN ITS CHARGE.

OTHER PHYSICAL MODIFICATIONS TO OUR BUILDING ARE POSSIBLE AND DESIRABLE. AS PLANS ARE MADE, MODIFIED AND COMPLETED YOU WILL BE ADVISED OF THEM. SOME MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE, OTHERS MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE NOW. THESE PROJECTS WILL REQUIRE COMMITMENT AND VISION. I BELIEVE WE HAVE BOTH AND AM EXCITED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES.

I WILL BE LEAVING OFFICE IN A FEW SHORT WEEKS. STEVE MEYER WILL HAVE THE PLEASURE OF PRESIDING OVER THE MEETINGS



WHERE THESE IMPORTANT ISSUES WILL BE FURTHER ADDRESSED. I KNOW THAT HE WILL DO A GREAT JOB. FOR MY PART, I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE BOARD AS A PAST PRESIDENT AND WITH THE LADIES AUXILIARY, WHICH I HOPE WILL SUPPORT THESE PLANS, AS AN ADVOCATE FOR THESE, AND OTHER, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.

OPPORTUNITIES LIKE THESE DO NOT COME ALONG ALL OF THE TIME. WE MUST SEIZE THE MOMENT AND MAKE THIS HAPPEN, JUST AS OUR PREDECESSORS DID WHEN THEY BUILT THIS STRUCTURE AT THE END OF WORLD WAR II. IT WILL BENEFIT US NOW AND BE A LEGACY FOR OUR CHILDREN, OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN AND ALL OF THE OTHERS WHO WILL COME AFTER US.

I HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE AS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT AND AS SUPPORTIVE OF THESE PROJECTS AS I AM.

LET ME CONCLUDE BY THANKING MY FAMILY FOR THE SUPPORT THEY HAVE GIVEN ME OVER MY TWO YEARS AS PRESIDENT. JANET AND SARA HAVE HAD TO PUT UP WITH MY OFTEN BIZZARE SPEECH WRITING HABITS, PARTICULARLY BEFORE EACH BAR AND BAT MITZVAH DURING MY TERM. DAVID HAS HAD THE BENEFIT OF BEING IN CALIFORNIA AND HAS BEEN SPARED. I APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT, SUGGESTIONS, INSIGHT AND LOVE THAT I HAVE HAD FROM MY WIFE AND CHILDREN AND I PUBLICLY THANK THEM FOR THAT.

AS I LEAVE OFFICE, LET ME ALSO THANK EACH OF YOU, MY FELLOW CONGREGANTS. ALL IN ALL, IT HAS BEEN A RELATIVELY EASY TWO YEARS. I HAVE APPRECIATED THE MANY KIND WORDS THAT I HAVE RECEIVED FROM MANY OF YOU AT VARIOUS TIMES THROUGH OUT MY TERM. OVERALL, I BELIEVE THAT THE SYNAGOGUE IS IN PRETTY GOOD SHAPE AND POISED FOR GREAT THINGS IN THE FUTURE. I LOOK FORWARD TO BEING A PART OF THAT, ALBEIT AS ONE OF BRITTANY WOODS' THREE FORMER PRESIDENTS OF B'NAI JACOB, WHERE WE WILL STILL BE WAITING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEIGHBORHOOD JCC.

ON BEHALF OF MY FAMILY AND MYSELF, I  
WISH EACH OF YOU A SHANA TOVA – A HAPPY,  
HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.