

Dear Congregants,

I want to express my sincere thank you to the Congregation for allowing me to lead CBI for the next 2 years. I feel privileged, humbled, and excited that the members have placed their confidence in me at a time when the makeup of the Jewish community is changing demographically and in numbers. These changes will challenge us to rethink how we meet the funding, religious, educational, cultural, charitable, and social needs of our congregants and community.

We started the year with an outstanding Annual Meeting. David Jacobs and Sue Williams prepared delicious South Texas hamburgers and fixn's while Sarah Loeb won all of our hearts with delicious cobblers. Most importantly, the Social Hall was full of great conversation and joy as people met new people and others chatted with old friends and family. Best of all we were really a Family of Families in action.

Once dinner was completed we went into our formal Annual Meeting. Mike Trimyer was presented with the Exemplary Service Award and Maury Wolfson received a special award for his decades of service to CBI and the broader Jewish community. We thank both of them for their extraordinary dedication and contribution to our Congregation and the Coastal Bend Jewish community.

Chris Adler gave an outstanding presentation describing many of the accomplishments achieved under her leadership. Our efforts in Social Action provided the homeless community 4000+ pairs of socks, food was delivered through manning the Salvation Army Food truck, and planning for additional activities this year has already begun. Educationally, we provided Torah Study, Judaism 101 course, a series of lectures by Rabbi Roseman, and a visiting Scholars weekend with a noted archeologist. Socially we had Havdalah at the Hooks and our Mardi Gras Party. We provided both Traditional and Reform Services each weekend and on the High Holidays under the leadership of Rabbi Emanuel. Our activities with youth have grown with a trip to the Houston Holocaust Museum and increased attendance at Jewish camps and weekend youth events. These are just some of the past year highlights with many more events planned for the coming year.

As we move into 2017-18 we want to make sure that we build upon our prior success and find

creative ways for addressing our membership and funding concerns. I am so fortunate to be working with a superb Board of Trustees deeply dedicated to leading the Congregation for the next year. Our outstanding Executive Committee of Rikki Schmitchel 1st Vice President, Mike Trimyer 2nd Vice President, Greg Marks Treasurer, Leslie Levy Secretary, Odelia Rios Sisterhood Representative and Chris Adler Past President will be instrumental in seeing that the activities, programs and services are implemented to the highest quality. Our continuing Board members including Gary Blum, Linda Snider, Eva Brown, Sue Williams, Inna Klein, Suzy Hilliard and David Jacobs will provide the continuity, creativity and energy they have so wonderfully demonstrated in the past while our new Board members including Laura Hausman, Carol Rehtmeyer, Odelia Rios, and Eddie Seale will bring energizing new perspectives to help meet the challenges we face. We are fortunate to have a Board of Trustees representative of our diverse Congregation, dedicated to CBI, and eager to work hard to strengthen CBI.

Finally, I need to emphasize it will take each of us sharing ideas, finding a role, doing specific tasks and creating special experiences and relationships for us to continue to build our family of families. I look forward to a great year working with and serving each of you.

Sincerely,

Jim Gold, CBI President