



CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM

Dear Congregation Beth Shalom Members and Friends:

It has been just over 18 weeks since I assumed the Presidency of Congregation Beth Shalom. In some respects, it seems like it was just yesterday. But then I think about how much we have accomplished, and it seems impossible that we have done so much in such little time.

To say the least, it has been a blockbuster year. I am so proud of what we have accomplished. In addition to boosting our membership by nearly 25% over the past four months (from 59 to 73 families!), it has already been a year of very important “firsts,” including:

- ✧ Our first High Holidays with both our Rabbi and Cantor
- ✧ Our first Brit Milah (Bris)
- ✧ Our first Bar Mitzvah
- ✧ Our first Religious School
- ✧ Our first Consecration
- ✧ Our first Multi-Purpose Building
- ✧ Our first Caring Community Circle

These firsts have come with lots of hard work by our clergy and many members of our congregation. We are fortunate to have so many dedicated people who are willing to give of their time and skills to ensure the continued growth of our congregation. It has been especially exciting to see our new members jump in and get involved.

With all of this already accomplished, there are many new things on the agenda for the rest of the year:

- ✧ This month, we will have our first inaugural Brotherhood meeting.
- ✧ We have adopted two needy Jewish families to help make their Chanukah special.
- ✧ We are exploring whether we should join the Union of Reform Judaism and will be inviting the URJ to come speak with our members so that we can get your input into this important decision.
- ✧ On December 12, we will be celebrating our New Member Shabbat.
- ✧ In January, we are starting our first comprehensive Adult Education Program.
- ✧ We have a variety of social programs planned throughout the year.
- ✧ Our clergy is working with the Congregation Shaarey Tefilla clergy to plan a joint worship service.

Add to all of this our continuing Torah Study with Rabbi Halpern, our beautiful Shabbat worship services, our stimulating Book Club, and a religious school that is giving the very youngest among us an appreciation of what it means to be Jewish, and it is hard not to get caught up in the excitement. Can you believe we are only four years old?!



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Of course, the more people we have involved, the more we can achieve. We recognize that everyone has different skills and interests and that there are many demands on everyone's time. But we ask you to think about how you might channel some of your own skills and interests towards helping CBS with whatever time you can devote. For example:

- ✧ Maybe you have good organizational skills but not enough time to head up a committee – that's OK. Maybe you could organize just one of our many social or special worship events or just part of an event.
- ✧ Maybe you are artistic – perhaps your way to contribute could be to make some Jewish art for the bare walls of our religious school.
- ✧ Maybe you love to bake – we can always use volunteers to bake for our Onegs.
- ✧ Maybe you have always wanted to be a librarian or you just love books and would enjoy cataloging our growing children's book library.
- ✧ Or maybe you are really into writing Yelp reviews and can review us.

These are just a very few of the very valuable ways to be involved. Everyone has skills, and if we each do a little bit, we can accomplish so much without anyone having to shoulder an excessive burden. If you are not already involved, please let me know how you would like to become involved. If you don't know, just let me know what skills you have, and I can match them with the need. Every degree of involvement is appreciated, but please *be* involved. We need you! True to our Mission Statement, we are, and are dedicated to remaining, “an inclusive congregation, run by and for our members.”

And, once again, I invite each of you to share with me your ideas about how we can continue to enhance our congregation. I truly want your feedback. Please feel free to call me (317-753-8789) or email me (cynthia.springer@faegrebd.com). My mind-reading skills have not improved since my first letter to you, so if something is on your mind, please share it with me – be it good, bad or ugly.

I again thank you for your vote of confidence. I will continue to do my best to live up to the congregation's expectations.

B'Shalom,

Cindy Springer
President