

February 2010 Message From Rabbi Bob Mark

Time is flying by as usual and it is hard to believe that we will end the month of February celebrating **Purim and Passover** is precisely four weeks later. Since our newsletter comes out monthly we all have to start thinking ahead.

I am hoping that our **Megillah** reading on Saturday night the 27th and Sunday morning the 28th will be well attended. Bring your extended families along it would be nice to fill the sanctuary for the holiday. Have a little fun, dress in costume, one is never too old to have some fun. I am personally quite excited to say that despite the cold we have been managing to maintain a steady attendance level for both Friday night and Saturday morning services and yes even for the Sunday morning Tallit and Tefillin club. Prior to my starting, I was warned that there might be days that we do not have a minyan and I am thrilled to say that that has never happened. We came close one Friday night when we had but ten people but that has happened only once. Frankly, between the fact that it has been so cold and that several of our regulars are in Florida I think we have much to be thankful for. Thank you to all who have been joining us at our services.

There is nothing like participation in services and activities to help revive a synagogue to true vitality. To that end, we have started the process of doing things so that people will want to participate. Those who have attended lately have seen that we have started to improve our Shabbat Kiddush. Thank you to the Sisterhood for offering to take care of this project. After our Sunday morning Tallit and Tefillin minyan we enjoy a breakfast and take the opportunity to discuss a topic of importance. For the past several weeks we have been discussing the laws pertaining to stealing. If you think you are totally innocent of stealing, you definitely need to attend these sessions. The laws are quite intricate and the class has been enlightening to everyone including myself when I prepare for it.

February will mark the start of our Education program and we will be looking into American Jewish History. In doing so we will be going way back in time to see why and how we came here in the first place, looking at some major personalities of the time and discussing what might have been the same and what was different about Jews in those times. If all goes well, we will add additional sessions to the initial three that are scheduled. Thank you to Claire Birnbaum for making sure that the program gets up and running.

G-d willing we will be participating in the Shabbat across America program in March so you will be able to see info on that on our website as soon as we have it. Charles Golderg has agreed to chair that program for us.

Start thinking about what needs to be done to make your homes ready for **Passover**, because it will be here before you know it. Have a question, feel free to give me a call or send me an email. If I don't know the answer, I will make sure to get it to you quickly. We will be continuing our community Seder, so look forward to seeing information about that shortly.

Beth Tikvah is alive, we are active and doing things. Despite the fact that some people think we have folded up and closed our doors, we are going to be more active than ever. You can and should be a part of that activity. Spread the word, invite friends to join us for services (and maybe more).

An apology is due David Elliot. Last month I made mention of several people who work hard for Beth Tikvah and attend services. I was not aware of the major contribution that David Elliot makes to Beth Tikvah with his handiwork fixing many of the things in our infrastructure that seem to need attention and repairs from time to time. David is a mensch and non assuming, does not ask for Kavod (respect/honor) and didn't mention anything to me about leaving him out. So how do I know I messed up? Several people mentioned me that I really should have mentioned David. Pirkei Avot tells us that one who chases Kavod often does not get it, but one who earns it finds that it comes to him without asking. So David, Kol Hakavod (Great Respect) and thanks is due you and once again my personal apologies for leaving you out. There are many lessons we can learn from our daily life, This is only one.