

A Message from the Staff

As members of Beth El Synagogue Center's professional staff, we are grateful for the partnership we share with dedicated and active lay volunteers. Each of us feels pride and a special connection to Beth El and its members, and we feel privileged to be part of this warm, caring, and creative community. Our extraordinary range of synagogue programming is only possible as we partner with wonderful people such as Donald Fleishaker, Lori and Steven Schwartz, and Robyn and Daniel Yairi.

Donald has made such a big impact at Beth El over the last eighteen years, since joining in 1999. He gives not just financially but also by imparting and sharing the knowledge he has gained over a lifetime of synagogue and Jewish community involvement at large. Donald has served on the Board of Trustees and remains an Honorary Trustee, served on the Ritual and Fundraising Committees, has beautifully led Rosh Hashanah Shacharit services, and is a regular attendee and supporter of our daily minyan. In addition, he continues to show his generosity across the spectrum of Beth El. Just two examples of the many are: he endowed the Dorothy Fleishaker Religious School Enrichment fund in memory of his beloved wife, and he supports our teens' Israel education program, which culminates in their attendance at the AIPAC Conference in Washington which occurred just two weeks ago. Suffice it to say we are all grateful for his generosity and commitment.

Lori and Steven Schwartz joined Beth El in 1997 along with their sons Joseph and David. Since then, they both have been very involved in many aspects of our shul. Lori co-chaired and co-founded the Nursery School Ladies Night Out and co-chaired the December 25th Family Day. She has served on the Nursery School Board, the Nominating Committee (which she also co-chaired), is a Sisterhood Board member, and is on the Board of Trustees. Lori has co-chaired the Gala's Silent Auction, and currently co-chairs the College-Age Committee. She also serves on the High Holiday Honors Committee and is co-chair of the Catering Committee. Steven is currently the co-chair of the Human Resources Committee. He co-chaired the Assistant Rabbi Search Committee that recommended Rabbi Sitkin to Beth El, is a member of the Technology Committee, and of the Journey Planning Team.

Although they have been members of Beth El for a shorter time than Donald, Lori, and Steven, Robyn and Dani have shown why they are our first recipients of the Lapid Award. Robyn chairs the Youth Services Committee and has also been involved in the Family Initiatives Committee and Nursery School Board. She is currently one of the Gabbaim and is serving on the Journey team. Robyn uses her professional expertise to help Beth El run a rigorous surveying program of members' experiences. Dani is currently on the Board of Trustees and served on both the Nominating Committee and the Assistant Rabbi Search Committee. He also serves as a Den Leader in the Cub Scout troop that meets at Beth El.

All of us on the Beth El team give our warm wishes of mazal tov to the honoree and award recipients this evening.