

May 16, 2010

Congregation Ahavath Beth Israel



ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2009 — June 30, 2010
9 Tammuz 5769 — 18 Tammuz 5770

STAFF

Rabbi Daniel B. Fink

Nina Spiro — Religious School Director

Abi Taylor-Abt — Kehillah Programs Director

Kat Dellamater — Office Manager

Our Mission Statement:

Congregation Ahavath Beth Israel is a progressive Synagogue dedicated to Torah (lifelong learning), Avodah (spiritual growth), G'milut Chasadim acts of (lovingkindness), and Community-Building.



Our Objectives:

Torah (Lifelong Learning): Foster lifelong Jewish learning that incorporates quality multidimensional programming across all aspects of congregational life.

Avodah (Spiritual Growth): Create more energy and participation in Jewish observance, along with diverse opportunities for spiritual growth.

G'milut Chasadim (Acts of Lovingkindness): Cultivate an environment that empowers people to live our Jewish values through acts of lovingkindness.

Community-Building. Create a vital Jewish community that draws active participation.

Rabbi's Report

Rabbi Daniel B. Fink

Over the course of this past year, we have begun to address a critical challenge here at CABI: creating and implementing new approaches to congregational life that speak to 21st century Jews, using pioneering means to deliver our tradition's eternal message to a changing community. It is not enough to merely tinker with obsolete models; we need to re-think our efforts entirely, even as we embrace the age-old values of Torah, Avodah, G'milut Chasadim and community.

Accordingly, we have made synagogue transformation a priority in various areas of our work: creating a pilot program offering an alternative and intergenerational approach to Jewish learning, re-thinking our organizational structure, defining our values at the board level, re-examining the ways we worship, and exploring ways to incorporate cutting edge technology and social networking into our daily operations.

But the heart of CABI will always be its people—staff and volunteers. We are blessed to have Nina Spiro running our school, Abi Taylor-Abt creating innovative Kehillah programs, Gideon Taylor-Abt tutoring our b'nai mitzvah students, Kat Dellamater adeptly managing our office. Sherrill Livingston has led our board with grace and insight. Special thanks to outgoing board members Addie Waxman, John Lee, Rebecca Runyan, Melissa Waylan, and Laurie Ryan. Welcome to incoming members Lorraine Gross, Dennis Lopez, Jodi Peterson, and Jack Bonawitz. And thanks to our countless volunteers who teach, cook, lead services, administer, file, answer phones, and so, so much more.

Over the coming months and years, I look forward to partnering with our leadership and the entire CABI family as we engage in the sacred labor of re-visioning our school, re-embracing tikkun olam (repairing the world), promoting richer Jewish observance and spiritual growth, and re-inventing the way we define and assess dues and membership and community for a new generation of Jews who think of these things very differently from their predecessors. As Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook taught: "The old must be made new, and the new must be made holy." Our future depends on our accepting these challenges and navigating through them with creativity and commitment.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Dan

President's Report

Sherrill Livingston

As my first year as President of CABI winds down, I eagerly look forward to next year and leading our Jewish community into 2011. For me, the year 5770 has been filled with memories I will always treasure. Every time I walk into the Social Hall, I am warmed by remembering January's Feast of Torah and seeing the scroll we created that, now, hangs on the west wall. In March, I was given the indescribable honor of writing the last letters in our own restored Torah scroll. April's visit from Cantor Shalowitz brought me to tears, really, as his big voice filled our sanctuary to the rafters. We all sounded better on Shabbat evening, and, even, the next night, we raised our voices around the Lag B'Omer bonfire. (Thank you, Abi, for your guitar strumming.) We are making memories and forming bonds, but it is up to each of us to knit those bonds into the thriving Jewish community that Idaho needs. It is up to YOU to join a committee, attend a class, volunteer at Deli Days, contribute financially, spread the word and be proud of being a part of Idaho's historic synagogue.

Board meetings are, generally, held the third Tuesday of the month at 5:30. These are subject to change, so please, check the day/time. But all members are encouraged to attend board meetings.

I want to thank the outgoing board members who have volunteered their time over the past several years. Some of our trustees hesitated to come on the board at the beginning – "Not me. I don't have time. I'm not a joiner. I'm not a leader." But I think we've all come to value our time working together and contributing to CABI. As Social Action chair, Rebecca Runyan has worked hard on such projects as the Food Drive. Her mezuzah-making project was a smart and artistic way to earn money for a Tzedakah gift. As Ritual chair, Melissa Waylan led her committee to try new ideas for logistics and decorating at High Holy Days, for a truly adults-only Purim party and for learning at Shavuot. John Lee carried out his duties as secretary, but also contributed his thoughtful comments to every board discussion. Laurie Ryan has been active not only as Facilities chair, but in Long-Range Planning, helping to craft a new school tuition policy and providing her fiscal expertise. Finally, I am grateful for Addie Waxman's wise and steady counsel as vice-president. She was invaluable in thinking about leadership development on the nominating committee and took on short-term tasks where needed, such as chairing the security committee.

The May 16th Annual Meeting allows the congregation to meet and vote on our brand new board members: Dennis Lopez, as Secretary; Jack Bonawitz, as Facilities chair; Jodi Peterson, as Social Action chair; and Lorraine Gross, president-elect. In answer to many questions, the president-elect serves on the board for one year prior to becoming president.

Lorraine and I, both, look for your help.

Finally, our new fiscal year begins July 1 and we will be mailing the membership packet to welcome you, our members, to the new year. Please read it carefully and give generously. Call me if you have any questions.

Have a great summer!

B'Shalom

Sherrill Livingston

Religious School Report

Nina Spiro

"Living Jewish Tradition, Building Jewish Identity"

I am honored to have completed a third year as Religious School Director. It was again a privilege to work closely with Rabbi Dan, who I appreciated even more after his return from sabbatical. The invaluable collaboration with *Kehillah* Programs Coordinator Abi Taylor-Abt and Office Manager Kat Dellamater made the year run smoothly. Our school benefited from the counsel and hands-on help of the Religious School Committee, chaired by Fran Dudley and represented by Board Liaison Julie Barnathan German. And many front-desk volunteers contributed in small and large ways.

The Religious School built on a solid base from last year:

- **We retained most teachers and assistants, and recruited new ones.** We maintained our teacher-student ratio of 1:8 or lower in pre-K through B'nai Mitzvah. Teachers were extremely reliable, as were substitutes, although substitutes were rarely needed.

- **Student enrollment fluctuated but maintained its core.** Parents made good efforts to get their children to Religious School despite the competing claims of secular extra-curricular activities and family commitments. Initial enrollment totaled about 60 Sunday and 60 Wednesday students (including TLC); because some attended on both days, the total enrollment was about 100, ranging from preschoolers through grade 12 teens. Over time, about 5% of students opted for private tutoring to accommodate individual learning styles and scheduling constraints; 5% attended very infrequently; and 5% withdrew for various reasons.

- **We continued to provide reliable Religious School programming (*Torah*), and community opportunities for *avodah* (spiritual growth) and *g'milut chasadim* (acts of loving kind-**

ness). We again used the URJ's *Chai* (life) curriculum, which follows these three essential Jewish themes at age-appropriate levels. For Hebrew, we used *Z'man Likro* (Time to Read) and added conversational Hebrew texts from Behrman House. There was good participation in the monthly Friendship Feast and the spring student-led Shabbat services. Students regularly contributed money for tzedakah, and unanimously requested that our first-semester collection be donated for relief in Haiti.

- **We took advantage of the Jewish calendar...and struggled with the secular one!** We were fortunate to observe *Tashlich* and *Simchat Torah* on Religious School Sundays so that families could naturally be included in our programming. On the Sunday after Halloween we cancelled school, acknowledging the difficulty of getting students out of bed that morning, especially since it coincided with the Daylight Savings time change!

We took school photos. Thanks to parent volunteers Laurie McKenzie and Dennis Lopez, we provided heartwarming class and school photos for the first time, and look forward to doing so next year.

Teacher input enhanced our course offerings:

- **More B'nai Mitzvah study.** Our new B'nai Mitzvah teacher, Gideon Taylor-Abt, advocated for class meetings on Sundays in addition to our traditional Wednesday meetings. As a result, our students are better prepared to lead from the *bimah*.

- **Hebrew learning levels.** To provide more differentiation for Hebrew students, we offered *Alef* (complete beginners), *Bet* (learning to decode); and Intermediate (able decoders) Hebrew classes, and added a bit of conversational Hebrew to spark the Intermediate students' interest. *Abi's Yom Rishon* (Sunday) Readers program continued to use post-B'nai Mitzvah teens to reinforce Hebrew learning for everyone.

Teachers' "flavors." The Sunday pre-K and *Alef* classes were strongly art-based; grades 1 and 2/3 made regular use of drawing, games, and stories; grades 4 and 5 followed the *Chai* curriculum very closely; grade 6 involved current events and personal experiences in their discussions. These variations reflected both age-appropriate accommodations and the personal styles of each teacher, several of whom were profiled in the *Chai Lights* "Meet the Teacher" column.

The Religious School functioned within CABI's organizational structure:

- **Tuition.** With the Board and the Finance Committee, we implemented a tuition payment structure that made an essential contribution to the synagogue's bottom line, while conserving a very simple registration process. We continued to adhere to our congregational

policy of turning away no one based on inability to pay tuition or membership fees.

- Safety and security.** To ensure the safety, security, and productivity of our children, students are now signed in and out at the reception desk by a parent or guardian. (TLC students are responsible for their own sign-in/out.) Adult greeters are posted at unlocked Social Hall doors. Parents were reminded to advise the school in advance by phone or email about student absences. Classroom emergency exit signage is being created to direct teachers and students out of the buildings in an orderly way. And teachers received a basic emergency procedures training at mid-year. These measures became part of a larger congregational security project.

- Feeding to and from other CABI programs.** Abi's weekly *K'tanim* (Little Ones) parent-child class and the monthly Tot Shabbat organized by Suzanne Metzgar supplemented the Sunday classes we offered for our youngest students. Abi's holiday-themed *Kehillah* (community) programs made use of the "captive audience" at Religious School, and also gave parents an additional incentive to bring their children to CABI.

- "Meet the Teacher" in Chai Lights.** This new monthly feature profiled both new and returning Religious School teachers so that the congregation learned about the Jewish, professional, and personal aspects of our educators.

Camp! About 20% of our students will attend a Jewish overnight camp this summer, some of them using CABI Camperships received from our Youth Enrichment Fund. According to two camp directors, this is an admirable accomplishment, especially given our congregation's small size.

I look forward to another excellent year in 5771 (2010-11).

L'Shalom,

Nina Spiro
Religious School Director

Tot Shabbat Report

Suzanne Metzgar

In June, Tot Shabbat will conclude its fourth year at CABI!

This early evening Shabbat service, led by both Rabbi Dan Fink and Rabbi Laura Rappaport, is especially designed for young children. Music, props and stories engage and teach kids

about Shabbat, holidays, and history. Services are followed by a kid-friendly, vegetarian Shabbat dinner. Families – parents & kids, aunts & uncles, and grandparents – attend, bringing a truly multi-generational community together for spiritual growth and lifelong learning.

In 2006, a generous grant afforded CABI the opportunity to launch Tot Shabbat. The goal of this grant was to initiate a Shabbat program for families with pre-school aged children. The grant was designed to sustain the program for five years – which it will do easily – and then, if successful, be absorbed into the traditional financial and operational management of the synagogue.

Though the initial grant supplements the program, the financial support from attending families has kept Tot Shabbat on-track to meet the five year goal. Our community supports this program through a devoted group of volunteers, by welcoming new families into the fold and by encouraging participation in other family programs such as Feast of Torah, K'tanim, and Religious School. On average Tot Shabbat hosts some 50 people for services and dinner. Truly embracing the mission of our community, Tot Shabbat is a legacy program.

Kehillah Programs Report

Abi Taylor-Abt

This past year the Kehillah Programs have continued to grow with the help of the entire community. There is still tremendous support and open minded consideration for new ideas. Old favorites that have experienced a hiatus have been revisited upon advice and guidance of those who have shared their knowledge.

We continue to have regular programs and the activities based around the festivals are something that have remained a huge success this past year with participation growing from strength to strength. We have regular participants at our monthly programs and the special one off events draw a wider group of our congregation

The Monday morning Pre-school program K'tanim (little ones) has become a huge hit. We have up to 12 children participating weekly. They are accompanied by Moms, Dads, Grandparents and Nannies. We have a morning song, a shared snack with relevant blessings, and a weekly art project or activity. The children recognize each other and are learning the routine, along with learning how to interact with each other. Amazingly, at their young age they are finding their place in the synagogue and in our community.

Our second annual Memorial Event for Holocaust Day at the Anne Frank Memorial was again extremely moving and I am touched that we can not only rejoice together but

also mourn. Historically, Jewish communities acted as the hub of our lives and as our community continues to share, more of us are drawn to connect and support each other in every way possible.

We have another year of exciting ideas and plans. CABI Camp is scheduled for August once again and sign-ups for our Annual Retreat are going very well. As we did not hold a retreat last year, this year is a wonderful opportunity for us to connect in a setting outside of our synagogue premises. We are Jews regardless of where we are and can come together and celebrate as Jews in any setting.

In October 2009, I was proud to accompany 11 teens from our TLC group attending the NFTY Regional Teen Event in Olympia Washington. They are becoming fully fledged, committed members of our community, working to raise money and share in every aspect of our Jewish life. At our end of year Teen Barbeque the attendance was 27 teens out of a potential 32 in the entire community. I am sure you will agree with me, and join me in proud welcome of our teen members as they truly contribute to our community in so many ways.

Looking back over the past year, I believe our Kehillah programs continue to grow reflecting our community's growth in all aspects of Torah, Work and Loving Kindness. I look forward to our continuing to grow together over the coming year.

L'Shalom,

Abi Taylor-Abt

Finance Committee Report

As Treasurer and head of the Finance Committee I would like to personally thank Jesikah Luangaphay, Andrea Leeds, John Barnet, Marty Geffon, and Sherrill Livingston for giving of their time and expertise this past fiscal year. It has been a difficult time given the economic conditions we're all living in but we weathered through it. Let's all pray for continued improvement in our overall US economy and better times ahead for members of our congregation that have been negatively impacted by those conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andy Byron, Treasurer

Community and Membership Report

Louise Birnbaum

"The Lifeline of the Congregation"

Membership for Congregation Ahavath Beth Israel has remained fairly stable for the past year. We welcomed about 12 new member families into CABI at the New Member Brunch held in October, 2009. Even though we did gain new families, we also lost some from those leaving the area. We had a successful CABI night at Hawks Stadium in August, 2009, with about 35 people participating. I will be looking for new committee members for this next year that will bring new ideas to this committee. I have begun the initial rewrite of the membership renewal letter and hope to have it and the other documents ready when we must send these documents out to the membership.

Respectfully Submitted,

Louise Birnbaum

Communications Report

Abby Mclean

This has been a year of changes for the CABI Communications committee, with a new Chai Lights editor coming on board and the weekly email news blast moving to an HTML format. We have also been fortunate to have a great and growing crew of assistants and proof readers who now comprise a virtual Editorial Committee.

Over the course of the year, we've changed our submission deadline from the 15th of the month to the 10th of the month. In response to member feedback, we've been gently tweaking the newsletter look and feel, and adding some new content. Many thanks go out to Hannah Kahlke, our Chai Lights editor, Shmuel Kahlke, our designer, Gretchen Hecht and Shelly Wolf, Editorial Committee, and a hearty welcome to Dennis Lopez, our incoming Board Secretary, who will also be joining our Editorial Committee.

Mid-year we finally made a change to the weekly email blast that had been in the works for some time. We moved our email list into a web-based email/marketing tool called Constant Contact. In this new environment, we have gained many features that allow us to improve our email communications with you, our members. The list is now opt-in/opt-out and allows the user to self-manage their subscriptions and their email addresses. It also af-

fords us a fantastic way to grow our list, and we have seen a more than 75% increase in subscribers since the list moved, from the approximately 100 people receiving the list in January to 178 email subscribers as of May 14, 2010. The email list has become the preferred method for many members to keep up with what is happening at CABI. It is sent each week, mainly on Wednesdays, but sometimes on Thursday or Friday.

The online Google calendar is also becoming a vital tool in members keeping up with our changing schedule. We are excited to be on the verge of electronically synchronizing the calendar which Kat creates on her desktop with our online Google calendar. This should keep our calendars more up to date everywhere, although we do rely on everyone to make sure and keep Kat informed as events change during the year. You can see the Google calendar on our home page, but it works best in Internet Explorer. If you are using another browser and having difficulty scrolling through the calendar, you may want to use the link on our home page to access the calendar in a separate window.

During the past year, we've also explored Facebook, as a means to publicize Deli Days, and also as a communications tool for our members. We owe many thanks to Dan Ronfeld and Tamara Shapiro for being our Deli Days Facebook administrators. If you are on Facebook, but not fans or friends of Deli Days or CABI, check it out! As of right now, with little or no promotion, our Deli Days page has 246 fans/friends and CABI has 94.

In the upcoming year, we will be analyzing all of our web presences to determine what platforms are the most effective tools to keep our community members informed and connected. Our website will be slowly, but surely, transformed into one which we hope can be timely informative and easy to navigate. We will be looking for a few good CABI members who would like to learn how to manage our email blasts, Facebook pages and our web to join our Communications team. Training and support will be provided. Please join us!

L'Shalom,

Abiby McLean

Social Action Committee Report

Rebecca Runyan

The Social Action Committee began the year with the annual Rosh Hashanah Food Drive for the Idaho Food Bank. Jewish World Watch booklets were distributed containing information about social and political events in the Sudan, and actions synagogue members can take to provide assistance to the victims in Darfur.

During the Hanukkah period items were collected and donated to the Women's and Children's Alliance. They are always in need of personal care products for women and children who arrive at the facility with nothing, as well as clothing, toys, and baby products for children. It is my hope that CABI's relationship with the Women's and Children's Alliance will continue to strengthen.

Social Action members were proud to represent the congregation at the annual Martin Luther King Rally and March during early 2010. The large blue banner now has a permanent pole and is an attractive and visible aid to our presence.

Social Action members worked with the Religious School to invite the CABI children and adults to make mezuzah cases out of decorated copper foil during the Cantor's visit in May. The five dollar donation per mezuzah case is being donated to the Women's and Children's Alliance.

Several barrels of food and clothing were collected during the year and donated to The Interfaith Sanctuary. Harriet Badesheim was responsible for a great amount of good will and effort to that end.

Self-Rescue Manuals, with vital information for anyone experiencing economic, social or medical distress, continue to be distributed to individuals and made available in the main foyer.

I am glad to have worked with a truly caring and supportive congregation, and hope that the spirit of nurturing ourselves and our neighbors, both near and far, continues. Thank you to Tom Rogers for his continued hard work and strength in the community.

Working Together in Tikkun Olam,

Rebecca Runyan

Adult Education Committee Report

Mary Hulse

This has been an eventful year. When I was first approached for this position I had some hesitation in accepting but as I thought about it ideas for class topics would pop into my head. I had been in a Jewish Community and Congregation in Tulsa, Oklahoma where ongoing adult education was promoted strongly and always well attended. I took advantage of every opportunity while there and loved every minute of it. I am an avid reader and have a good Jewish library so had some good resources at hand to get started.

Unfortunately soon after agreeing to accept this position, as all of you know, I was required to have surgery and was diagnosed with cancer and began treatment, which I am

still receiving. Again, I wondered whether I would be able to continue in this position, but was determined to give it a shot - I am glad that I did.

The Adult Ed Committee includes, Marty Seidenfeld, Leigh Evans, Gideon Taylor-Abt and Gail LeBow.

The Adult Alef Bet Class with Leigh Evans and Hannah Kahlke was scheduled to start October 7th. Leigh and Hannah are both enthusiastic teachers.

Ted Century taught a class titled THE JEWISH LABOR MOVEMENT IN THE U.S. which was scheduled for November 3, 2009. Also in November Marty Seidenfeld scheduled a class titled JEWS IN SPAIN FROM THE SPANISH INQUISITION TO THE PRESENT.

A panel from the Talmud class, including Rabbi Dan, taught a class titled EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE TALMUD BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK in December.

One of our most popular classes, actually a discussion, was I AM JEWISH - WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? which was held January 12, 2010. We had many requests to have a repeat session of this class, but due to the many activities going on in January and February at the Synagogue - did not get that scheduled. Hopefully, we can schedule another session this coming Fall.

I had asked Rabbi Dan about having a repeat of the Sessions we had a couple of years ago with Rabbi Mendel and Howard where we rotated between the Synagogue and Chabad. I feel that it is important to discuss and know what is happening in Israel and how the world is perceiving it. Such a session was scheduled for February 22nd, 2010. The topic of this discussion was ETHICS OF WAR FROM THE JEWISH PERSPECTIVE, the Gaza invasion and the Goldstone Report. Allen Gorin was the Moderator. The Adult Ed Committee provided the Kosher snacks for this event, which was an interesting learning experience for me. We had an excellent turnout for this event, with a number of non-members attending. It was agreed that there should be additional such events rotating between the two congregations.

In March of 2010 Ted Century taught a class titled YIDDISH FOR THE UNSOPHISTICATED, which was both informative and entertaining. Our April class was taught by Rabbi Laura with a continuation of a class that she taught during the Feast of Torah, "THE MYTHICAL JEWS OF TORAH."

In May we have the honor of having a visiting Rabbi Dr. Richard Freund who is brought in by the College of Idaho. He will be speaking on Sunday, May 9th, 7:00 - 9:00. He is the

Director of the Maurice Greenberg Center of Judaic Studies and Greenberg Professor of Jewish History at the University of Hartford in Israel. He is the Director of six different archeological projects in Israel. I have posted a notice at the Co-Op and have sent an E-mail to the Anthropology Department at Boise State University, where it will be forwarded to the appropriate departments.

Our WANNA BE KNITTERS GROUP is up and running. Some just come to smooze. This group is headed by Petra Pollock and Myrna Herman and they have an enthusiastic group that meets once a month. They each knit blocks or strips and then they are put together for completion. So far, we have provided at least 10 afghans or lap robes to St. Alphonsesus, some of which were donated by my daughter, Vicki. They were given to Rabbi Laura for distribution and she says that all of the staff there wanted one to hand out - she had to hide some away to give out herself.

I would like to say thank you to Jack Bonawitz for his support throughout the year in being there to open the building and help set up and just to provide encouragement and support. I couldn't have done it without you. Thanks as well to all of you who so willingly stepped up to teach a class - No one turned me down. We will take a break during the summer and come together again in the Fall. I am keeping a positive attitude and saying this in faith.

Thanks also to Hannah for the great job she does with the newsletter.

Mary L. Hulse

Facilities Committee Report

Laurie Ryan & Jack Bonawitz

The Facilities Committee continues to have plenty to do. We are in the second year of a three-year contract with Valley Landscaping. A multi-year contract keeps costs steady and provides additional services. We continue to look to improve what we are doing within our cost constraints. We realize that there is more to be and continue to look at long term/cost effective solutions to these issues.

With the help of several congregants, we have looked at many solutions to the problems with the goatheads: grass, black-top, concrete, gravel, mulch, drought-resistant plantings, etc. Some of these solutions are impractical and/or too expensive. We expect to have a plan soon.

We continue to review our options with regard to maintaining/repairing our beautiful Synagogue. We have received bids for repairing the façade and window and are now in the process of reviewing funding options. We will be submitting a grant to the Idaho Heritage Trust in September; however, these grants are small so we need to continue to look at other options. Until we finalize how/what/when we will be repairing our building we will continue to take steps to ensure this most valuable asset is safe.

We continue also to take steps to become a “greener” facility. We now have quarterly delivery of our HVAC filters. This will help our systems run more efficiently. Additionally, we have installed motion-sensing lights in our restrooms. They turn on/off automatically. We also replaced spray heads in the kitchen and restroom showers with low-flow spray heads. This saves water and gas.

We had the kitchen professionally cleaned prior to Pesach. Curtis Maintenance did an excellent job, and we may want to consider having them do this periodically.

We set up an ordering system with so that we can call or email Sysco and have the supplies delivered within days.

Since we have members with significant hearing loss, we have purchased and installed a wireless system to provide personal amplification in the synagogue and social hall.

We are looking at a smooth transition of board responsibilities. Laurie is leaving the board as her two-year term is complete. Jack, who has been chairing the committee, will begin serving on the board.

We welcome any feedback from you. It’s a big campus, and we know everyone wants to keep it clean, safe, and effective!

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Ryan and Jack Bonawitz

Ritual Committee Report

Melissa Waylan

Another busy year for the Ritual Committee! In 2009-2010 the committee shifted it’s focus to CABI’s holiday calendar. A long meeting held at the end of summer divided the holidays up so that each would have a specific coordinator. In each case the coor-

dinator would oversee the organization of holiday events with the Rabbi, Religions School, Teen Program, and other groups as requested. In addition they would also coordinate the distribution of information. We hope this has resulted in more complete and consistent information about the schedule and content of events.

The Committee also looked at each holiday with an eye toward widening the scope of participation across the congregation. We had our first swinging Martini Party to Purim and created a more inclusive theme for Shavuot.

This year saw the return of our Sefer Torahs and Sofer Yerman. We now have two beautifully restored scrolls and a whole lot more understanding of their origins and upkeep.

In the upcoming year we plan to continue to refine the coordinator approach to our holiday observances. We also hope to consider expanding our activities with the hope of creating interesting and meaningful ritual opportunities for congregation members of all ages and scholastic inclinations. We also look forward to expanding our role within the CABI community as we begin a congregational journey toward being a more visionary congregation.

As I step down this summer I want to thank you for this opportunity to serve on the board for three years. It has been a great experience I look forward to repeating some time in the future.

L'Shalom,

Melissa Waylan

2010-2011 SLATE OF PROPOSED NOMINEES

President – Elect	Lorraine Gross
Secretary	Dennis Lopez
Facilities Committee Chair	Jack Bonawitz
Ritual Committee Chair	Dan Stern (completing the term of retiring board member, Melissa Waylan)
Social Action Chair	Jodi Peterson

SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE BOARD MEMBERS WHO ARE RETIRING FROM SERVICE ON OUR BOARD:

Vice President	Addie Chan
Secretary	John Lee
Social Action	Rebecca Runyan
Ritual	Melissa Waylan
Facilities & Long-Range Planning	Laurie Ryan

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