

Congregation B'nai Israel

TEMPLE TOPICS



December 2005 29 Cheshvan – 30 Kislev, 5766

My Dear Fellow Congregants,

You honor me and the entire slate of candidates with your vote of confidence to have us lead the Board of Directors throughout 2006. Although I have been president of many boards in years past, no appointment has been closer to my heart than this one.

Our synagogue has a rich history dating back 100 years. For a community this size, and for the number of Jews in the community, our facilities and our Rabbi stand out as exemplary. This could only be the case if those who came before set the standard (the expectation) for excellence. Many families have been instrumental in the success of our congregation for generations while others, including my own, are new to the community.

Past presidents of our synagogue have been very gracious and have agreed to act as advisors, especially during the transition period. We will meet for a strategy luncheon to discuss the past and how it relates to the potential for the future. To all of them and to everyone else who has already come forward with advice and good wishes, I am most grateful.

One of our key strengths is that people, young and old, born in Spartanburg and born afar feel welcome and can become part of the “bigger family” in whatever way they wish. For those who want to become involved, there are many opportunities. We have an amazing Sisterhood, an incredible Religious School, a dynamic Haddasah and an extraordinary congregation of people who pitch in and help in local soup kitchens, special events and in weekly services. Indeed, there are many superlatives to describe our congregation, all of them well earned and much deserved.

You all have created a culture of acceptance and inclusion in a warm and inviting environment that has been part of this synagogue since its inception. Together, we will carry on this tradition and pass it along to our children, our grandchildren and to their grandchildren. That is our responsibility. That is our legacy. I am proud to be part of this community and promise to be a faithful steward to the history that I have inherited. Together, we can look forward to the future made possible by a strong, supportive and loving community.

**Sincerely,
Barry Nickelsberg
President-Elect**

