

Outgoing President Remarks – Heidi Schneider

Number of years that Adath Jeshurun has served the Jewish community of the

Twin Cities: 126

Number of households that currently make up Adath Jeshurun: 1207

Sustaining Dues at Adath Jeshurun this year: \$1,870

Average L'Chaim annual campaign pledge last year: \$390

Cost of a full share of a CSA membership with Easy Bean Farm: \$495

Cost to each household of the beautiful coffee table book: 125 Years of Adath

Jeshurun Congregation From Generation to Generation by Etta Fay Orkin and

Deborah Tolmach Sugerman: Free, thanks to the generosity of the Gross Family

Philanthropic Fund.

Serving a two year term as President of Adath Jeshurun: Priceless.

Thank you for allowing me to represent Adath Jeshurun and all of you as your

President. It has been an honor. This congregation means so much to me; it is my

Jewish home. I became a Jew here, you taught me to become a Jewish leader here.

My two years of service repays only a fraction of my indebtedness to all of you and to this amazing community.

I want to share a few things I have learned as your President.

Lesson 1: “And you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Leviticus 19:18. A president is only as good as her advisors. As the committee reports in this annual report demonstrate, we have been blessed with outstanding leadership. Our officers and trustees guided me and our congregation through many challenges in the past two years. Our executive committee deserves special commendation for the seriousness with which they take their responsibilities to our synagogue. Our trustees and officers probably do not think of their service as an act of love for this congregation, but as a personal witness to their work, I know it is. We are in very good hands with them.

Lesson 2: “A mitzvah leads to another mitzvah.” Mishnah Avot 4:2. Our Adath Foundation is a model to other synagogues in no small part because of the enlightened leadership of Alan Gingold and David Segal. They are the masters of prospecting, patience, and taking the long view.

Lesson 3: “If not now, when?” Mishnah Avot 1:14. Our executive director, Bernie Goldblatt is a master teacher on management, operations, customer relations, and biblical archeology. His creativity and entrepreneurial thinking

make him the right executive director for a synagogue embracing an ever-changing future. Bernie missed the Annual meeting to study for a week at JTS. I think an executive director who also values Torah study is the right kind of Adath executive.

Lesson 4: “Make certain you have a teacher and get yourself a friend.” Mishnah Avot. Only a few lucky people are given the opportunity to work side by side with their mentor for two years. I got that opportunity. Rabbi Kravitz is a leader of great wisdom, vision, and menschlichkeit. He nurtured me from the first day I stepped nervously into his Introduction to Judaism class. He encouraged me and supported me each step of the way. Rabbi Kravitz, your trust in me during my term as President is a treasure I hold dear.

Lesson 5: “All Jews are responsible for one another.” Shavuot 39A. My family is resilient and self-sufficient. Joel stepped up as both Mom and Dad during my term. I realized how independent my children had become in the last two years when Isaac turned to me one night at dinner and said: “Mom, what are you doing here? Don’t you have a meeting at the synagogue or something?” Joel, Asher and Isaac, thank you for sharing me with the congregation and for cheerleading at all the right times.

Lesson 6: “It is not up to you to finish the job, neither are you free to withdraw from it.” Mishnah Avot 2:16. Once a president, always a president. David Orbuch, immediate past president, and many other past presidents provided good counsel and strong continuity of leadership during my term. I appreciated the historical perspective of those presidents with their deep and longstanding roots in this congregation, as well as the practical business experience of so many of you. I am humbled to join your ranks as a past president, and I hope I can continue to serve this congregation, following your stellar examples: Jules, Joyce, Judy, Norm, Irv, Carol, Raleigh, David, David, and Judy.

Lesson 7: “Judge all people favorably.” Mishnah Avot 1:6. Mike Greenstein, incoming president, is as all of you know, an Adath Jeshurun diamond. He has been a Finance VP and the VP of Jewish Life and Learning. He co-chaired, not one, but two search committees: One for our director of Jewish Life and Learning, and one for our assoc. rabbi. He’s a wonderful teacher, well-respected by our teens. He is also a Shem Tov winner. He was raised in this congregation, and his family also had roots in this community. He is well qualified to lead this synagogue as its next president.

In honor of your upcoming term, Mike, I give you this gift. It is a guidebook, not to governance or fundraising or effective communication. It is a guidebook to living a fully Jewish life, which is what great synagogue leadership is really all

about. Jewish Wisdom, by Rabbi Joseph Telushkin. I hope your term as President inspires you as it did me. The congregation and the board will benefit greatly from YOUR Jewish wisdom, Mike, and from your diverse experience throughout this congregation. And because of the heft of the book, I think it can double as a gavel at unruly Board meetings.

Mazel Tov.