



## FROM T.I.C. PRESIDENT DAVID GILBERG

We have many good reasons to celebrate on this glorious night. We celebrate this wonderful community that we are blessed to share with one another; we celebrate the accomplishments of Temple Israel Center through our first hundred years and our plans for the second hundred; and we celebrate the extraordinary contributions to this community of a group of exceptional people. Our theme tonight, and our theme for our Second Century project, is based on the three “pillars” of Pirkei Avot – Torah (learning and education); Avodah (worship) and Gemilut Hasadim (acts of loving kindness). Our honorees – Dottie Roer, Jonathan Flaxer and Gail Wiesenfeld – and Alta Eisenpress, to whom we pay a special tribute, are ideal exemplars of these pillars and it is our privilege to be able to honor them tonight.

Each of these four individuals has played a unique and transformative role in the life of this community, with respect to each of the three pillars. Dottie, Gail and Jonathan have all been actively involved over the years in the operation of our educational programs and have worked tirelessly and lovingly to bring these programs to the high standard of excellence for which they are now known. Alta has put her indelible stamp on the level of learning that this congregation has achieved, through her kind and gentle manner and her meticulous care of the precious resource of our library, by which our visitors, as well as our members, are uniformly impressed. Beyond the educational realm, these remarkable individuals have also participated in the spiritual life of the shul and in our ritual practices and policies, and have not only undertaken numerous works of Gemilut Hasadim, acts of loving kindness, themselves, but have encouraged others to do so as well. We are honored by their presence and by their role in our community.

As we celebrate the extraordinary work and lives of Dottie, Gail, Jonathan and Alta tonight, we should also celebrate and enjoy the warm, supportive community of which we are each an important component. And, while we commemorate past accomplishments, we should also be mindful of the work still to be done and make sure that we are worthy inheritors of the standards, the values and the love that these four extraordinary people have given to us as their lasting gift.

B'Shalom,

David Gilberg