



FROM RITUAL DIRECTOR RABBI DINA SHARGEL

As Shabbat morning "regulars," each of you is familiar to so many of our members. You have all enriched us with your creative energy over the years. With your indulgence, I would like to highlight the points of connection I enjoy with each of you.

Dottie and Gail – Although we did not always live in the same places at the same time, we have made footprints in common locations. Gail, you and I each spent our early years in the same state. Dottie, you grew up in the city where I lived as a young adult. Recently I learned of your hard work in past years on behalf of our T.I. schools, and as I have become more involved in the Religious School and Nursery School, I am grateful for your efforts. Many thanks for becoming involved in helping us become an egalitarian institution with equal ritual opportunities for men and women. Your work has enabled me to serve in my rabbinic capacity at Temple Israel Center today.

Gail - thank you for building upon Dottie's work, especially in your support of our schools and of the boys and girls in our congregation who celebrate becoming B'nai Mitzvah. Your work on our Bar/Bat Mitzvah lay task force is much appreciated. Many thanks as well for your support for B'nai Mitzvah (of both sexes) while you served as Executive Committee officer. I enjoyed getting to know you during our shared time on the *Bimah*. And now I have the privilege of working with you once again in our current search for a new director for our Nursery School. We are so lucky to be able to benefit from your many years of experience as well as your natural good judgment.

Jonathan – It seems like yesterday that I was working with Melanie in preparation for her Bat Mitzvah. I enjoyed it very much, and took pleasure at that time in beginning to get to know all four members of your wonderful family. Ever since, through many common paths at our synagogue, you and I have built upon a friendship that I value very much. We sit on the Ritual Committee, a group that is sometimes challenged to address different needs within our membership. Together with Robin Friedman, you guide the group with a sensitive yet firm approach that I admire very much. On another subject, each Shabbat morning, I look forward to your participation in Rabbi Tucker's theology group meetings. Your questions and comments are always thoughtful. And I enjoy our inevitable *kibitzing* in the pews as we settle in for *Shaharit*!

Alta – *Aharonah Aharonah Havivah*. One of the many things I enjoy so much about coming to the office each day is seeing you in the library or hallway, always carrying your trademark warm smile and calm good cheer. You and I share a very special bond as lovers of the Hebrew language. I am so flattered and grateful to have participated in your very exclusive Hebrew reading circle, and I hope to be able to re-join once again in the not-too-distant future.

A hearty Mazal Tov to each of our honorees. *Kol Ha-Kavod!*