

Annual Meeting - January 24, 2017
Bruce Greene - Installation Remarks

Thank you very much. It is truly one of the greatest honors of my life to be elected and installed as the 27th President of Temple B'nai Abraham. I am deeply grateful to the Nominating Committee and to you, the congregation. I am proud of TBA's heritage. Members and clergy of TBA have been - and are - leaders in the Jewish community and the community at large, locally, nationally, and internationally. It is humbling to be installed as the President of such a wonderful synagogue and to be entrusted with leading it, leading us. I will do my best. I ask you for your help and support. Together, we can honor our synagogue's heritage and bring it to an even greater future.

To my fellow congregants, many of you have been deeply involved at TBA for a long time. Others of you may be relatively new members, just beginning your time here. During my time here, I found that the more I gave to TBA, the more I received, and continue to receive - in personal satisfaction, in friendship and comradery, and in my spiritual life. That happens at worship services, doing community service, at committee meetings, at board meetings, and at social events. TBA is truly my second home. I invite each of you to become or remain involved. You will find it's worth it.

TBA is also a second home for my family. Susan loves the temple just as much as me. She loves the spirituality, the sense of community, and the opportunity to help others. Mark started here at the Early School. He became a Bar Mitzvah here. Some of you may recall that Mark was gravely ill several years ago. Susan, Mark and I will be forever grateful to our fellow congregants for your support, your help, your visits, and of course, your food. We are grateful to our wonderful clergy for everything they did for us. It felt then like TBA was a huge family supporting us ... and TBA is still our family.

Temple B'nai Abraham needs your financial support. Dues and tuition payments only go so far. Your support is vital - for our annual campaign *Partners in Leadership*, for our important development efforts, for our annual Ways and Means fundraisers. Please give.

As we at TBA face the future, there are questions we need to address. What is the role of a synagogue, our synagogue, in people's lives? What is the role of our synagogue in the community at large ... locally and beyond? What do our members want and need? How do we best educate the next generation to ensure Jewish continuity? We need to plan carefully and to work together to answer these and other questions.

Rabbi Kulwin, Rabbi Dantowitz, Cantor Epstein, thank you for all you do every day - teaching us, leading us in worship, celebrating our simchas, helping us in times of need and loss. We are lucky to have you.

To Gail and your administrative staff. You are the best. You are dedicated and professional. You keep this place humming. We probably don't say it enough - you have our deep gratitude.

Tracey, you and your staff are amazing. You keep our building and grounds in great shape. You too are dedicated and professional. Thank you.

Debbie, Melissa, your teachers and staffs, you do a most important job - educating our children. You deserve our tremendous gratitude.

To my friends, the former Presidents of TBA, thank you for your guidance, advice, and encouragement over the years and during this time. I know that I can count on you in the future.

I thank the Nominating Committee for choosing, and all of you for electing, an excellent group of officers and trustees. To the incoming and returning officers, trustees, and committee chairs, I thank you in advance for your efforts. I think TBA will be well served by all of you. I look forward to working with you.

To the officers completing their terms, Saul, Randi, and Stacey (Stacey I know you're sticking around for a little while which I greatly appreciate), thank you for your years of service to TBA. We are truly better off for your wisdom, dedication, and hard work. I hope that you remain involved and active.

Susan and Mark, thank you for sharing me with the temple over the years. Thank you in advance for your help and understanding as I begin my new role. I love you very much.

Julie, you have been an incredible President of Temple B'nai Abraham. The congregation has been blessed to have you as its President during these past four years. You were truly the person for your time. Your hard work, dedication, vision, and wisdom are an inspiration to me. Thank you for your guidance and help during this time of transition. Many years ago, you were the chair of the first TBA committee I served on, the Board of Education. From the start you welcomed me. You taught me how to do the job right. You set a high bar for anyone following you. If I can do half as well as you in this position, it will be a very good job. For myself and on behalf of all of us, I thank you for everything, past, present, and future.

And again, to all of you, thank you.