

SISTERHOOD SHABBAT – MAY 8 2010

Sonia Maltinsky's Address

Rabbi Singer, Cantor Albrecht, Officers of the Board and Congregation, members of the congregation, and guests. Thank you all for coming to our Sisterhood Shabbat.

Where does the time go? It feels like yesterday that I was standing before you as the newly elected Sisterhood President and now it is one year later and I've become a "seasoned" president. During the past year I had the privilege of observing, listening, communicating, presiding and directing the many Sisterhood activities, events and projects that were not only challenging but I found most rewarding. I also had the privilege of attending the synagogue Board of Directors meeting each month giving me a vast understanding of the scope of business that is conducted by committed and dedicated fellow congregants who direct this huge organization.

In our daily life we talk about **time**; how much we accomplished each day and hope to fulfill our expectations the next day. In ancient Israel, time was measured with the commandment of Shmittah, the mitzvah to allow one's fields to remain uncultivated every seventh year. It was the custom of measuring time according to agricultural needs and abiding by the 7 year cycle. After 7 cycles of Shmittah, we have a Jubilee Year. There's an affinity about the number 7 in Judaism. I goggled this and received, guess what, 49 associations in Judaism of the number of 7. I'm not going to bore you with them all. However, did you know the first verse in the Torah contains 7 words and 28 letters? Hashem created 7 levels of heaven and that's where we get the expression, "I'm in 7th heaven.

The Talmud lists 7 female prophets, Sarah, Miriam, Deborah, Hannah, Avigall, Chuldah and Esther and the 7 weeks of the Omer corresponds to the 7 “sefirot”, the behavior traits in which we serve G-d: kindness, strength, beauty, triumph, splendor, foundation and kingship. There are many more associations of the number of 7 that you all are acquainted with. In addition, Kabbalah teaches that 7 represents wholeness and completion. After 7 days, the world was complete and after 7 years, the farming cycle began again.

Sisterhood also follows a designated cycle of time. Our service today represents the closing of one productive year and we begin planting seeds to cultivate another year of accomplishments with **our 7 major projects** that I wish to highlight:

The Sisterhood Gift Shop...under the chairmanship of Evelyn Gross who has nurtured and developed it for many years, has evolved into a state-of-the-art Judaica gift shop in its new location. It is known throughout the Baltimore area, and by out-of-towners who regularly come in for its outstanding merchandise. Evelyn is assisted by Shirley Miller.

The Annual Sisterhood Donor...honoring distinguished and dedicated women in the Beth Tfiloh family each year. This year’s donor was chaired by Marcia Leavey and Hilda Yankelov and we honored Iris Pevner for her many years of service to Sisterhood and Beth Tfiloh.

The Synagogue Beautification Program ...adorning the sanctuary, Sagner and chapel with fresh flowers and greenery each year for the High Holidays as well as the **Succot Decorations** in the sanctuary, chapel and succah displaying beautiful festive colors and holiday ornaments to highlight the 8 days. It is chaired by Sylvia Sklar and her vast committee of Sisterhood members.

Our diverse and engaging programming: It involves hours of planning for our meetings, arranged by Esther Gross, the **Chesed Committee**, offering musical concerts for senior citizens with Cantor Albrecht & the BT students as well as sending holiday cards of cheer, all this is undertaken by Roselyn Kalb, Frani Fink and Barbra Rosenberg, and the planning of the **Multi-Sisterhood Luncheon** that brings together sister congregations to enjoy an afternoon of socializing and camaraderie. This year it was planned by Miriam Schlachman & Joyce Stern.

Our on going presentations of Kiddush cups and Shabbat candlesticks to Bar & Bat Mitzvot celebrating their special occasion.

Our contributions to youth activities and a yearly **Scholarship** presented to a graduating Beth Tfiloh High School student.

Our seventh major project is the Annual Sisterhood Shabbat Service & Kiddush, coordinated by Anita Knisbacher, Donna Belsky, Shelley Kaye & Loryn Lesser. It is the **time** we join together spiritually to mark the end of another successful year.

Time is a period during which certain actions are taken. Sisterhood members devote **their time** each year to make our events and projects possible. It has been a joy to work with each and every one of you and together see the fulfillment of our actions over the past year. The women act unselfishly, giving of their time, because they care about the synagogue, the community and Israel.

There are many women in the congregation who have not yet affiliated with Sisterhood because of time constraints or family commitments which may not allow them to attend meetings. However, please consider becoming a member in Sisterhood and be part of our efforts with your support. By joining Sisterhood, you can take pride in our **seven major projects that contribute** to the Beth Tfiloh family.

I thank the nominating committee of Sisterhood, chaired by Donna Belsky, in choosing me to serve another year as president of Sisterhood. I hope to continue following the fine ideals and principles that Sisterhood represents and promotes.

In addition to all the above thank yous I have already extended, a **special loving thank you** goes to my husband Arnold for assisting me so that I would have time for Sisterhood business and for always being a patient listener and continuous supporter. Arnold, have a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY on Tuesday.

Shabbat Shalom