

Dear Temple Israel Members, Families, and Friends,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and our Temple Israel community, we want to welcome you back after an unusually sultry summer and wish you L'Shana Tovah, a New Year filled with health and happiness. As we look forward to the High Holy Days, we are filled with excitement and anticipation as we welcome our new Rabbi, Jonathan Perlman, to our congregation. Rabbi Perlman is a man of uncommon character and commitment. He brings to our synagogue a deep sense of caring and a vibrant energy that is evident from the moment you meet him. It is clear that the depth of knowledge which served him so well at Yale, has been supplemented and broadened not only by both religious and secular study, but also by the experience and wisdom gained in serving two congregations as their rabbi and by his extraordinary work as Director of Jewish Education at the Springfield Jewish Community Center. To say that we are very excited about the year ahead is truly an understatement!

We want to take this opportunity, as well, to thank not only Past President Jeff Plotkin and his wife Debbie for all of their hard work on behalf of our Temple, but also those who have agreed to serve on this year's Board of Directors: Peter George (Vice-President), Nansi Glick (Recording Secretary), Emily Kester (Corresponding Secretary), Jeff Plotkin (Past President), Tom Freidenheim, Suri Maron, Louis Plotkin, and Nate Steinberg. We extend our deepest gratitude to all of you--as well as our Chief Financial Officer David Kester--for volunteering to be a part of a team effort which is dedicated and absolutely committed to bringing meaningful and inspirational religious services as well as a wide variety of creative and stimulating programs to the Athol-Orange-North Quabbin Region. All of this in the warm, welcoming, inclusive spirit which has always been the hallmark of Temple Israel! We are confident that Rabbi Perlman--working with the Board of Directors and our excellent religious school teacher Lovey--will build upon the wonderful work of our past Shaliach Tzibbor Jim Levinson in bringing Temple Israel into a new era. As we thank Jim and his family for all they have meant to our community over the past 14 years and wish them the best of luck in Brattleboro, we want to enthusiastically and warmly open our arms to welcome Rabbi Perlman, his wife Beth (who will assist him and bring an added dimension to our services), and his two lovely children, ..... and ..... to our Temple Israel Community. We know that the year ahead will be a very special one for all of us!

To all those—near and far--who are already a part of our Temple Israel family, we want to say thank you for your constant and continued support. To those who are currently not members of our synagogue, but who seek a warm Jewish community of men, women, and children of diverse backgrounds and views who come together as one to worship and rejoice as friends and family, we say welcome to all of you, as well. Come join us! Come to a religious service designed to meet the needs of a diverse community; come to a delicious pot-luck dinner and share some great conversation and stories; come to a fascinating or intriguing program of music or dance or discussion. Come and visit with us. We are your neighbors and we are eager to meet you. L'shana Tovah!

Shalom Aleichem!

Mitch Grosky and Myron Maron  
Co-presidents of Temple Israel