

## President's Column for December, 2022 Chaverim

Many of you know that in addition to emphasizing our inclusion, community and equity work during my presidency, I have also focused on infrastructure issues. As we have grown, and as the world around us has changed, we have realized more than ever the need to ensure the strength of our foundation. Some of our committees have been essential to this work, and I want to recognize the work of two of these committees in this column.

First, under the leadership of our multi-tasking Security Committee chair, Randi Reichel, who also serves as Board Secretary, the Security Committee has guided our work to make our community more secure. We have upgraded our alarm systems and cameras, have installed a new lockdown system, and have hired a guard, who is present during our services, events, and religious school. Board members, staff, and committee chairs have participated in active shooter trainings, and we have received a grant to install more security upgrades, including new ways to open and close our doors remotely. Thanks to the Green Team, the planters in the front of the building are filled with beautiful flowers, but they also are placed in that location as a security measure. We also have regular contact with local police and state officials. Some of these measures are visible; some are not. All are designed to keep our community safe and secure at the same time that we also continue to be the warm and welcoming congregation we have always been. It's a delicate balance but a necessary one.

Also critical to our infrastructure is our fundraising and development work. Although some of this work is visible through the letters that members receive every year and through the events that we host, much of this work happens invisibly. Headed for the last three years by Melissa Zieve, our Development Committee has helped coordinate our efforts to raise money, recognizing both that none of us want to be asked repeatedly to donate and that fundraising is critical to our continued growth and stability. Melissa has dedicated many, many hours to our development work, and the thoughtful approach she and her committee members have taken to do this has moved our work forward. You will hear more about new development initiatives in the coming months.

As we come to the end of 2022, I want to take this moment to recognize and thank not only Randi, Melissa and the members of their committees, but the rest of our committee chairs and members, my fellow Executive Committee and Board members, Rabbi Gordon, Cory Hermann, Monica Saff, and Johnny McIntyre, and all of you who make up our Bolton Street community. May your Chanukah candles burn brightly, and may 2023 be a happy and healthy year for all of you.

Leslie