

November 10, 2017

Dear BQLI Region Friend,

As I looked around the sanctuary at Jericho Jewish Center this past Sunday, this year's Torah Fund's theme, ***Mah Tovu***, was everywhere! "Oh, how good" never rang so true! It was so good to be together with Women's League friends at BQLI Region's annual Torah Fund Kick-off event! It was great to meet Margie Cella, Rabbinic Intern at North Shore Jewish Center who shared a relevant and meaningful D'var Torah. And, it was amazing to be able to learn about our area synagogues from architect, author, photographer and Jewish historian, Oscar Israelowitz!

For many of us, and I certainly speak for my family, our synagogue has always been a home away from home...that is, more than just our spiritual home. It was at Bethpage Jewish Community Center many years ago where we met most of our dearest family friends. So, when BJCC merged with Midway Jewish Center in Syosset, there was great sadness. When a place of worship, a holy space, ceases to be, it is heartbreaking.

Now, ten years later, my family has become deeply entrenched at Midway where we have developed new, meaningful relationships with our clergy and fellow congregants. In retrospect, our loss was an opportunity... an opportunity to become part of a larger Jewish community and a chance to re-commit as synagogue supporters.

My story is not a unique one in the Brooklyn, Queens, Long Island Region, or across the country. Therefore, as we enjoyed Sunday's program and its historic retrospective of our area synagogues, I wanted to urge us all to continue to be mindful of the importance of developing and continuing our deep-rooted commitment to our shuls and of course, to Torah Fund, which directly supports our five Conservative/Masorti Institutions of higher learning. Each of us has the opportunity to preserve, promote and perpetuate Conservative/Masorti Judaism through generous contributions to the Torah Fund Campaign of WLCJ.

I'd like to thank Anise Parnes, BQLI Region Torah Fund VP, and Karen Seltzer, Education VP, for leading by example. Their commitment and passion for TF and Women's League should inspire us all.

B'Shalom,  
Grace