

rabbinat. It's been a great privilege to watch young minds soak up Torah and rise to the occasion of leading the congregation. Research has shown that Bar/Bat Mitzvah may not be an inoculation against assimilation or interfaith marriage; but I am convinced that it is a character and confidence-building experience, and is central to the continuity of the Jewish people.

Among my retirement activities I am most anticipating a Bar/Bat Mitzvah reunion service on Saturday, May 24th. We have tracked down over 300 of the 600+ B'nai Mitzvah I have officiated at from 1981 – 2008.** I've asked them to dig out their tallises, send us photos then and now, and to consider what they've distilled from 5 – 30 years ago.

How nice will it be to see B'nai Mitzvah who have gone out into the world with B'nai Tikvah memories in their spiritual backpacks! Some may have strayed far away from synagogue life, some may be "poster-grownups" as builders of Jewish life; but I would wager that all have fond memories of family and friends, black ink on tan parchment, and carrying the Torah Scroll up and down the center aisle with the well-deserved adulation of the Jewish community.

**2009 through present B'nai Mitzvah will be recognized at the Craneway Pavilion event on May 25th.

President's Message

By Harry Wittenberg

(Cantor Chabon is on sabbatical this month.)



I'm going to start my article by first saying "Thank You." I say this to those members who have written to me or told me personally that they have read my articles. That is such a thrill for me to hear. In the beginning, after a while of not hearing back from folks, I started getting the "If a tree falls in the forest and there is no one to hear it