

spectrum of personalities. If some kids are branded as “unusual” the Bar and Bat Mitzvah is a clear declaration that all are worthy and all are privileged to carry the Torah and find his or her own insights.

Gay children, Gothic teens, and self-proclaimed “nerds” have gone through our system and onto Midrasha with the sense that the synagogue community has no tolerance for intolerances, on the contrary, we have a deep respect for independent thinking. I hope that the sensitivity of our teachers and parents has created a safe place for all; but “Bully” has reminded me that vigilance is required, that there’s no resting on our laurels, and that the consequences of any indifference can be tragic.

President's Message

By John Rubenfeld



As we head to the end of our fiscal year, we continue to gain momentum. I received the following email at the beginning of April, “Just got Judy’s info on what’s happening in April...and sooo many things for everyone to take part in! It warms my heart...really...alot of things to do!” At least for one member, it reinforces the old “Field of Dreams” line; if you build it, people will come. I can tell you, people are coming!!

You may recall in last month’s article, I invited you to our Community Seder. Wow, what a response! A record 86 of you, your family and other unaffiliated guests participated in a spiritual and lively service (including a rousing discussion on gun violence/control). Speaking with several of the attendees, they felt the bond of a community and sharing of a sacred and joyous holiday.