



***FROM
OUR
PRESIDENT***

For over thirty years Congregation Beth Am has provided its members, as well as the community, with a welcoming, warm and friendly place for their spiritual, cultural and educational needs. Whether at Shabbat services, B'nai Mitzva celebrations, Shabbat lunch, congregation-wide social events, or pilgrimages to Israel (with or without luggage), you will always hear someone talking about how special Beth Am is, and how much it means to be a part of the Beth Am family.

Beth Am is especially meaningful to me. Rabbi Rick, Elissa, the members of the congregation and the many friends my wonderful wife Jill and I have made throughout our years with Congregation Beth Am continually remind me not only what it means to be a Jew, but what a Jew is made of - compassion, empathy, curiosity, laughter, tears, perseverance and a love for all things Israel (especially falafel).

As the new President of the Congregation for 2010, I view this as a position that is both a great honor and a great responsibility. During the next two years, I will listen to you, the voice of the congregation, and work with Rabbi Rick and the Board of Directors to make Beth Am continually responsive to the needs of all of us.

Over the past few years, our membership has grown to well over 300 families. We continue to face the challenge of expanding our facilities, resources, educational offerings and cultural opportunities to meet and exceed the needs of a congregation that is growing larger and stronger and more involved every year. Only now we must do so in the face of the worst economy in more years than many of us can (or want to) remember. It will be a challenge, but with the help, support and cooperation of each of you, we can do it all over time.

On behalf of myself and the incoming Board, I thank Dan Williams and the outgoing Board for their leadership, efforts and dedication to improving our facilities over the past two years.

To the incoming Board, and with apologies to Bette Davis, I say "Fasten your seatbelts. It's going to be an exciting ride!"

B'shalom!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Riola". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "R".

Jim Riola
President