

When the call came, the first question that entered my mind was, “Why me?”. I was told that 15 TBO Members were invited to join a Leadership Group. I have learned over the years at Temple that when Ilayne Finkelstone asks it’s usually best to just say, “YES”. When she added that Rabbi Gross was counting on me as well, I simply said “YES”. Our Rabbi has been a source of strength and comfort for my family and I through our losses and there to celebrate on numerous joyous occasions. If they were asking, I was going.

I was excited at the idea of learning more about Temple Life and my Jewish Community Family. I went to the First Session filled with hope and excitement. We were greeted warmly at the door and escorted into the Rabbi’s study. It felt very familiar, as I have met with the Rabbi at times of grief, as well as times of looking for spiritual guidance or just to schmooze. Ilayne led the group, which made me feel at home, as we know each other since my family and I joined TBO, 18 years ago. We all introduced ourselves and explained what we hoped to gain from this Leadership experience. We were then taken on a tour of TBO and shown some areas, such as the library, which I never even knew existed.

Session Two was a classroom setting where we learned some of what it takes to keep our Spiritual Home alive and thriving. It was informative and heartwarming to see so many people committed to our Temple and its members. We heard about Sisterhood, Brotherhood, Early Childhood and Adult Education, in addition to many other social groups for all ages.

Session Three was a casual setting with a game-like format. It was a fun way to learn about the working of the various committees. We were divided into teams which gave us the chance to get better acquainted and work together as a team.

There was plenty to nosh at all the sessions, and I’m so glad I had to pass the bowl of M&M’s to share with my fellow group members. Finally, we were asked to fill out a form indicating areas of interest we might like to become more familiar with. For me, it’s our Choir as I love to sing, and I think a great way to deepen my spirituality is through song. Temple Beth Orr is a very special Jewish Community Family, and I am proud that this is where my husband, Jeff, daughter, Heather and I chose to become Life Members.

