

Shabbat Shalom. My name is Linn Ullenbrauck and I've been a member of Temple Beth Israel for about 18 years. I grew up in a reformed household. My family celebrated the holidays. Both my brothers had their Bar Mitzvahs. I went to Hebrew school but didn't finish. At the time it wasn't for me and I also wasn't the type to get involved. I met my husband Myles, we were married and eventually started our family. Having a religious upbringing for my boys was important to me. When it was time for them to attend religious school, Mom and I went shul shopping. I joined TBI because I felt welcomed and comfortable coming from an interfaith family. TBI has been there for me and my family in our times of need. My boys went to Sunday school and I found myself attending Hebrew classes. In June of 2005 I was part of a group of 7 women who were honored to celebrate our B'not Mitzvot together. It was so meaningful for us.

One day that spring I received a phone call from Alyce Heman who asked me to serve on the sisterhood board. I said yes. What a powerful word. I never realized that saying yes would lead me to be as involved in the life of this congregation and our sisterhood as I am today. A few years later, I received another call asking me to serve as Co-President of Sisterhood. I remember asking, WHY ME? Saying yes allowed me to make a difference and led me on a journey that has broadened my knowledge of Tikkun Olam, challenge myself to learn about social advocacy issues and Judaism. I had the privilege to serve as Co-President with Laura Cooper and Dale Cone.

Saying yes led to a journey of leadership within Sisterhood, TBI and Women of Reform Judaism. I found friendship, spiritual growth and have become part of a caring community dedicated to Tikkun Olam. There is always room to grow and develop ones Jewish identity. You can never stop learning.

Five years ago I had a vision for our sisterhood's centennial and now it's here. Many members of Sisterhood helped plan the programs and events throughout the year. I'm so proud to be part of this phenomenal organization. It's been very rewarding to finally see everything come together. You don't know how much I'm kvelling at all the accomplishments we have achieved.

Our sisterhood has a rich history of supporting this congregation from the very beginning. So if you get that call, don't be afraid of saying yes. Becoming involved at TBI can be so meaningful and provide satisfaction beyond words. There are so many opportunities for you to become involved and feel empowered. I challenge you to say yes.