

Centennial Remarks
by
Marcia Satyr

My husband Ira and I began our relationship with TBI more than 37 years ago. At the time we were members of another congregation when our son literally begged us to join TBI. We had joined that synagogue for the sake of convenience. Our son was in Hebrew school there and our daughters were attending the religious school. The convenient aspect was that they provided bus service. I was already working full time and wasn't able to arrive home soon enough to drive our son to class, so having bus service to transport him was a big help. The problem was that he hated that bus ride. Since we lived here in Skokie and the synagogue was in Rogers Park, he was the first one picked up and the last one to be dropped off at home.

At the time, TBI was located in the building that is on the corner of Howard and Crawford, only four blocks from home and right across the street from East Prairie School, which our children attended. Our son had several friends who were in Hebrew school here and were able to just walk across the street and be ready for class. He presented a pretty convincing argument. Besides we weren't at all involved in any activities at that other congregation and went to services pretty much only on the High Holidays, so making the switch didn't seem like such a big deal. For us the only thing that made us hesitate was the fact that this is a Reform temple and we weren't sure if we would feel comfortable at the services. On the other hand, we didn't expect to be attending that often and if our son was going to be so much happier, we decided it would be doable. We informed the other congregation that we were leaving and became members of TBI.

From the first time we walked into the building we knew that we had made the right choice. We were greeted warmly by people whom we could see really wanted to get to know us. It was also nice to be with families who we already knew from the neighborhood. We had always felt rather anonymous at the other synagogue and really hadn't made any connection with any other members. This was a very welcome change for us.

We started coming to services on Friday night and found that they were quite enjoyable. It was nice to be able to participate and we realized that it was good to pray in English and Hebrew.

Before we knew what was happening, we were doing more than just attending an occasional service. I joined the choir, which gave me such pleasure and after all these years still does. We were both asked to be on committees. At first, for both of us, I think there was some hesitation but soon discovered that it was a good idea.

One Sunday morning, when we were still fairly new members, the doorbell rang. Ira answered the door and there stood a member of Brotherhood. "Ira" he said, "I see you haven't become a member yet. I have a form with me. You can fill it out right now and write me a check." Of course Ira did. It took a while for him to become an active member and for me to become active in Sisterhood. We are so glad that we did and for those of you who know us, you know that we continue to take part in temple life as much as we can.

TBI has become such an important part of our lives. Sometimes it seems that we spend more time here than anywhere else. I can't imagine belonging to any other congregation. Through the years we have felt the care and concern of this special place when we have experienced losses as well as very happy times in our lives. Rabbi Weinberg and Jody, Marla and Lori and so many of you have supported us through them all, for which we are so grateful. Ira and I both hope to continue to be around for as long as we can. We love this temple and are so happy that we can continue to give of ourselves but we are especially thankful for what it has given to us.