

REMARKS – JUNE 6, 2010

Although I am going to be in the office for a few more weeks, working with Laurie, it is time for me to say my formal goodbye – it is not farewell – as I will still be a part of the Emanuel family and community. It is hard to believe that twenty-one years have gone by so fast. It seems like just a few years ago that I met with Joan Lebovitz and Mark Siegal to interview for this position. It came about because Gail Weinstein saw me in front of Waldbaums' s one day and said the Emanuel was looking for an Executive Director, would I be interested. I was working for Israel Bonds at the time and thought this might be a logical growth step, so I said, sure and the rest is history.

I have had the privilege of working with ten presidents since I came here – all wonderful people who have worked so hard to make this shul such a special place – who remain my friends to this day. I still miss Joan Lebovitz, who died way too young, but made an impact on me and the Emanuel. Joanne Pasternack has been the treasurer since Saul Simon, my first mentor, retired from that position and has become my colleague, confidant and friend. I don't know how I would have handled this position without the backing of Joanne and her husband, Saul. There are so many special people who have chaired committees and worked on the board in my

twenty-one years. I can't name them all and am afraid that I would leave out someone, but you all know how I feel about you as friends and how I appreciate all of the effort you have expended to make the Emanuel a home for so many. I have enjoyed working with two senior rabbis, two directors of education, five ritual directors, four cantors and two cantorial students, a supportive office staff who have helped me keep my balance and a wonderful maintenance staff headed by Mercer Mathis (my second husband) and Jack Mullin who has been with the Emanuel longer than I have.

I am so happy to have my family here – all but my one granddaughter, Emily who is in Florida as her brother is graduating from high school this weekend. But I do have my wonderful husband Myles, our terrific sons, Jeremy and his family – Tracy, Breanna and Kylan and Matthew and his family Ayelet and Phineas with me. I am also very lucky to have aunts, uncles, cousins, in-laws and family friends and all of you, my Emanuel family, surrounding me today. I can't begin to tell you just how special and loved this makes me feel. I want to take one minute to thank my husband for being so supportive of all of the time I have spent here over the years. I could not have done it if Myles had not assumed the lion's share of parenting, housekeeping and laundry through the years. (Thank heavens he did or I wouldn't have had any clean clothes to wear) He has also been my

sounding board and support in so many ways and has also done his share of helping around the synagogue.

The past two years I have worked with Alan Parker who has been a terrific president and will continue this coming year to guide the Emanuel and our new Executive Director, Laurie Leader. You are very fortunate to have Alan and his commitment. Thank you Alan and thank you to the entire committee, chaired by Marci Brody, Cindy Cohen, and Val Michaels, who have helped to bring about this unbelievable occasion in my honor. All things must ultimately come to an end and this is my time to end this phase of my life and begin another. I am not sure what the future will hold, but I will always look back on these years as such an important part of my life.

A few years ago, Myles and I were on a cruise and met a lovely couple from Wales. When I explained my occupation, the woman said “Oh you are in the business of hatch, match and dispatch”. While that is certainly a short description, I have had the privilege of being part of many of your lives during simchas as well as sorrows. It has been a real honor and I feel that you are all a part of my family and always will be.

I want to leave you by reading a short note that my grandmother, Ray Hyman, wrote to me when I was installed as the president of the Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Israel in 1978. I was the third generation to serve as a

Sisterhood president – my grandmother in St. Petersburg, FL, my mother, Lenore, in Cincinnati, OH and me here in Hartford.

“I know I will never be able to express in words what this day means to me, as tears of joy come to my eyes even now thinking about it.

To a great extent you have attained maturity. You are thoughtful and kind, you have a love of your Temple and religion that has been handed from me to my daughter and from her to you. I hope you will always be a true daughter of Israel.

No matter what sorrow or trouble comes to you in later life and none of us are free from it, your faith in God will carry you thru, and in service for others you will always find happiness for yourself.

Wealth is not a matter of dollars and cents but a love of truth, virtue and honor and service. May God bless you with all these virtues.”

I hope that I have lived in a way to make my grandmother proud...I hope I have been of service to others while I have served in this position and I hope that with your prayers and the help of those I love, I will continue to go from strength to strength.

Thank you all for being with me today!