STATE OF THE SYNAGOGUE ANNUAL APPEAL

SPEECH FOR

SHERRI PARMAN

Hello everyone, and Happy, Healthy, Sweet New Year! We’ve all been inscribed in the book of life for a **good** New Year- well…. **THAT** took a load off my mind!!! (**Wait for the laugh**) and we are absolutely thrilled to share this year’s High Holy Days with each one of you. Whether you are here with your family or with friends, or if you’ve accompanied yourself to this year’s services, I want you to know that we welcome each one of you with open arms and your presence here is really a mitzvah on so many levels. It’s wonderful that you have chosen to acknowledge your faith alongside of each one of us, and although we all share an invisible connection to all Jews by birth and “osmosis” throughout the year, it is especially gratifying that we stand-or sit-or lean as one community along with our brothers and sisters and cousins and friends **throughout the world**. Imagine that there is a small spot of light emanating from each one of you, and now picture the cluster of light coming from this congregation…. picture the same type of light filling the night sky as it bursts forth from the other synagogues in the area, in the county, the state, the country, the world. Tonight, all of the dots connect and the constellation of Judaism burns bright for the world to see. We all stand together as a force to be reckoned with-a force filled with humor and history, compassion and pride.

We are here tonight to take a few moments from our impossibly busy and complicated lives to take a deep breath, follow the path laid by our ancestors, and honor our heritage. Being able to experience the age old rituals practiced by our fathers and their fathers and those that came before, reinforces what it means to be Jewish or to embrace Judaism. We belong to this very special community, and it is our mandate to preserve the precious context of this synagogue and the Jewish legacy that belongs to each one of us.

(**If you want to be funny, you can say**) Although legend teaches us the history of the Jewish people in a one-liner that goes like this, “They tried to kill us, we won, let’s eat!” (**Wait for the laugh**), being a part of Congregation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ means so much more-really! (**After this I will go on to include your talking points and encourage the fund raising drive**)