HONORS SPEECH FOR

BARRY SARIN

Hello everyone! To all of our fellow congregants and to Rabbi \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and all of the distinguished guests and friends sharing this wonderful occasion, it is a great thrill for all of us in the Sarin clan to be here tonight to witness and **kvell** a little…. **nah**… **A LOT** for the honor my wonderful wife Sheryl is receiving tonight. We’ve all heard the expression, “Behind every great man, there’s a great woman.” The origin of this quote is uncertain, but one thing I know for sure is that there’s a great woman who has been **beside** me for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years and has also been a source of grace, strength and heart for this synagogue for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years. That is my wife, the wonderful and beautiful Sheryl Sarin. Apparently, we can also say that behind every great synagogue, there’s a great woman, and that’s also Sheryl Sarin!

(**Turn to Sheryl and say**) Sheryl, tonight is your night and as Congregation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ celebrates your achievements and honors you for your innumerable contributions to this wonderful synagogue, I want you, and everyone to know how much we love you and just how proud we are of you. To us you are “**honey”** (**or name the pet name you use for your wife**), or to (**name your children**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mom, and although every day you inspire us, your family, with your love and caring, organizational skills, your agility with running our home like a well oiled machine while simultaneously juggling countless projects at your job at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**if she works, name the place where your wife works**), and your unique way with a recipe and some kitchen equipment, we are, as “they” say, “gobsmacked” as we observe the endless energy and joy you bring to your participation here. Just when we thought you were quiet, shy Sheryl, content to be supportive in the background, our jaws drop as we observe how you’ve blossomed into a true leader, one who shares your strength of purpose, your intelligence, your compassion and your genuine love of contribution. You truly offer your time and talents to the places where those skills are needed the most, and your achievements here at Temple \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ demonstrate your love of this place and your commitment to your faith. Everyone knows all that you’ve done here, but once again, I’d like some “**Kvell time**!” Not only have you been President for 2 years, you’ve held several volunteer executive positions in the synagogue, and how many committees have you chaired? I couldn’t say-I ran out of fingers! (**Wait for the laugh)**. You’re a regular at Saturday morning services, and your warmth and grace and your love of participation here really makes this an inviting **home** of worship to come to, and that is **really** an accomplishment in this day and age of apathy and sensory overload. I have to admit that although there may have been times that I probably wasn’t the most supportive of husbands, your commitment to this community, your determination to serve and your passion to support the traditions that make the practice of Judaism so special and so much a part of the fiber of each and every one of us, has shown me what I already knew since the day I met you, and that is that you are an incredible human being and a force to be reckoned with!

Every ritual and custom that is a part of the observance of the Jewish faith serves its purpose in reminding each one of us that we do what we do as links in an unbreakable chain of practice that is thousands of years old. I know that even though I may be more of a casual participant here at Temple \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, your passion reminds me that I, too, am part of that chain and we **doven** as a testament to all those who came before us. We share and maintain this synagogue so that our children and their children have a place to belong-a place where each one of us stands together as a strong Jewish presence in the world. Sheryl, your selfless devotion to this congregation gives us all the faith, the strength, and the reason to carry on these precious traditions. In your eyes I see that although our people have struggled so much through the years, **YOU** work tirelessly to make sure that the light of faith burns strongly and proudly within each one of us.

(**Name your children**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I want you to know how much we love you and how proud we are that you bring so much to this community. Thank you for all that you do for us as a family and may all of the blessings you’ve brought to so many multiply 100 fold and give you more “**naches**” than you could ever handle!!

(**If you are going to be having dinner and you want to leave on a funny note, you can add**) And before I leave this podium (**or you can say, surrender the mike, or allow others to speak**), I would like to invoke and remind all of you of the classical way in which all Jewish celebrations are commemorated…”They tried to kill us. We won. Let’s eat!!!” **L’Chaim**!

Thank you all!