

Gaby and Steven's Yom Kippur Remarks from the Bima

[G] *Shanah Tovah.*

[S] That's Gaby Charlton. She grew up in Grants Pass, Oregon, and came to our community by way of Brandeis, law school, and a legal career. Together with her husband Dan, they make their home here in Seattle with their two school-aged kids Avi and Hannah. Despite a high-powered professional life and a very full plate with family and friends, Gaby is a tireless joiner including sharing a lot of her time and energy at Temple Beth Am, on committees, as a member of the Board, and as our current President. She's told me that even at times of great personal stress, she draws tremendous strength and meaning from the many ways she shows up at Beth Am, and the Beth Am community shows up for her.

[G] And that's Steven Snyder I met Steven not long after his family joined Beth Am in 2016, after moving from New Jersey to Seattle for work as a lawyer at a family office. In fact, I'm pretty sure it was coffee at Grateful Bread where I learned about Steven's trajectory from Boston to New Jersey to Seattle, along with his wife Helen and their kids, Lev, Hannah and Ari. That day, I talked to Steven about joining what at the time was the development committee and since then we've served on numerous committees together in addition to the board. Pretty sure we also talked about Broadway shows and a whole host of other topics we had in common. Since then we've engaged in countless meetings together, even after Steven has just biked back from work on the East side and even then the draw of community wins out after the end of a long day. Steven has always told me that one of the big reasons he keeps showing up is how important it is to him to walk through Beth Am's doors and know people and have them know him.

[S] Showing up at Beth Am enabled us to become friends, to support one another and work together - whether wearing our Board or committee hats, or sharing our joys and sorrows over coffee or wine or on a cozy porch. Sometimes it's tough to show up after long hard days, but we each feel a bit more nurtured, seen, or fulfilled when we do.

[G] We're not here to ask you for money today, or even to sign up or commit to work on a project or committee.

[S] Although those would of course be nice...

[G] We're here to ask you to **SHOW UP**. We know from Project Bina, our ongoing listening campaign, just how important it is for so many of you to find ways to connect and engage. So we're here to talk, very briefly we promise, about opportunities to **SHOW UP** and capture for yourself some more of the joy and satisfaction we've found here.

[S] If some aspect of being here today - learning, chanting, praying, thinking, talking, sharing, teaching, healing the world, meditating, sitting among your family and friends, or just being here in Jewish community - brings you fulfillment, we want to offer you more of that fulfillment during the rest of the year.

[G] If Rabbi's Ruth's thoughts about the epidemic of loneliness, and the remedies Judaism and Temple Beth Am have on offer, particularly after this past year, resonate with you, we have some ideas that might nurture your soul and open ways for you to see and be seen in a place where everybody can know your name.

[S] If you think you might like to **SHOW UP** for just an hour, just an event, or a whole season of learning, praying, singing, dancing, playing, talking, sharing, or healing the world together toward a goal, we've got some ideas.

[G] Come to a regular Friday night or Saturday morning service, and stay for a nosh or share a dish at our community dinner – even better, invite a friend

- [S] Join us for our monthly parsha and poker evening
- [G] Support congregants in challenging times by delivering a healing challah or two
- [S] Study Torah or Talmud at torah study or a minyan service
- [G] Support and learn about Israel through the Israel Engagement Team
- [S] Make or deliver sandwiches for Angeline's Kitchen
- [G] Sing in the choir
- [S] Join a Hearth Group to share a passion, learn something new, or just get to know a fellow member new to you
- [G] Help the brotherhood set-up or take down our Sukkah
- [S] Learn with fellow seniors or with guest lecturers and our clergy
- [G] Enjoy donuts, coffee and good company at our Gan first Sundays
- [S] Join the Sisterhood for torah and tea, the Jewish Film Festival, or Midrash and Mimosas
- [G] Make a shiva minyan
- [S] Join your fellow teens on a trip to DC and lobby Congress, compete in a Moot Beit Din and experience Jewish history and culture in New York
- [G] Discuss a book with one of our various book groups
- [S] Join a Gan movie night or trip to the beach or other fun spots
- [G] Quaff a Purim Cocktail (or serve a few)
- [S] Build a tiny home with H2R or help support immigrant communities with our Immigrant justice cohort
- [G] Be part of a Tot Shabbat, bagels and playing at Dahl Field
- [S] Welcome congregants at the door
- [G] Study for b'nai mitzvah – child or adult
- [S] Join one of our weekly Mah Jong games, yoga classes or meditation moments
- [G] Wrestle with tough questions together (you know, marriage, kids, politics, justice, war, peace, policy....)
- [S] Take action as part of Religious Action Center initiatives and campaigns.
- [G] Kvetch together!
- [S] and there is always more, read our Beth Am Happenings Friday email for “Ways to Connect” opportunities, or even better SUGGEST SOMETHING Beth Am might help organize or support.

[G] And when you do SHOW UP, know that you are not alone. One of the greatest privileges for our Board members is to serve as your ambassadors. Look for our nifty name tags, and we'd be happy to welcome you and make introductions

[S] After the holidays, you'll be seeing a survey about the gifts you bring to Beth Am, we encourage you

to fill this out so that we can get to know you better and where we might help you connect..

[G] You'll also see more info about ways to get involved at our Sukkot Festival on October 20th and on signage around temple.

[S] We encourage you to pick one new thing this year and just SHOW UP.

[G] We look forward to getting to know you better.

[G & S] *G'mar chatima tovah.*