

Incoming President's Remarks
Congregation Kol Shofar Annual Meeting
June 1, 2016

Thank you so much for this honor. I want to thank Steve Tulsy, who soon will be the immediate past president, for doing so much heavy lifting over the past two years. He has done yeoman's duty on negotiating contracts, revising systems, and reaching out inside and outside of our community. I think it is safe to say, we have no idea all that he has taken care of and put to bed.

I can't think of more of a dream team to be working with than Kaia and Rabbi Leider and Rabbi Levy. This is going to be fun!

As many of you here tonight know, nine years ago, my husband Mike Jackman was about to become Board president when he was killed in a car accident. So, to be here tonight is a great honor and has special meaning for me.

L'dor v'dor is a key concept for me, being the fourth generation in my family to be involved in the Jewish community in the Bay Area. On a personal level, I hope that Mike's memory and my work in the next few years will inspire our sons to also get involved in the Jewish community. It is rewarding beyond words.

So, in the midst of this political season, let me frame my thoughts in political terms. I see three planks to my platform. Or in other words, there are three things I am hoping to accomplish in the next two years.

The first is to bring the next generation of leaders onto the Board. This next generation is going to be leading Jewish lives that will be different from what many of us have known. There is so much new, exciting innovation in Judaism that will be evolving over the next decades. We need these thinkers, leaders, and funders helping to envision how Kol Shofar will continue to be a welcoming, bustling home to Conservative Jews in Marin.

At the same time, we need to continue to provide services and programs for members who are quite comfortable with Kol Shofar as it is. We need to work together to meet everyone's needs. An element of Judaism's magic is how our tradition has evolved over time while staying true to its core. We are no different than our ancestors: we need to be respectful of each other and listen to each other, with both sides adapting.

And finally, it is time to revisit the Conditional Use Permit (CUP). We've been good neighbors and now it's time to see if we can use our building and facilities more fully. It would be great if, with a loosening of the CUP, we could find ways to bring in more revenue. But if we find that we can't, then we need to let go of that idea and move on. Let's spend our energy on what we can actually change.

So, once again, I want to thank you all for the honor of being the Board president.