Michigan summer, I have come to find, is the most glorious season of them all. Far beyond regular summer—which is certainly loved by many—Michigan summer carries with it so much extra joy at finally making it through the long winter and even longer spring. And excitement for summer 2021 is at an all-time high as, God willing, Covid cases continue to drop and being out in public only gets safer.

Usually I have the pleasure of planning my own Michigan summers around visits to some of our amazing local sleepaway camps where so many TBE youth and teens go to unwind and grow. This year, however, most camps are (understandably!) not allowing outside visitors, like in the past. While I wish I could go and greet our kids in person, I’m excited to share that we are continuing our tradition of mailing postcards to TBE campers at any and all camps. I’ve also been in communication with several camps that have many TBE campers to explore additional ways that Temple can still be part of our kids’ summer memories. (Hint: a special dessert might be involved!)

I hope that in future years, we’ll get to return to combing Michigan and even some surrounding states to connect with TBE campers. In the meantime, though, I look forward to writing personal messages on all (all!) of our kids’ postcards. And most of all I can’t wait to see them—and, hopefully, you—walking into our building in the fall.

Rabbi Megan Brudney
TEMPLE BETH EL
SUMMER CAMPERS
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**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

**ALAN LOWEN - RECIPIENT OF THIS YEAR’S PRESIDENT’S CUP**

Alan began teaching in our religious school in 1988. It wasn’t long before he started taking on more responsibility for our B’nai Mitzvah program, tutoring Temple children as they learned their Torah portions. Through the 1990s and into the 2000s, Alan shared his Torah talents with the full congregation as he helped prepare for weekly Torah readings at Shabbat services throughout the year. In 2004, he was officially named Temple’s B’nai Mitzvah Coordinator, taking charge of preparing students for their Bar or Bat Mitzvah, along with adult B’nai Mitzvah. Alan has stood beside generations of students on the bimah as their gabbai—calling up family and friends for aliyot, gently encouraging students while they read and sharing with them a vibrant and vital life moment.

For the past 31 years, Alan has truly embodied Torah at Temple Beth El, as he has tirelessly, patiently and lovingly guided our congregants—young and old—in the fundamental mitzvah of reading Torah. And while he is retiring this year, we look forward to his continued presence on the bimah during Shabbat and Jewish holidays.

Mazel tov Alan!