



Dear Friends,

*Erev tov* and *mazal tov* to our honorees this evening! As we celebrate a new month in our Jewish calendar it is inspirational to honor long time members like Jahn and Sabrina Levin and Judy Mittleman Freund. I have known them since I first came to this community a dozen years ago and I believe some of the first life-cycle events I took part in were a baby naming for their children: Sarabeth Levin and Jonah Freund's Brit Milah. In less than a week we will be observing the festival of Shavuot –commemorating when God gave the Torah to our ancient Israelite ancestors at the foot of Mt. Sinai, thus linking them irrevocably as a nation, and giving them laws, traditions and a history to guide them. So tonight, we come together as one community, celebrating with one another and honoring those who have done a great deal for this congregation over the years, through volunteer work, donations and most of all, in their overall *presence* here at OWHC – that is the greatest *present* to us all!

With Blessings,

Rabbi Stanger, Sandi Stanger & Family