



Shalom

I am Iris Kingma-Johnson and it is my pleasure to serve as your 2nd Vice President. I was born in the Netherlands where I went to medical school obtaining my MD in 1979. I met and married my first husband in 1975 and we have two children, now adults of course. In 1980 we emigrated to Canada and lived in Calgary for the next decade. In 1990 I moved to the beautiful City of Quebec where I where I had my practice as an internist-nephrologist. It was quite the change, not only for me but also for the children. They started their life in Dutch, then learned English in Calgary and then they had to change into French in Quebec. I learned French in school but it wasn't my strongest subject. That said, I have always loved learning languages and I am fluent in five. Still working on my Hebrew though.

In 1999 I moved to New Jersey, met and married my husband Neil and stayed there for a decade. I do my life in decades it would seem. I worked for a large pharmaceutical company, then moved to Minnesota where I worked for a large medical device company. In 2014 I decided to retire. We had purchased a second residence in Arizona and were snowbirds for some time and moved permanently to Arizona in 2019, just before Covid struck.

Beth Emeth became my spiritual home in 2019, after visiting from time to time as a snowbird. This has been a wonderful place to be. It has inspired me to further my Jewish education and I was privileged for almost 4 years to study with Rabbi Robert Sternberg (z"l) who guided me to becoming bat mitzvah in 2003. He taught me to chant Haftarah, something I love to do, if not just to remind myself of my precious time with such a wise teacher. Bob passed away too early and too young, he had so much more to give and teach. We will always be grateful for the many services he led at Beth Emeth, on Shabbat and during the High Holidays, bridging the long hiatus we experienced as we continued our search for a spiritual leader.

I am serving my second time as your 2nd VP. My responsibilities, in short, are everything related to membership and publications and I invite you to contact me with any questions and suggestions you may have, including those that relate to your own membership. As you all know we continue to seek to increase our membership and I am grateful to members of the various committees I oversee in this role, including Harvey Zelensky, Sandy Shedroff, Suzan Giloni and Gary Cohen. I am looking forward to adding to these anyone of you who would like to help us in this very important endeavor. The publications I oversee are related directly to these efforts as we try to increase our visibility in the community through our website, our Observer, our presence in local newspapers and with Shalom clubs. Again, there is a need here for your help. I am sure that among you are some that have the talents and the enthusiasm to look for roles to fill and places to increase our presence. Don't be shy, I continue to have to learn too. We would love to have your insights on how to increase our scope and presence in our community and beyond.

I am looking forward to meeting you. My email is Iris.Kingma-Johnson@bethemethaz.org or you can leave a message for me to contact you by calling the office.