

DRE Report to the Board  
June 2019  
Submitted by Bethany Vaccaro

Dear Board members,

What a beautiful end to the RE year!

This past Sunday, we welcomed the entire congregation downstairs to an RE-hosted coffee hour. We offered as much assistance around accessibility as we could, and although it may not have been perfect, the outcome was still overwhelmingly positive. I heard exclamations of wonder and delight over and over again from folks who haven't been downstairs recently, or at all. *What a lovely space!* was a common refrain. The kids were delighted to show off their work and all of the creations they've lovingly made over the past few months. It was a great moment of the whole congregation coming together in a different way, and it felt very special.

Next year, I am so looking forward to riding this wave to increasingly offer multi-generational programming. With a re-vamped Mystery Friend program and more RE-hosted breakfasts and coffee hours, there are so many options for us to continue to weave our community together in new ways. I know that as we grow, it's important that we be willing to try things imperfectly, knowing that there is always room to adjust.

You may also have noticed the "soft" unveiling of our new play on our name as Religious *Exploration* (it's part of our bulletin board display for the summer!). It's important to the RE Committee and to me that we continue to move away from the idea that adults come to RE to teach the kids. Rather, what we want to emphasize is that we are creating an environment where we can truly be and learn *with* each other, and where we are individually empowered to be who we are and find our place in the collective.

Many, many thanks for all of the support throughout this year. We are in the middle of a beautiful period of growth, and we've all played a part in that. Thank YOU!

With love,  
Bethany