

Shabbat Shalom. I feel very touched to have been asked to represent this decade at Emunah. A lot happened during our decade which benefited the whole Temple and especially Ailsa and myself. Still, when asked, I wasn't sure I was the best person to represent our decade because I kind of fit into more than one decade ... partly because of working at the preschool for so long, Ailsa and I feel like the gay aunties to a large number of children and young adults associated with Emunah, and partly because in 1993, at age 30, I celebrated my Bat Mitzvah with one of my favorite people, Annette Koren. So Emunah has felt like home for a long time for me.

But Ailsa and my more official connection to Emunah began in 2008. We thought, when we started shul shopping as a lesbian (and at that point interfaith) couple of sorts, that Isaiah would be the shul for us, but Emunah somehow resonated with us. Everyone was so welcoming and the services had such beauty and depth to them ... so we joined. Then one day, Ailsa said to me, "I feel Jewish," and I told her we should go talk to Rabbi Lerner about conversion. His response: "Then you'll be able to get married under the huppah!" Which had never occurred to us, since we'd had a legal ceremony in 2004. He helped us join a conversion class and met with us once a month for a year. And he and Rabbi Jacobs took the time to create a Jewish same-sex wedding ceremony and Ketubah for us. If we hadn't already felt loved and accepted at Emunah, that clinched it.

Over the last 11 years we have been amazed that Emunah has managed to become even more welcoming and innovative – adding meditation, yoga, a Pride Minyan and Pride discussion led by Meir, taking on recycling and composting, and looking into solar energy. Emunah has been able to keep faith with tradition and embrace new ways of

interacting with each other and the world. It is what makes it such a special place for Ailsa and myself. Shabbat Shalom.