

Muriel Hoff

*We come here on this New Year
To worship
To praise G-d
To return to our heritage
To ask forgiveness
To join with fellow Jews
aspiring to repair the world
erase suffering and misery
and know contentment and peace.*

--Muriel Hoff

Beth David Synagogue High Holy Days book, 2005

I am proud and honored to have written the cover poem for the High Holy booklet for over fifty years. I worked my way up from the back cover to the front cover.

As a child in the depression era Bronx I did not have access to Jewish education and only attended synagogue on the High Holy days. Even so I felt very close to God, and ever since I was a little girl I was very spiritual. George, my husband, grew up in Manhattan in a religious environment.

When we moved to Greensboro in the mid-fifties George and I became active members of the Men's Club and the Sisterhood. Eventually, George served as President of the Men's Club and I as President of the Sisterhood, for two terms each. George started the Mother's Day breakfast, which he chaired for twenty five years and I wrote the skits for the Hi-Lows.

My pet project was the Torah Fund luncheon which raised money for the Jewish Theological Seminary, and which I was the Chairman of for twenty five years.

In gratitude for George's summer camp experience George established an annual scholarship fund for Camp Ramah. I started the Beth David Visiting Scholar program. When the Jewish Federation was created George and I were among its first donors. We wanted to give back to the community, and we wanted to offer others the same opportunities we enjoyed.

With our legacy gift I dream that more people will become educated to the importance of Jewish traditions and want to carry them on in the family values...take classes and learn more, participate and try to do their best for their children and for future generations.