

President's Message October 2003

As I sit in my home tonight and listen to the winds of Isabel, I am reflecting on what the upcoming High Holy days mean to me. My earliest recollections of the holidays are that it was a time that my grandparents would come out from New York and spend time in synagogue with my parents, my brother and me. It was all about family and spirituality. From my mother's parents, who were much more religious than our family, I received an education in how to treat religion seriously. From my father's parents, I received a gift of how to enjoy life. And from my parents, I learned how to mix the two together. Who am I this holiday season? I am a grandson, a son, a husband, a father and a temple president. This season finds me at a place in my life where I am comfortable with whom I have become as an adult. I owe what I am to my wife, my family, my friends and the members of this congregation.

I am both humble and proud to represent this congregation. My spiritual home and my spiritual family is right here in the heart of Washington. May we share much joy and little sorrow with each other this coming year. You are all truly my second family. My wish for you all this year is that is be a healthy, sweet, happy, spiritually rewarding and prosperous year.

L'Shanah Tovah.
Howie Hirsch