

President's Message January 2011

One of the many advantages of travel is to be able to experience new cultures and people, as well as other traditions that are different from our own. I write this letter from the balmy tropics of the Bahamas, where my daughter Allison and I are scuba diving. We were aware that we would be here during the Christmas holiday. I did not realize that the Bahamas, being British, would also celebrate Boxing Day, which I am still not sure of the origins or traditions of, but I plan to learn some.

But the celebration that I had never heard of before is a holiday called Junkanoo. Through the main street of Nassau there will be a huge parade beginning at 1 a.m. on December 26th. From everything that I can find out about Junkanoo, it is a Mardi Gras or Carnivale type celebration. We are planning on altering our sleep patterns so that we can attend this celebration.

As for the New Year, my wish for all of you is simple. May you be healthy. May your family enjoy good health. May life be sweet for you. May you have good friends to help you share the good times in your life. And more important, may you have a good support system in place when things don't go so well.

I thank each and every member of this congregation for being my friend in good times and bad. I love you all and wish you the best year ever in 2011.

Love,
Howie Hirsch