

President's Message November 2014

When I became President of the JCNWJ, one of my tasks included writing a monthly President's message. In writing past messages, I have attempted to avoid personalizing the messages, expressing my political views and writing on controversial religious topics. My messages have been primarily focused on our community and our connections to one another.

This month's message is an exception to my rule. As some of you are aware, immediately prior to the holidays, my mother suffered a major heart attack in the middle of the night that required immediate by-pass surgery. Thankfully, the surgery went well and she is on her way to recovery. In addition, my oldest brother has been experiencing serious health issues. The congregation was made aware of my family health issues as my family and I traveled to western Maryland and could not spend Yom Kippur or break-the-fast with the congregation as we have each year since joining the Jewish Center seven years ago.

Through this trying time, the members of JCNWJ have showed amazing support to me and my family. Board members stepped up to pinch-hit for me at Yom Kippur services. Bob Margolis effectively delivered the High Holiday appeal (with some humorous flair I am told). Howie Hirsch took my place on the bimah, holding the Torah for Kol Nidre and assisting the Rabbi and the Cantor. Many congregants expressed their sincere concerns for both my mother and brother.

Rabbi Zamore reached out on many occasions and even provided streamed Yom Kippur services which my family and I could view while at the hospital during the holiday. Our student cantor, Lilah, added support as well. I truly felt part of a community that cares for one another, a community that I personally connect with and am proud to be a part of.

Thank you all for your support and kind words. Perhaps the best part is knowing that the same outpouring of support, encouragement and thoughtfulness would be there for any one of our members.

Mo Bauer