

September 2015 Message from President Howie Hirsch

“Back to the Future”

Here I go again, turn the page.

It is with great excitement and anticipation that I begin my new/old role as President of the congregation. We are in another great time of change, similar to when Mo relieved me of my duties two years ago. We welcome [Rabbi Andy Dubin](#) to our pulpit. We also welcome the talented and experienced Cantor Ted Labow to our community. We have members filling positions on our [board](#) (Cindy Wilson will be replacing long-time Treasurer Paul May; Alison Shelofsky will be co-chairing Sisterhood with Rochelle Ostenfeld; and Jeannie Berkowitz and Debbie Kahan will be leading our Membership Committee). But some old friends remain in their current roles (Iris Hirsch will continue to lead our Ritual Committee and Jeff Berkowitz will continue to run the House Committee and tend to our wonderful building).

My hope for all of you is to be active in our congregation, whether it be by singing in the choir, hosting an oneg, attending services, attending social events, or attending educational events, such as the Hebrew reading program that will begin this Fall. There are numerous activities and opportunities that will enable you to connect with your fellow congregants. I hope you will take advantage of them.

To me, the most important function of a congregation is its ability to form a community. In western New Jersey, our Jewish community is rather small, yet the eager participation of each one of our members keeps it alive and vibrant.

My wish for the new year is that it is a healthy one for you and your families.

L'Shanah Tovah,
Howie Hirsch