

November 2015 Message from President Howie Hirsch

For those of you who are math wizards, I am sure that you figured out from last month's quiz, that right around the time you are reading this, I will be turning 60.

I am truly blessed with my life. I have a wife who I adore and who loves me. I had a wonderful mother and still have a fantastic father. I have wonderful family and friends surrounding me and making me feel loved.

In addition to all of that, I have all of you, my temple family. The love and support I get from my temple family is one of the reasons that I keep coming back as your president.

One of the things that I would like to ask of all of us is to try and be more loving to the members of our temple family. If you hear someone's name on the Misheberach list, give them a call (not an email) and let them know that you care about them. Call up a member you know well or maybe not as well and ask them to come to Shabbat services with you. We pride ourselves on being a warm and welcoming community and that is what I love about us, but we can always make one more phone call. Let's make an honest effort to be more welcoming to our temple members, our family and our friends.

Let this be the year that we let go of an old grudge and forgive or make peace with those who we have grown apart from or with whom our relationship has been strained. Be the bigger person and make that call. Make peace with someone before it is too late. Life is short and friend and family relationships can get complicated. Be the person who makes them simpler.

As I start my seventh decade of living, I realize that I can always do better. I can be a better friend, a better husband, a better father, and a better person.

Thank you for everything that you do to keep Judaism alive in Northwest New Jersey.

Howie Hirsch