

# February 2017 Message from President Howie Hirsch

## Community

What is a community? To me, a community is a group of people who work, pray, live, and more importantly, support one another. We hopefully all belong to more than one community. In my life, I have my family, my friends outside temple, my friends from temple, my work community and then various other communities such as parents of my children's teammates throughout the year. I consider myself a lucky person to have the support system that I have when things go bad, as they will from time to time.

One of the things that I think is critical in this time in our country is to enlarge our communities so that we are talking to folks outside the Jewish community. Over the past year, we have made outreach events with the [AME church in Washington](#), and we are beginning to make inroads with the Lutheran church in Washington. In addition, Rabbi Dubin has done a radio show with Pastor Fowler from the Methodist Church in Hackettstown. I believe that these relationships are critical to surviving as a Jewish organization in Warren County. We need to be extra vigilant regarding any anti-Semitic events or articles that are published. Having relationships outside of the Temple to other religious organizations, so that other folks see we are not that different, is critical.

I wish that every one of you could have attended the services we held on the weekend of Martin Luther King's birthday. Having Reverend Terrilisa Bauknight speak at our temple was a moving experience and Rabbi Dubin's sermon at the AME church was just as amazing.

I came away from that weekend feeling great about the progress we have made, but we still have a long way to go. I ask that you join us on this journey.

Love, Howie