

January 2018 Message from President Howie Hirsch

As I look back on this past year, I try to think of all of the positives that have occurred this year.

Here are my highlights:

- We have hired a wonderful cantor, Avital Lazar, who is continuing our wonderful cantorial presence in the synagogue.
- We have started a project to make mats for the homeless.
- We have continued our ongoing food drive for the local food banks.
- We have done another year of volunteering at America's Grow-a-Row.
- We have a new board with new commitment to the congregation, as well as retaining many of our returning board members.
- We have recycled our president for the fifth time.
- We have continued to have a wonderful year with our Rabbi.
- We have continued our Book Club.
- We had our first and hopefully annual Bark Mitzvah – a blessing of the animals.
- We have been actively planning our congregational trip to Israel.
- We have continued the Mah Jong Group.
- We have had meaningful Shabbat services as well as very spiritual High Holiday services.
- We have started studying the *Book of Judges* in the Rabbi's Adult Education class.
- We have been blessed to have Shira Dubin participate and begin to take over the teaching of our younger Sunday School class.
- We have continued our outreach into the Washington community by participating with the AME church.
- We participated in the area at the Thanksgiving prayer service.

May our year for 2018 look as blessed as 2017 has been.

And for those of you whose 2017 was not as good as you had hoped, I wish for you a brighter and happier 2018.

Shalom with much love,
Howie