

March 2020 Message from President Howie Hirsch

Tovim HaSh'neyim min ha-ehad – Two are better off than one.

Early last month, I was able to attend the Scheidt Seminar for presidents of congregations that belong to the Union for Reform Judaism. Rabbi Rick Jacobs led off our Thursday night session, after some wonderful introductory music from Cantor Rosalie Will, with a talk starting with the above words, Two are better off than one. What does this mean? It means that we are better off when we have more than one person to share the load of any job. It means we are not meant to be alone. It means that there is strength in numbers.

As your president, what it means to me is that I need your help. I do not know if I need more help than you are already giving, as many of you are working for the temple as much as you possibly can. Others may have time or motivation to assist more. One of the things I realized at this seminar (and I have had this thought for many years) is how much we are able to accomplish as a small congregation.

And I am certainly not the one doing most of the work. Our board members are dedicated volunteers. One of the things that I was most proud of sharing with the group of presidents is how cordial our board members are to each other. Listening to some of the horror stories from other boards, it is apparent that we are in the minority of peaceful temple boards. We do not agree nor must we agree on everything, as long as we are able to discuss the issues that will make the temple a better place. This is along with the notion that what is best for one of us is not necessarily best for the temple. We use multiple voices to come up with creative ways of doing many different things.

When it comes to the Purim spiel, which is on my mind a lot these days, the collaboration between the director and cast members will make this year's Purim spiel a wonderful production. I really hope that you will be able to come to shul, have dinner with us, and stay for the VERY SHORT service, which will be followed by our temple's Purim spiel. Come in costume (or not) but please come.

See you on Friday, March 6.

Love, Howie

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