

## November 2020 Message from President Howie Hirsch

Shalom,

What utterly amazes me about this congregation is how resilient we are. As a community, even though we are small, we truly do watch out for each other. We are also able to adapt to the most bizarre circumstances that have ever arisen in my life. Instead of folding up shop and waiting for a new normal to arrive, we have been conducting services via Zoom since we were unable to have people in the sanctuary. This led us to a new round of services that occurred over the High Holidays.

We realized during our first high holiday service that the quality of the pre-recorded music and readings was problematic. Rabbi Dubin, his video consultant, Sandra Luckow, and I worked for hours after that first service to come up with a better way to show the pre-recorded segments. I thank the Rabbi and Sandra for the extra time and effort that went into making the recordings for the remaining services go smoothly. But I also want to give a huge thank you to the people who attended the Erev Rosh Hashanah service for coming back the next morning for our Rosh Hashanah morning service. The fact that we were not technically proficient did not stop you from coming back the next day, and that shows resilience. The Rosh Hashanah services went smoothly, and we were relatively confident that Yom Kippur would be as well.

Well, we know the saying "Man plans, and God laughs." So, during the Kol Nidre service, as Rabbi Dubin was leading a prayer, the power went out in Washington. Since we did not know what happened to the Rabbi, I took over and led one prayer. Meanwhile, the Rabbi and his son Ari came up with the idea to join the Zoom service on the Rabbi's phone. From there, the service continued flawlessly. Then on Yom Kippur morning, as I was presenting the videos, my internet connection, which had not gone down in years, decided to go down in the middle of the service. The Rabbi continued and we did not present the videos until I was able to get back online. In my efforts to get back into the service and then back into my computer, I accidentally ended the service. To my surprise, within minutes, everyone was back, and we were able to complete the morning service and Yiskor. The morning service included a wonderful video of the story of Jonah, starring the Sunday School students.

The morning service included a wonderful video of the story of Jonah, starring the Sunday School students. If you have not seen it, I would urge you to [visit our Facebook page and watch this creative, heartwarming presentation](#).

Everything about the participation in these services confirms to me the resilience of this congregation. I wish you all a healthy and happy new year, and please remember to reach out to folks who might need some cheering up in this time of isolation.

Love,

Howie

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