

President's Message October 2021

I am writing my message after attending the Bat Mitzvah of Faye Fletcher, which was held outdoors in Ringoes this past weekend. I also was able to have dinner in the Sukkah on Friday night with Adam, Shira, and our new Student Cantor Shayna Burack, who I hope you all were able to see on Zoom over the High Holidays. Having our Shabbat service outdoors on Friday night was wonderful. There were things that we just did not do on Zoom, and I found out that I truly missed them. One of these was the long Shabbat prayer over the wine that we used to sing before Oneg Shabbat. We sang that prayer with much joy, as I had not heard that prayer since the pandemic started, and it warmed my heart.

We also got to witness the Royce shake as he remembered how to shake the lulav with his own added twist at the end. I hope that some of you were able to enjoy a meal in the Sukkah this past week. I know I have.

The more we Zoom our service, the more I long for in person services. Zoom is an acceptable substitute for me, and a godsend to all who can't make it to services on a given night. And I have been a champion of Zoom since the pandemic started. But I miss people. I miss chatting and laughing and hearing multiple voices singing the prayers. For me, it is just not the same, and the more I attend services in person, the more I want to be at more services in person.

We are taking baby steps to get back to life as it was before the pandemic began, but we are doing it very slowly and deliberately, to not scare you from coming to services.

Have a wonderful October and you will hear from me again next month, G-d willing.

Love Howie