

President's Message December 2021

Happy Chanukah to everyone.

I hope that you have had the opportunity to listen to Uri Feinberg over the past weeks. He is the tour guide who led us on our Israel trip in 2018 and has been giving our temple a wonderful view of Israel. The sessions are highly educational as well as a lot of fun. We have been meeting in the sanctuary to watch these tours on Sundays at 2 PM, as well as on our Zoom links. The first two tours are on YouTube. The videos are posted as "unlisted," which means they can only be accessed with a direct link, not by search. I have sent out emails with the links to the congregation and friends, so you have the ability to watch these tours at your leisure. There are three more scheduled, one for each Sunday in December, and I hope you can take advantage of this opportunity.

Student Cantor Shayna Burack has been working with a small group of people to create a choir to lead prayers for Shabbat services. We hope to share our voices with you in the near future. Student Cantor Burack has also been teaching a class on interpreting the trope markings so that we are learning to chant Torah without listening to a recording. This has been wonderful.

Rabbi has been leading a class on decoding the Hebrew alphabet and will be moving into reading and understanding the prayers that we read and chant on Friday nights.

We were honored to be able to participate in Washington Borough's annual Christmas Tree and Chanukah Menorah lighting last Friday before services. On Saturday, Deb Apsel led us in singing Chanukah songs at the Chesapeake Tavern in Long Valley.

With all this going on, I hope you realize how much time and effort the leadership of this temple puts into finding ways to keep you engaged. We need EVERYONE to do a little to keep this temple flourishing, and I hope that we can count on you to do your part.

Happy Chanukah to all,
With much love,
Howie