

President's Message January 2022

Welcome to a New Year. Last year was memorable for a number of reasons. We started off in seclusion, and early in the year, vaccines became available for some people, which allowed us to feel more secure in our ability to interact with people. We began to have services, although only a few of us attended in person. Our congregation has a significant portion of experienced-in-life members, who are being cautious about meeting in person, so we have kept up our ZOOM services throughout the year. For Purim, we had a "Brady Bunch Purim show, which was very funny using ZOOM. At the beginning of summer, it looked like we would be able to hold our High Holiday services in person, but as the summer progressed, it became apparent that a large gathering was not a good idea, so we decided to keep the services all virtual. In the Fall, we went back to a hybrid of in-person and Zoom services and were thrilled to welcome our Student Cantor Shayna Burack in person to our congregation. We began choir practice and Hebrew lessons and Torah Cantillation courses. We went back to live Sunday School, as our school has become small enough that we do not feel we pose a risk to parents or students. As we moved into November, we began a six-part Virtual tour of Israel, with our tour guide from our 2018 trip, Uri Feinberg. If you have not watched any of these, I think you will have a grand time watching them. They are on YouTube, but you need the links to watch them. If you cannot find the links that were sent via email, send me an email and I will get them to you. Our agreement with Uri is that these are not to be made available to the general public, but you can share them with friends and family. We are also watching the COVID virus spike again, and we will be vigilant in trying to keep our community as safe as we can in light of the increase in the state of New Jersey.

As always, I try to look on the bright side of life and focus on the things that I can control and try to not worry about the things that I cannot control. I also pray for the wisdom to know the difference.

I pray for all of you to be healthy and happy during 2022.

Love, Howie