

President's Message June 2022

There is a season, turn, turn, turn.
A time to plant and a time to reap.

This is the time to plant. Last year, we began a community garden. We have tilled the soil and it is prepared for planting.

We will need volunteers to plant, water, weed, nurture, and harvest our crops that we can give to the community food bank. We will have a signup sheet coming out this week where you can sign up for a shift to help us grow fresh food for those who are hungry. This is a mitzvah and I hope that I can count on your help to make our garden grow.

It is also WAY past time for us to use our voices to try and affect change regarding the gun laws in New Jersey. I will admit that right now, I am not sure what the local gun laws are regarding automatic and semi-automatic weapons in our home state, but I am going to find out. If there is no law regarding the sale of these types of weapons, I am going to use my voice to see what I can do to make these illegal to own or possess. I am sick and tired of hearing of mass shootings and the gun lobby saying that the answer is that everyone should be armed and that this will reduce the gun violence in this country.

Why is it that the US has more gun violence than the rest of the world combined (no empirical evidence of this, but we rarely hear of any mass shootings outside of our country). As president of this congregation, I am not allowed to make political statements regarding either party or any candidate, but I am allowed to speak out on issues. One of the things that we can try to do in the political arena is to use our voices to affect LOCAL change. By keeping silent and saying there is nothing we can do about this issue is not a Jewish value that I hold dear to myself.

I pray to G-d that I have heard the last of mass shootings in this country, but with the current laws, I believe that this will not stop. Let's do SOMETHING to stop this madness.

SHALOM,
Howie