



October 18, 2020

From our Temple president...

Dear Friend(s):

The High Holidays for 5781 are over, and we begin a new year... with very little change. Our building is still closed, our faces are still covered (I hope!), our children are engaged in a vast experiment in learning, and we await with great anxiety a very contentious national election. With face-to-face activities still minimal, we yearn for personal connection, yet we are sorely limited by concern for the health of our congregants and staff members.

During this challenging time, we have been able to share some wonderful moments:

- Engaging and beautiful High Holiday services organized by Rabbi Joseph, featuring
 - Music with Paul Richards
 - Video participation by Temple Board members and their families
 - A first-ever Yizkor video tribute organized by Jamie Menczer
 - Sharing "Rosh Hashanah in a Bag" co-sponsored by our Temple Sisterhood and the JCNCF
 - Zoom reunions with many former members and friends who came back to us for the Holidays
- Celebrating Sukkot with a brief "drive-up" lulav & etrog ceremony at Temple
- Celebrating Simchat Torah by remembering our visit from a Torah scribe in 2014
- Donating over \$3500 to Bread of the Mighty
- Cleaning closets and getting rid of a LOT of shoes
- Seeing our Religious School adapt to an engaging online format, thanks to Ross van Boven and our wonderfully dedicated faculty
- Continuing our support for Pineridge and Family Promise, and planning for JCNCF Mitzvah Day
- Beginning to plan for a covid-safe in-person Chanukah menorah lighting event

Throughout this time, Temple Shir Shalom has been blessed with the generous financial support of members and friends. Our annual High Holiday appeal was very successful, and, despite our initial fears, Temple remains in a strong financial position as we move towards winter. We are fortunate that no one is "pressuring" us to open, which we will do only when we can be sure of doing so safely. We have not lost hope through all of our challenges, and we have maintained our strengths as a congregation. We continue working toward a world of peace and justice, using our Jewish values to guide us, and enjoying the personal relationships that grow from our sacred partnerships at Temple Shir Shalom. Be safe, and thank you for your continued support and patience,

Marcia Storch