



September 29, 2020

From our Temple president...

Dear Friend(s):

As we end our Days of Awe for 5781, I would like to remind you of the beautiful and uplifting High Holiday services we had the privilege to experience. Whether you zoomed in from Philippines, Canada, Pennsylvania, South Florida, Trenton or New York City, we were glad to have you and share these memorable holidays. We can thank Rabbi and his technology team, Paul Richards and his High Holiday melodies, and all those who participated or attended the services. 5781 has begun in a different way, and this will be a year for no succah or marching around with the Torahs, but it will not be a year forgotten, and we will continue to offer engaging, warm and welcoming services.

I had the opportunity recently to join presidents of Reform synagogues across North America in sharing ideas and learning from each other. Rabbi Rick Jacobs, the President of the Union for Reform Judaism, taught us the ancient Hebrew word for crisis: MASHBER, which comes from the word for a simple little chair, known as a birthing stool. Yes, a crisis is a painful time; it can also “give birth” to something new & wonderful. While this is a painful time, and we yearn to connect, we can also see it as transformative.

I'm sure we will see a transformation in our Jewish life at Temple Shir Shalom. The pain in our world is beyond the pandemic...it is racial injustice, economic disparity, climate change, food insecurity, the loss of our beloved Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and much more. At the heart of the High Holy Days is the word change. Each of us has an opportunity to help repair the brokenness of our world. This is going to be a year of healing, of repairing, of adapting, and of renewal. We can do this together and together we can work for a more just and compassionate society. We gather as a community, caring about each other and becoming the people we are meant to be.

L'Shanah Tovah,

Marcia Storch