

Cantorial Message

July 2020

Though we are still in the midst of the Coronavirus, summer almost makes life seem normal again. Being outside doing yard work or going for a walk down to the beach helps me to clear my mind of the virus for a while. In the real world of interacting with people, I am still very aware that we are still dealing with Covid-19. In the grocery store, going for my dental appointment and even getting my hair cut, it is still clear that we are trying to stay safe, while also trying to reopen the businesses in our state. At my dentist's office, Dr.'s Rebecca Woodward and Adam Kaufman, reassured me with a letter on their website, that they were working hard to make changes to their office and dental practice to deal with Coronavirus safety guidelines and make sure it would be a safe environment for us to visit their office for dental care. I went in to get my teeth cleaned and felt comfortable that they and their staff had done an excellent job. I can't imagine what it must be like to open a business during these times. Making sure that the space that you work in, your staff, and customers, are going to be safe. The cost of changes to that space, the PPE for your staff, the extra steps in making sure that you have asked the correct questions, taken the customers temperature, and the disinfecting costs of having to clean your space when each customer leaves, must be an added burden to any business trying to survive. Not to mention that you are now only working at 50% of your normal capacity due to social distancing. I'm still not comfortable with the idea of going into a restaurant or the gym, though I know they are also trying to take precautions to make sure that their customers are as safe as possible. It all comes down to our own comfort zone. For me, I will continue to pick and choose what I do until this is all over. I need to stay healthy for those around me, especially my father. Meanwhile, for Temple Emanu-El, our Leadership will continue to discuss when it will be safe for us, as a congregation, to return to our building. There are many things I miss about not being in the building, but I miss your voices most of all. There is an amazing energy in the air when we sing and pray together. I think about it when it when I sing in from my dining room and watch your lips move, or your hands clapping in our Zoom sanctuary. I can't believe it's only been 3 months since we left. It feels like an eternity. However, flipping it to the positive, we are 3 months closer to seeing each other again.

I hope you continue to stay safe, make wise choices, and stay healthy as you enjoy the summer weather and activities.

If you are interested in leading a summer service, please let me know. We only have 2 services open in July to fill. I will host the Zoom service from my home with you as co-host. You must have a strong, stable internet connection to do this. I will help you with whatever you might need. Summer services will start at 7:00 P.M.

See you on Zoom.

Be safe,

Sherry