

Cantorial Message

January 2021

A new secular year is here! May it bring hope that we may see the beginning of the end of Covid-19 deaths, as the vaccine makes its way around our state, our country, and the world. May this new secular year, 2021, also bring peace to our country. Helping us find a way to come together and begin healing from the chaos of 2020.

Even in the darkness of Covid-19, there are many who have let their light shine by helping those in need. Whether you are a frontline worker, or a neighbor watching over someone who lives alone, you are beacons in the night. In the darkness of winter, or even a pandemic, light can bring hope. Light can come from the match that we strike to light a fire in our fireplace or candles in our window. Light can come from the beauty we find within our own soul or the soul of someone else. Sometimes we are the creator of the light and sometimes we are enlightened by the light of others. Light is meant to illuminate. Light can be the light of Torah that illumines our soul, and enlightens our minds. We light candles at the beginning of holidays, or on a holiday like Hanukkah, for 8 beautiful nights. We light candles after the loss of a loved one, or in remembrance of a loved one. We light candles weekly for the beginning of Shabbat and also light a multi-wicked candle for Havdalah, in addition to tasting the wine, smelling the beautiful spices, and enjoying the beauty of the flame. Havdalah is a special ritual that separates the holiness of Shabbat from the ordinary week ahead of us.

Beginning on Saturday, January 2, at 7:00 p.m., until Saturday, March 20, we hope that you join us for Havdalah. Following Havdalah each week, there will be a short program. It could be a game, a discussion question, or our monthly cabaret. The cabaret might be a little longer. Over these next few months, come and let your Temple Emanu-El family be a special source of light throughout the winter.

If you are interested in being a part of the January 23rd Cabaret, please send me an email with your act to: shirie3860@aol.com. Special thanks to Barbara Senges for coming up with the programming.

I'd like to acknowledge our Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class, Irene Brickman Smith, Tom Smith, Claire Warren, Marianne DeBruyn, and Erik Brengman, who made me very proud on December 5. They worked hard learning prayers, Torah, and Haftarah, and led a beautiful service. They are an amazing group of adults! Mazal tov!

B'shir,

Sherry