

From the Rabbi's Desk

July 2021

Friends,

Summer is here. This is my last bulletin article until September. The summer feels like it will be too short already. There seems to be so much to do as our small part of the world returns to something that seems normal. As more people have chosen to be vaccinated, masks have come off, people are shaking hands, hugging again, singing at Shabbat services. The pandemic seems to be in the rearview mirror for the time being. To help us get in the summertime flow, we have a special gathering on Guthrie Beach in New London, **Wednesday, July 7th at 7 P.M.** Our special guest is our friend from the Galilee, **Rabbi Or Zohar**. We'll have a bonfire, sing, roast marshmallows, and make s'mores. I can't think of a better way to settle into summer.

Rabbi Polly and I have been carefully watching what is happening in Israel. As of this writing, the cease-fire is holding, and thankfully, there is a new government. Reform rabbis are playing an ever-increasing role in shaping Israel's future. On **Tuesday, July 6th at 7 PM at Temple Emanu-El, Rabbi Or Zohar** will discuss the efforts that he and his partners are making toward a Jewish-Arab shared society in the Galilee. In light of current events in Israel, such as the recent military operation, street riots, and the change of government, it is all the more critical that we have leaders dedicated to building relationships. The things Or and his partners are doing in the Galilee give me hope that Israel can be a peaceful and equitable homeland for all its inhabitants.

We have so much to look forward to in the coming year. This summer, we are returning to in-person services and programs. Our Bluff point walk is coming up. It will be wonderful to welcome our religious school children back in person in the fall. Rachel O'Brien, our teachers, and many others will be working hard over the summer to get the school ready. The religious practices committee and the re-entry committee will be developing the best and safest way for us to come together for the High Holy Days and fall festivals. We have come a long way, but the pandemic is not over. We will be keeping an eye on our public health situation. Get vaccinated if you are able. Stay safe and enjoy the summer. See you soon.

L'Shalom,
Rabbi Marc