

Presidential Message

January 2022

As we head into the new year, there have already been several firsts of this holiday season. The first snow. The first public lighting of our new Menorah. The first COVID variant starting with “O.” Since we were out of the country and missed winter here last year, it almost seems like everything that is happening is new to my family. And I think that’s what it is going to feel like at times over the next year as we start to get together and do old things again as if they were new. Maybe we won’t do them exactly how we did them before, but hopefully as close as we can get them.

The Board and several committees are working with the Re-entry committee to safely find ways to do things; some old, some new. At this point always different, but with good intentions. We are always open to new ideas and ways of doing things, so please feel free to reach out with any ideas you may have.

You may have also noticed more notices about non-Temple Emanu-El originating Jewish events and talks in the community. Our friends and neighbors from other congregations have graciously reached out and invited us to such programming – and we plan on returning the favor in kind with some of our upcoming events and talks. This is just a continuation of the bridge-building the Rabbi has been leading us in over the past several years. It’s just that most has recently taken place over Zoom. There is good and bad to Zoom. One of the good things is that it’s quite easy to get a group of people together for a virtual event. Unfortunately, there isn’t as much social interaction at these events. But hopefully in the future when we get together in person it will give us that much more in common to discuss.

Andy