



Chai Lights

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5781

Rabbi's Message

Our Ancestors' Experiences Inform Our Current Situation

By Rabbi David Lerner



William Faulkner once wrote: “The past is never dead, it’s not even past.” These words are unequivocally true for the Jewish people. Our deep heritage acknowledges, in no uncertain terms, that our history is more cyclical than anything else: events from our past, while morphing in detail with changing times, are constantly repeating themselves.

This is one of the factors that make our holy scriptures so timeless, so applicable to our daily lives. The lessons from the experiences of our ancestors have deep meaning that can inform our current situation.

The Passover Haggadah, from which we will read on the evenings of March 27 and 28, is filled with experiences and teachings from our very distant collective memory. Our Jewish forebearers were suffering (big shocker there!) in harsh servitude in ancient Egypt.

We are instructed not only to connect deeply to the memory of this affliction, but the rabbis teach that “each person is obligated to see themselves (lirot et atzmo) as though they personally came forth from Egypt.” Modern commentators note that during Passover we should tap into a part of ourselves that is stuck and oppressed, truly feel how we are suffering, and hope for, and even prepare for, redemption.

This Pesach both of these seemingly contradictory emotions – despair and anticipated redemption – are not abstract concepts that we must struggle to identify in our present lives. With the current state of the pandemic dragging on for over a year now, and with many of us either having received inoculation or holding appointment cards for vaccinations, this liminal space between oppression and freedom is very much at the forefront of our minds.

So, this year more than ever, we can strongly identify with the symbolism of the Passover seder. We can see ourselves as prisoners inching toward freedom, we can partake in consuming greenery representing spring and rebirth, while being sure to dip it in the tears and anguish of our past suffering and loss.

But we always conclude with hope. We know that ultimate freedom is at hand. We rejoice. We celebrate the coming of a new day. We say *L'shanah haba bi'rushalayim* – “Next Year in Jerusalem,” and this year, I add: *L'shanah haba b'yachad* – “Next Year in person.” *Chag Sameach*.

Rabbi David Lerner

Helping to Ignite *Tikkun Olam* Throughout the World

By Cantor Xan Weiser

I am thrilled to share that I have embarked upon an exciting new endeavor within the terrific organization known as the Jewish Women's Foundation of New York (JWFNY). A catalyst for gender justice and social innovation, JWFNY exists to empower and ignite tikkun olam throughout the globe by identifying and nurturing exemplary female leaders of today working to build and sustain a more equitable world for tomorrow.

Each year, ten female social entrepreneurs worldwide are selected to become part of 'The Collective,' which means they are given critical social and financial capital through the JWFNY platform to nurture and accelerate their success.

This year, I am deeply humbled to play a small part in elevating the JWFNY's impact and reach as a member of its selection committee, a.k.a. the 'Visionary Circle,' choosing this year's transformational leaders. The selection process is taking place now and will continue through the spring.

At that time, I will be thrilled to share more exciting updates, including the names and work of those selected. It is my great honor to be part of the JWFNY community doing this vital work, alongside my mom, Tobi, whose involvement inspired me to act, as well. *U'dor Vador!*

More information about the Jewish Women's Foundation of New York can be found on their website, www.jewishwomen.org.

To be continued! And in the meantime, stay safe and well everyone.

Yours,
Cantor Xan Weiser

Spring is Springing!!! Judaica Shop to Reopen

By Nanci Moskowitz and Alice Purus

Looking out at the snow it is hard to believe we are anticipating the arrival of spring, Passover, and the semi-opening of the Judaica Shop.

We will be making available many items for Passover and your everyday holiday and Shabbat needs: Passover plates, charoses dishes, Kiddush cups, candlesticks and so much more. Gifts for the home and gifts for children and grandchildren.

Just call Nanci Moskowitz, (516) 593-1516, and she will help you as best she can. Curbside delivery is available.

Stay well, stay safe, and have a very Happy Pesach.

We Care

By Rachel Guinsburg & Beverly Krosky

GET WELL WISHES:

- Rebbetzin Fran Diamond.

MAZEL TOV:

- Seri and Ziv Zamir, Rabbi and Fran Diamond on the occasion of Matis' bar mitzvah.
- Carol and Andy Levy on the birth of their grandson, Shayne Max.
- Ellen and Marty Levine on the bar mitzvah of their grandson, Evan.
- Ethel Oppenheimer on the engagement of her son, Andrew, to Nicole.
- Joanne and Douglas Wilke on the bar mitzvah of their son, Evan.
- Helene, Bob, Josh, and Rachel Parsons on the birth of Adam Michael.

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Comments & suggestions encouraged. Newsletter articles 300 words or less accepted in Microsoft Word. Send to cbsbdoffice@gmail.com Attention: Lisa Mack

CHAI LIGHTS is generously underwritten by the Sisterhood of Congregation B'nai Sholom - Beth David



From the President

Our Candles Burn Bright So We Can Thrive Amid the Darkness

By Marty Skolnick, President

At this time last year, we were entering the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the toughest parts was having to close our shul to comply with the New York State mandate. Through it all, we found many ways to keep our temple family engaged and informed.

We doubled our email output with additional Chadashot and other emails to make sure everyone knew that CBS-BD is always there for our community. We implemented Zoom thanks to our Audio/ Visual team consisting of Ira Salwen, Jeff Goodstein, Dan Seid, Sheldon Grossman, and Jonathan Winderman. We started virtual daily Minyanim and gradually worked in Saturday morning Shabbat services.

The JLC continued to function using Zoom, as well; our students were able to learn even though they were not in the building. We formed a task force to plan for our eventual reopening. We said goodbye to Cantor Mendelson “virtually” and celebrated the retirement of Rabbi Diamond, who is now rabbi emeritus. We welcomed Rabbi David Lerner and Cantor Alexandra Weiser along with their families

to our vibrant, but semi-closed, synagogue. We celebrated bar mitzvahs, anniversaries, birthdays, and weddings.

During this time of lock-down and uncertainty, we should be proud of our accomplishments. The herculean task of keeping our community informed and moving forward has been, and continues to be, a team effort. Our clergy, leadership, committees, and auxiliaries have kept the candles burning bright so that we still thrive amid darkness around us.

Natan Sharansky, chairman of The Jewish Agency for Israel and a former prisoner of Zion said: “There is no power in the world that can stand against us when we feel a part of our history, part of our people, and part of this historic struggle.” All of us have been affected in one way or another by this lethal virus; however, we continue to support our family, friends, and community. With vaccine doses on the rise and our adherence to COVID guidelines we have, by and large, maintained an important discipline that will bring us closer to a significant and productive 2021.

Israeli School Twinning

By Principal Dan Seid

This January we had our first joint program with Ramon Elementary School in Israel. We had a lovely program on Sunday, January 31, where both schools got together to complete a Tu B'Shvat Seder. Students from JLC led blessings in English and Ramon School led blessings in Hebrew.

The students are also paired up as pen-pals, and each JLC student is matched with a student from Mitzpe-Ramon, Israel. Students have been using an app called Padlet to communicate and send notes, messages, and videos back and forth on a weekly basis.

Students from the JLC report their connections with their Israeli friends are strong and have led to a direct growth in their understanding and love of Eretz Yisrael. The JLC and the Ramon school will conduct joint Purim,

Passover, and Yom Hatzmaut programs this spring. Watch for emails and details about these events!

The JLC is also planning enrichment programs for families in March. We will conduct a Hebrew at Home program led by our Hebrew teacher Shlomit. She will run a program on Sunday, March 7, at 12 noon that features Hebrew vocabulary you and your families can use at home, followed by an Israeli vocabulary trivia game. On Sunday, March 14, the JLC will host a Passover cooking lunch-and-learn program at 12 noon that features tastes and traditions of Passover. On Sunday, March 21, Principal Dan will lead his famous chocolate seder for all JLC families and kids at 12 noon.



Thank You - Todah Rabah

By Connie Salwen and Claire Gordon

Thank you for your cooperation in using the Donation Form printed in this newsletter, large sheets of paper and Yahrzeit Cards when making your generous donations. The Donation Form is also available in the Temple Office. Please be sure to write legibly!

You can also make donations online at <https://www.cbsbdrvc.org/payment.php>.

A list of funds and opportunities to support CBS-BD can be found at https://www.cbsbdrvc.org/support_opportunities.

General Donations

Lynn & Jay Abrahams

IN HONOR OF

Birth of grandson to Helene & Robert Parsons

José Dominguez

TZEDAKAH

Svetlana Gomelsky

TZEDAKAH

Greenberg-Sheedy Family

IN HONOR OF

Birthday of Martin Greenberg

Sydney, Max & Lily Levine

IN HONOR OF

Bar mitzvah of Evan Wikle

Paul Levy & Family

IN MEMORY OF

Dorothy Reider

Lisa & Larry Mack & Family

Yahrzeit

Mother & Grandmother, Sara Gall

IN HONOR OF

8 Crazy Nights of Chanukah committee for bringing us a wonderful celebration; Birth of first grandson, Shayne Max Levy, to Carol & Andy Levy

Nanci Moskowitz

IN HONOR OF

Anniversary of Judy & Dr. Martin Greenberg; Anniversary of Sandy & Sheldon Lazarowitz

Helene & Robert Parsons

IN HONOR OF

Birth of grandson, Adam Michael Parsons, to Rachel & Joshua Parsons

Shelley & Lawrence Shaffer

IN GRATITUDE FOR

Aliyah on my father's yahrzeit

Muriel & Herman Smith

IN HONOR OF

Muriel's special birthday

Joanne & Douglas Wikle

IN HONOR OF

Janet Jeddah;

Bar mitzvah of Evan Wikle;

Principal Dan & Jewish Learning Center teachers on the occasion of Evan Wikle's bar mitzvah

Rabbi's Fund

Detkin Charitable Fund

IN MEMORY OF

Paul Detkin

Cliff Glass

IN HONOR OF

Happy & healthier 2021 to stalwart Shabbat morning gang

Claire Gordon

IN MEMORY OF

Father, Samuel Grossman

Judy & Martin Greenberg

TZEDAKAH

IN APPRECIATION OF

Rabbi Lerner & Cantor Weiser

Lawrence Levy

IN MEMORY OF

Aunt, Thelma S. Levy;

Cousin, Joyce Z. Sachs;

Great grandmother, Sarah Esther Blumenstein;

Father, Morton J. Levy;

Aunt, Hannah Esther Tannenbaum;

Lillian R. Levy;

Sadie Zuckerman;

Dr. Arthur M. Goldstein;

Benjamin Zuckerman;

Leonard H. Levy;

Ida Jeanette B. Levy;

Harry Levy;

Dr. Oscar Tannenbaum;

Jean Goldstein

IN HONOR OF

Jane Scherer's birthday

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March 2021



Congregation B'nai Shalom-Beth David

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Friedberg REAP Group Purim Celebration w/ Rabbi & Cantor: 2 PM	2 Sisterhood "A Broadway Revue" songs from Jewish composers with Cantor Xan: 7 PM	3 UJJA-Federation Community Reception: 7 PM on-line at ujjfed.org/rvc	4	5 Candle Lighting: 5:32 PM Shabbat Across America: 6:30 PM	6 Shabbat Services: 9AM Havdalah: 6:31 PM
7 Talmud Exploration with Rabbi Lerner: 10:30 - 11:30 AM	8	9	10 Torah Study with Rabbi Diamond: 8:15 - 9:15 PM	11	12 Candle Lighting: 5:40 PM Cantor's Kabbalat Shabbat: 7:30 PM	13 Shabbat Services: 9AM Havdalah: 6:39 PM
14 Rosh Chodesh Nissan Talmud Exploration with Rabbi Lerner: 10:30 - 11:30 AM	15	16	17 Board of Trustees meeting: after ma'ariv minyan	18	19 Candle Lighting: 6:47 PM Kabbalat Shabbat: 7:30 PM	20 Shabbat Services: 9 AM JLC Shadow Program Havdalah: 7:46 PM
21 Talmud Exploration with Rabbi Lerner: 10:30 - 11:30 AM	22	23	24 Torah Study with Rabbi Diamond: 8:15 - 9:15 PM	25 Ta'anit Bechorim (Fast of the Firstborn) Bedikat Chametz (Search for Chametz): after nightfall	26 Candle Lighting: 6:55 PM Kabbalat Shabbat: 7:30 PM	27 Shabbat Services: 9AM Havdalah & Candle Lighting: 7:56 PM Erev Pesach 1st Seder
28 1st Day Pesach Services 9 AM Light candles after 7:58 PM 2nd Seder	29 2nd Day Pesach Services 9 AM	30 Chol Hamoed Pesach	31 Chol Hamoed Pesach			
<p>Note: For the duration of the pandemic Chai Lights will not publish event venue information. We will resume when the temple building is fully reopened.</p>						

April 2021



Congregation B'nai Shalom-Beth David

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 8th Day Pesach Services: 9 AM Yizkor	5	6	7 Torah Study with Rabbi Diamond: 8:15 - 9:15 PM	8 Chol Hamoed Pesach	9 Yom Hashoa Candle Lighting: 7:09 PM Cantor's Kabbalat Shabbat: 7:30 PM	10 Shabbat Services: 9 AM Haydalah: 8:08 PM
11 Talmud Exploration with Rabbi Lerner: 10:30 - 11:30 AM	12 Rosh Chodesh Iyar	13 Rosh Chodesh Iyar	14 Board of Trustees meeting - after ma'ariv minyan	15 Yom Hazikaron	16 Yom Ha'Atzmaut Candle Lighting: 7:17 PM Kabbalat Shabbat: 7:30 PM	17 Shabbat Services: 9 AM JLC Shabbat Shadow Program Haydalah: 8:16 PM
18 Talmud Exploration with Rabbi Lerner: 10:30 - 11:30 AM	19	20	21 Torah Study with Rabbi Diamond: 8:15 - 9:15 PM	22	23 Candle Lighting: 7:24 PM. Kabbalat Shabbat: 7:30 PM	24 Shabbat Services: 9AM Haydalah: 8:23 PM
25 Talmud Exploration with Rabbi Lerner: 10:30 - 11:30 AM	26 Pesach Sheini	27	28	29	30 Lag Ba'Omer Candle Lighting: 7:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat: 7:30 PM	
<p>Note: For the duration of the pandemic Chai Lights will not publish event venue information. We will resume when the temple building is fully reopened.</p>						

Thank You - Todah Rabah

Jane & Bob Scherer

IN HONOR OF

Samantha & Brandon Melendez and
Nancy Hochhauser and her team for fantastic
8 Crazy Nights of Hanukkah;
Bar mitzvah of Fran & Rabbi Diamond's
grandson

Diane & Irving Singer

IN MEMORY OF

Mother, Ruth Singer

Sheila Slutsky

IN MEMORY OF

Father, Hyman Goldwasser

Gloria & Frank Turetz

IN HONOR OF

Rabbi Lerner for aliyah on the occasion
of our 52nd anniversary

Joanne & Douglas Wikle

IN HONOR OF

Rabbi Lerner & Cantor Weiser for their help
with Evan Wikle's bar mitzvah

Memorial Fund

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IN MEMORY OF

Mother, Marian Schwartz

Dorothy Abrams

IN MEMORY OF

Father, David Abrams

Susan & Jay Adler

IN MEMORY OF

Father, David Adler

Ellen & Salvatore Azzaro

IN MEMORY OF

Grandmother, Rosalind Axel

Marilyn Barry

IN MEMORY OF

Father, Louis Feil

Hillary Beyer

IN MEMORY OF

Mother, Suzanne Beyer

Susan & Dr. Ira Casson

IN MEMORY OF

Mother, Gloria Casson

Barbara & Michael Colodner

IN MEMORY OF

Father, Meyer Maltz;
Mother, Anne Colodner;
Father, Lee Colodner

Cyd & Alex Disler

IN MEMORY OF

Father, Louis Disler;
Father, Marshall Rosen

Judy & Stuart Eller

IN MEMORY OF

Mother, Sophie Langer

Phyllis & Sy Entin

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Father, Irving Entin

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Mother, Mildred Lili Goldman

Bernice Geller

IN MEMORY OF

Father, Morris Durst

Linda Gold & Phyllis Gold Rosen

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Mother, Rose Gold;
Father, Daniel Gold

Melissa Goldman

IN MEMORY OF

Uncle, Murry Flender

Henry Goldman

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Mother, Fannie Goldman

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IN MEMORY OF

Sister, Phyllis Greenberg

Lorraine Greenfield

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Mother, Rose Bohrer

Judith & Joel Greenlinger

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Father, Dr. Maurice Kendal

Alyssa & Arnold Greenwald

IN MEMORY OF

Aunt, Jeanette Greenwald;
Father, Irving Greenwald

Linda & Bob Grossman

IN MEMORY OF

Father, Benjamin Goldstein;
Great Grandfather, Abraham Pekarsky;
Cousin, Jay Lord;
Friend, Libby Kaufman;
Brother-in-law, Ken Krenzel;
Mother, Frances Grossman

Randy Hirt

Yahrzeit

(continued on page 9)



Thank You - Todah Rabah

Barbara & Jay Kaplan

IN MEMORY OF
Father, David Baumgarten;
Father, Irving Kaplan

Bruce Katz

IN MEMORY OF
Mother, Carole Katz

Emil Kesselman

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Brother, George Kesselman

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Wife, Carolyne Malkin;
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Grandmother, Ella Marx;
Brother, Jeffrey Marx;
Mother, Erna Marx

Ginnie & Marvin Meyers

IN MEMORY OF
Mother, Ray Meyers

Nanci Moskowitz

IN MEMORY OF
Grandfather, William Blumberg;
Grandmother, Rose Blumberg

Ramon Musiker

IN MEMORY OF
Freda Wiener;
Mother, Anna Musiker

Gale & David Pearl

IN MEMORY OF
Father, Edward Selkow

Judy Perlman

IN MEMORY OF
Father, Max Salenson

Alice Purus

IN MEMORY OF
Daughter-in-law, Peri Purus;
Father, Samuel Bolen;
Grandfather, David Bolensky

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Daughter, Pamela (Alkow) Ralph;
Husband, Irwin Ralph

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Mother, Pearl Ellis

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Father, Barnett Zuckerman

Rita & Leon Vilinsky

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Father, Max Traurig;
Mother, Sylvia Traurig;
Sister, Ruth Kirsch

David Zener

IN MEMORY OF
Mother, Rosalind Axel

Jewish Learning Center

Ellen & Martin Levine

IN HONOR OF
Our grandson, Evan Wikle, becoming
a bar mitzvah



Hanging On

By Barbara Kaplan

Hanging on, hanging in
Working the phone, FaceTime, and Zoom
Texting, emailing, writing letters, sending cards
Trying to maintain
A balance between mind and soul
Trying to let a smile cross parched skin and slip into
tearing eyes
We want our ears to tingle

Then

We remember it's almost a year
And we haven't been vaccinated
Haven't seen children, grandchildren
Haven't hugged or kissed best friends
Haven't traveled to New York to a show, a museum
Haven't taken a vacation
Haven't been on a plane
Haven't gone shopping
Haven't eaten out
Haven't been to the gym
Haven't

But

We Zoom minyans and Eight Crazy Nights
We Zoom Sabbath services
We Zoom Rabbi's study group
We Zoom bar mitzvot
We Zoom book groups
We Zoom fundraisers
We Zoom classes
We Zoom memorial services
We Zoom birthdays, anniversaries, graduations
We Zoom to see smiles, to feel what's missing
To hear promises
That let us hang on and hang in

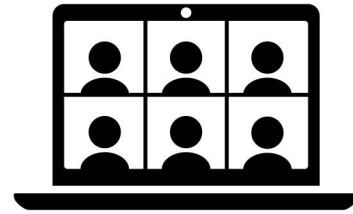
Parting Thought . . .

*"Human suffering anywhere concerns men
and women everywhere."*

– Elie Wiesel

Zoom Musings

By Sheldon Grossman



I have now seen the ceiling fans of 73 congregants.

Is it possible that seven congregants have only foreheads
and no eyes, nose, or mouth?

Sixteen congregants still do not know where the “Mute”
button is.

Twenty congregants have yet to find the “Video On”
button.

The most-used phrase for 2020: “What’s the page?”

Some people have names on Zoom; others have numbers.
I guess they must be convicts joining our Minyanim.

Larry Levy has completed a public speaking course to
announce pages from every Siddur printed since 1896.

I hurt my back swaying to the rabbi's Kabbalat Shabbat
melodies. Would anyone else wish to join in a class
action suit?

If Dr. Friedman is at your zoom event, be prepared to get
a bill for a TeleMed visit.

Did you know that Rabbi Lerner was the 2019
Jewish Theological Seminary Kiddush “Chug A Lug”
Champion?

Please don't slurp your chicken soup during Kabbalat
Shabbat unless you are on Mute.

The winner of the “most magnets on a refrigerator
award” is: Rabbi Diamond.



As Passover Nears Hope Rises for Pandemic's End

By Jonathan Windeman

As you are reading this issue of *Chai Lights*, Passover is rapidly approaching. Passover is known for the story of our ancestors' exodus from Egypt and the beginning of their 40-year journey to Eretz Israel. However, there are many other themes associated with this holiday. One of the most relevant is hope.

We have been living through this pandemic for over a year now. We have all dealt in our own ways with loneliness, isolation, sadness, and fear. Hope for an end to the Covid-19 pandemic is something we can all use.

In the first large scale, real-world test so far, Israel's vaccination program seems to be turning the tide against Covid-19. Data published by Israeli scientists at the Weizmann Institute of Science in early February showed cases dropping as vaccinations grew.

The study looked at those 60+ who were given the vaccine first and found that new Covid-19 cases dropped 41 percent compared to three weeks earlier. They also noted a 31 percent drop in hospitalizations and a 24 percent drop in those who became critically ill.

Israel has been leading the world in vaccination against Covid-19. More than a third of its population has received the first dose of the Pfizer-BioTech injection and over two million have received their second dose in a population of nine million.

Israel is leading the world for several reasons. First, as a relatively small country with a robust digitalized health system, it was attractive to Pfizer and attained the vaccine supply in exchange for data on how well it was working. Secondly, Israelis are accustomed to responding to emergencies with speed and coordination. Lastly, as anyone who has spent time in Israel or has Israeli friends or relatives knows, they are resourceful.

Hopefully, nations throughout the world will use Israel as a template for their own vaccination successes. As we sit around our seder tables this Passover we can say "Next Year in Person" with a hopeful light at the end of the tunnel.

A Year Like No Other

By Ellis Simon

"Five Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand, 600 Hundred Minutes...How do you measure? Measure a year?" Thus begins "*Seasons of Love*" from the musical "*Rent*." Amazingly, a year has gone by since the Covid-19 pandemic sent America into lockdown.

It has been a year like no other. In the spirit of Pesach: "ma nish tana ha shana ha zeh?"

The pandemic hit hard personally. Within two weeks I lost four people close to me to Covid: mothers and mothers-in-law of several friends; colleagues from City College who were world-class scholars.

A trip to see my mother in Florida was cancelled. So was the kiddush Tracey and I were sponsoring in honor of our 40th wedding anniversary. We had major life events. We both retired. Our daughter moved to Texas to live with her boyfriend. Our synagogue hired and installed a new rabbi and a new cantor. Our country elected and inaugurated a new president, and along the way overcame an insurgency aimed at keeping the incumbent in power.

Thanks to technologies like Zoom we can stay connected Jewishly. We held a Zoom seder. We participate via Zoom in services, classes, meetings, and events at CBSBD. We also joined minyanim in Minnesota for my aunt and uncle's yahrzeits.

Everyone who has been through it knows retirement is a huge adjustment. You have great windows of time to fill. In normal times you can plan and look forward to travelling. However, during a pandemic you "shelter in place." Many days Tracey and I are the only people we see. So far, we've managed to not inflict bodily harm on one another.

We are learning to fill these time blocks by indulging our passions. For me: trains, gardening, and political action. For Tracey: comedy, reading, and fitness. We've moved beyond our comfort zones. I gave a Zoom talk for a local railroad museum. Tracey wrote and performed a new stand-up routine.

With spring nearing and vaccines becoming available we look forward to less stressful times...and the Shabbat when we will finally have that kiddush.



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