



CONGREGATION HAVURAH SHALOM



CHS NEWSLETTER

December 2, 2019

Presidents Message

I think it is appropriate that Thanksgiving comes at this time of the year. While reflecting on those things in our lives we are thankful for, we are also determining any New Years Resolutions for the year ahead. This reminds me of how similar it is to the Jewish High Holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur time of the year. We also take time then to think of those things we are thankful for, while also asking for forgiveness and reflecting on those things we need to change in our lives

When looking at the holiday Thanksgiving, we need to remember it is a combination of two words- thanks and giving. This compound word is appropriate since the best way to be thankful and show thankfulness is in giving. We are often reminded to give thanks to servicemen, first responders and those who help in times of need. But, how many times have we stopped and said thank you to ordinary people during our lives, such as a waiter, a sales clerk, someone who lets you in line at the grocery store or in traffic and those who volunteer in so many ways to help Havurah run smoothly. Don't forget complimenting someone is also a form of showing gratitude.

We have so much to be thankful for as members of Havurah, and we also have many ways to give of oneself. As we are thinking of those things we are grateful for, let's not forget those who are less fortunate than us- a neighbor, relative or maybe a member of Havurah. This time of the year and all the days of the New Year ahead, let's keep these friends and love ones in our thoughts and not forget to reach out to them. The simplest gesture, maybe offering a ride or a phone call to let them know you care, are gifts that keep giving in a person's life. Let's all become better givers in this way. Remember the best way to show thanks is by giving- thus Thanksgiving.

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the one who'll decide where to go." - Dr. Seuss

Judy Harrison, Co President