

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Speaking on behalf of your Executive Committee (Judy Danzig, Lisa Glass-Kornstein, Bill Miller, Yoram Samets, and myself), I would characterize the past two months as a whirlwind. During this time, the five of us have reached out to meet, dialogue, and learn from every member of OZ's staff, its board, and its committee chairs. We have been welcomed into committee meetings, ranging from Family Engagement, Membership and Adult Ed to Finance, Development, and Human Resources. We have addressed diverse needs, from hiring new staff to working on sanctuary renovations to participating in community events. And, with the generous help of fellow congregants, learned how to think and work better as a team.

What has come out of these countless hours of meetings and conversations with so many of you is a deeper appreciation of the passion which we OZers feel about our community. Many of our newest members have expressed their amazement at the number of our congregants who are involved and engaged.

Admittedly, we are not a community of conformists. As Imagine 2025 explains, we spread ourselves across three very different "pillars." In our religious and spiritual needs, some find meaning in traditional Shabbos, others in making minyans, and still others in different forms of contemplative, musical, and family-oriented prayer. Another portion of our congregation find deep meaning in social action, in *Gemilut Chasadim* (*G'mach* - Acts of Loving Kindness) and in striving to repair the world through "Zedek," justice. And then there are OZers who are drawn to aspects of Jewish culture, to learning, to having fun, and just being together.

The ongoing work of Imagine 2025, to which our staff, our board, and our lay leaders are aligned and invested, is showing promise. Our calendar for 2022 already looks to be filling out with meaningful events that reflect our efforts to come together to celebrate our diverse religious/spiritual needs, our desire to practice heartfelt acts of social justice across our generations, and our vision for a vibrant cultural "Center For Jewish Life."

I will be sharing more details on individual initiatives as they move forward (be prepared shortly to see and discuss some exciting ideas for updating the Rabbi Max and Mimi Wall main sanctuary and our intimate Samuelson-Saiger small sanctuary)!

Our team's hard work over the past months has already yielded results and has buoyed and energized us to do more. We have much work to do. But be assured, your clergy team, your staff, your Board, and your lay leaders can and will make OZ, as Imagine 2025 describes, a community of **"Belonging Through Welcoming, Meaningful and Joyous Jewish Experiences."**

~ Jeff Potash
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