

## From the Executive Director

As the days grow shorter and we head into a winter season with so much uncertainty, I want to take an opportunity in my Voice article to remind us all of the incredible community we've created together. The past 7-8 months have been challenging for all of us. Not meeting in person, not being able to create the type of community we have for generations has felt...different. And, the Jewish community is nothing if not resilient. We see this resilience in nearly every holiday story, many of our Torah narratives and so many of our personal and family lives.

The resilience of OZ has been incredible in the last few months. As the Executive Director, I get a bird's eye view of everything happening at OZ and I've had the chance these last few months to see so much goodness. If you don't already know, here are a few ways our community has been thriving. We have volunteers asking to help with grocery delivery, delivering care packages on behalf of the G'Mach committee and delivering machzors. We've had members of the community volunteer to help lead Zoom minyanim and services to give our clergy a much needed week of rest. Our preschool has found safe ways for children to learn and grow together. Our Shuk has been serving the community with seasonal clothing and assisting those in need. We've held Zoom a few b'nai mitzvah, allowing for family across the country (and internationally!) to attend the simcha of their loved one. We've transitioned to virtual Hebrew School and engage in person, once a month for a theme based activity. We have a group of members dedicated to anti-racism work within our shul and the greater community.

I hear you that things are hard, it feels draining to continue on in a global pandemic, divisive election, fraught racial times. And, our community is stepping up, we are here for one another. This is what we do as a Jewish people; continue on in difficulty.

In the next few months our congregation will be working together on a fundraising initiative. While more information will follow about how you can support OZ, please remember all the ways we're continuing to connect and support each other.

As always, if you have ideas for ways we can connect further, if you wish to teach an online class, give a lecture or demonstration, please let me know. We'll certainly need all the connections we can find as the days grow darker.

~Sarah Glassman