

## **From the President:**

The Board of Directors and governing committees have had a busy season. The COVID pandemic has not merely thrown our personal and professional lives into disarray, but has also threatened to destabilize the finances of the synagogue. Through the hard work of our Treasurer and Executive Director, we received a very welcome federal PPP loan early in the summer. More recently, the board, Finance Committee, and other committees have spent countless hours ensuring that in the coming year we will not be too badly buffeted by fiscal uncertainty. The budget for this year will be the chief item on the agenda of the Congregational Meeting on September 8 at 7:30 pm. Please plan to Zoom in. The link will be on the main webpage and distributed in advance by email.

As I mentioned in my last message, our clergy, staff, Adult Education and Events Committees have done a wonderful job organizing events that bring us together outside of services. These have included lectures, learning, and socializing both virtual and in person (with suitable precautions of course). Please check the weekly emails and website for ongoing opportunities to connect. In particular, I encourage you to join in the study series for the month of Elul organized jointly with Temple Sinai.

Elul, of course, leads up to the High Holidays. As you know, our services will be online this year out of safety concerns. But fear not: The clergy have been working around the clock to create varied, adaptable, and truly inspiring experiences. We have video and audio professionals crafting prerecorded content, and we will also have live segments, some streamed for beautiful views of the sanctuary that we all miss, and others on Zoom so we can interact and share our thoughts and prayers face-to-face. Check out Rabbi Amy's recent Shabbat messages for more details.

I want to thank Rebecca Stern, who is moving with her family to Philadelphia at the end of October. She is the Chair of the Preschool Committee and an Ohavi Zedek Board member, and we will miss everything she has done for OZ. We will also miss her older daughter, Dalia, who has been a wonderful preschool student.

Finally, I would be remiss in my duties as *Noodge-in-Chief* if I did not remind everyone to please return both their annual dues forms and the High Holidays donation forms. Everything Ohavi Zedek provides – the services, the music, the learning, the fun, the life-cycle events – is possible only through the support of our members.

B'shalom,

*Nathaniel G. Lew*  
*Board President*

PS: Now is the perfect time to volunteer for one of our committees!