

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I was recently in one of our OZ Zoom Chanukah events and listening to children sing, “light is returning even though this is the darkest hour” and thought to myself, what a metaphor for these times. Not only are the days short and dark but at OZ we’re nearing a full cycle of holidays that we haven’t gathered communally, haven’t hugged or danced together and for most of us, haven’t even been in our building.

With the pandemic raging, we’re experiencing heartbreak and loss. However, as I write this, there’s hope on the horizon, a vaccine has been approved and is beginning to be distributed. It will still be a long time until we are back to normal but the promise is there.

To say 2020 has brought us unexpected things would be an understatement: a pandemic, global financial uncertainty, cyber attacks, a long election cycle, and more have made this a year to remember. Yet, in our own community we also have a hopeful horizon, with the Imagine 2025 visioning group at the helm.

As we look toward 2025, I can see that our congregation will need to change to maintain relevance. Together, we will need to envision a future that engages differently and more; that puts young families at the center of our programming, includes our diverse Jewish community - interfaith families, Jews of color and those from all denominational backgrounds - engages in meaningful ways and reaches into our own community and outside of our walls to the greater Vermont Jewish community.

The Imagine 2025 group will be seeking input from you in order to point us in the direction that suits the community needs. Please be sure to contact the Imagine 2025 group if you’d like to be involved, we want input from all corners of our community and beyond.

As the next line of the song states, “let’s keep it burning let’s keep the flame of the hope alive; make safe our journey through the storm.”

~ Sarah Glassman
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