

From the Executive Director

By the time you read this, Ohavi Zedek Synagogue will have hosted our first Zoom bat mitzvah (mazel tov Maggie Dabelstein!), our preschoolers will be back in the building and the Shalom Shuk will be reopening. So much has changed in the last few months and our day-to-day at Ohavi Zedek is no different. We've been challenged but nimble in our reconfiguring, trying to meet the needs of our community while ensuring health and safety as our first priority. All the staff at OZ appreciate your patience and adaptability!

In late June you received our membership pledge form in the mail. You'll notice that our president, Nathaniel Lew, provided a wonderful letter about the importance of supporting OZ right now. You may have also noticed a few changes to the form. We are now offering two payment schedules, one payment or 12 monthly payments as well as an auto-renewal program which gives you the convenience of continuing your membership without needing to re-pledge each year. When considering your membership pledge we hope you will choose to contribute via ACH (bank withdrawal). This is a seamless process for both you and OZ as you no longer need to remember to pay a bill but the funds are automatically withdrawn on the first business day of each month. ACH is incredibly helpful for our ongoing operations and saves Ohavi Zedek in credit card processing fees (last year we paid thousands of dollars in credit card processing!).

We are still using the Fair Share system and we firmly believe that members should determine their own ability to contribute to the cost of running the synagogue and that no one should be unable to join a synagogue or send their children to religious school due to financial considerations. Our annual membership pledges are an investment in the Jewish values, vision, and ideals that are the heart and soul of OZ. Our pledges are a statement of our support for OZ's vision of a vibrant Jewish community that embraces both Jewish tradition and change while striving to create a "big tent" where Jews and their families of all backgrounds will feel welcomed and cherished. They represent our annual commitment to justice, prayer, friendship, lifelong Jewish learning, and the existence of the Jewish people.

Should you have any questions about our pledge form, please be in touch with me at sarah@ohavizedek.org.

*~ Sarah Glassman
Executive Director*