

G'MACH

Delivery of 40 Rosh Hashanah care packages and *machzors* to OZ seniors was the major effort undertaken by G'Mach for the High Holidays. The gracious thank-you note that Cantor Steve sent to all the volunteers who contributed to this very successful project shows the magnitude of this effort (*see his email below*).

After High Holy Days, the machzors were returned to the synagogue with the help of the volunteer drivers who made the initial deliveries. The feedback from many of the recipients was that they were delighted to have received the package with challah, honey and apples. In addition, they appreciated being able to follow the online service with the help of the machzor.

Email from Cantor Steve to all the generous OZ care package volunteers:

I want to extend my deep gratitude to all of you for giving of your time and your heart to complete our Rosh Shanah Care Package project.

Thanks to Brennan and Hannah Martin for your generous donation of the honey

Thanks to Louis Berlind and Jeff Potash for baking the delicious challahs

Thanks to Marian Shpaner for creating the card with artwork by Eric Corbman's mom Ann (z"l)

Thanks to Sharon Panitch and Eric and Karen Corbman for the care package assembly

Thanks to the Corbmans for the hours and hours of coordination, contributing the apples, and shopping for many of the supplies

Thanks to all of our volunteer drivers/deliverers: Lauren Davis, Jacqueline Rose, Marina Shpaner, Michael Rosenthal, Judy Danzig, Sue Shaffer, Ila Abramson, Ilana Levin, Louis Berlind, and Eric & Karen Corbman

I hope some of you were able to also have socially-distant greetings/interactions with some of our package recipients (which, I know, was not possible in many cases)!! The feedback from our members is always so positive after these deliveries; so important that they know that the OZ community cares about them!

Wishing you all a Shanah Tovah

A sweet and transformative new year,

Cantor Steve

The focus of the Interfaith/Social Action Committee has been and continues to be on anti-racism. We are supporting efforts, sometimes in conjunction with the Adult Education Committee, to engage in a process of looking within the synagogue and in the Northern Vermont community to reflect on our own unconscious racism and for opportunities to collaborate with others on efforts to combat racism.

Some of you were present via Zoom for the very successful Stopping Stones event on September 13. Among a very impressive list of speakers were our own Rabbi Amy and Paul Growald, founder of Stopping Stones. Members of our committee were actively engaged in the planning and organizing of the event.

At the initiation of OZ member Zelda Ahern, a small group of those committed to anti-racism at the synagogue will be having a second exploratory meeting with a consultant who is an African American Jewish woman. Her work is assisting synagogues and Jewish communities toward achieving racial justice in their communities. We have been working toward the creation of a task force that will advise the OZ Board of Directors in these areas, and to screen, assist coordinate and support these activities here.

Stay tuned! We'll keep you informed as anti-racist projects emerge and evolve.

~ *Michael Schaal*
Chair, Interfaith/Social Action Committee