

Rabbi Weiner, Rabbi Kogen, Cantor Weiss, my loving family, my dear friends and my devoted congregational family.

This year, our JCCP-CBT has faced and completed another challenging year to say the least. We have temporarily established, what I hope is a new normal. Although it certainly has not been business as usual, we have remained together as a family and supported and been there for each other. I personally cannot thank enough, those who have helped me as I began my term as president. Those of you who are there for me 24/6- and the committed volunteers who continue to help the shul run smoothly and efficiently – a Herculean job!

And as there are every year, we have suffered many losses – and we always find a way to support each other.

Gratefully, the simchas have slowly started to re-emerge. Together we have remained strong. And as we all are aware, this has been no easy task. With the help of technology, we have had the ability to remain connected and remain close spiritually if not in person We continue to pray, learn and meet together as a congregational family -wherever we are- and whenever we are needed. Last year we learned the word ZOOM... and yes, we continue to Zoom ahead... hoping for a better upcoming year.

The JCCP/CBT has done its very best to keep our congregants and friends safe. We are so blessed to have many of our physician members as well as others serve as an advisory COVID committee - they keep us up to date with the most current and accurate information. The shul has even purchased the recommended KN-95 masks for those who wish to wear them, and as a reminder, you all know that (everyone who enters is required to wear a mask, be vaccinated and sign a waiver).

Remember, although we must mask our faces, we do not have to mask our feelings and emotions. You can still show how happy you are to see people with your smiling and expressive eyes—wearing masks just means we must communicate with each other in a different manner.

This year we have seen the Community Hebrew School of Bergen County -our joint Hebrew school venture with the Fair Lawn Jewish Center/CBI - now in its second year, grow in size. Our Community Affairs committee has run highly successful giving programs every month-helping the less fortunate. Soon you will once again be receiving challahs at home as a special gift to our families. For those of you on Livestream who have borrowed machzors for the holidays, you will be able to exchange them for your challah. It will also be known as our “Challah for Machzor event!

Our congregants and friends traveled all over the world through our Zoom Programs. On September 23rd you can travel to Afghanistan and experience the rich Jewish presence that was once there. Also, watch for our new adult education classes. Our nightly zoom Minyans, Kabbalat Shabbat, and Havdalah Services have drawn the largest group of daveners we have ever had.

The JCCP/CBT's in person and lay-led Shabbat services allowed us to worship together even when the synagogue was unable to safely open. These services were highly successful due to the support, participation and commitment of so many of you.

Sandy & Rich Alpern recognized the importance for our synagogue family to have access to Shabbat and High Holiday services during COVID 19. In turn, they made a generous gift to the JCCP/CBT to purchase equipment enabling us to livestream services and events now and in the future. And for that- we are very grateful.

The JCCP/CBT, with its amazing cadre of volunteers has survived and will survive. We should all feel so proud to be a part of such an amazing generous community. On a different note, I wanted to let everyone know that we recently applied for and were awarded a U.S. Homeland Security grant in the amount of \$137,000. This money will enable us to enhance the security of our building in various ways. Unfortunately, a necessary precaution in today's world.

I reach out to all of you to do something every day to help others. Pay it forward. We are all so blessed. Volunteer when and where you can. Purchase extra groceries to donate. Deliver Meals on Wheels. Involve yourself in your community. Show kindness to others anyway you can. The JCCP/CBT appreciates anything and everything you can do to help us continue the Traditions and Memories that have made this building our spiritual and social home. Any donation of time, energy or financial support can and will make a difference.

So, in closing.

To those I may have wronged. I ask forgiveness

To those I may have helped. I am sorry if I didn't do enough

To those who helped me, I can't thank you enough

As Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks of blessed memory said – May this year be the start of a new life for each of us. Let us have the courage to grow.

I am honored to serve all of you as president of the Jewish Community Center of Paramus/Congregation Beth Tikvah, where community is not only part of our name, but a way of life.

On behalf of Beth, our children and their spouses, our four beautiful granddaughters and G-d willing our fifth grandchild on the way.

On Rosh Hashanah it is written...On Yom Kippur it is sealed. May all of you be sealed in the book of life.

May you have a New Year filled with, good health, Love, prosperity, and peace. May you discover new opportunities in your life and may the best things in life come your way.

G'mar Chatima Tova

Robert Chanie, President

September 15, 2021