



KOL TIKVAH

THE VOICE OF HOPE



TEMPLE B'NAI TIKVAH

November 2020 • Cheshvan / Kislev 5781

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RABBI'S MESSAGE Look Harder – What You'll See Might Amaze You



Rabbi Mark Glickman

*The world is like a person's eyeball
 The white of the eye is the ocean
 surrounding the world
 The iris is the continents
 The pupil is Jerusalem
 And the image in the pupil is the Holy
 Temple.*

Talmud, Derech Eretz Zutta, 9

Life these days has gotten really difficult, and it only seems to be getting harder. Not only do we face a terrifying worldwide pandemic, but the economy is in the tank, there is political unrest, racial tension, environmental devastation, and much, much more.

For many of us, however, one of the most difficult of our recent difficulties is the daily challenge of having to interact with others through the barriers imposed by the masks that cover our faces. After all, so much of our communication is rooted in facial expressions. Words are important, of course, but they're only the beginning. With the curl of a lip, or the raise of an eyebrow, or the crinkling of a nose we add vast swaths of meaning to the utterances of our mouths. Humor, sarcasm, disgust, delight, sadness, fascination, and so much more – they all shine through our facial expressions.

These days, of course, most of our faces are masked when we go out. As a result, not only is it difficult to convey our vast complex of emotions to others, but it is also difficult to perceive those emotions as others try to convey them to us. We used to be able to rely on entire faces-worth of expressions to communicate. Now, we're limited to just the few inches of moveable tissue between the upper edge of our masks and our foreheads. It can make all but the simplest of conversations very, very difficult.

But the rabbis of the Talmud pointed out that it needn't be so hard. Even in those few inches of face, they noted, you can see the entire world.

If you think about it, the fact that we need to wear masks is the bad news. The good news, however, is that the part of our face that the mask leaves uncovered is the most expressive few inches that a person has.

Looking into a person's eyes, there is so much to see. If you look hard enough, you can see joy there, or laughter, or sadness and grief. In fact, a good hard look into a person's eyes can reveal worlds. That's what the rabbis said when they likened the whites of our eyes to the oceans, our irises to continents, and our pupils to the spot where heaven and earth touch.

Please do wear your masks – you can help save lives that way. But when you do, and when you see other people wearing their masks, be sure to look carefully at them. Look into their eyes. There you'll find the majesty of creation, the entire world in the glance of another human being.

These are times of separation in so many ways, and that's why they call us to connect deeply with others. How wonderful it is that we can do so with a glance into another person's eyes.

LIFE CYCLE EVENTS

Condolences

- George Goodman on the loss of his wife Sondra Goodman
- Abigail Draper, on the loss of her grandmother Elyse Friedlander
- Rachel Goldenberg on the loss of her grandmother Joan Cotsworth
- Maggie Serpa and Alex Francoeur on the loss of Maggie's father Victor Serpa
- Muriel Grobman and Barry Grobman on the loss of their son and brother Jeff Grobman
- Melvin, Joshua and Deborah Pasternak on the loss of their wife and mother Carla Pasternak

Healing Prayers

Harvey Balakofsky, Roy Church, Jennifer Hollermann, Carol Kert, Debbie Krygier, Rosalee Krygier, Murray Kornberg, Joanne Potts, Steve Potts, Frank Rackow, Heather Spry Halls

In the Beginning (of Temple)...



On April 6, 1979, 13 families came together to worship as Reform Jews in Ron and Judy Bing's living room. The Canadian Reform movement believed that there would never be a place for a Reform Temple in Alberta. As Ron Bing says, "I guess we proved them wrong!"

Read more about Temple's story and enjoy pictures from our early years in his In the Beginning (of Temple) presentation [here](#).

YAHRZEITS

TO BE READ ON OCT 30 - NOV 5

Anne Tulchinsky
Hala Goldstein
Ralph Sher

Cecil Kline
Irving Mayer
Rifka Switzer

Emma Flint
James Foyle
Ruth Oppenheim

Frances Binder
Joan Lee

TO BE READ ON NOV 6 - 12

Abraham Hapton
Edith Pertz
George Rosengarten
Lee Batterman
Roy Finkleman

Allan Karlinsky
Elka (Ellen) Peltz
Helen Michaud
Marc Hester
Sam Ponak

Anne Jackson
Erick Chodak
Hyman Greenberg
Marketa Newman

Bee Lewis
Fraidla Joy Pollick
Jordan Catchatonis
Rose Snukal

TO BE READ ON NOV 13-19

Ann Milner
Evy Carnat
Michael Mann
Phyllis Lefcourt
Werner Hess

Beatrice Light
Isabell Ferreira
Moishe Hanen
Ruchla Mydlarski
William Pasternak

David Pollick
Israel Sruki Switzer
Moshe Yedlin
Sasha Simcha Gelber

Edward H. Kaplan
Lori Shane Feldman
Passie Riskin
Victor Zyto

TO BE READ ON NOV 20-25

Bella Korman
Malcolm Scourfield
Mendel Nagler
Saul Bleviss
Yekusiel Friedman

Edythe Rogers Davis
Mary Faber
Pearl Rosenbaum
Solomon Hector Lipkind

Irene Zoberman
Mary Moscovich
Richard Flint
Ville Myllykoski

Joseph Moscovich
Max Osten
Richard Furst
William Levy

TO BE READ ON NOV 27-DEC 3

Judith Reicher
Alvin Kerr
Jacob Spindel
Eva Gelmon

Harold Cohen
Abram Levin
Al Girtle
Donna Riback

Isaac Leaser
Seymour Chappe
Allan Howard Schwartz
Edward Klassen

Billie Greif
Norman Rubin
Rose Roth
Sidney Pearlman

SOCIAL ACTION UPDATES



Wanted: Bright Ideas!

During this time of COVID-19, the Social Action committee has been looking for ways to engage and help in the community. If you have any ideas, we would welcome your thoughts. Please contact Ayala at aroudstein@gmail.com 403-270-7157 or Nadine at n.drexler@shaw.ca 403-238-9431.

Three Cars Full!

Thank you to all of our members who took the time to drive-by and donate to the Yom Kippur Food Drive. One car-load full went to Miriam’s Well. Two car-loads full went to the Calgary Food Bank. It was a lot of food and it was greatly appreciated.

A special thanks also goes to Jessy Kuehne and her youth group for unloading cars and hauling the goods inside.

DO YOU HAVE ANY SPARE WINTER CLOTHING?

The Centre for Newcomers is in need of gently used winter coats, hats, gloves and scarves for adults. If you have any of these items to donate, please bring them to Temple or contact Nadine to arrange a pick-up. n.drexler@shaw.ca 403-238-9431

Thank You from Miriam’s Well



I personally want to thank every member who participated with the recent food drive for JFSC. It was greatly appreciated and I’m sure every client who receives a food package is so grateful during these hard times. As a volunteer with JFSC I personally thank each and every person that participated. I wish you all a very happy and healthy 5781.

— Wynne Thal



Ideas and Volunteers Needed for the Social Committee

The Social Committee would like your suggestions on potential social events for the coming year. It is anticipated that we will use Zoom to stay connected during this time. Please contact Sylva Nathanson (pat.oconnor@shaw.ca) and/or Susan Rubin (sbrubin@shaw.ca) to share your ideas.



Temple Volunteers Sorting Donated Clothing

Thanks go to all the volunteers who helped sort clothing on October 18 at the Calgary Drop-In Centre's Donation Warehouse in N.E Calgary. Fifteen of us donned masks, gloves AND face guards and spent close to three hours sorting through hundreds of bags and boxes of clothing that people drop off.

The work we were doing felt genuinely important, and with the cold weather coming on, there is such a demand for warm, decent clothing. The staff there were truly appreciative of our efforts.

It's obvious that it's a major job that the D-I has on its hands with all the donations they receive, and that our help is needed and really worthwhile, so we are planning to make it a monthly event. If you would like to be part of this volunteer crew, (our next effort is slated for Sunday, November 15th at 9:00 am) please email pfinkleman@shaw.ca to confirm your participation.

B'nai Tikvah means 'children of hope', but TIKVAH could also be an acronym for "This I Know: Volunteers Are Helpful."

— Paul Finkleman

BINGO!

Join fellow Temple members in a family friendly night of Jewish Bingo over Zoom on Saturday, November 28 from **7:00 pm to 8:30 pm**.

Register by November 25 at <https://members.templebnaitikvah.org/event/jewish-bingo-game-night.html>. Bingo cards will be sent prior to the event. We are anticipating an entertaining evening and hope you can participate.

Please contact Sylva (pat.oconnor@shaw.ca) or Susan (sbrubin@shaw.ca) if you have any questions.

Anti-Racism Book Club

The Anti-Racism Book Club has established two groups to accommodate diverse schedules. We will meet Monday and Tuesday nights at 7:30 pm. Our first meetings were October 26 and 27.

At our October meeting we discussed *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo, a comprehensive and accessible introduction to how to have productive conversations about racism. Our second book, for November, will be *The Skin We're In: A Year Of Black Resistance And Power*, by Desmond Cole. Future readings will be decided by the participants, depending on interests. Caron Glickman has arranged a discount on books from Pages in Kensington. We will make two copies available for loan.

We continue to welcome new members. If you wish to join, please contact Betsy Jameson at jameson@ucalgary.ca, and indicate whether Monday or Tuesday works best for you. Meetings will be on Zoom until it's safe to meet in person.

— Nadine and Andrea Levinstein Rodriguez, Caron Glickman, and Betsy Jameson

THE KOL TIKVAH TEAM

Rabbi Mark Glickman - rabbiglickman@bnaitikvah.ca

President Josh Hesslein - president@bnaitikvah.ca

Executive Director Danny Oppenheim - ed@bnaitikvah.ca

Office Administrator Patricia Martin - office@bnaitikvah.ca

Bookkeeper Ruth Fink - bookkeeper@bnaitikvah.ca

Kol Tikvah Editors Monica Lis, Marsha Levy - monica.lis.temple@gmail.com **Layout** Katherine Pickering

Temple B'nai Tikvah Communications Team Marsha Levy, Monica Lis, Jay Palter, Susan Rubin

Volunteer Kol Tikvah Proofreaders Allan Bell, Marcia Bell, Elaine Hashman, Jane Paterson, Myron Podlog, Alex Zisman

Onward to the Next Success for LIFE & LEGACY

We have so many heroic people at Temple B'nai Tikvah... people who are contributing to society in so many different ways. This month I am especially grateful for those who are looking beyond immediate needs and the short horizon, to focus on the very long-term health of our Jewish community. I am speaking now of the families who are members of the Temple Legacy Circle. This TLC group (yes, and they truly exhibit tender loving care!) is determined to ensure the financial security of our congregation for years to come.

Last month we were looking for the family who would be our double chai (36th) to join LIFE & LEGACY. Did we find #36? YES! And also #37! Our next goal is to find 6 more families to ensure that we meet our Year 2 target. Why should we care? Well obviously, because the more people who join the TLC, the greater our success for financial security in the years to come. *But in addition*, if we find 6 more TLC members, The Harold Grinspoon Foundation will reward us with another incentive gift of \$5,000.

Now think about it: how often can a Temple member attract almost \$1,000 to the Temple's income just by signing a Letter of Intent which they were planning to sign eventually anyway? If you are in that category, my message to you is very simple: just do it!

The biggest obstacle we encounter is that people mistakenly believe they should wait to sign an LOI until they have actually made arrangements for a legacy gift. WRONG! Submitting an LOI just means that you *plan* to make those arrangements in the next year or so.

Download the fillable form at the Temple website under Temple Life/Life and Legacy — OR please contact one of us today: Ron Bing, Mark Paidra, Cheryl Shore, Gertrude Cohos, Bonnie Kaplan (403-245-0568; bonniejoykaplan@gmail.com).

The Temple Legacy Circle as of Oct 8, 2020

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Anonymous (3) | 15. Larry & Tina Stanleigh | 27. Carolyn Devins |
| 4. Judy & Ron Bing | 16. Michele Doctoroff & Ted Switzer | 28. Sara Hastings-Simon |
| 5. Bonnie Kaplan & Richard Conte | 17. Betsy Jameson | 29. Jennifer Eiserman |
| 6. Gertrude Cohos | 18. Jack & Donna Newton | 30. Ashley Runka Owens & Dustin Owens |
| 7. Shauna L. Switzer | 19. Lisa Welikovitch & Mark Paidra | 31. Michael Tavel Clarke |
| 8. Cheryl & Morley Shore | 20. Josh Hesslein | 32. Hartley & Nadine Waldman |
| 9. Peta Glezerson | 21. Annie Brodsky | 33. Jonathan Zyto & Susan Klassen |
| 10. Susan Light | 22. Norman & Kathy Schachar | 34. Ron Plucer |
| 11. Jane Paterson | 23. Roz Mendelson & David Hodgins | 35. Marc Ereshefsky & Ayala Roudstein |
| 12. Daniel & Roslyn Oppenheim | 24. Naomi Johansen | 36. Joshua Orzech |
| 13. Tibor Kaldor & Megan MacFarland | 25. Nadine & David Drexler | 37. Rabbi Mark & Caron Glickman |
| 14. Alex A. Osten | 26. Sid Horovitz | |

The story of one family's commitment to Life and Legacy



The LIFE & LEGACY program involves philanthropic support of the Jewish Community as part of your after-life giving. Call one of Temple's LIFE & LEGACY team members to learn more; they will not be asking you for any current donation. Ashley Owens, Temple's Board Chair of Ways and Means, is glad that she and her family joined the program. This is how Ashley describes it:

When I first attended Temple B'nai Tikvah I knew it was a special place. The temple quickly became a spiritual home for my family, facilitating a meaningful connection to the Jewish community. Temple B'nai Tikvah is a place to freely worship, meet friends, learn and share ideas. LIFE & LEGACY is an incredibly meaningful way to give back to a community that has already given me and my family so much.

Working in the non-profit industry, I understand the impact that planned giving and endowment funds have for recipient organizations. These gifts provide perpetual funding, spanning decades. LIFE & LEGACY provides an opportunity to advance a personal and family legacy while meaningfully supporting a long-term transformational vision for our Jewish community. I invite you to connect with me or my colleagues on the Board to learn more about how you can support Temple B'nai Tikvah in a way that celebrates your vision of the Jewish community in Calgary.

Shop for Judaica and Support Temple!

Temple B'nai Tikvah is holding a fundraising sale and your purchase of a new Chanukiah, Shabbat Candle holders, a Mezuzah, or candles, will raise much needed funds to support our synagogue community.

The direct link for the sale is here: <https://store39557155.company.site/>
 You can also find it partway down the homepage: <http://templebnaitikvah.org/>

The objects come from Via Maris (link <https://www.via-maris.com/>) who aims to help Jewish people engage and re-engage with their faith and culture through a collection of refined, useful, and contemporary tools for observing traditions. They make wonderful gifts (or gift yourself!). Thanks to a generous discount from the owner of Via Maris over half of the purchase price will go to our fundraiser. **Calgary area drop-off and local pickup ONLY. Orders must be received and paid by Nov 22.**



DONATIONS

TO	FROM	OCCASION
CALGARY BB4CK FUND		
Temple	Leslie Handy	In memory of Freda Sautman
Temple	Leslie Handy	In memory of Anne Tulchinsky
Temple	Leslie & Lee Handy	In memory of Doris Handy
Jane Paterson	Steve, Debbie & Melissa, Bruno & Alli Baylin	Thank you
BUILDING FUND		
Temple staff, Board, Executives and Membership	Cynthia Roll	L'Shana Tova Tikatevu
Ethel Caplan	Roz and Danny Oppenheim	Condolences
Rabbi Glickman	Stephen Ross	In Gratitude
Danny Oppenheim	Leslie & Lee Handy	Get Well
Danny Oppenheim	Ron & Judy Bing	Get Well
Temple	Monica Lis	In memory of Eva Safir
Steve and Debbie Baylin	Leslie & Lee Handy	Mazel Tov
Melissa Baylin	Leslie & Lee Handy	Mazel Tov
Ron and Judy Bing	Amy Matychuk & Peter Driftmier	Condolences
Rochelle Lipsman	Danny & Roz Oppenheim	Happy Birthday
Maggie Serpa	Helen & Jeff Faber	Condolences
Maggie Serpa	Ron & Judy Bing	Condolences
CARING COMMUNITY FUND		
Jon Zyto & Susan Klassen	Jane Paterson	Condolences
Jon Zyto & Susan Klassen	Susan & Myron Podlog	Condolences
Pat Smolensky	Susan Podlog	In honour of your 96th Birthday
George Goodman	Susan & Myron Podlog	Condolences
DANIEL ARATO FUND		
Boris Rassin	Judith & Peter Arato	Condolences

DAYS OF AWE FUND

Paul & Deb Finkleman	Cynthia Roll	Thank you and Shana Tova
Temple	Jane Paterson	

DONNA RIBACK SHABBAT SCHOOL FUND

Melissa Baylin	Bonnie Kaplan & Richard Conte	Mazel Tov
Temple	Karen Sher	in Memory of Bella and Ralph Sher
George Goodman	Mavis Clark	Condolences
George Goodman	Helen & Jeff Faber	Condolences

GENERAL OPERATION FUND

Temple	Cynthia Simmons	in Memory of Harvey Vinson
Temple	Cynthia Simmons	in Memory of Avis Vinson
Rabbi Glickman, Katie Baker, Musicians, and Staff	Leslie & Lee Handy	Thank you for the amazing Days of Awe
George Goodman	Sheldon & Karen Roth	Condolences
George Goodman	Esther & Sam Plucer	Condolences
Danny Oppenheim	Esther & Sam Plucer	Get Well

LIBRARY FUND

Temple	Jennifer Eiserman	In memory of Emma Flint, who believed that every person, no matter who they were, is able to read, one only had to find the right way to teach them how.
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KIDDUSH/ONEG FUND

Temple	Jennifer Eiserman	In memory of William Mattison for whom a cup of tea and something sweet was profound joy.
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RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Temple	Jennifer Eiserman	In memory of Allan Eiserman
Karen Roth	Steve, Debbie & Melissa Baylin	Happy Birthday
Linda & Ron Jeffrey	Steve, Debbie & Melissa Baylin	Condolences
George Goodman	Steve, Debbie & Melissa Baylin	Condolences
Rabbi Glickman	Steve, Debbie & Melissa Baylin	Thank you

SMOLKIN MEMORIAL WALL FUND

George Goodman	Debby & Barry Smolkin	Condolences
Wayne Bobroff	Cathy Somes & Leonard Himelfarb	Condolences

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

Jay Palter	Deb & Paul Finkleman	Thank you
Maggie Serpa, Alex Francoeur and family	Jane Paterson	Condolences

SPRING SHABBATON FUND

Temple	Ted Switzer & Michele Doctoroff	In memory of Anne Maister
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ADULT EDUCATION

As I write this autumn is beginning to look a lot like winter. We are all beginning to wonder what the coming months will be like as we re-orient our lives from the truly glorious fall we enjoyed outdoors, with long walks through the vibrantly coloured pathways or socially distanced visits with friends and families in our yards and neighborhood parks, towards more indoor pursuits. This is the time to find those favorite old books or open those new ones that have been waiting for you. And when you feel the need to connect, there will be plenty of opportunities to meet up with your Temple community through remote adult learning events!

If you need some solitary contemplation, and a renewed visual experience, how about returning to **How Art Thou?**, Temple's virtual gallery. We will be keeping the show up until the end of November to provide the community an extended opportunity to engage with the work and connect with its makers. Please make sure that you click-in to see it at: <http://templebnaitikvah.org/how-art-thou/>

If a more social art experience is what you are looking for, then sign up for one of **Art and Scroll's** events. They will be featuring the work of **Milt Fischbein** in November. Please see Art and Scroll's feature in Kol Tikvah for more information on this and other wonderful events!

Join us on **Thursdays at 7:30 pm** for our remote **Torah Study**. The November schedule is:

November 5 – Vayera – Rabbi Rick Kline
November 12 – Chayei Sarah – Ilana Krygier Lapides
November 19 – Toldot – Betsy Jameson
November 26 – Vayetze – Jennifer Eiserman

The Zoom link and password for the entire series are:
Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89151446104?pwd=RGFHeU13bFQwU1JGNytTVjVQN3V2Zz09>

Password: 856709

Maybe you'd like to join the **Anti-Racism Book Club**? If you're interested in joining, please contact Betsy Jameson (jameson@ucalgary.ca), and let her know times you're able to meet.

The **Rabbi's Adult Education program** continues with **Introduction to Judaism and Treasury of Reform Responsa**.

Also, please watch the e-blast for upcoming **Lunch and Learn** and **Dessert and Learn** talks. These will also be held remotely over Zoom, with links posted in the e-blast. If you have suggestions, or would like to volunteer to give a talk, please contact Jennifer Eiserman at [Jennifer.eiserman@icloud.com](mailto:jennifer.eiserman@icloud.com).



Art and Scroll
STUDIO

ABOUT ART & SCROLL STUDIO

Art and Scroll Studio is a Zoominar series featuring artist interviews, each episode dedicated to promoting a featured creator and maker of Judaica. We are passionate about the work of these artists and inspired by the creativity and design excellence that is presented in their work. We host a virtual presentation and conversation with our selected artists.

Find us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) @artandscrollstudio or contact us at artandscrollstudio@gmail.com

Shelley Werner + Caron Glickman + Michele Doctoroff

Please Join Us
Tuesday Nov. 10, 2020 at 7:00 pm MST
in discussion with Milt Fischbein



Milt is an independent jewellery artist who has a love for working with precious metals and filigree, an ancient design process, to make Judaica and other designs.

<https://www.mfmetalarts.com/>

Register for the free event at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/art-and-scroll-studio-presents-calgary-filigree-artist-milt-fischbein-tickets-125420892265>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGES OCTOBER, 2020



Josh Hesslein, Temple President

"As it is stated: "God stands in the congregation of God... The congregation of God is the place where people congregate to sing God's praises, and God is located among the congregation."

Talmud, Berakhot 6a

"It takes a village," it is said, "to raise a child." I'd like to suggest a corollary to this maxim: "It takes a village to host Days of Awe services, and the population of a small city to do it meaningfully online." Which means we have a lot of people to thank for making this year's services so meaningful.

Rabbi Glickman, thank you for leading us all through the services in a decidedly non-traditional time, looking for ways to make a physically distant holiday feel close and comfortable.

Music Director Katie Baker, thank you for helping provide wonderful and appropriate music for our services, whether singing from the sanctuary, your office, or your home.

Our tech support – including Friends Church for loaning us their sound board and especially Chantelle Devenny for being so generous with her time and energy, as well as being flexible and responsive to a finicky sound broadcast.

Our musicians Mark Hahle, Diana Cohen, Norm Yanofsky and Katherine Pickering for the beautiful musical interludes throughout our services, and during our musical meditation on Yom Kippur.

Our page turners and Zoom hosts, who gave up part of their services to ensure everyone could get in to the Zoom calls, were muted and unmuted at the appropriate times, and were on the right page for our prayers.

Those who brought parts of the services – and all of us – into their homes by helping light candles, say prayers, read Torah and Haftarah.

Deb and Paul Finkleman and their small army of challah-bakers and Amazon-like door-to-door delivery-people, who made it possible for us all to break the fast together with sweet round challot even when we couldn't be together in person. Personally, I tasted the togetherness when we cracked ours open.

Those who delivered 20x20 talks on the topic of "fast" – we learned a lot about topics from sports to health, torah to history. We also really appreciated the chance to get to know you better.

Betsy Jameson, who led her annual chant service – as always, the positive comments we received speak to your generosity of spirit and leadership.

Allyson Billings – thank you for sharing your annual walk online, reminding us of the beauty of Alberta, and providing us another way to meditate and reflect.

Jennifer Eiserman and the Adult Education committee for putting together a series of fascinating talks to keep us engaged and learning through the week. Thanks also to those who presented these programs: Rabbi Glickman, Rabbi Rick Kline, Shelley Werner, Jennifer Eiserman (again!) and Lisa Thomson, Ron Bing, and Ilana Krygier-Lapides.

NOVEMBER, 2020

As I write this, the snow is falling (already), and I've just completed a seminar through the Union of Reform Judaism for Temple presidents. It was the first time in 22 years they've held this seminar online, and I had the chance to spend four days glued to a screen for eight hours at a stretch – the first time I've done that since binge-watching the first season of Mad Men.

While the venue (my unfinished basement) and the gourmet lunches (leftovers and granola bars) left something to be desired, the opportunity to connect with over 150 other Temple presidents was a phenomenal experience.

I went into the seminar worried about the changes confronting our congregation, and I learned a few valuable things I wanted to share with you.

- We are not alone. Literally hundreds of Reform congregations all over the continent are working hard to respond to COVID-19, to changes to their members' needs, to changes in their funding, and to an evolving socio-political landscape. Their presidents are just as nervous as yours. One thing is for sure, our problems and worries are not unique to B'nai Tikvah.
- We have resources to help us grow and evolve. Through our connection with the URJ, we have access to a communicative and helpful group of "cousins" who are happy to share their experience, ideas, and successes. I got tips on things as small as how to improve the sound on Zoom calls, and as large as how to look at fundraising. In a few cases, we are the innovators and can pass along our knowledge: A number of congregations were pretty impressed with our Days of Awe challah delivery service.
- Change is part of congregational life and a response to congregational needs. This was reinforced for me while watching [Ron Bing's great Days of Awe presentation on the early days of B'nai Tikvah](#). I was struck by how much we've grown and changed since the early days of Ron's living room. I'm grateful that we have a smart, committed and creative Board of Trustees with the Temple's best interests firmly in mind.
- The Board can't do it alone. We need to hear from you about what you need, what you value, and where you see the congregation going. I encourage you to reach out to me (president@bnaitikvah.ca) to share your ideas and visions. I can't promise we can make every dream come true, but great ideas and initiatives come from everywhere.

One saying that really stuck with me, especially in the face of an ongoing pandemic, was that we need to "fall in love with the future." Rather than worry about how the future isn't going to look like the past, we can focus on and embrace the possibilities the future holds for us. The phrase reminded me of the last panel of the final Calvin and Hobbes comic strip: rather than trying to conjure the past or keep the status quo, Calvin and his best friend go out with a love for the future (even a snowy one) that I hope our congregation can emulate in the days and years to come.

Despite the hurdles and issues facing our congregation, I'm excited to explore our future – unwritten, unknown, and unfinished – with all of you.

