

Mid-Annual Congregational Meeting: January 25, 2022

Executive Director Report, Nancy Pandolfo

Welcome, it is so nice to see everyone again after so long. It is going to be a challenge to give such a brief snapshot of the last six months, however I'll do my best to catch the milestones.

First, I'd like to offer my condolences to the members of our shul who have lost loved ones since we met last, some longtime congregants of ours along with some loved ones of member's families. May all of their memories be a blessing.

Since we met last in May of 2021, Ohav has been blessed to welcome 9 new family units! **Baruch Hashem**. Our new bookkeeper as of Feb. 2021, Michelle Douglas, whom I introduced you to in May is working out beautifully and has made a wonderful addition to our small team Ohav!

Speaking of "team Ohav", we have been constantly learning and keeping up with the COVID choreography as it relates to making Ohav accessible to all of our members through this pandemic whether by:

- keeping our doors open for worship with limited and distanced seating
- maintaining our masking policy throughout
- offering fully outdoor dining, when possible, to allowing indoor dining, family style to moving towards Kiddush to-go bags only
- not only maintaining our current livestreaming on Shabbat but also, through the generosity of donor friends in our congregation, upgrading our capabilities to include streaming from outside on our property
- to requiring vaccine proof temporarily
- and meeting regularly in between to evaluate, re-evaluate and pivot when and as needed

Our 5782 High Holy Day season, while unconventional yet again in 2021, proved to be quite wonderful. Hopefully everyone enjoyed one of my new favorite projects, brainchild of Immediate Past President, Judy Avner, our Journey to Joy email series again this year, the road map through the HHD season! We welcomed 175-300 people inside | in person at various times during the High Holy Days. People choosing to attend were happy to be able to be together in person and others were pleased at the opportunity to join us virtually. Our live stream analytics showed as many as 291 unique devices viewing on Yom Kippur and as few as 158 unique devices for Ne'ila. Our outdoor, kid's and family services had an estimate of at least 100 attendees all 3 days of Yom Tov! Our Break Fast in a box was a wild success with outdoor dining in the Ohav Ohel, just lovely with 80 attendees.

We continued our COVID dance into the fall by welcoming back 3 schools amidst the pandemic, the Early Childhood Education Center, B'Yachad and Mifgash. Special thanks to the tremendous leadership we have in all of those schools we've managed to remain open and thriving through COVID. Major KUDOS to Sheryl Welton and to Ruth Malka, respective directors of each program!

We also entered yet another unconventional B'nai Mitzvah season with 5 simchas over a period of 6 weeks. Through the use of a 20x90 tent spanning the length of the social halls, we celebrated kiddushim with the B'nai Mitzvah families safely outdoors in a really lovely, **hamish** space. **Mazel tov** to those families!

Over the past 6 months, since our Annual Congregational meeting, I've made some headway, some changes and even some additions, on operational matters with respect to HR, building maintenance, insurance contracts, finances, payroll and office policies to name a few.

We had a truly lovely Lights and Latkes program for Chanukah which happened to be, oddly enough, only the 2nd time in 20 years that I've participated in lighting the candles with our community, in person. Thanks to our 2nd annual "8 crazy nights" email series, another Judy Avner brainchild and new favorite project of mine, we offered a virtual

opportunity to introduce some of our new members to the congregation by having them light the candles each night of Chanukah. Working on that series, putting together all of the videos, I know now I'll never NOT know those blessing by heart!

Ultimately, I'm just delighted to share with the congregation tonight that in Dec. of 2021 our Early Childhood Education Center became the recipient of a Stabilization grant from NYS for \$78k and in the very same month we learned Ohav was awarded the 2019 NYS Dept. of Homeland Security Emergency Services: Securing Communities Against Hate Crimes grant of \$50k to harden our exterior and that program is set to begin within the week!

At this stage, we're feverishly plugging away at the logistics of continuing to provide safe, engaging and meaningful programs for the remainder of the fiscal year and beyond whether virtually or in person, together all the same.

I thank you all of you, from the Rabbis to the lay leadership to our staff and every member of our shul for the support that I get in helping to keep Ohav as vibrant as we really are. Thank you

Nancy Pandolfo

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy E. Pandolfo". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a solid black horizontal line.

Executive Director