

Kehilat Pardes The Rock Creek Synagogue

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Elul 5780

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It's been quite a year. Earlier, we joined together for events such as our first Nittel Nacht celebration with trivia and chinese food, our annual women's open mic night, and chesed opportunities with organizations including Nourish Now, A Wider Circle and Yad Yehuda. We celebrated Purim together, beginning with our annual costume parade and ending with the Topolosky family's annual Shushan Purim seudah. We enjoyed our Mystery Mordechai mischloach manot, not realizing that the days of eating food from an unknown friend would soon come to an end.

Once we went virtual, we continued to lean on each other. Our beloved psychologists ran support groups to help us cope, the Topolosky family began their weekly tradition of sharing their havdalah with us all via Facebook, we competed in Family Feud, celebrated our graduates with an ice cream truck parade, provided dinner to the Interfaith Works Women's Center, and reached out to one another with with groceries, supplies, and support.

In 5780, we gained a lot of ground, literally, with the purchase of our cemetery and the expansion of our eruv. We are thrilled to welcome nine new families who have moved to our community: Becky Cohen; Jamie Conway, Meena Viswanath and Psakhye and Prive; Natan Dawson; Becky Eisenberg; Dovid Erps and Noach; Karen and Ken Falk; D'Alizza Mercedes and Vida, Valencia and Solano; Henri and Amber Minion and Amalia; and Candace Nachman. We also welcome new members Sara Wagschal and Jay Elinsky, Paula Tobenfeld and Howie Entin, Deborrah Symonette, and baby Dov Greenberg.

We now enter a new year filled with hope that we will overcome the obstacles we've faced in 5780. Following expert guidance, we are davening and learning together. We are welcoming Tyler and Sarah Herman, our co-Youth Directors who will help our children celebrate the chagim in a way that is both safe and meaningful. We are entering 5781 with a community that comes together despite distance, and I am excited to spend the year with all of you.

Wishing you a safe, healthy and happy new year, Ann Rose Greenberg President, Kehilat Pardes - The Rock Creek Synagogue