



WASHINGTON HEBREW CONGREGATION

3935 MACOMB STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20016

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Dear Friends,

Happy New Year 5770! As Rosh Hashanah ushers in the High Holy Days, we are given a sense of renewal and inspiration for the entire year to come. In addition to the promise of new beginnings, this is also a time of reflection and renewed commitment. As we reflect upon the past year, Washington Hebrew has much for which to be thankful. We are blessed with exceptional clergy, teachers, staff and volunteers and tremendous support from our congregational community. We have magnificent facilities in which to enjoy a wide array of wonderful opportunities for worship, scholarship and fellowship.

Throughout the past year we have continued a broad and diverse range of programming. We have maintained our commitment to community service and social action, preserving old traditions and entertaining new ideas. We have initiated our monthly Musical Shirei Shabbat Service and have enjoyed listening through our enhanced sound system.

We are delighted that our search for an Assistant Rabbi concluded successfully, and we welcome Rabbi Noah Fabricant and his fiancée Ali Harwin to our Temple family.

The coming year promises to be equally exciting. The renovations to our spiritual home are now complete as we enjoy the artwork that was safely stored for so long. We continue to build upon our Religious School and welcome Stephanie Tankel and Suzanne Davidson as assistant principals working closely under the direction of Rabbi Joui Hessel. We maintain our commitment to our historic Memorial Park at Alabama Avenue as we begin to focus work on that site.

And, after two years of serious efforts to explore, design, draft and bring the Long Range Strategic Plan to fruition, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the plan in May. The success of this effort is largely due to all of you—for your input on the survey and for your input on the draft. We look forward to using the Long Range Strategic Plan as our roadmap to the future, and I know it will take us from strength to strength.

As you each consider the past year and look forward to the year ahead during these High Holy Days, I hope you will plan to take advantage of the many programs and spiritual experiences offered at Washington Hebrew. There are numerous opportunities to seek and find spiritual, intellectual and emotional fulfillment and to enrich our hearts, minds and souls.

It is my hope that this will be a sweet New Year for you and for your loved ones. May the awe of these High Holy Days inspire each one of us to enrich our lives with meaningful opportunities to learn and to grow and to deepen our connections to Judaism and to our congregational family. May the New Year bring you blessings of health, happiness and peace.

L'Shalom,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lauren S. Racoosin". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

Lauren S. Racoosin