

January and February are quiet months. Peaceful, some might say. Lonely, others might offer. Maybe it's a little bit of both. The snow has overlaid our world with a welcome serene calm, and at the same time, I have felt the solitude of fewer Jewish holidays and fewer ways to connect to each other. Even though the snow cover is thick, we can feel in our hearts the faintest stirrings of spring. In a world of white, we celebrated Tu Bishvat and I planted my first seeds, hoping to have homegrown microgreens, lettuce, arugula and cilantro for the Seder table.

Amidst the quiet, other things have been stirring too. Vaccines are finally ramping up and I am sure many of us oscillate between hope and anxiety; our world caught in a fierce race between innovative and safe vaccines and a mutating virus. It will be hard to predict how the next months develop and so while we are still in the metaphorical winter of

work and equally grateful to the members of our community who have donated so generously.

Other plans for the coming months are a joint Hillel-Agudas Achim Purim celebration where we will read both the traditional Megillah as well as have a fun-filled Zoom Purim spiel with the ominous but oh so contemporary name: 'Pandemic in Persia.' We are also gearing up for Passover, of course. The Second Seder will not be happening in person, but will be hosted on Zoom from my family's home. We will be using a beautiful, brand-new Haggadah published by the Reform movement, chockfull of poetry and meaningful readings to bring our Exodus experience into the 21st century. In order to enhance our Passover festivities, we are also planning Passover packages with a Haggadah on loan, a box of matzah, seasonal recipes and a Pesachdike sweet treat for all members who sign up. (Contact the office).