

## FROM THE RABBI

*Esther Hugenholtz*

As I write this, I am listening to the cicadas and crickets through the open sliding door that leads to our freshly painted screen porch and a sense of wellbeing settles on me. The night is surprisingly cool and I'm relishing the breeze, reminiscing on the wonderful times my family had these last few weeks. The time to go on road trip adventures, to dine al fresco, to putter about the (new) house doing chores and repairs and just enjoy each other's company. July always represents a natural lull in the Jewish calendar and this year, we leaned into its restfulness with both greater intentionality and gratitude.

Now I'm back, going through

This year, we may find a different set of emotions: hope in coexistence with concern, joy deepened by solemnity.

welcoming us to the experience just as we are. All we need to do is 'show up', be it physically or virtually.

Meanwhile, I am delighted to be able to welcome each other back to the synagogue for in-person, masked services in our beloved building. As for me, I look forward to seeing you there if you feel

comfortable attending. While there may not be a Kiddush or Oneg, I would be delighted to tell you all about our journeys across the Midwest.

If you would like to do some learning (one-on-one or in a group, in-person or on Zoom) in order to orient your heart towards the High Holidays or to