

We are at the halfway point of Hanukkah where the majority of our hanukkiyot will be lit. I always find comfort in that image; the tipping point where there is more light than darkness in our world. We still have to 'fill' the other 'slots' over the course of all eight nights but it is a far cry from that first, brave, lone candle at the start of the Festival.

Perhaps this is a good metaphor for where we find ourselves these days. Cold winds of fate may tug at our flames, threatening to blow them out—but still we light, and still the light grows, day by day. It demonstrates that hope is both cumulative and actionable.

As November rolls into December, we can look back on a wonderful Hanukkah party – our first social event in almost two years. We owe a big thank you to Kineret Zabner and her team for cooking up a storm of delicious latkes and for the other volunteers who helped set up, decorate and execute a really fun, and COVID-safe, Hanukkah

attendees (will you come and check out our services some time?). As important as services are, we know that Hanukkah is one of our communal highlights and it was wonderful to be able to spend that time together again.

We are now, of course, glancing ahead to Purim... and thinking what fun we might come up for our membership, so stay tuned for that.

2022 will be with us before we know it, which also means a new cycle of my Miller Introduction to Judaism Program. If you (or a friend or loved one) would love to learn more about Jewish culture, tradition, thought, history and spirituality, and bond with likeminded learners, consider joining in early winter 2022. I am wrapping up our current cohort and look forward to releasing more specific information about next year's cohort soon. The class is free to all, open to Jews and non-Jews alike and it is always a treat to have members of the congregation join it as a 'refresher'.