

FROM THE RABBI

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Congregational family, you're going to be hearing a whole lot from your Rabbi in September and October, so I'm keeping this refreshingly brief. We have an awesome and information-filled High Holiday Bulletin coming out next week where I share my thoughts about this special time of year as well as information about services and different goings on for Elul and Tishrey. You will obviously be hearing from me during my sermons and teaching. This year's High Holiday theme is 'Back to Basics' where we will dig deeper into the 'classics' of 't'shuvah' (repentance/return), 't'fillah' (prayer and contemplation) and 'tzedakah' (righteous giving). The 'Back to Basics' also applies to regathering our community after two-and-a-half tumultuous years full of uncertainty, division and loneliness.

Reflecting back on times past is a well-honored Elul tradition. I can't believe my family and I relocated

preaching in favor of abortion rights on the Pentacrest (on Shabbat, no less!) as per the moral voice of our Jewish tradition, or that I would have officiated at life cycle events through Zoom and FaceTime during the deepest, darkest moments of the pandemic. Not to mention falling ill with COVID as a family over the summer.

All of these crises only affirm what I know to be true: community matters; a spiritual orientation (whether theistic or non-theistic) matters, moral character and social solidarity matter. Together, we can slay dragons—often in the most humble and unassuming way possible. My family, for instance, will forever be grateful for the generous and loving mealtrain that was set up for us when we had COVID. These moments of human connection and caring have a price beyond pearls.

As we orient ourselves towards the Yamim Nardim