



# Congregation Ner Tamid

on the Greenspun Campus for Jewish Life, Learning, and Spiritual Renewal

## *A Year in the Time of Corona*

Yesterday my wife and I were going through our Facebook accounts and got caught up in the “time hop” app that lets you see photos from years ago. With the click of a button an image from 8 years ago appears or 4 years or a year... And without a doubt, each photo not only brings back a memory, but a wispy comment of “*I can't believe that it has been that many years since...*” Whether it was a photo that reminded us of how old our adopted pets are or how long we have been in our home or when we took that trip overseas or attended that wedding, somehow, we have lost track of the time.

When we are little we can't wait to grow up, and time seems to pass so slowly. But as we get older, it seems that time speeds up. We wonder where has it gone too so quickly?!

Except this year.

Time has gone by slowly. Very slowly.

And it has been a rough and tumble year... political ups and downs. Unemployment. The closing down of the economy. And Covid-19.

As our lives changed, we were so proud of how we managed to adapt and adjust to the new normal; and rightly so. And it is truly a miracle of science that vaccines have been produced so quickly to change our lives for the better; to reset the clock to a better, more idyllic time.

And when might that idyllic time be, one might ask? As the Facebook time hop app taught me very quickly-*it is anytime but the present!*

But the fact is, we have *always* had challenges. Maybe not like Covid-19, but something else which has challenged us as a society. And we faced those challenges head on. And while we were in the midst of it, we longed for better days. But what got us through was our resiliency, our hope, and our faith. With a bit of ingenuity mixed in.

It is hard to believe a year has gone by since Covid-19 became a household word. Since our state faced its very first victim of this disease. For those who lost loved ones, I think sadly the time has gone by too quickly. And for those who have been living with fear, it has passed too slowly.

Both are true.

There is no app that will take us either forward or backwards in real time. So we live in the present. With all of its warts and challenges. Ultimately, it's not how quickly or slowly time passes that will matter most; it is what we *do* with the time that we have.

As our tradition has wisely taught us, “*Gam zoo ya-avor-This too shall pass...*”

*Rabbi Sanford Akselrad*