



# Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation

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September – October 2014

Elul/Tishri/Cheshvan 5774-5775



## From the Rabbi's Desk

Dear friends,

We need each other.

We need each other now as the terror campaign against Israel continues and as violence against Jews worldwide persists. The unabated rocket attacks demand a strong response. Israel deserves our unwavering support in its campaign to stop the rockets, and it deserves the world's admiration for striving to avoid civilian casualties. Meanwhile, the persistent attacks against Jews in the United States, Europe, Australia, and elsewhere demand our attention and vigilance.

This situation demands solidarity. As we chant in the blessing for an upcoming new month, "Chaverim kol Yisrael" – all of Israel, friends.

We also need each other as the High Holy Days approach. For, although each one of us passes under the shepherd's staff one by one, we stand in line together. We engage in a solitary accounting of our own selves, but the presence of others engaged in the same process enhances our individual meditations. During our High Holy Days, we pray together and will repent, G-d willing, together too.

Our synagogue community at Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation offers abundant opportunities to be together – socially, musically, at Shabbat meals, in prayer, in learning, on walks, and more. Our calendar veritably bursts with wonderful communal activities. I sincerely hope you will take advantage of what we have to offer in 5775.

Rabbi Hillel taught two millennia ago, "Al tifrosh min ha'tzibbur. Do not separate yourself from the community." Our commentators elaborated on this dictum, teaching that we should "share in the community's woes and do nothing to undermine its solidarity." All this is true, but I would revise it: May we share each other's woes; may we share each other's joys; and may we be strong and strengthened by our solidarity.

L'Shana Tova!

Rabbi Jeffrey Weill