

Temple Solel Embarks on Congregational Study

We are already a month into the new calendar year 2019 and nearly half way through 5779. At a recent Shabbat Service at Temple Solel, lay leader, Russ Cobe's d'var Torah provided some input from differing opinions of Jewish thought whether we should only consider Rosh Hashanah the New Year, or, perhaps, we should consider whether to include the regular calendar too? He asked the congregation, "Which calendar do you consider the most important in your everyday lives?" Responses were as varied as the d'var itself.

Whether you set your compass at the time of Rosh Hashanah, January, or both, it is imagined we may have goals that are either new, already fizzled out, or we've already been working on for months. It's sometimes mentioned how mystical activities increase around the High Holy Days to help guide us for the coming year. However, it seems plausible most of us have forgotten the focus on spirituality and probably replaced those thoughts with ones about our dietary habits and goals of working out more by succumbing to the relentless advertisements and reminders by



assessment Survey. Rabbi Asher Knight explained Temple Beth El participated in a recent year and encouraged us in our pursuit of the type of feedback we should receive from such a journey. The Union for Reform Judaism helps congregations stay relevant and innovative, supporting them as they inspire sacred action and expand the way in which people can live Jewishly.

A small portion of our Jewish

come instrumental in our growth and exciting next steps in our future. A majority of people lead busy lives, travel, have families and jobs both inside and outside of their homes. The retired people we meet say they are busier now than when they were in the height of their careers. Most of all, we want to let you know we are glad to see you when you can come visit or if you decide to stay. It takes time to cultivate and grow

of Southern Jewish Life) based in Jackson, Mississippi that provides a variety of educational, cultural and religious services to underserved Jewish areas in the South. We have two visits coming up with Rabbi Aaron Rozovsky, the Director of Rabbinical Services. There are other rabbinical visits, studies, education, and even movie nights we are preparing, which will be open to anyone in the community who would like to attend.

Temple Solel holds Shabbat services at 7 PM on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. We hope to see you soon in the

Community Room at St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, 292 Munn Road, Fort Mill. For details, call 803-619-9707 or visit www.templesolelsc.org or Temple Solel SC on Facebook.✡



the beauties on social media how much we lack. One recent online post showed a well-known model who thought it was a helpful gesture to vigorously jump rope at the front door of a fast food restaurant while sneering at everyday people who came out holding a purchase. The model wasn't completely wrong. She demonstrated her strength, but in doing so, made the mistake of exploiting another person's weakness instead of joining together to help them.

Before December was over, our President, Shelley Pawlyk, spoke with a coach at the URJ (Union for Reform Judaism), with which we are affiliated, to gain information in order to participate in this year's Congregational Benchmarking and As-

Federation of Greater Charlotte Impact and Innovation Grant is being used to participate in a study on congregational engagement. We are grateful for the leaders in our community who are imparting their wisdom, so we can learn and partner with them. After all, no matter what synagogue we belong to (or not), we come from varied backgrounds and have to find people with whom we can share common ground. In our efforts to mature as a congregation, we are taking the approach that we have some good ideas; however, we need input. Can you imagine how many opinions there will be? We are anticipating constructive and usable feedback from our members, community leaders and also non-members alike that will be-

relationships and we see the fruits of the years leading up to this current phase. We are determined to form new goals by taking a position of strength and focusing on our assets to offset what we may lack.

Identifying gaps and reviewing lessons learned will be an important part of the process also. We are going to continue increasing our communication and media presence so you know about upcoming events. We are still friends with the ISJL (Institute