

## By Michael Weinstein

Driving home from Florida in mid-March on empty roads and seeing deserted shopping centers it seemed as though we were going out of the frying pan and into the fire. When we arrived it was to the same empty roads and deserted stores. But, we knew what was happening and we thought "This too shall pass".

We went on with our lives, reaching out to our family and friends. We found that our time "zoomed" by. First there was a zoom seder with over 75 cousins and their kids and grandchildren signing on. Then there were zoom birthday celebrations of our son-in-law Eric, two grandchildren Emma and Daniel, our daughter Amy and of course Susan. Now, we have the birthday of our grandson Zach on 9/11 and we will zoom that too since he is at Syracuse University and we aren't permitted to go there. His birthday is always a reminder to us that there is good in life and that life will go on. That is what Rabbi Gellman told us on that day in 2001 when he was born an hour before the first plane hit the World Trade Center. There were

zoom graduations of our granddaughter Emma from the University of Maryland and our grandson Daniel from the University of Michigan. Then the 30th anniversary of our daughter Amy and Eric and our own 56th anniversary. Then there was mother's day and father's day. There was no end of reasons to zoom and, when the weather got better, meeting together on patios and decks. And the zoom happy hours were endless and an opportunity to connect with near and distant friends. All in all, life zoomed by. All that was and is missing are hugs which we long for.

Now, six months later we look back and realize how fortunate we really are. We are safe and healthy as are our family and friends. Everyone still has a smile on their face. We even imagine hugs and we know that "This too shall pass".

*Michael and Susan have been members of TBT for about 47 years (early 1970's). They may be the longest tenured current members. They were for many years active in all aspects of Temple life. Both of them served on the Board. Susan was passionate in the original decorating and furnishing of our new building and Michael was involved in all aspects of the acquisition of the land and financing and construction of the building as well as fund raising for the project.*

