In the beautifully crafted words of our past president, Fran T., below my signature is an earlier message from her that is "food for thought."

There will be grocery bags again this year for filling. Please be generous.

If you are unable to shop for non-perishable groceries, please consider donating financially to the Covenant House Food Pantry – make your check payable to Covenant House and mail it to

Covenant House 600 Shrewsbury Street Charleston WV 25301

For more info about Covenant House, visit them on the web at https://wvcovenanthouse.org/

Thank you, Gayle Twigger-Shaw, President Temple Israel Aug. 29, 2023

P.S. Pick up an empty grocery bag at the Rosh Hashanah Eve Service on Sept. 15 or the Morning Service on Sept. 16, then bring it back filled up to the Yom Kippur Kol Nidrei Service, Sunday evening Sept. 24, or by the end of services on Monday, Sept. 25.

Members of the Temple Israel Congregation:

I send greetings from the Temple Board of Trustees - Shanah tova u'metuka "Have a happy and sweet new year!"

It has been a tradition during the High Holy Days that our Temple has a food drive to help those in need in our community. The Temple provides paper bags for our congregants to fill with non-perishable food items, which are transported to the Food Pantry at Covenant House. Rosh Hashanah teaches us that we can have an impact on the world around us with tefillah (prayer), tzedakah (charity), and teshuvah (forgiveness).

Tzedakah teaches us that we are obligated to affect the world around us. Rabbi Daniel Kirzane states, "Jewish tradition urges us always to respond positively to a person in need, even if all we have at the time is an encouraging word. Everyone can-and-must give tzedakah even those who are themselves dependent on these donations. In sum, "...Each of us is called to give what we can, to make a difference from one person to another." (danielkirzane.com)

Rabbi Kirzane reminds us that "the purpose of tzedakah is to sustain those who are vulnerable ... literally providing for their basic needs." (danielkirzane.com)

Are you ready to make a difference?

If so, please participate in our Temple Israel food drive for those in need.

Here are some suggestions from the Food Pantry at Covenant House:

- Breakfast cereal
- Peanut butter and jams & jellies
- Canned meats, such as Spam, canned chicken, and canned chili, etc.
- Canned beans please choose from a variety
- Ramen noodles
- Macaroni & Cheese boxed mix

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Francine Thalheimer, Temple (Past) President