

Protected by a New Year Angel last year

– A High Holy Day Story from Rosalind Berzon



Last Rosh Hashanah I came to shul and was called up. I found it difficult to get my words clearly out, although I knew the blessings. I sat down after and did not feel quite right. I enjoyed listening to the Shofar being blown, wished my many friends a happy new year, then started to drive back home to Westcliff where I now live.

I was about two thirds of my way home on the A127, driving at 60 miles an hour in the fast lane, when my sight completely went in my right eye. Although I was in shock, I slowed down when I could and drove into the slow lane and carried on driving until the sight of my right eye went from black to midnight blue, then pale blue, then normal on about 15 minutes.

I really did not appreciate what had happened! The next day, I got checked out by my doctor, who informed me that I had had a TIA or minor stroke. He called for an ambulance which took me to the Stroke Ward at Southend hospital. They were absolutely amazing and checked me out thoroughly giving me medication and a heart monitor. They said that I was very lucky as they were treating me early.

What I have learnt from this experience, is that life is a precious gift which we should not take for granted. Make the most of every minute, be kind, be a good listener and try to be happy.

Who could have dreamt that this year would completely change all our lives, due to the virus?

I am now so much better and in sheltered housing with lovely people around me.