

September 27, 2019 / 27 Elul 5779

Dear chevreh,

Here we are, the Shabbat before the *Yamim Noraim*, the Days of Awe. Many of us are scrambling to finish cooking, cleaning, and work so that we can spend some uninterrupted hours in synagogue, around tables, perhaps in nature, but dedicated to the themes of the season.

On this Shabbat, I invite you to come to services this evening at 7:30 pm. We will be welcoming our new rabbinic intern Allyson Zacharoff who will share her Jewish journey in a *Hinei* talk. A few of the prayers will be accompanied by guitar and drums this evening (not the full Little Shul by the River Band, but some live music nonetheless!) followed by an Oneg. I encourage you to come as we will be learning a musical piece which will be heard throughout the holidays.

Rabbi Pamela Wax teaches,

“These holy days mirror our human experience. Within them is held, and reflected back to us, both great hope as well as brokenness and fear. We all live somewhere between these extremes every day of our lives. But these Days of Awe come every year to highlight this tension and remind us that we are not alone in living on an endless roller-coaster within that duality.” [Westchester Jewish Life vol. 25, issue 9]

As we move into this Shabbat, let us find gratitude for the webs of connection we have in our lives and for our Little Shul which can embrace us when we may feel alone. We can return, to ourselves, to our loved ones, to our communities, to the Holy One. This is our work this season. Even as the country, the climate, the world around can at times feel so uncertain and chaotic, may we enter this Shabbat, and this New Year in peace, courage, hope and sweetness.

Shabbat shalom and Shanah tovah u'metukah,

Rabbi Diana