

August 31st, 2018/20th of Elul, 5778

Dear chevreh,

We have reached the 20th day of the month of Elul and we are getting closer and closer to the Days of Awe. Some of us have consciously begun the spiritual and emotional work of this time through text study, reflection, and conversations with loved or estranged ones. Some of us have been far too busy with children, obligations, crises, or just plain enjoying the end of summer. One way of getting into the feeling of the season [if you don't mind staying up late] is to attend Selichot services tomorrow evening. There, we will visit some of the themes of the holidays as well as bask in the melodies which evoke *yontif*.

This week we have seen shameful news in our country. Not only are 500 migrant children in U.S. custody still separated from their parents, https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/immigration/still-separated-nearly-500-separated-migrant-children-remain-in-us-custody/2018/08/30/6dbd8278-aa09-11e8-8a0c-70b618c98d3c_story.html?utm_term=.31faf8b8fad1 but we learned that there is a risk of denaturalization of Latinx Americans living near the border.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/us-is-denying-passports-to-americans-along-the-border-throwing-their-citizenship-into-question/2018/08/29/1d630e84-a0da-11e8-a3dd-2a1991f075d5_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.0913dab08cd4

This is chilling news. Please read this important article by Rabbi Jill Jacobs, the Executive Director of T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, who connects our history and values as Jews to this current event in our country: <https://forward.com/opinion/409308/jews-should-be-horrified-that-trump-is-revoking-latino-citizenship/>

We are having Shabbat services this evening at 7:30 pm. Please join us next Friday 9/7 for a potluck dinner at 6:15 and family and adult-friendly services at 7:00 pm.

I hope that everybody has a good Labor Day weekend. We also pause to remember that we have more reasonable working hours and conditions due to the organizing of past labor union workers and organizers. Each of us can commit to learning more about this crucial history which gave birth to this day off.

Shabbat shalom, a gutn Shabbes,

Rabbi Diana