**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** *-* ***Shema Koleynu*:**

**This prayer is the prelude to the Selichot prayers on Yom Kippur, the confessional.**

1) Have one person read aloud the first section of the prayer on page 417-418—and use any name for God/the divine that you like.

* As you hear these words, what does it evoke in you?
* Focus on the state of mind that these words seem to conjure up. Why would the author of this prayer believe it to be spiritually beneficial to take on such an attitude/mindset?

2) Continue on page 419/420—please read it aloud.

* What is the relationship described here between the community of pray-ers and the Source of Life, the Source of Forgiveness and Compassion? Explore the different metaphors in the “*Ki anu amecha*” section (the part beginning “Our God, our ancients’ God…”)
* How does this metaphorical relationship relate to the process of *teshuvah*, of seeking forgiveness for the ways in which we’ve strayed from our true path? In what role(s) does it place those seeking personal transformation (the “we” of each metaphorical pairing)?