

D'var Torah by Rabbi M. Jaroslawicz for Yom Kippur 5775 (2014)

For those of you who were with us for Rosh Hashana, you already know what a beautiful, warm and moving experience we all had. The joint efforts of the Ba'alei Tefillah, the Gabboyim, the Ba'al Koreh, the Ba'al Makri, the Ba'al Tokaya, the committee heads, and the mispallalim who added harmony and feeling to the davening, resulted in a truly elevated and meaningful spiritual event.

And, I must add, that the respect for the Tefillos, the audible absence of talking during davening, was beyond commendable. If this Rosh Hashana is any indication of what our year is to be like, we can all feel proud and assured that Hashem has good things in store for us for the coming year.

I truly hope that those of our members who were NOT with us for Yom Tov had as positive an experience as we did.

However, none of us should feel so secure as to get too comfortable. Yom Kippur is still ahead of us and there is still plenty to pray for. And, let us not forget that Hashem still has the last say no matter how confident we feel.

I have seen immediate beautiful results from the Rosh Hashana and Shabbos Shuva sermons. I have seen members of all ages, men and women alike; respond positively to the messages that were conveyed over Yom Tov. As a Rov, I am happy to have been able to enhance the spiritual direction of the Shul and to have been a part of the new found unity, Shalom and willingness of all of us to work together for the same common goal, the future growth of DOS. As a friend, I could not ask for a nicer more open-minded group of people to be associated with and living amongst.

However, as I said before, Yom Kippur is still ahead of us, and Hashem has the last say in ALL matters.

I strongly believe that if we can keep up the non-talking in Shul, if we can stick to the commitments that we each made to be more tolerant, more open, more sharing, and happier individuals, that we stand a pretty good chance of breezing through Yom Kippur with little to no fears.

Ultimately, Hashem wants happy Jews. He has no tolerance for grumpy, unforgiving, depressed and selfish individuals. This Rosh Hashana we have proven that none of us falls into these categories. Hashem reflects back to us that which we present to him.

I for one feel safer and better here this year, among ALL of my congregants, than I have felt in many other locations in many years past.

From Rifka and myself, please accept this Bracha for a G'mar Chasimah Tovah, love and peace in the Shul, in our extended families and of course to all of our holy brothers and sisters throughout the world and especially in Eretz Yisroel.

Have an easy fast.