

As the Days of Awe are behind us it is my hope that your hard work leading up to and throughout the High Holy Days was meaningful. That you took an intentional pause to inhale the sound of shofar, to reflect on where you want to grow and how you will get there.

Many of you were with us for our Selichot Service when we enjoyed the words from Jewish song writer, Dan Nichols, "If you do what you've always done, you'll get what you've always gotten.

You'll be who you've always been. You'll go where you've always gone."

I was thinking about his words and determined not to let that be me in the year 5779. As I shared, during my Rosh Hashanah talk, I am grateful for all that I have learned from you and am excited to keep learning and growing through my involvement at Temple Sinai.

At the end of Yom Kippur and after break-fast I was taking my dog Lucy for her evening walk. I looked up into the sky only to see the full moon and wondered if my preparation, starting with the first day of Elul and through the final sounding of shofar on Yom Kippur, would ensure that I would go beyond where I'd always been, that I'd do more than I've always done and that I'd go places beyond where I'd always gone.

I remembered that this is only the beginning of the work I need to do. In fact it was the easy part of the work. Over the months ahead is where the hard work will kick in. How will I react when I get pulled in many directions and struggle to find time to learn and grow? Will I treasure each day or will I allow myself to get pulled in the direction least desired? While I don't have any of these answers, I will do my best to remember the Days of Awe and allow myself the time to learn and grow.

Of course much of this learning and growing will happen with my Temple Sinai family. I look forward to praying with many of you on Shabbat, knowing that prayer is not words we recite from the prayer book but an experience of the soul. I'm excited to be with you for our Shabbat morning services and meditation sessions. I look forward to sharing in the dedication of our new chapel and in the excitement of our new social justice group.

Of course, none of this could happen without your continued support. **As a reminder, you received a letter in the mail from me with a request for the Annual Appeal. Our goal is to get 100% participation from every family.** The size of the gift is not as important as is your commitment to financially support Temple Sinai. Keep in mind our membership contributions cover only a portion of our operating budget and we rely heavily on supplemental fundraising to finance our programs. Through the Annual Appeal you can demonstrate how grateful you are and insure our fiscal health for yet another year. Please take a moment to complete the pledge card and return it to us...or simply go online and make your pledge through our web site.

Also, please consider an additional gift in support of our Bathroom Renovation Project. As I mentioned at Rosh Hashanah, we will be renovating the bathrooms between the atrium and the sanctuary. We will be relying on your gifts to fund this project and not funds from the operating budget.

I will do my best to treasure each day and know that **Growth Happens Here!**

Marc Friedman, President

P.S. Remember that legacy gifts are very important to the growth of Temple Sinai. Please consider including us in your estate planning as you see fit.