

# Cantorial Message

January 2019

This month, on Friday, January 18, Jeff Elkin and I will chant the Song of the Sea in parashat Beshallah. This is the song that is attributed to Moses, and sometimes Miriam, which tells the miraculous story of the crossing of the Reed Sea by the Israelites. This crossing between two walls of water, on dry land, will begin a journey from slavery, which they knew very well, to freedom, something that was new and unknown. Sometimes this kind of journey can cause people to turn back to what makes them feel safe, even if it is not healthy, or let go of the fear of the unknown and move forward. Shefa Gold writes this about the beginning of a spiritual journey, "In the midst of the turbulence of this world, and in spite of our fear, we somehow find the courage to take one loving focused step and then another, with each step finding our footing on a path that only reveals itself step by step. ....we don't let the fear stop us." At some point in our lives we have all come to the "Reed Sea", looking into the unknown and having to choose the next step in our own journey. Do we stay locked in the fear of the unknown and the what ifs it contains, or do we find that courage to take that first loving step, in hopes that we find something better on the other side. The Torah says choose life so that you may live. Living life wrapped in fear, is not living. Experiencing what life has to give, such as a beautiful sunrise, the song of the birds in the trees, the crash of the waves on the beach, the love of friends, family, and our life partners, that is living life. Some say we only travel this way once, and in the grand scheme of things, are here for just a blink of an eye. We should seek to enjoy every moment and surround ourselves with as much love as we can, so when we come to the end of our days, and we are asked by G\*d if we lived our lives to the fullest, we can say, yes, this was the best journey ever! Ozi v'zimrat Yah, vay'hi li lishuah..My strength, with the song of G\*D, will be my help. Exodus 15:2

Thank you to our December Torah readers: Alexis Fenton and Jo-el Fernandez. Thank you to the Temple Emanu-El choir for singing at the Shabbat Shira service, and also thank you to Michael McCarthy for stepping in to help us for Shabbat Shira.

Don't forget to sign up to participate in the Cabaret.

B'shir,  
Sherry