

Cantorial Message

September 2019

I've said my goodbyes to summer, sigh, and I am focusing on the High Holy Days and classes that will start in the fall. I'm sure you too have set your focus on school for the kids, trips for the fall, and getting back into the swing of Temple life! Make sure to keep an eye on our website and our bulletin to be up to date with programming. I'll be teaching Trope, Beginning Hebrew, Adult B'nai Mitzvah, and Translating Biblical Hebrew classes. All classes will begin early in November. Check the October bulletin for or Temple Emanu-El website for dates and times.

September begins the Jewish month of Elul, a time for soul searching and reflection on our actions over the past year. Have I been the best person that I could be? Have I treated people the way I would want to be treated? Have I spoken up for injustice and helped those in need? Have I hurt someone knowingly or unknowingly and have I made amends? These are not always easy questions to ask ourselves, yet it is important to do. The word Elul could also be an acronym for Ani l'dodi v'dodi li. I am my beloveds and my beloved is mine, from Song of Solomon, chapter 6, verse 3. Beloved could refer to G-d, since in the month of Elul, as we look deep into ourselves; we also draw nearer to G-d. May the questions you ask and the actions you take, allow you to begin 5780 with a clean slate. May you be written in the Book of Life for a sweet and healthy year.

This year at High Holy Day services, you will notice that Leslie Merwin will not be playing the organ. She is being a mensch and has become a caregiver for her sister. Caregiving, along with her church obligations, has taken much of her time. She sends her best wishes to all of us. We are, however, very fortunate to have Michael McCarthy join us on the organ for the High Holy Days. You may have already seen or met him when he played for the Zohar weekend or when the choir has sung at Shabbat Services.

A big thank you to everyone who helped make summer services run so smoothly! You created inclusive and meaningful Shabbat services. I hope you will consider leading a Shabbat service again next summer.

Shana Tovah,

Sherry