

Dear Shearith Israel family,

Our Year of Renewal. Rosh Hashana 5786 is nearly upon us. As solemn as the Day of Remembrance is, it also contains aspects of a *yom tov*, a joyous holiday. Our religion teaches the concepts and capacities to remember who we are; what our past has been; what our future might be; and how we might change ourselves, hopefully for the better, to achieve it. This grand, cosmic Do-Over Day is when we can **start all over again**, to quote the great Bobby Sherman song [*Easy Come Easy Go*](#) (as I do nearly every year).

Shanah tova to one and all.

A New Year's Wish for Touro Synagogue. Jim and Jill Tobak are long-time supporters of Touro Synagogue and current members of Congregation Ahavath Israel (CAI), the resident congregation and our beloved partner in the joint care of Touro Synagogue now. In the simplest and most beautiful of words, which we all share, Jim and Jill wish that:

CSI and CAI may prosper and pray in peace.

Naming Names – And The Winners Are. We are pleased to announce our line-up for the coming year. It's a strong, confident set of aspirations:

- **Naming our Year.** The coming year shall hereafter and forever be known as our:
 - **Year of Allegiance** – originally suggested by Bonnie Barest

The phrase says a lot about all of us and about our national celebration of our Squintennial. We had a great **year of renewal** (at least we tried to make the best of it). Now it is time to show **allegiance**, to America (250), to our Congregation (372), to New York (400, though the counting there is funky); to Israel (77/78); and to the world and cosmos itself (5786). **Year of Allegiance** is a great name. Let's live up to its expectations.

- **Word of the Year.** Thanks to all who voted for this year's winner:
 - **Commitment** – originally suggested by Bob Starkand

Commitment goes with *Allegiance* – it's how pledges of allegiance find their way to practical and beneficent realities. The two words are a perfect pair.

- **Phrase of the Year.** Our Phrase of the Year is and shall be:
 - **Hatzlich'ana**, or a prayer to The Almighty, *may we succeed* – originally suggested by Meirah Shedlo and Jonathan Eidelman.

Once the Eidelmans suggested this sequel to the current year's phrase of the year, *Hoshi'anna*, or a prayer to *save us now* (a sequel that appears in our Hallel service), it gained great support, including as

a necessary precondition to the *allegiance* and *commitment*. Together, the three words and phrases act as our Congregational banner (to borrow Steve Smith's perfect word) for the coming year.

Deep thanks for all the other suggestions, and suggestors, and to everyone who voted.

To all this I want to add a beautiful thought conveyed by Susan Lobel, who sent in the following photo with the note that

Whatever you end up naming the New Year, a photo of former hostage Eli Sharabi being embraced by the singer and soldier Idan Amedi, who both nearly died in Gaza and now are moving forward with their lives as strong and proud Jews should be applicable.



Soliciting Songs, or Song Solicitation. For our next Songbook, and picking up on our musical theme of

- [The Best is Yet to Come](#)

Please send in songs of hope, songs of confidence, songs of gratitude and thanksgiving.

The Sisterhood Photo LIVES! I will stop reprinting the great photo of the Sisterhood that Abigail Chill sent along when we stop having interesting things to say about it. We still have nothing definitive confirming that Mrs. Tamar de Sola Pool is in the photo. Reverend Edinger, backed by Rose Edinger and Annette Gourgey, says she is not.

Jack Solomon (son) and now Jonah Schein (son-in-law) think that the woman labeled Estelle Cooper is actually Else Salomon. It's gonna be hard to beat that, I reckon. Maybe we should put paid to this one?

Again with thanks to SM Rosenberg for doing what she can with the name labels:



Name That Parasha Tune. We are collecting songs for the remaining parshiot in the Torah: **Parshiot Ki Tetze, Ki Tavo, Nitzavim** (this week's parasha), **Vayelekh, Ha'azinu, and V'zot HaBeracha.**

For this week's parasha, Andrew Druck considers the verse (Chapter 30, verse 19) *choose life, that you may live, you and your seed* and suggests

- [*Can I Get a Witness*](#), as sung by Marvin Gaye
- [*River Deep, Mountain High*](#), as sung by Ike and Tina Turner

On the subject of repentance, or *teshuvah*, highly apt in these weeks, Andrew suggests:

- [*I'm Sorry*](#), as sung by Brenda Lee
- [*Let Me Try Again*](#), as sung by Frank Sinatra

Andrew also likes one of the verses in **Parashat Nitzavim** that is among the most meaningful to me, where the Torah says:

כִּי הַמִּצְוָה הַזֹּאת אֲשֶׁר אֶנְכִּי מְצַוְךָ הַיּוֹם לֹא נִפְלְאוֹת הִיא מִמֶּנִּי וְלֹא־רִתְקָה הִיא:
לֹא בַשָּׁמַיִם הִיא לֵאמֹר מִי יַעֲלֶה־לָּנוּ הַשָּׁמַיְמָה וְיִקְחֶהָ לָּנוּ וְיִשְׁמְעֵנוּ אֶתָּה וְנַעֲשֶׂנָּה:
וְלֹא־יִמְעָבֶר לֵאמֹר מִי יַעֲבֹר־לָנוּ אֶל־עֵבֶר הַיָּם וְיִקְחֶהָ לָּנוּ וְיִשְׁמְעֵנוּ אֶתָּה וְנַעֲשֶׂנָּה:
כִּי־קָרוֹב אֵלֶיךָ הַדְּבָר מְאֹד בְּפִיךָ וּבִלְבָבְךָ לַעֲשֹׂתוֹ:

Surely, this Instruction which I enjoin upon you this day is not too baffling for you, nor is it beyond reach. It is not in the heavens, that you should say: 'Who among us can go up to the heavens and get it for us and impart it to us, that we may observe it?' Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say: 'Who among us can cross to the other side of the sea and get it for us and impart it to us, that we may observe it?' No, the thing is very close to you, in your mouth and in your heart, to observe it.

- Naturally, Andrew suggests the great [Beyond the Sea](#), here sung by Bobby Darin.

Horayot and Rosh Hashana. The worldwide Daf Yomi learning cycle is this week learning the last two pages of Tractate Horayot (13-14) and the first five pages of Tractate Zevachim (2-6).

It was closer to the beginning of our journey together through the Talmud that we began to observe how timely were some of the topics we were discussing. I don't mean timely in the sense of contemporary or teaching us something for our time. I mean the oohs and ahs of what you might (wrongly) call timing coincidences. One discussion I particularly remember was on [March 25, 2021](#), when we discussed how vanishingly unlikely it was that we were finishing Tractate Pesachim so close to Pesah. Indeed, we calculated that it appeared that we will not be learning *Pesachim* so close to Pesah for at least another 1,000 years!

In the intervening years, we've moved away from such cheap thrills. Verily, I don't know why. And in any event it cannot be lost on anyone how uncanny it is that this week we are finishing Tractate Horayot and that next Monday night is Rosh Hashana. As if we needed the obvious cosmic connection between tractate and holiday to be made any clearer, page 12a of Tractate Horayot includes a listing of the *simanim* or special short prayers we say over various new or special fruit dishes eaten at the dinner table *on Rosh Hashana*. Sure, just a coincidence, I know.

T'aint no coincidence at all. The entire short Tractate of Horayot is about repentance, or *teshuba*; the offerings being discussed throughout are in the nature of penance for error. And not just penance for error committed behind closed doors, with no victim other than oneself. No, the errors at the heart of the Tractate include those committed by community leaders, with negative effects on the entire community. When all three Chapters of the Tractate are considered, Tractate Horayot deals with errors by a community's judicial leaders, its elected or appointed leaders, and its ritual leaders. Basically the Tractate covers all bases in showing how leaders err and how, with courage, they acknowledge the error, atone for it, and move on. What a deep and brilliant lesson as we move into our communal High Holiday season.

Hello Zevachim! It is even more propitious that with the end of Tractate Horayot we end one of the six Orders of the Talmud (the fifth), relating to torts, civil laws, etc. We are now embarking on Seder Kodshim, or the Order relating to sin, sacrifices, repentance. Tractate Zevachim has 14 Chapters and covers 119 double-sided pages. Tractate Zevachim, or the Tractate on sacrifices, is tailor made for the personal aspects of the High Holidays we are about to observe.

More Vacation Photos! Last week's were great; send in more!

Publication Notice. Starting next week, the week of Rosh Hashana, and for the ensuing weeks when we will be spending much of the week observing (hopefully together) our Fall holidays of Kippur, Succot, and Shmini Atzeret/Simhat Torah, instead of our typically unfailing publication on Thursdays at 11 am, this weekly missive will be sent on Fridays at 11 am, except for the week of Kippur, when it will go out on Wednesday (Erev Kippur). I hope you will still find, read, enjoy, and respond. Just as hopefully, we will be back to Thursdays @ 11 am EDT beginning October 23.

In this, our final email in this *Year of Renewal*, let us feel and express *gratitude* and pray *Hoshi'á nna, save us now*. Happy New Year to all!

Louis Solomon, Parnas