

Dear Members of CBI,

I want to thank all of the readers for making the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services so personal and moving. A gold star goes out to our Sisterhood, especially Susan Martin, for preparing the wonderful Rosh Hashanah Oneg and the Yom Kippur breaking of the fast. Both the traditional and reform services were well attended and meaningful to all.

The Shofar called us together on Rosh Hannah to reflect and repent and sounded again at the end of Yom Kippur indicating this thoughtful period had ended. During this time we read and listened to very moving liturgy, the Rabbi addressed and we pondered critical questions all Jews ask sometime in their lives, and finally we reflected on the past year and prayed for repentance for acts we knowing and unknowing committed. So what now?

The real meaning of the High Holidays is reflected in the actions we take the rest of the year. Let me pose several questions.

As a result of Yom Kippur:

How many of us were honest enough to admit we had committed acts of word or deed against others but more importantly how many of us have made an effort to contact that person and make amends?

How many of us thought you should do more to contribute to Tikkun Olam but more importantly how many of us have taken action to actually do something?

How many of us realized a need to be more involved in our Jewish religious life but more importantly how many of us have contemplated how we might do this and what actions have we taken.

How many of us felt a need to be more committed to Congregation Beth Israel through being involved in projects and committees but more importantly how many of us have taken action and called the Congregation Beth Israel Office to volunteer for projects or committees, requested to discuss how you can contribute given your interests, skills, and time constraints.

I encourage you take the actions necessary for making your personal and religious lives better for yourselves and your families but I also encourage you to pick up the phone and call the CBI office and tell Debbie you want to volunteer for a specific committee or project or that you want to talk to someone about the possibilities open to you.

The reason I ask these question so soon after Yom Kippur is simple-- that the longer we wait the less likely we are to act. I look forward to working with all of you over the next year so that we can make Congregation Beth Israel an even greater Family of Families.

I wish you all a healthy, happy and successful new year.

L'Shanah Tovah
Jim Gold