

Greetings from the Board

Dear Shir Libeynu Congregant,

The year 5770 (aka 2009/2010) has been a momentous one for Congregation Shir Libeynu. After many years of High Holy Day services at Cecil Community Centre, we have found a new, larger space at First Unitarian Congregation. While we will miss the old-time atmosphere of Cecil Street, we're thrilled that, for the first time in several years, we should be able to accommodate everyone. We're looking forward to welcoming back those who were not able to obtain tickets in the past, as well as long-time members and the few dozen newcomers we get every year.

Not everything has changed: we are delighted that our ritual leader, Aviva Goldberg, will be back to conduct services and that Daniela Gesundheit will be performing *chazzanut* for us again this year. Moshe Hammer, the world-renowned violinist who performed *Kol Nidrei* for us last year, will be back, accompanied by our long-time pianist, Liz Acker. We are pleased to offer a full slate of services as well as our communal Erev Rosh Hashanah dinner and mid-day activities on Yom Kippur, including our early afternoon family service.

Supporting Shir Libeynu has always made sense, but this year, it truly pays to become a member. The cost of a **regular adult membership** is **\$230**. The price of a **limited income membership** is still **\$70**, as difficult economic times continue. A **full-price non-member ticket** costs **\$150 per service**, for a total of **\$300 per adult** if you are attending all services, so membership saves you **\$70**. We are also offering a special members' benefit this year. Members who wish to purchase **individual tickets** for their family and friends receive a discount of **\$15** and pay only **\$135/ticket** for Rosh Hashanah OR Yom Kippur or **\$270** for Rosh Hashanah AND Yom Kippur. Please express your support for our congregation by joining today, no matter how many or few services you plan to attend. Membership includes a vote at the Annual General Meeting for all members 13 years of age and older.

This year, we finally achieved charitable status. We operate on a budget of **under \$50,000 per year**. That covers High Holy Day services and monthly Shabbat services, Holocaust Education Week, adult education opportunities and holiday celebrations as well as subsidizing the participation of those who cannot afford to pay for membership. **Please make Shir Libeynu a part of your annual giving program by making a donation along with your membership renewal.** Your generosity will allow us to expand the programming we already offer our community. Donations to Congregation Shir Libeynu now generate receipts that can be used at tax time.

This year, our mailing includes an optional **Congregant Information and Participation Form** that will let us know more about you, your family, your needs, your ideas and the ways you might like to become more involved at Shir Libeynu. Please take a few moments to provide information that will help us get to know you better.

We look forward to greeting the year 5771 with you.

L'shana tova,

Congregation Shir Libeynu's Board of Directors

Greetings from Aviva

One of the most positive aspects of our congregation is our ability to review, renew and reflect on our past in order to move forward to what we hope will be a better future. Such is the promise of each High Holy Day for each of us. It is a time for personal review, reflection and renewal; a time that is reflected in the Four Worlds concept of our ancient and contemporary tradition. The High Holy Days resonate with these four principles: the world of *Atzilut*, a meditation on the Divine; the world of *Br'iah*, finding guidance and inspiration from teachers and texts; *Y'tzirah*, creating whole and inclusive environments; and the world of *Assiyah*, healing of ourselves and our world. May we work in this New Year towards the fulfillment of each of these principles. May we together take upon ourselves the challenge to enter into this New Year committed to strengthening and renewing our communities, our relationships, and our innermost selves.

Shana Tova,

Aviva