

Awake You Sleepers
September – October Chaverim 2022
Rabbi Andy Gordon

*The shofar sounds,
and I am awake.
Shaken out of the daze of sleep,
I see the truth:
the Day of Judgment approaches.
Soon we will stand before the One
who can't be flattered or fooled.
Soon we will stand in the courtroom of conscience.
Soon we will know the joy of beginning again.*

-Siddur Mishkan HaLev

There is nothing like the sound of the shofar! The shofar is raw, powerful, and ancient in its voice. No matter what we are doing, no matter where we are in life, the shofar seems to draw our attention. Our rabbis even share that the shofar is to be our Alarm Clock, to awaken us to the many responsibilities in our lives, our families' lives, our Jewish community, and the world around us. This short poetic piece from the prayer book *Mishkan HaLev* is based upon the words of Maimonides, "Awake, awake, you sleepers from your sleep. Examine your deeds, return in repentance, remember your Creator." As the High Holy Days approach, now is the time to wake up, to restart, to renew our Jewish commitments!

As the High Holy Days approach, find new ways to engage and reengage in Jewish life at Bolton Street Synagogue. There are wonderful opportunities for learning including our new **Adult Hebrew Class** on Sunday mornings which will lead into our newest cohort of **Adult B'nai Mitzvah**. Two to three times a

month, join us for **Taking Hold of Torah** on Saturday mornings as all ages and abilities join together to grapple with the stories of the Torah. We also welcome Shira Zeliger who will be teaching a three-part Adult Education class on **Sibling Rivalries** beginning in October.

This fall, reflect upon new ways to better our community and our world. On Sunday, September 18th at 9:30 am, we will hold our first **Tikkun Olam Fair** in which our community can gather to meet each other and commit to work on a specific Social Justice Activity in the year ahead. When you are in the lobby, sign-up to write postcards to convince all Americans to **Vote**. Or commit to baking a **Casserole** each month for Our Daily Bread.

Of course, the High Holy Days are approaching! Join us in preparation as we welcome **Michelle Citrin**, incredible song-writer and performer, as she guides us to engage in the themes of the High Holy Days on Saturday, September 17th at 7:00 pm. Attend a meeting of one of our many social groups such as **BOLT** for young professionals, **Baby Brood** for young parents, **Kehillah** for religious school parents, **6T+** for those approaching retirement and beyond, or **Garden and Grounds** for those who love nature. Or help us create new groups for people of all ages and interests!

As the shofar blasts, may you be called upon to renew yourself and your Jewish commitments. We look to each one of us to hear the call and to step up. We can't be a strengthened community without each one of us! Wishing us all a Happy and Sweet New Year. May the shofar's blast propel us forward.