

Good Yontiv. When I go to the Cemetery between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, I look at the names and respect what the pioneers, relatives and founders did for us. It is a reality check when I see all those who have lived before us that provided us the opportunities we have today. Remember the people that had the foresight and courage to start CCS 76 years ago. Our ancestors did what they had to do for their families to succeed and have a chance to better themselves. The sacrifices they made for future generations were enormous. They did not worry about what they were driving, wearing, watching or eating, they were just trying to survive and make life better for their children. As our recent Torah portion taught us, look at Moses, our greatest leader. Moses knew that he would not be with his people when they finally reached the Promised Land of Israel. The Torah mentions the great and awesome things that Moses did before the eyes of all Israel. He was dedicated to his people, even at a cost to himself. Nevertheless, he led the masses to the doorstep of Israel and did what he had to.

We take our children to this class and that activity and expose them to multiple things to better themselves. Don't let them miss out on the powerful teachings of Synagogue and Torah, where all aspects of life are covered. The Torah gives us more guidance than any computer, smart phone, Ipad or TV can.

Here we are on Yom Kippur to ask for forgiveness. Here is a Yom Kippur story that you may find interesting...Sam Shapiro's 11 year old son, Isaac, walked up to the synagogue Rabbi during the break between the services on Yom Kippur. "Rabbi Goldstein, you must help me...I know that we're supposed to fast this day, but I am so thirsty. I must be allowed to have something to drink!"

Rabbi Goldstein quietly but firmly responded, "I am sorry, but it must be a life-threatening situation before the fast may be broken."

"But, you don't understand," whined young Shapiro, "if I don't get something soon, I am going to faint from thirst." Shapiro had continued on for some time when the Rabbi finally relented and instructed the Gabbai to give Isaac a glass of water. Young Shapiro quickly downed the liquid, whereupon he gasped, "That's the last time I have salt herring for breakfast on Yom Kippur."

I would like to appeal to the baby boomers and newer generations to step up and get more involved in our synagogue. As parents, set an example for your children and show them that it is important to give back. It is our challenge to bridge the generations. This will give you the opportunity to reconnect with your roots, and teach the next generation what being Jewish is all about. They will steer the course into the future for CCS.

So many dedicated volunteers have been doing the same jobs and chairing the same events for years and are eager to teach and share their knowledge with some new people. We should take advantage while we can, and learn more about the particulars of our synagogue. Like many things in life that are already established for us, we may tend to take CCS for granted.

Later this month, we will honor our volunteers. It would be great if the volunteers would be the majority of the congregation, and not the minority. If you have expertise, share it with the synagogue. Your special knowledge in your particular area may be needed. We are not looking to break your bank, or consume all of your spare time.

Please share some of your success in life, and you will receive so much more in return. The High Holidays are the time for us to be retrospective and start fresh, turn over a new leaf and try different things. Prayer, Repentance and Charity are the major holiday themes. The Holiday Season gives us a chance to re-prioritize our lives. Don't ignore the foresight of our forefathers. Those opportunities are here, take advantage of them. Please do what you can in any way you see fit. It will be a Mitzvah you will not regret.

I will try to change myself, and attempt to respect the Jets and Mets. I must admit, I am still on the fence about the Yankees.

Be thankful that you and your family are healthy and have the freedom and opportunity to help the synagogue family. Be thankful that we are fortunate enough to be living on Cape Cod.

Our older congregants should be open to new ideas from the younger generation. In addition, the younger generation should be open to the wisdom of the older generation. Please be receptive to the appeal for our Solar Initiative. If you did not receive an appeal card, they are available in the lobby, or on our website.

We are trying different things to improve CCS. Our URJ Biennial is in Washington later this year where the Rabbi, a group of Board Members, and other congregants will attend. We are constantly looking to stay informed about new national innovations. If you would like more Biennial information you can call the synagogue office, or refer to the URJ website.

Look at the sacrifices the Jewish Chaplains made. We saw from the Memorial Plaque Exhibit that they died providing service for Jewish soldiers. If you missed the exhibition, please view the information on our synagogue

website. On Rosh Hashanah, the Rabbi so eloquently spoke of Martin Luther King and the ultimate sacrifice he made. The Jewish people know of sacrifice only too well. The tragic events we experience put life in perspective.

We have the chance every year on the High Holidays to take inventory, clean house and start over.

Make CCS a priority, not an afterthought. May we all strive to make the world a better place, and let it begin right here at CCS, so we make our ancestors proud.

Happy, Safe and Healthy New Year to you and your Family