



*Rabbi Jonathan Pearl, Ph.D.*  
*Cantor Emeritus George Lindenblatt*

August 3, 2021 / 25 Av 5781

Dear Friends,

Last year at this time, we wrote our *Kol Nidrei* Appeal to you under the disconcerting circumstances of our building having been forced to close for a few months due to COVID, and our connections with each other relegated to being primarily online.

No one back then imagined that we would continue this terribly challenging situation for so many more months to come, lasting for the rest of the year, and until now.

The question, as asked last year, of how we deal with difficulties is an eternal question. The words addressing this question last year hold true even more so now:

“We do our best to anchor and arm ourselves with Jewish eternal beliefs, religious sensibilities, moral clarity, and *Torah's* ordered understanding of life. Avoiding the fleeting and faddish, we learn, embrace, and act upon our people's accumulated age-old teachings, wisdom, and guidance. As believing realists, we do our best to prepare for the best of times and the worst of times. With vitality, confidence, and a profound sense of optimism, we build, and we sustain that which we have built: our society, family, circle of true friends, community, synagogue – while keeping in mind what the Psalmist taught: ‘Unless Adonai builds the house, those who build it labor in vain; unless Adonai watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain’.

*(over)*

ACI – this בית אלהים 'house of God,' this קהילה קדושה 'sacred congregation' – was built, rebuilt, and is sustained now to be here for you as both anchor and inspiration, during both the best of times and the worst of times. These past many months have presented significant challenges for us all. And through it all, as many of you have expressed your gratitude, we have been here for you, providing Jewish sustenance, solace, strength, sanguinity, joy, and camaraderie.

At this time of *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*, we beseech you now to generously and significantly help sustain ACI in your lives. Obviously, with all that has been going on, and with the building having been shut down for so long, our synagogue is straining financially.

So we ask all of you – according to your ability, and, as the *Torah* says, אשר ידבנו ליבו – as your heart guides your generosity – please dig as deeply as you can to help support ACI, to sustain that which we have built, to help positively address the condition of uncertainty, and to demonstrate your gratitude for the many blessings in your life – including ACI.”

We are so pleased and proud that ACI has been there for all of you these past nearly-eighteen months of onerous pandemic restrictions; that a team of us have fully been there to provide for you an anchor in your lives, an unshakable Jewish foundation, a strong sense of community, enduring connection, ongoing meaningful services and programming, the incomparable MASKIT, very creative and effective high-tech, and as close to a sense of normalcy as was possible.

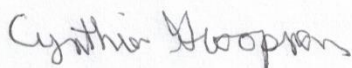
As of this writing, we are poised to open fully for our High Holiday 5782 services in September. We look forward to our all seeing each other again very soon, and to each and all of us being able to pray, sing, observe, enjoy, reflect, and celebrate together – really, actually, together!

Wishing each of you a שנה טובה – a very good, happy, confident, healthy, safe, and meaningful Jewish New Year of 5782 ahead!

*Bivracha,*



Rabbi Jonathan Pearl



with Cynthia Groopman, Co-President



and Judith Schloss Markowitz, Co-President