

Message From Cantor Joshua Shron



You know how you sometimes wish that summer would last forever? Well, this year, it kind of feels like it does. I am writing to you in late August, a time usually marked by frantic High Holy Day preparations. We begin blowing the shofar each day to help get ourselves mentally and spiritually prepared. We reflect on the year that's passed and contemplate what will be in the upcoming year. As a cantor, I begin a regimen of extra hydration daily. We finalize meal plans, family visits, synagogue tickets, dry cleaning and "what do you mean you're not coming home for Rosh Hashana?" arguments.

But not this year. At least not yet. Ahhhhhhhhh...

In this Jewish leap year, we gain an extra month...to savor the end of summer, to prepare for the holidays, to allow our children and grandchildren to settle in to the new school year. To breathe. And boy, does it feel good.

Watch this space next month for my inevitably heavier "let's all be 'more Jewish' in the coming year" message. This month, we'll keep things a bit lighter.

I write to you in the midst of a very turbulent time in the Shron household. Today is Monday, August 22nd. Simcha, my 16-year-old, recently returned from an unforgettable 5-week journey to Israel, where he not only toured our homeland but also spent a week working in a camp for kids who have lost a parent to terrorism or to other causes. The experience clearly changed his life. He is now scrambling to finish the summer reading assignments that he had conveniently forgotten about all summer long. My two daughters, Ellie and Sela, return tomorrow from four weeks at Camp Stone, a wonderful Jewish camp in Western Pennsylvania. My other sons, AJ and Tobey, completed an enjoyable summer at the local day camp this past Friday.

My kids had a fantastic summer! So why is life so turbulent? Because for the next two and a half weeks, THEY'RE ALL HOME.

All day, every day. Morning 'till night. Looking for something to do. Asking "what are we doing today?" from the time they jump out of bed (way too early, mind you). Expecting their parents to entertain them. Expecting their parents to feed them. Expecting their parents to clean up after them.

Yes, it's that dreaded time between camp and school. A time when Mairov and I try to be great parents and take our kids on all kinds of fun excursions, create amazing family memories and post adorable family photos on Facebook...but inevitably fail due to our own work commitments. After all, we have things to do! Deadlines to meet! "Temple Talk" articles to write! We can't always drop everything just because they're home and bored!

As we dread the upcoming two weeks, I present to you reason #2,402 why we say TGIS – "thank God it's Shabbat". Even when our lives are most hectic, we can always count each week on a peaceful, quiet day to enjoy productive family time. Not necessarily a day to DO something special, but simply a day that can BE something special. A day that we can devote entirely (almost) to our kids, without the pressures of work, errands, chores and deadlines. Sure, a week in the Bahamas would be nice, but I'll bet my kids will grow up with some pretty amazing memories of our time around the Shabbat table...just as I did growing up.

But unfortunately, as I write this, it's only Monday. Now if you'll excuse me, AJ is asking me to play video games, Tobey is bugging me to make him lunch, Simcha needs to be driven to a friend's house, and Mairov has conveniently disappeared from our home. Isn't parenthood wonderful? How many days until school???



Teen Conversations with The Cantor

Tuesday, September 6 at 7:30 p.m.	9th & 10th Grade BBQ At Congregation L'Dor V'Dor
Tuesday, September 13 at 7:30 p.m.	Escape the Room, 44 Jericho Turnpike, Mineola
Tuesday, September 27 at 8:00 p.m.	Starbucks, Little Neck Plaza, 254-41 Horace Harding Expy

Watch your email for details! Questions: Contact Cantor@olnjc.org or 732-762-8484