

High Holy Days, 2014/5775: Our *Chai* Year!!!!

Greetings from our Liturgical Leaders:

On Erev Rosh Hashanah, Congregation Shir Libeynu will be celebrating its 18th year of conducting High Holy Day services to the Toronto Jewish community. In these 18 years, we have grown from 70 members to more than 300. You have told us time and again, that it is the quality of the services we provide that is most important to you. As such, we are confident that as we have grown we have continued to preserve our original goals in providing significant, meaningful and unique worship services to all our diverse community.

We thank all of you from our hard working board members to volunteers in all aspects of our services for committing your efforts, your time, your ideas, and your ideals to our congregation. Let this new year of 5775 be one of continued personal growth for each of us and for our synagogue. Together, as a caring and authentic community, let us continue to celebrate and support one another in all life cycle rituals from the naming of babies to bar and bat mitzvahs, from commitment ceremonies to memorial services.

In this our '*chai*' 18th year, let us renew our pledge to joyfully celebrate Judaism in an egalitarian, inclusive, intellectually stimulating, creative and participatory environment.

Shana tova to you and yours,

Aviva

To the members, friends, and families of our Shir Libeynu community,

Every summer we all shake our heads in disbelief. We marvel at the gardens and trees, blooming hurriedly after such a long, arduous winter. And just as we start to get the hang of summer, of lakeside picnics and evening strolls with friends and family, the High Holy Days seem to appear as though from around a blind corner. These Days of Awe always startle our summer sensibilities; they lure us out of warm, sleepy days of leisure and usher us into a state of profound alertness and intention.

As chazzan and music director of Shir Libeynu for the past seven years, it has been my honour to turn *my* High Holy Days-induced alertness towards the songs,

prayers, and sounds of our services together. Every sound we make as a community is part of our collective prayer - the low rumble of chatter and laughter as we greet one another upon entering the shul, the shuffling of machzor pages during our silent meditations, the singing of the children, the voices of the choir, the blasts of the shofar, the chanting of the *Torah*, our voices as we stand for *Avinu Malkeinu*, *Aviva's* thoughtful words and blessings as we greet our new year together with wishes for peace.

I look forward to another year of resonating together in song with each of you.

With wishes for a sweet, healthy, and fulfilling year,

Daniela Gesundheit

[High Holy Days Form](#)
[Schedule of High Holy Days](#)