

Rabbi Goldberg: We Need You to Volunteer for Shir Libeynu's Board/and or other Group/Committee/Initiative!

Our little shul that could, and did, can only exist and thrive in the future with your volunteerism help. This year, if you are new to our shul, or if you have come only for High Holy Days services, or if you've attended for years but never really been involved, and for those of you interviewed in our Dialogue of last year, those of you age 18 or older -- think about becoming a board member. Help us to plan, create and implement programming for our families, our singles, our community. If your acumen is in fundraising and/or grant applications we could really use your assistance in obtaining funding so that we can find ways to open the door to our synagogue to more people whose financial situations are precarious. You can help us create new projects and events, too. If you are wondering about the scope of the commitment from you for our hard-working board, an information meeting is taking place in early November for such purpose. It's a way to get to know your shul, so please think about attending.

And if the prospect of being on a board daunts you, because of its time commitment or for any other reason, become a vibrant volunteer for any of those tasks mentioned above. We also need: assistance at our family holiday events, help at our Shabbat services and our bar/bat mitzvah events ([Shir Libeynu All Year Long](#)). This year, volunteer to reach out to people interested in seeing a movie or a piece of theatre together a couple of times a year. Volunteer to be part of the contemplative-chanting circle, or a Jewish reading club, a study group, for one or more of our teams that provide [loving kindness \(chesed\) to the ill](#), or care for the dead and comfort for [the bereaved](#), and more.

Last week, I was speaking with my cousin who had attended our Rosh Hashanah services for the first time. I was, of course, expecting her to wax eloquent regarding our incredible chazzan, Daniela, which she did, and to compliment our wonderful choir, which she did, and to praise with an abundance of accolades her beloved younger cousin, me, which she did not! But one of the things she did mention was that she found it refreshing to come into a synagogue on High Holy Days and not be hit over the head with requests for money, be it for the shul itself or for another Jewish organization. And I assured her that this was not something we do, rather as you may have noted, we emphasize that on the High Holy Days it is customary to give tzedakah and we leave it to you our members and congregants to decide how and where to allocate your charity. What I didn't tell her was that we do ask for, and what I am requesting of you here, is your participation, as a board member or volunteer.

Before I end this pitch, I would like to share with you the following Hasidic anecdote, with which I ended our Erev Rosh Hashanah service, because I think it says it all: A young student came to his rebbe, his teacher, and he said, "Rebbe, I have to tell you I am terribly disappointed in God." "Really," said the rebbe, "and why is that?" "Why, I'll tell you why," said the student, "it took God six days, six days, to create the world, and

look at it, it's terrible! Why doesn't God work a bit harder?" So the rebbe thought for a moment and said, "Tell me, could you do better?" And the student, blurted out, "yes." "Well then," said the rebbe, "in that case, what are you waiting for? Start doing it!"

So, for those of you who can do better, for those of you who want us to do better, who wish to enhance what we do well already, for those of you who have ideas, who have critiques, who have a bit of time and a lot of energy, please do consider becoming a part of our board and/or volunteering for one of our events or groups in the coming year. Write to: volunteer@shirlibeynu.ca indicating if you want to become part of our board or volunteer at one of our events in group in the coming year.

(This is an edited version of the message that Rabbi Goldberg gave from the bimah on Yom Kippur)