

HAMIGDALOR

המגדלור



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SPECIAL YOM KIPPUR MIGDALOR

What Am HaYam Means to Me by Steve Goch

Shana Tovah. Rabbi Sacks has asked me to say a few words on what Am HaYam means to me.

I lived in the San Fernando Valley for 35 years, and attended a number of conservative synagogues as many of you have. When I moved to Santa Paula I looked for a conservative temple in Ventura County, and found Am HaYam.

As the Migdalor states, it is the only conservative temple between Thousand Oaks and San Luis Obispo. I immediately felt warmth that was lacking in some other temples. It really felt like family to me.

Two years ago, when the Maria fire was burning we were told to evacuate. It was really scary to stand on our front porch and see all of the top of South Mountain ablaze.

I got a call from Rabbi Sacks asking if we needed any help. It was the first time a rabbi of any temple contacted us, and we were quite moved. A few months ago, I was injured, and asked to be put on the Mi Sheberach list to pray for my healing. I was contacted by Brenda, asking if I needed any help in running errands for groceries or any other assistance. This really touched me. Thanks to your prayers, I am on the road to recovery. I am happy to be a member of this temple, and support it with my donations.

I was treasurer of a Condo Homeowners Association for 25 years, and am aware of the costs of running any organization. Prayer alone will not keep the lights on, which is why your donations are needed.

Please donate generously this Yom Kippur to keep that light in the Migdalor burning.

Thank you

Message From

Brenda Rich



G'mar tov: welcome to the year 5782

Thank you, Steve Goch for the lead into my appeal speech.

You've heard me speak to you many times. And you've heard me extol the virtues of CAH and how much our synagogue means to me. Well, nothing has changed that. Not the pandemic, not world events, not tragic events. If anything, these happenings have only brought how much having Am HaYam being here even more meaningful.

It's the choice I made.

Our lives are full of choices. To me that is what that little hyphen means. You know what I am talking about that hyphen that appears after the year you were born and the year it ends. As I said our lives are full of choices. The first one happens every morning when we wake up. Are we going to get out of bed????

Our Am HaYam family helps that choice to be yes. We are Jews. We need to survive so of course we need to get out of bed.

During the pandemic Rabbi Sacks kept Am HaYam together by having weekly services and more. We celebrated Passover together and much more.

Not only did we have services but also Fran Lande, our Education VP, and Rabbi Sacks brought together volunteers to hold classes on zoom. Mort Resnick continued with his Mondays with Mort Torah Studies and added a class on Pirkei Avot and beginning Hebrew reading. Fran Lande led a Middot class focusing on character strengths through tough times. Andrea Massion led a sing along class for hope and healing. Rabbi Sacks had a class on Psalms. All helped to keep us together.

And 5782 will bring us so much more. Services have resumed at CAH and are being live streamed. Thanks to a grant from the Pacific Southwest branch of United Synagogue costs for wi-fi were covered. And special thanks to Mark Rich and Neal Abramson who used their knowledge to enhance the quality of sound that added so much to our enjoyment. Thanks to Rabbi and Fran for their diligence in seeing the grant through from start to finish.

A special yearlong exploration of conservative Judaism will be brought to us that is also being funded by a grant from Pacific Southwest branch of United Synagogue again through the efforts of Rabbi Sacks and Fran Lande. We are being recognized as a viable and vital entity by United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

We will be offering free access to all conservative Judaism's scholar stream series beginning in October and ending in May. In addition, our Significant Book Club under the leadership of Fran

Lande has 4 books scheduled for our pleasure beginning in December. All these programs will be brought to you at no charge.

Another bright spot on our horizon is our new website that can be found at www.congregationamhayam.com. There is a bright, modern look so be sure to check it out. Thanks goes to Marc Goldman, Miriam Mack, Mark Rich, Josh Lampel and our generous sponsors. Kudos also go to Mort Resnick and Bev Rosen for all their years of dedication in making our Migdalor available on our old website that created the basis for our new one.

Remember: so much has been done to keep our Am HaYam family connected. So much has been done for us. Here is where my appeal for money comes in.

Now is the time for you to help all this continue.

Our basic expenses have to be met like rent, rabbi's salary and leasehold expenses. Now is the time for you to help us!!

Three years ago, when my grandniece, Ella Resnick, was 5-years old she gave back the money she got for finding the afikomen telling her mommy to give it to Am HaYam as they knew people who were hungry, and they could get them food. On August 24th, Ella turned 8. Shortly before that her mother, my niece, Bina Resnick, posted on Facebook, the following:

“She still surprises me. On one hand she can be so light and childlike with constant talk about the color pink and magical creatures. And at the same time, she can be so deep and mature in her thoughts. Yesterday, out of the blue, she started talking about wars and wondering out loud why countries and people start them?”

She then went on to ask “I don't understand -why do some people treat black and brown people differently? Why does skin color matter so much?”

This was taken word by word from that posting on Facebook on August 20th. From an 8 year old!!!!

So let us try to ease her mind. Let us start by making the choice to be kind and loving with each other and stop the war between ourselves with our words, actions, and unacceptance. Let us make this choice for ourselves, our country, and the world. Let us make the choice to follow the creed that all are created equal. It won't be easy to do. But it must be done, and now is the time to make these choices.

Here at Am HaYam, you hear, learn and feel all of this from our Torah, classes, and D'var Torahs. As I have said Am HaYam is here for us to guide us on the paths of kindness, love, and acceptance.

Make sure we are here to continue teaching these values.

To paraphrase, a famous president, and I probably am not doing this 100% correct, who said ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.

I say, ask what is Am HaYam doing for me and then what can I do for Am HaYam?

Please click the link below to donate today! I hope that you will choose in your hearts to donate. Let everyone join together and choose to make Am HaYam continue.

Recently I received a heartfelt note from one of our valued members saying, "I have a deep personal interest in keeping Am HaYam a viable entity, as i feel i am part of the family." Please always remember

WE ARE FAMILY!!!!!!

G'mar chatimah tovah!
Brenda



Please consider checking the box that allows you to cover the processing fees.

Copy and paste link if needed

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