

In the immediate aftermath of our High Holiday season – which included beautiful Sukkot and Simchat Torah festivals here at the Jewish Community Center of Harrison – I was fortunate to receive many comments from many of you. What spoke to you of the course of Rosh Hashanah, what didn't; what you found meaningful, what you'd like more of, less of, etc. Such comments are helpful - please keep them coming.

I also received an unbelievable letter – from someone beyond our congregation – in response to two High sermons that I delivered, one this year and one last year. I think you will enjoy the letter here as much as I did!

I am writing these words in advance of a quick trip to Jerusalem next week where I will represent our congregation and the wider Conservative/Masorti Movement as a delegate to the World Zionist Congress. Though I am primarily going for the Congress, I am also “due” for a trip – I try to be in Israel on an annual basis. As Israel is currently facing difficulties of which you are surely aware, I am eager to be there in personal solidarity – but also representing each of you as we pray for quiet and peaceful days. Oseh shalom bimromav. Hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu. V'al kol Yisrael. May the One who causes peace to reign in the high heavens let peace descent on us and on all Israel Amen.

I look forward to sharing my experiences with you upon my return.