

יום טוב

High Holiday Greetings

from

LEBO'S



Barbara & Jerry Levin
Linda & Mark Goldsmith
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At this special time of Rosh Hashanah, all of us at Levine Properties wish all of you a New Year blessed with good health, happiness, and prosperity.



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Prepare to be in Awe: The Coming Days of Awe



By Rabbi Jim Bennett, Temple Beth El

The smell of matzo ball soup ... the sound of the shofar ... the haunting melody of Kol Nidre ... the sticky sweetness of apples and challah dipped in honey ... *Avinu Malkeinu* ... the crowded synagogue ... chopped liver ... long services ... long sermons ... beautiful music ... greetings of Shanah Tovah ... family ... friends. ...

These are among the most familiar sights and sounds of the High Holy Days. When we think of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, many of our thoughts turn to such images. As a new year begins, we all think of our individual and collective memories. This is a time of joy and celebration, of reflection, and a time of remembering.

The coming days of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and the period in between are known by many names. Among the most profound is "The Days of Awe." According to our tradition, these powerful days are called *Yamim HaNoraim*, the Awe-filled days. These dramatic times are to be inspiring, provocative and life changing. Every year we look back and remember. This year is no exception, for we have a year of profound memories to share and upon which to reflect.

How can we possibly make

meaning of the senseless events of the year that has passed? Collectively, we ask ourselves about earth-shattering acts of global terrorism, war, political unrest, suicide bombings, growing anti-Semitism and hatred, and we have no answer. As the first anniversary of September 11 comes and goes, we remind ourselves to remember, to learn lessons, to bring some meaning into that which seems senseless.

Individually, as well, we may reflect upon profound and deeply moving events of the year that has passed. We have regrets, we mourn our painful losses; we are disturbed by the changes and challenges of our lives. In the midst of our successes and achievements, we also are pained to remember the times of difficulty, and to seek to make the meaningful.

A new year also provides us with new opportunities. We have another chance, we can begin again. While we cannot change the past, and while we do not always know how to make sense of what has already occurred, we have a chance to try again. We are allowed to acknowledge our mistakes, our errors, our failings, and to dedicate ourselves to doing better the next time around. One sign of true repentance is to be presented with the same opportunity to sin and to choose the right thing the next time.

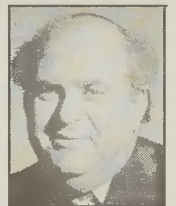
Sometimes, it is our own sins that consume us. At times like this, it may be the sins of others which weigh most heavily upon our souls. For all these sins, we

ask forgiveness.

And then we remember. We remember the things we hope to change, and then we remember the little things that make us smile, and the little things that remind us that we are not alone. We remember the smell of matzo ball soup, and we think, perhaps, of our grandmother or mother cooking the holiday meal. We remember hearing the sound of the shofar, wondering just how long that final blast of *Tekiah Gedolah* will last. We remember listening to the haunting melody of *Kol Nidre*, or tasting the sticky sweetness of apples and challah dipped in honey. We recall the sound of the choir singing *Avinu Malkeinu* in the crowded synagogue. We remember sharing and hearing greetings of *Shanah Tovah* spoken between family and friends. *Shanah Tovah u'metukah*. May it be a good and sweet year, a year of remembering. ☆

Do Not Separate Yourself

By Rabbi Murray Ezing, Temple Israel



Since September 11, we have been confronted with a new reality.

We are vulnerable; we can be hurt; and there are those who want to hurt us. We have taken our security for granted for most of our lives. Others in the world are envious of what our Democratic Republic has been able to build. Our population is diverse, and yet, for the most part, we truly live the principles upon which this nation was founded: Freedom and Equality. The Declaration of Independence taught that each of us are endowed with certain inalienable rights. "Among them are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

On July 4, 1776, 200 copies of the Declaration of Independence were printed and sent throughout the Thirteen Colonies. Of those 200 original documents, only 24 were known to exist. A 25th was discovered, quite by accident, after a painting was purchased at auction. That 25th "Dunlap Broadside" of the original Declaration of Independence is going on tour throughout the country. The last week of September, it will be here in Charlotte. This copy of the Declaration of Independence will travel throughout this country to help remind us all of the values and concepts for which our forefathers fought and risked their

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L'Shana Tova

From

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