

**DEAR** COMMUNITY,

This Shabbos is the first Shabbos of Chodesh Elul. We are beginning the month of preparation for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. Our sages tell us that during this month we have a different relationship with G-d, a connection described by the verse "Ani Ledodi V'dodi Lee" I am close to my beloved, and my beloved is close to me. G-d brings us close to Him at this point of the year to enable us to change our ways and help us merit a good year. G-d waits eagerly for us to show some signs of introspection and change.

The spiritual growth of a community is far stronger than the growth of a group of individuals. If we accept upon ourselves as a community, especially during such a pivotal time, to grow and change in how we relate to G-d and one another it will be an incredibly powerful merit to help us as a community in the coming year.

As such, I would like to announce the SBHC Kindness Initiative, a community project for the next few weeks until after Yom Kippur. We will commit as a community to have each one of us do one extra act of kindness each day. We will be sending out a signup sheet by email, and one will be available at the Hillel offices, for those who choose to join us in committing ourselves to this worthy endeavor.

I hope that we can merit the fulfillment of the verse "Olam Chesed Yibane" and with our kindness, we can build a better world and bring salvation and fortuitous judgment for the Jewish people and all of humanity.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Shlomo Agishtein