

Yom Kippur, a universal message

On Yom Kippur we recite Yizkor, a prayer which make us evoke the memory of our loved ones who are not with us physically but are part of who we are.

Our loved ones who have passed away made us who we are today. On Yom Kippur, the day of Atonement we remember them because without them we wouldn't exist. Yom Kippur, away when we Jews, try to become better human beings. Remembering our loved ones is one way to become a better person. The truth is that the liturgy of the Jewish High Holidays is not just about us, Jews. Its message is directed to the entire human race.

In our liturgy we read "... God, let all your creatures sense Your awesome power. Let all whom You have fashioned stand in fear and trembling. Let all human-kind pledge their allegiance to You, unified wholeheartedly to carry You will..."

The key word is "all". On Yom Kippur, we Jews, pray for a world of peace for all human beings. We ask for-giveness not just from our fellow Jews, but from any person we have wrong. The High Holidays and specially Yom Kippur is a strong reminder that in spite of our



Courtesy Temple Avodah
RABBI URI GOREN

individuality and uniqueness, we are connected and peace in our world will only be achieved when "all" humans can feel the connection and understand our common Divine origin.

This Yom Kippur I will pray for peace for all people. We cannot separate ourselves from the world and Yom Kippur reminds us of that holy connection between creation and our existence. As we pray for forgiveness and understanding, Jews around the world will also pray perfect forgiveness for all of us. It is our duty, on a day that makes us closer to God, to bring unity to the world. Yom Kippur a day when we Jews separate ourselves from the mundane, we also connect with those who are not longer with us and with the rest of the world. This Yom Kippur we will reaffirm our connection and relation with the human family, we are all part of God's Divine creation.

May peace descend on all of us, may this Jewish New Year bring peace to the world.

With love and hope, I remain,
Rabbi Uri Goren

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Temple Avodah
3050 Oceanside Road, Oceanside
(516) 766-6809

Driving with a Discount

Temple Avodah in Oceanside is offering a Defensive Driving class on Wednesday, Oct. 19, starting at 6:30 p.m. The course will allow participants to save up to 10 percent on auto insurance, and get up to four points reduced from their driving records. The discount is effective for three years. The class is open to licensed drivers 16 and older. The course is \$50/person, and refreshments will be served. Send your name, address, phone, email address, and number of people in your party to Temple Avodah, 3050 Oceanside Road, Oceanside, N.Y. 11572. Checks should be payable to Temple Avodah. Registration is required in advance. For more information, call 516-766-6809.

Preparing for the College Years

Wednesday, Oct. 26, at 7:30 p.m. This FREE seminar is for middle school and high school students, ages 12-18, and their parents, and will explore important issues now in preparation for the college years. A panel of experts help you start now to get ready, get organized, be healthy, and make smart decisions. This event is open to the public and is presented by TANG: Temple Avodah Networking Group and Temple Avodah. Register online at www.avodah.org or call 516-766-6809, x101.