

“The old will be renewed, and the new will be sanctified”

Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook, the first Chief Rabbi of Palestine, taught that the way to spiritual renewal was *L'chadaesh et ha-yashan u'l'kadaesh et ha-chadash*, to renew the old and sanctify the new. That is still the power and responsibility we all share as Jews. It's an ongoing task, and an ongoing joy.

I join STBZ with a feeling of renewed faith and a vision of a vibrant synagogue community. A community where we observe and honor older traditions, but also a community open to finding new ways, confident that they will be authentically Jewish.

I invite each of you to help me in this sacred task. Working together to renew the old and to sanctify the new, we can grow spiritually as a community and as individuals.

As we enter the High Holy Day season let us look ahead to that time in the foreseeable future when we are so vibrant and exciting, so vividly a Jewish community, that we will deserve to have said of us: “the stone the builders dismissed has ended up becoming the cornerstone...this is truly the day the Eternal has wrought, let us rejoice and be glad on it” (Ps. 118:22, 24).

B'yedidut (In Friendship),

Rabbi Joshua Ginsberg