

Welcome



In the middle of August, in my very first year at Sha'arei Tsedek, I went out and bought a new shofar.

I walked into the shop and tried them all out. But there was only one that fit. Only one seemed to actually work. It wasn't a difficult choice, of all the shofarot in that place, there was only one for me.

It sits beside me as I write this.

This year, it saddens me to know that you will hear it at a distance. I love the real physical experience of the mitzvot. All of us are missing real human contact. I have no way of sensing the impact of the shofar at a distance. But I do know that there is holiness in our effort at holding Sha'arei Tsedek, at striving for connection.

The spiritual intention, the *kavannah*, of each and every one of us who will be building our online community over Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Simchat Torah. I know that even more energy, love, effort, beauty, and spirituality will pour into those online services. That the raw power of all of those voices will be equivalent in some way to the impact that the shofar makes.

Because the shofar on my desk is a powerful reminder of the physicality and spirituality of distant connection. A connection that holds real potential, and real gifts.

I wish you a New Year of sweetness, consolation, and hope..

Rabbi Shulamit Ambalu
Principal Rabbi