

President's Message October 2008

The cover of [The New Union Prayer Book](#) indicates "For the Days of Awe." When the text inside contains passages such as "who shall live and who shall die," we certainly understand the implications of the writing on the cover. Does this contradict our general belief, and hope, that we have free will that we can exercise? No, because in the ten days from Rosh Hashanah until Yom Kippur we have time and free will to celebrate the birth and rebirth of the world. We can actively participate with REPENTANCE, PRAYER and CHARITY (teshuvah, tefilah and tzedakah).

So where does that leave us? Well, I thought you would never ask! Look at what some of our members have done this year with real-life activities that IMHO constitute an awesome example of free will for the good of our Center, teshuvah, tefilah and tzedakah. AJ Seidorf and his Boy Scout colleagues helped paint most of the first floor of our Temple. Not only was labor involved, but the organization of many hours of volunteer time. Maureen O'Leary visited and reported on the Paper Clip Museum in Whitwell, TN (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paper_Clips_Project). It is wonderful that a new member makes such a memorable journey and memorable presentation.

Our members perform similar acts in the course of their daily lives, most of which goes unrecognized. Our [Board members](#) go above the call of duty to sustain our Center. Bringing teshuvah, tefilah and tzedakah to our everyday lives is not that difficult. Just look around and say hello to your neighbor in the sanctuary, and you will most likely find an appropriate role model.

Shalom,
Jim Arvesen