



had been a part of this amazing community for years. We have been embraced by the heartfelt warmth of so many of you and we feel right at home.

We sense the sincere excitement of the community as you have shared with us what a historic moment this is in the Jewish history of Lincoln. With incredible vision, the leadership of both congregations - embraced by the entire membership - adopted the unique concept by which two synagogues joined forces and designed a unique model that should serve as an inspirational message to Jewish communities around the world.

South Street Temple and Tifereth Israel may perhaps have different outlooks on the philosophy, ideology, theology and ritual of their respective streams of Judaism. On the other hand, they share in the realization that they have the same heart and love for our heritage. Reform and Conservative, members with different approaches to Jewish life have fully affirmed how important it is for everybody to be together in one family!

This is what the Jewish community of Lincoln represents. A desire to be together and design a unique Jewish lifestyle, understanding differences but simultaneously embracing them! There is an affirmation by all that we are an *Am Echad*, One People, uniting everybody in a unique spirit seeking the renewal and the

As Rosh Hashanah is about to start, we wish each other a *Shanah Tovah*. I would like to expand on the meaning of the Hebrew word *shanah* as it conveys several possible things. The word *shanah* can mean **change**, derived from the Hebrew *shinui*. Indeed, the Jewish community here in Lincoln is changing its approach. Additionally, we are all united in our common desire for a year of change, one in which there will be health and wellbeing, not having to confront pandemic and illness. The word *shanah* can also mean **repetition**, derived from the Hebrew word/number *sheni*. It would maybe a wish to repeat the approach to replicate the ingenuity of our Jewish people in the past. Trying to do anything and everything we can, in order to make sure that the community will remain strong, viable and vital. The word *shanah* can also mean to **study** from the Hebrew words "*lishnot/Mishnah*". This is the wish of every Jewish teacher, hoping for new learning of Jewish texts, for "New Torah".

I would really like to embark with each and every one of you in a year of studying and learning together, embracing the wonderful teachings of our Jewish legacy. Dear friends, as we wish one another a Shanah Tovah, let us all enjoy a year of good change, a year of good repetitions and also a year of good study and learning! As we join in welcoming 5781, let us all pray inspired by Adonai for a good year, one that is sweet, bringing well-