

From: [David Kraemer](#)
To: [Covid Affiliate Archives](#)
Subject: Fwd: Shanah Tovah! Rochelle Zell's Rosh HaShanah Reader
Date: Friday, September 18, 2020 12:32:12 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Larry Silver <lasilver@sas.upenn.edu>
Date: September 18, 2020 at 11:54:35 AM EDT
To: David Kraemer <DAKRAEMER@JTSA.EDU>
Subject: Re: Shanah Tovah! Rochelle Zell's Rosh HaShanah Reader

More--at least digital stores more easily!

<https://www.jns.org/how-high-holiday-services-and-arrival-of-5781-are-going-to-look-very-different-across-america/>

On Fri, Sep 18, 2020 at 9:56 AM David Kraemer <DAKRAEMER@jtsa.edu> wrote:
thank you!

On Sep 18, 2020, at 7:21 AM, Larry Silver <lasilver@sas.upenn.edu> wrote:

My son (JTS alum) is the rabbi at Chicago's conservative Jewish high school. As per our discussion, I have asked him to collect materials from his school and from his schul, Anshe Emet in Chicago, concerning Jewish life there during the pandemic.

Consider this a first installment, since it includes the quarantine period of last spring.

Shana tova, Larry

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Zachary Silver, Rabbi** <RabbiSilver@rzjhs.org>
Date: Thu, Sep 17, 2020 at 10:08 PM
Subject: Fw: Shanah Tovah! Rochelle Zell's Rosh HaShanah Reader
To: silver.larrya@gmail.com <silver.larrya@gmail.com>

Hi! Not sure if you were on this email list but want to pass this along.

Will call tomorrow.

Z

--

Rabbi Zachary Silver
Rav Beit Sefer
Rochelle Zell Jewish High School
847-324-3709

Rochelle Zell Jewish High School creates a culture of academic excellence that inspires our students to think critically and achieve their full potential, while preparing them to live Judaism as responsible and involved citizens in the modern world.

From: Rabbi Zachary Silver <rabbisilver@rzjhs.org>

Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 3:45:04 PM

To: Zachary Silver, Rabbi

Subject: Shanah Tovah! Rochelle Zell's Rosh HaShanah Reader



As we approach 5781, we continue to journey through the wilderness. We yearn to make it to the Promised Land, a location of health and prosperity, of normalcy, where we can worship and live in community as we have in the past.

Amidst these new challenges, our school community has grasped even more the timeless wisdom that our texts offer, the power of covenantal community that binds us together. The divrei Torah in this collection come from the many times that students delivered words of Torah to the school community. Friday morning Tefillah is one of the highlights of our time at school, the opportunity for the entire school community, including students, parent guests, and faculty to join together for a shared purpose, of prayer, sharing Torah, and building a community of purpose. As you will see in this collection, students regularly reflect on their admiration toward upperclassmen, when they themselves were newcomers to the school. As seniors, they in turn see it as their mission to be the exemplars of the school community.

The divrei Torah in this collection span the entire year, with one piece coming from last year. What is perhaps most remarkable about the scope of these reflections is seeing how similar the thoughts were before the Coronavirus as they were after it. While students clearly speak to a different reality in the post-Covid 19 world, the questions that they ask about God, faith, community, about living as Jews and Americans are largely the same across the two very different realities of our school year.

The strength of education is in asking great questions. Only sometimes do we come up with answers. These questions give students the tools to navigate the world even amidst unprecedented uncertainty.

And with these big ideas, these divrei Torah also speak to how we can and should respond during this time. What has also been particularly powerful has been how our students have seen this traumatic period as a mandate to reach beyond themselves. As Rabbi Yitz Greenberg states, “The fundamental, ongoing communication of human value takes place when one person spends a piece of his or her life — some unique and irreplaceable amount of time — in relationship and service to the other” (“Personal Service: A Central Jewish Norm for Our Time”).

This service has both been within the school and outside of it. Through building covenantal community, students elevate others, and in doing so, themselves, as well. This is Torat Rochelle Zell, the Torah of Rochelle. Our Torah is deeply empathic and vulnerable, making individual and communal connections. Our learning provides language to explore the ineffable. This Torah is more important than ever.

This year, of all years, we encourage you to print out this document and read it during the High Holidays. During this chagim season that will look quite different than others any of us have experienced, these student reflections are sure to provide meaning to your holidays.

We wish you and your families a Shanah Tovah, a year of health and blessings.

Rabbi Zachary Silver
Rav Beit Sefer

Rosh HaShanah
5781

ראש השנה
תשפ"א

תורת
רושל זל

Student Divrei Torah
from the 5780
School Year

Click the image above to view a web-based magazine layout.

To download a printable PDF, click [here](#).



This email was sent to rabbisilver@rzihs.org.

[Click here to view the online version.](#)