

Erev RH 5777 Welcome

This past summer, I read an article by Alexa Broida, the Assistant Director of the URJ's Mitzvah Corps. She wrote about how she uses a number of transportation vehicles – a train, an elevator, an escalator, an airplane – to make her way to the many cities she visits during the year – and as I read it, I could not help but think about how we make our own ways through the year.

Up, down, across.

Each of us making our ways to our destinations.

But as we make our way, is it only the destination we should have before us?

It's certainly where we set out to arrive, and we utilize many of the conveniences that humans have built in order to carry other humans from place to place.

From location to location.

From destination to destination.

However... If we've heard it once, we've heard it a thousand times: "It's the journey, not the destination." "Life is what happens when you're busy making other plans." But what does that mean? How do we bring these clichés past rhetoric and into action?

Alexa suggests that we get to know our fellow travelers through asking about their stories.

As we make our journey through the year, how aware are we of those around us? How aware are we of their stories... And how have we shared our own stories with others?

How can we make the most of the journey and leave ourselves open to a destination that is informed by the richness of each other along the way?

We ask questions. We make the most of the moments we have together. We use that time to learn more about another person and in the process, we give others the chance to add value to our lives, as we just might bring value to theirs.

As we come together to begin *our own* journeys into the New Year, let's not be strangers to each other. Let's make the most of our moments together:

to share our stories with each other,

to learn from and with each other,

to find comfort in and give comfort to each other,

to celebrate with each other,

and to see the image of holiness in each other.