



30 September 2016/ 27 Elul 5776

Dear Shir Tikvah:

I find myself thinking of Israeli founder, Nobel Laureate, Prime Minister, President, and Perpetual Pursuer of Peace Shimon Peres (z"l) who died Wednesday and was buried today. Peres devoted his 93 years to the Jewish state and value of seeking peace. May his memory be a blessing.

Tonight begins the final Shabbat of 5776. As we prepare for Rosh HaShanah (High Holy Days information here) and to welcome 5777, here are four questions for spiritual reflection and discernment:

1. How was I challenged to grow spiritually in the past year?
2. To whom do I need to apologize and what is my plan to do so before Yom Kippur?
3. What do I need to release inside my heart and soul so I can begin the New Year ready to hear the shofar's call to wake up to the world?
4. What is one commitment I will make in the New Year to grow into a more loving and compassionate human being?

As Shabbat and this New Year approaches, I pray our hearts are open, we prepare to do the challenging and vital work to tend to our relationships and world, and each of us reaches higher towards holiness, dignity, and love.

Shabbat Shalom & Shanah Tovah U'M'Tukah,

Rabbi Michael Adam Latz