



**Rosh Hashanah 2007 – Discussion Topic**

**“REGRETS, DO-OVERS, LOOKING AHEAD”**

**Introductory Remarks**  
by **Rabbi Peter H. Schweitzer**

This past May, the New Yorker had a cartoon that showed a man and woman sitting at a table sharing a bottle of wine. He says to her, “I can’t help but think that things might have turned out differently if we had never met.”

A few weeks later I saw an interview in the New York Times magazine section by Deborah Solomon with a man named Mike Jones whose fifteen minutes of fame has come and gone. He was the male escort who brought down Rev. Ted Haggard, the celebrity preacher. Since that episode, Haggard apparently has relocated and decided to pursue a psychology degree online. Jones, for his part, lost all his former clients. When asked by Solomon what he was planning to do job-wise, Jones replied, “If I could do my life over again, I would probably go into marine biology. I’m a big dolphin person.”

The High Holidays are a time for self-assessment. We evaluate our lives in the year gone by. Of course, there are no “do-overs”. Looking back, we cannot undo what is done. But what if we could re-live our past? What would we do differently?

Do we have any regrets? Or none at all? What kind of “alternate reality” would we have mapped for ourselves? What got in the way of choosing that alternative path?

Perhaps most important, now looking forward, what kind of “future reality” will we try to choose for ourselves? And what guidance might we offer our children as they go forward along their journey in life?

We have asked two of our members to share some brief personal thoughts on these questions. We hope they will stir up your own reflections on these themes and will lead to a thoughtful community sharing and discussion.

First we’ll hear from Stefni Bogard. Then from Gladys Fox.