



## **Rosh Hashanah 2011**

**“ON THE OCCASION OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11”**

### **Introductory Remarks by Rabbi Peter Schweitzer**

An earlier generation will never forget where they were on December 7, 1941, when they heard the news that Pearl Harbor had been attacked. Or where they were on V-J Day, August 14, 1945, when victory over Japan was announced.

Our generation will not forget where we were on September 11, 2001. We know where we were, how we experienced that event, and how it changed our lives.

In the Bible, immediately after Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit, God appears on the scene and says, presumably in a loud and intimidating voice, “Ayeycha?” “Where are you?”

Now for an omniscient all-knowing deity this is a strange question. Adam and Eve obviously couldn't really hide from God who, like a watchful parent, knows everything that is going on. Instead, the question has been interpreted to mean, “What are you up to? Where are you internally? How are you doing emotionally? Psychologically?”

A number of chapters later, when God calls on Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, the traditional Torah reading for Rosh Hashanah, God simply calls on Abraham's name and Abraham responds with one word, “Hineni” “Here I am.” It's a short-cut for “Here I am, ready, willing and able.”

Today, ten years after 9-11, we stand here to ask, “Where are we?” How have we moved on with our lives? Where are we ten years later? What is our ‘here I am’ answer?

We have asked one of our members, Ken Lewis to share his reflections and then we want to open this up for your comments.

Ken is a Managing Director at Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, the firm responsible for the architectural design of 1World Trade Center and the already completed 7 World Trade Center. Ken is the Project Manager for both those buildings. We were privileged to here Ken speak on this occasion five years ago. We are equally honored to hear from him again now.