

Hear the Shofar, Be the Shofar



As one year comes to an end and another begins, we journey from *Yom Teruah* – the Day of Sounding, the Day of Shouting – to *Yom Kippur* – the Day of Atonement, the Day of Reckoning.

Our journey begins with the sounds of the shofar. Its blasts awaken our soul to the work at hand, the work of *teshuvah* – of individually and communally turning and returning to our best selves.

At once plaintive and energizing, the shofar calls us to remember the depths of suffering that still exist in our world as we are drawn out of our complacency and into action.

The uninterrupted call of *tekiah* guides our thoughts to the 68 million people around the world still making terrifying journeys away from violence and persecution to search for freedom, sometimes without an end in sight.

The broken call of *shevarim* remind us of the relentless attempts over the last year to break the long tradition of welcome in our own country, to close our doors to those seeking safety on our shores.

The staccato call of *teruah* pierces our hearts, its shouts calling us to action.

But what will happen when the reverberation of this year's blasts stops?

For each of us and all of us together, may the commandment to hear the shofar not end when we rise from our seats on this day.

May we instead continue to sound the shofar for one another, inspiring each other to take action on behalf of the world's refugees.

May we continue to sound the shofar for those who have closed their ears to the cries of those who are most vulnerable, reminding them of our American and Jewish obligation to welcome, love, and protect the stranger.

As we arrive at the Day of Atonement and commit ourselves to do more and better in the year to come, may we not just hear the shofar, but may we be the shofar: a ceaseless call to justice for all.