

In the second blessing ('Gevurot') of the Amidah – Judaism's famous standing prayer – there's a line that is seasonably dependent: 'mashiv haruach u'morid hagashem' – 'You cause the wind to blow and the rain to fall.' This line is inserted roughly six months of the year, in keeping with the weather patterns of the land of Israel: from Shemini ha'Atzeret to Pesach. Then Pesach comes along and we switch it out for a different blessing the remainder of the year: 'morid hatal' – 'You cause the dew to fall.'

OK – let's take a breath. I promise I am not going to take you on a journey through liturgical minutiae just yet. But as the wind is whipping around the streets, I am thinking of how this poetic recording of time speaks to us today.

Of course we all know that there is no clear boundary to a rainy or dry season that can be demarcated by a certain prayer. But sometimes in our lives, the shifts can feel stark and sudden, as the

of the rabbinate!), the graphs indicating our pandemic reality show exactly that extreme picture – for now. With the risk of repeating myself in every synagogue Bulletin, we do not know what the future holds. But we know what today can bring. Spring has sprung, and our community is also sprouting new shoots: educational and worship opportunities, social activities and all manner of engagement. And I am excited about it all!

Our Adult Education offerings continue to inspire: in two weeks, we will have author and investigative journalist Lyz Lenz speak to us (in-person, with a Zoom option). Further down the line, we will also have an opportunity to learn from the teachers of our wildly successful Yiddish course. And in mid-May, we will have a very special Israeli speaker: the Dean of Hebrew Union College, to talk to us about the state of liberal Judaism in Israel. If we can't visit just yet, there's no reason for us to bring a little spirit of Israel to us via Zoom. And then there is, of