

Dear Agudas Achim friends,

As I am sitting here, I am both witnessing and utilising the miracle of modern technology. I am speaking into my phone, and it is translating my speech to text. Why? Though I must admit that it is awkward writing this way, especially for a writer like myself, I also find that it reflects some of the authenticity of our oral tradition. During Memorial Day weekend, I had a mishap; I tripped and broke my wrist. Hence, my arm is casted for the

foreseeable future, and I am diminished in the physical aspects of my work duties. Please be patient with me as I learn to navigate this new technology. I may be less responsive through email, until my body has recovered. However, you will be in my heart and please do not hesitate to reach out through

In a literary culture like ours, where the written, printed, or digitalised word reigns supreme, we can often forget the power of the spoken word.

after all the key commandment of the Shema! Here, oh Israel...

What other experiences are auditory, and which ones are visual? As we stand at Sinai yet again, and are ready to assume upon ourselves the obligation of recommitting to our Judaism, Shavuot may be a good reminder that we are all bound by words: the words we speak and the words we hear. So this Shavuot, I wish you the blessing, power and transformation of the word that is spoken; the

word that rings in your ear and echoes in the chambers of your heart.

We have plenty of activities left in the summer before us. May I remind you that we have wonderful Shavuot in the Park coming up. See the bulletin for details. We also have two B'not Mitzvah coming up, a