



you for all the beautiful moments of gratitude and fulfillment of my own during this season. Among them were how eagerly the new prayerbook was embraced, the privilege of including congregants in chanting Torah and Haftarah, feeling little ones and their families embrace the holidays with sweetness and laughter at our children's' services, and how taken people were with their fellow congregants' reflections on what makes B'nai Tikvah feel like home. That's just to name a few!

The moment of greatest transcendence was also the biggest surprise. It was a new initiative, meaning we were truly all in it together. Towards the end of Neilah, the concluding service on Yom Kippur, we invited people to experience a few private moments in front of the open ark, either on their own or in small groups of friends or family. As Cantor Chabon began to sing Leonard Cohen's "Halleluyah," people quietly formed a line and came forward.

And then? As those of you who were there, or who heard about it know by now, you just kept coming forward! It's been two weeks, and words still escape me when trying to convey the fullness and beauty of those moments. And it's not every day that words escape a rabbi!

(continued on page 7)

Reflections...

By Cantor Jennie Chabon



Anyone who knows me knows that Yom Kippur is my favorite Jewish day of the year. I have had many conversations trying to explain why I think it is so magical and powerful, but most people don't tend to agree with me. Until this year, that is.