



## Rabbi Weiner's Sept. 2007 Bulletin Article

Many of you know that I really enjoy my computers. But like all technology, computers can be very frustrating, especially when they are not working properly. Like last week, when (through no fault of my own, I think) my windows operating system was overrun by spyware causing me a great deal of difficulty and wasted time. Such malicious programs can really wreak havoc on a computer (and one's sanity).

As I tried to fix the problem (before I broke down and called someone who knew what they were doing) I consulted the Microsoft tech support website for information on how to not only fix the problem but to restore it as it was before the spyware attacked. The website recommended that I consider something called a "System Restore".

What is system restore? Let me quote from the Microsoft website..."...Every time you download or install a new game, application or software updates, you make changes to your computer. Sometimes that change may make your system unstable. Have you ever wanted to go back to the way it was? With system restore you can.....you can use system restore to remove any system changes that were made since the last time you remember your computer working correctly."

Sadly, my own personal computer problems were not fixed by this option. But it got me thinking. Imagine if we had something along the lines of a system restore for our own lives, helping us to remove the negative effects of poor decisions, rash actions, ignored relationships, and other mistakes that have prevented us from enjoying the type of life that we have the potential to live. We are human beings and human beings make mistakes. Do we have an opportunity, to paraphrase the Microsoft website, to undo the changes that have made our personal systems unstable?

As this bulletin reaches you we enter the High Holiday of the Jewish calendar, the holiest season of the year. The theme of this season is *Teshuvah*, which we translate as return, or repentance, but what it really means in plain English is the opportunity for us to consider and reconsider the way we are living our lives. This is the season to take a good hard look at ourselves and ask ourselves the hard questions. What have we done that is good and righteous and has enriched our lives and the lives of others? Which of our actions and decisions have fallen

short of our own personal goals, and are inconsistent with Judaism's high moral and ethical standards? This is the season of the year to ask these hard questions and to remember that one of the great gifts of our tradition is that human beings have the ability to make these changes. We are capable of change, and growth, and setting ourselves on a better path. In other words Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is our opportunity for a system restore. Let us ready ourselves for the challenge, and G-d willing reap the rewards of our efforts throughout the year.

I wish you all a "*L'shana Tova U'metuka*", a, sweet, healthy and happy new year.

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