

September 2020 President's Letter

Dear Chaverim,

We are half way through the month of Elul, which means that the High Holidays will be here before we know it. Many of our lives have gotten busier and more complicated during the last few weeks as kids (with huge amounts of parental assistance) have gone back to school—virtually or in-person. Baseball, the basketball playoffs, golf, soccer and US Open Tennis tournament are underway for you sports fans who have been missing your teams and favorite players.

And we are busy putting the finishing touches on our Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur services and activities so that everything will be ready for us to join together in two weeks. We know that everything is being presented a little differently this year and I want to remind you of a few key things you need to know to best engage with our Or Hadash family. You should have all received a calendar of events and activities in the mail this past week.

1. Come to Or Hadash on Sunday, September 13 between 3-6pm to pick up your High Holiday Survival bag and machzors (prayer books) for the upcoming services. Rabbi Lauren and Joel will be there to wish you Shana Tovah!
2. Go online and sign-up for any of the in-person activities (e.g., the spiritual hike, Berman Commons flower-planting, family time at the ark and shofar in the parking lot)
3. Zoom links will automatically be sent to all members for the various services
4. Please make your Kol Nidre Appeal Pledge

I want to say thank you and kol hakavod to the High Holiday Committee for their countless hours spent re-imagining and creating our incredible programming as well as figuring out all of our technology and production needs. Jennifer Parker, chaired this monumental task, with a wonderful team comprised of Morris Benveniste, Heather Blank, Beth Tieman Feldstein, Jodi Ginsberg, Robin Lewis, Michael Mittel, Jason Parker and Renee Videlefsky--with huge support from Rabbi Lauren, Dr. Amy and our executive director, Scott Allen.

And thank you in advance to all the volunteers who are staffing the spiritual hike, blowing shofar, leading our Yom Kippur discussions, polishing the breastplates of our Torahs (thank you Rosanne Kauss), and doing all of the behind the scenes activities needed to make all of this happen!

Rosh Hashanah begins on Friday night, September 18, and I look forward to seeing all of you as we gather together as a community to usher in this new year.

Shanah Tovah U'Metukah,

Gail Duner
President, Or Hadah
gaiduner@gmail.com