

High Holidays at the Narayever – Beyond the Services

Selihot

Join us for a unique musical and spiritual experience featuring:

Aviva Chernick, Cantor Aviva Rajskey, Cantor Ben Silverberg, Justin Gray, Yoni Kaston, Ernie Tollar and Naghmeh Farahmand

Saturday, September 1, 10:00 pm

Harbourfront Centre

Presented as part of the 2018 Ashkenaz Festival. Sponsored by: Beth Torah Congregation, Beth Tzedec Congregation, Congregation Habonim, Living Jewishly, Narayever Synagogue and Shaarei-Beth El Congregation.

Tashlikh

Rosh Hashanah Day 1, 4:00 pm

Heath Street entrance, St. Clair West subway station

Tashlikh is a ceremony which traditionally takes place on the afternoon of the first day of Rosh Hashanah. It consists of casting bread crumbs into water, symbolically casting away our sins of the previous year. We will be meeting next to the entrance to the St. Clair West subway station on Heath St, at 4:00 pm on Monday, September 10. All are welcome. BYOB (Bring your own bread!)

Children's Programming

Rosh Hashanah (both days) and Yom Kippur (Kol Nidre and the following morning and evening)

MNjcc

We have a full schedule of age-appropriate meaningful, and inspiring services and programs for children, youth and teens running in parallel with adult services at the MNjcc.

Chanting In Sacred Community

With Alon Nashman

9:00 - 10:00 am at MNjcc on both days of Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur Day

Chanting is a way of tuning the soul in preparation for the High Holidays. We will sit in song and silence as a spiritual ablution, to open our portals to the divine, and to compose ourselves spiritually, mentally, and emotionally. Participants are asked to arrive on time, as we can build more energy when we share the entire experience in sacred community.

Alon Nashman is an actor and creator of theatre. His work has toured across Canada and internationally, and includes Kafka and Son, Scorched, Alphonse, Hirsch, and Charlotte: A Tri-Coloured Play with Music. Alon is a student of Rabbi Shefa Gold and Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, z"l, who have guided him in the ways of Jewish chant.

The Early Rabbinic Origins of the Themes of the Rosh Hashanah Liturgy

With Jack Lightstone

10:00 - 11:00 am at MNjcc on Rosh Hashanah Day 1

The Hebrew Bible says relatively little about the core themes of Rosh Hashanah, but the earliest Rabbinic document, the Mishnah, articulated those themes. This discussion will focus on how our current liturgy for Rosh Hashanah is structured in accordance with Mishnah's treatment of matters.

Maimonides' Understanding of the Obligation of Repentance

With Jack Lightstone

10:00 - 11:00 am at MNjcc on Rosh Hashanah Day 2

If there is a theme that overarches the entire High Holiday season, it is repentance. Maimonides, the 12th century Jewish philosopher and legal scholar, dedicated treatise in his law code, the Mishneh Torah, to the obligation to repent. Our discussion will explore Maimonides' concepts.

Jack Lightstone recently retired as president of Brock University in St. Catharines. He is an expert on ancient Judaism and contemporary North American Judaism, has lectured extensively, and written six books -- including Mishnah and the Social Formation of the Early Rabbinic Guild: A Socio-Rhetorical Approach (2002). He is a new member of the Narayever.

Jewish Sin and the Ancient Art of Archery

With Greg Beiles

10:00 - 11:00 am at MNjcc on Yom Kippur Day

In this session, we will explore the concept of 'sin' from Jewish theological and philosophical perspectives.

Greg Beiles is a Jewish teacher and learner. He holds a PhD in Religion from The University of Toronto and serves as the Head of School of the Toronto Heschel School and Director of The Lola Stein Institute for Leadership in Education.

Rabbi Elkin Study Session – “Yom Kippur: A Holiday about Death?”

Yom Kippur, 3:30 - 4:30 pm

First Narayever Congregation, 187 Brunswick Avenue

Rabbi Ed Elkin, the Narayever’s spiritual leader, will be leading a study session at the shul on the afternoon of Yom Kippur. MNjcc and shul ticketholders are welcome.

On Yom Kippur, we traditionally wear white garments that are reminiscent of burial shrouds. We don’t eat or drink, like the dead. We recite yizkor, and we acknowledge that the year to come will reveal who shall live and who shall die. In so many ways, Yom Kippur forces us to contemplate our own mortality. What does Yom Kippur teach us about death? Far from being a depressing topic, this Yom Kippur theme is ultimately life-affirming. Come find out how.

Rabbi Weiss Study Session – “The Mysticism of Maimonides’ Guide of the Perplexed”

Yom Kippur, 6:15 pm - 6:45 pm

Main Sanctuary, Miles Nadal JCC

Rabbi David Weiss, service leader at the MNjcc, will be offering a text-based shiur at the MNjcc on Yom Kippur day between Mincha and Maariv as part of his annual Yhartzeit Drasha series on Rambam’s (Maimonides) Guide of the Perplexed. This year we will focus on the mysticism of the sixth day of creation text “So God created the human in God’s image ... male and female created God them.”

Accessibility

We continue to work to design prayer spaces where everyone can participate, especially at the MNjcc. If you require braille or large print materials, ASL interpretation, or any other accommodation to attend the High Holiday Services, then please contact the shul office by September 3 at 416-927-0546 and we will make every effort to assist you.

Project Fast Food

Erev Yom Kippur

Shul and MNjcc

If not now, when? Please remember to fill a grocery bag with non-perishable food and bring it to either the MNjcc or the First Narayever Congregation just prior to the Kol Nidre service. Our annual food drive is in aid of the Daily Bread Food Bank.

Shul Fundraising Drive

Monday September 10 - Rosh Hashanah Day 1

If we are not for ourselves, who will be for us? The First Narayever Congregation needs your support and we ask that you please give generously to our Rosh Hashanah pledge drive. Every dollar raised stays with the shul and helps fund important projects to enhance our programming, enrich our education and allow us to continue to meet the needs of our congregants and of the wider downtown community.

Community Fundraising Drive

Friday September 18 - Kol Nidre

If we are only for ourselves, what are we? On Kol Nidre night, we will be holding our annual drive for funds to support the Narayever community’s commitment to tikun olam. It is provided as grants to organizations, selected each year by our congregation, which are working to make things better in Israel, Canada and in Toronto. Please give generously.