



The Flaps will be Open, Even if the Tent Looks Different

It has been a spring and summer unlike any other. No in-person school or camps, either no vacations or vacations that look and feel very different, fewer activities and people in our circle. While there has been much loss, there has also been much opportunity to think and plan in new and innovative ways. As we look towards the Fall, we have been working hard to create a version of our learning program that prioritizes everyone's health and safety while continuing to provide deep and meaningful learning in an experiential and multigenerational environment and offers our learners choice in subject-matter.

As we planned for the Fall we kept the following in mind:

The health and safety of our faculty and learners is our first priority.

We want to be together in-person if it is possible and safe

We want to maintain class choice and multigenerational learning which are hallmarks of our program.

We know that being together while singing is the least safe activity, and we want to find a way to preserve the *ruach* (spirit) of our *t'filah* (service).

We want a completely virtual option for anyone who cannot come or is not comfortable coming to the building.

We want the program to be nimble so that if we have to move to a totally virtual option, we can do so quickly and seamlessly.

With all this in mind here is the plan:

Everyone will gather each week on Zoom for Café/T'filah (Raffle)

Learning program will be divided into tribes, and no more than half the learners will attend each week. All members of a household will be on the same tribe.

Instead of two 6-week trimesters between September and December, there will one 12-week semester with six weeks of in-person learning and six weeks of enrichment work.

There will be some classes that are Zoom only, some that are only in-person and some that learners can take either by Zoom or in person.

The weekly schedule will be as follows:

9:00-9:45 The Café and T'filah on Zoom from everyone's home

10:30-11:20 Learning Session I

11:25-12:15 Learning Session II

*Learning sessions will be either at temple or on Zoom depending on what you choose. One tribe will attend classes on weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 & 11 and have enrichment work the other weeks. The other tribe will have class on weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 & 12 and enrichment work on the other weeks. Your tribes will be assigned a couple of weeks before Our Tent begins.

The first day of Our Tent will be **September 13, 2020**, and **registration will open on July 15 for our members** and on August 17 for the community. There will be clear instructions on the registration page. While with this plan any learner can choose to participate completely virtually, the program will be ready to go completely virtual as well should the need arise.

I recognize that there is a great deal of information in this article and you may have questions, please feel free to call or email me! I would love to discuss our plan with you further!

We have an incredible faculty excited to teach and some fantastic classes lined up for you! I can't wait to learn with you all in the coming year!

Rabbi Shona

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