

September 14, 2018/5th of Tishrei, 5779

Dear chevreh,

We find ourselves in the days between Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. This evening at 7:30 we will celebrate Shabbat Shuvah, which is the Shabbat which emphasizes return, repenting, and themes of the *yamim nora'im*, the Days of Awe.

Tuesday evening at 6:30 we will gather for Kol Nidre. It is traditional to wear white on Yom Kippur. We wear white with its associations of purity. Because [for those who are able] Yom Kippur is a fast day, we become lighter, like angels. Additionally, and perhaps most poignantly, the Day of Atonement is a ritual foray into death, and white recalls the white shroud in which the body is wrapped in a traditional Jewish burial. Some rabbis and congregants wear the kittel itself; others wear white, evoking its significance.

We wear the tallit during the evening as well as during the day, the only time we are asked to wear it in the evening other than prayer leaders. The tallit, often made out of white cloth, has come to represent the sincerity of our repentance and returning, thus we wear it for the whole of Yom Kippur.

*On this Wednesday, Yom Kippur, we will be holding Yizkor services. Everybody has an opportunity to say aloud the names of those in our lives who have passed on to the next world. If you would like me to read aloud the names, please email me the names you would like me to read.

**Additionally, I encourage you this year to bring a picture of a loved one you are remembering to meditate on. I am looking for a few people to come up with their pictures and share [no more than] a few sentences about a person you are remembering. If you are interested, please email me to let me know, and I will write you back to confirm.

***Finally, please remember to bring plenty of kosher protein food items for our High Holiday Food Drive. You can find orange bags in our lobby if that helps remind you!

Wishing everybody a Shabbat shalom, Shanah tovah, and g'mar tov,

Rabbi Diana