

## September 21, 2018/12th of Tishrei, 5779

Dear chevreh,

Jewish tradition teaches us that we are supposed to begin building our sukkah right after the end of Yom Kippur. On Yom Kippur we were closer to the angels, not eating or drinking, wearing white, in the realm of the spiritual. On Sukkot, we are building something outside, connecting to the earth, the harvest, to joy and feasting. Rabbi Dr. Reuven Hammer teaches,

“On Yom Kippur we are in heaven; on Sukkot we are very much on earth-to our great pleasure. We cannot and should not stay very long in the rarified atmosphere of Yom Kippur. We have to return to earth, to begin to build and make life happy and fruitful, not only for ourselves but for others. If that is the outcome of the Days of Awe, they have been worthwhile. The call to connect Sukkot with Yom Kippur in this way is symbolic of what Judaism wants us to take away from the Days of Awe. They are not to be isolated, but are to be integrated into a total Jewish life, one that includes celebration and a full relationship with God and with other human beings.”

[\[https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/closing-the-season-of-repentance/\]](https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/closing-the-season-of-repentance/)

This Sunday at KHN at 10:00 am to noon, people are volunteering to put up the Sukkah. Please join in the festive, communal event of building our Sukkah. A celebration in our Sukkah will be this coming Wednesday the 26th at 6:00 pm with Pizza in the Hut and songs, teachings and blessings. If it is raining, we will still enjoy pizza indoors with songs and teachings. Open to all members but please RSVP to Stacey Frank at [sfrank100@comcast.net](mailto:sfrank100@comcast.net) by noon on Wednesday if you would like pizza. Program will go no longer than 6:45. There will be an optional study session with Rabbi Diana from 6:45 – 7:30 for those interested.

I want to thank every person who contributed their time and energy in helping to make the KHN Days of Awe powerful and meaningful. Thank you to those who helped to organize honors, who helped lead davenning, who read from the Torah, served as gabbai, got the building ready, beautified the sanctuary, offered programs, put out and cleaned up the break-fast, rolled the Torah, volunteered with the youth programming, served as greeters, ushers, and just showed up and brought their fullest selves to tremendous days of prayer, contemplation, singing and sharing. There are dozens of people who make the chagim happen at Kehilat HaNahar, and that is what is so impressive about our Little Shul.

Finally, as a Mid Atlantic area Reconstructionist-affiliated congregation, we have a special invitation to the upcoming Reconstructing Judaism convention:

*“Our Convention from November 15th-18th is **almost totally full**, and we want to make sure to offer opportunities for our local communities to experience Convention.*

*We are very excited to offer members of our Philadelphia area congregations the opportunity to attend our Shabbat morning services and programs including Torah Study, a choice of four Shabbat morning services, and the Torah and Concluding service with the entire Convention body.*

*-Torah study begins at 8:30 a.m. followed by davening at 9:45 a.m.*

*-The afternoon workshops begin at 2:00 p.m.*

*-Congregants are also welcome to attend the Shabbat afternoon workshops.*

*\*\*\*This offer does not include lunch.*

*Congregants that are interested in attending Shabbat programming at no charge register here: <https://reconstructionistevents.wufoo.com/forms/x1vz4s1j0pujod7/>*

*Please be a part of the Saturday night Celebration and Nefesh Mountain Concert beginning with Havdalah. To attend the celebration, the cost is \$50 and they can register at the Convention website. The celebration begins at 7:30 p.m.*

I look forward to seeing you this evening at 7:30 pm.

Shabbat shalom,

Rabbi Diana