

# CONGREGATION HAKAFA HIGH HOLIDAYS 5781

## L'Shanah Tovah – Happy New Year

Rabbi Elder, Rabbi Marx, Deborah Brown, and their families wish you all a *Shanah Tovah U'metukah* - a good and sweet New Year. We look forward to sharing our High Holidays with you and your families. May the year to come be filled with health and happiness, joy and blessing, peace and gratitude.

It is not possible for us to gather together in person for our High Holiday services this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have not made this decision lightly, recognizing that the High Holidays are a unique opportunity for us all to come together as a congregation to worship, to study, and to share friendship and food. But religious gatherings around the world have been the source of outbreaks of this disease. Sitting alongside each other, sharing conversation, and joining together in prayer and song are all simply too dangerous in these times. We would be heart-broken if our coming together in a physical space were to result in the illness of even one of our members, many of whom are part of the most highly at-risk populations.

We have spent the past few months planning meaningful and beautiful High Holiday services online, including creating an online prayer book. We will have music with Sara Goodman and Ed Zelnis, our High Holiday music director of many years, along with our four long-time soloists. We have improved the quality of our sound online in order to allow everyone to fully enjoy all the music, as well as the Shofar service.

While this will be a different experience than gathering in person, it still will be Hakafa coming together in a holy way. We hope that you will all plan on joining us for our High Holiday services.

### Rosh Hashanah

Friday, September 18 – 7:30 PM

Evening Service

Saturday, September 19

10:00 AM Morning Service

1:00 PM Children's/Family Service

*Tashlich* on your own. (See details below)

Sunday, September 20 – 10:00 AM

Second Day Rosh Hashanah Service

### Yom Kippur

Sunday, September 27 – 7:30 PM

Evening Service

Monday, September 28

8:30 AM Supplemental Service

10:00 AM Morning Service

11:45 AM Study Session I

1:00 PM Children's/Family Service

2:00 PM Meditation

3:00 PM Study Session II

4:00 PM Music performed by Henry Criz

5:10 PM Afternoon Service

5:50 PM *Yizkor* (Memorial Service)

6:20 PM *N'eelah* (Concluding Service)

6:40 PM *Havdallah*



## Access to Hakafa's High Holidays This Year

- Please note that access to Hakafa's Online High Holiday services is offered to current members of Congregation Hakafa. Service link information will be provided two weeks before Rosh Hashanah and once a 2020-21 dues commitment form has been received. There is no additional cost for tickets. We urge you to send in your Dues Commitment Form as soon as possible and no later than September 1.
- Children's/Family Online Services will be held at 1:00 PM on both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. While open to everyone, these services are especially suitable for children and their parents. The Zoom Link will be available to members and non-members and will be posted on our website during the week leading up to Rosh Hashanah.

### Children/Teens Invited to Help Lead High Holiday Children's/Family Services

Our High Holiday Children/Family Services will take place via Zoom at 1:00 PM on both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Students are invited to participate in leading the service in the following ways:

- ❖ Volunteer to lead a reading in English.
- ❖ Help create a video of one of our favorite High Holiday tunes (words/music, etc. will be provided).
- ❖ Sign Up to read or chant a verse of Torah (7<sup>th</sup> Grade and up).
- ❖ Send Rabbi Elder a video of your child blowing the shofar.

If your child is interested in participating in our High Holiday Children's/Family Services in any of these ways, please sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/FamilyService5781>.

Contact Bibi Patt (847-650-7720 / [education@hakafa.org](mailto:education@hakafa.org)) with any questions.

### Adult Readers Needed for High Holiday Services

Each year, members of the congregation enhance our High Holiday services in many ways. We would be honored if you would participate as a reader at this year's online services by pre-recording a reading.

If you would like a reading, please contact Rona at [admin@hakafa.org](mailto:admin@hakafa.org) or 847-242-0687.

## Selichot



The Saturday evening prior to Rosh Hashanah is the time to officially welcome the High Holiday season. We do so through communal study and the recitation of penitential prayers (known as *selichot*). This year, *Selichot* falls on Saturday, September 12. Join us via Zoom at 8:00 PM for havdallah, learning, and a short service during which we will hear the shofar blast for the first time. Our study will be led by Rabbi Susan Silverman whose topic will be "13 Attributes: Mercy, Punishment and Generational Vulnerability."

In 1997, Rabbi Silverman and her husband wrote the bestselling *Jewish Family & Life: Traditions Holidays and Values for Today's Parents and Children*, which launched a Jewish multimedia enterprise, JewishFamily.com. She also wrote *Casting Lots: Creating a Family in a Beautiful, Broken World*. Susan's current rabbinic work includes activism on behalf of asylum seekers in Israel, advocating for liberal Judaism, and promoting adoption. She is a founder of KAMOCHA: A Jewish Response to Refugees, on the Board of Directors of Women of the Wall, on the International Council of The New Israel Fund, and the Founding Director of Second Nurture: Every Child Deserves a Family – And a Community. She is also a fair-trade chocolate activist. She and her husband, Yosef Abramowitz, have five children by both birth and adoption. They made *aliya* in 2006 and live in Jerusalem.



## Tashlich

*Tashlich* (TAHSH-leekh) is a popular custom during Rosh Hashanah. Created more than six hundred years ago, it is the act of going to a place with natural flowing water, such as a creek or river, on the afternoon of the first day of Rosh Hashanah to symbolically cast off our sins by tossing breadcrumbs into the water. *Tashlich* is a wonderful way to teach our children about *t'shuvah* (repentance) and forgiveness, but it is most definitely appropriate for people of all ages!

This year, we are not able to meet together to perform Tashlich. Instead:

- 1) **Take time on Rosh Hashanah afternoon to find a body of water into which to toss your breadcrumbs.** We will provide a reading closer to Rosh Hashanah that you can use if you would like.

Be sure to take a selfie and send it to Rabbi Elder so that we can post a collage that will allow us to unite our Tashlich experiences into a collective whole.

- 2) We realize that not everyone will be able to get to a body of water. Whether you will be able to or not, and as a way for us to symbolically be together for Tashlich, **Rabbi Elder will be taking breadcrumbs from each participating household to collectively toss.**

During the week leading up to Rosh Hashanah (September 10-17), we will be dropping off a special New Year's gift at your homes and will pick up a small bag of breadcrumbs from anyone who would like to participate.

Please contact Rabbi Elder (847-266-8854 or [rabbi@hakafa.org](mailto:rabbi@hakafa.org)) with any questions.



## High Holiday Food Drive

Continuing our congregation's tradition, we will be collecting bags of non-perishable food items and practical paper goods for the New Trier Township Food Pantry.

This year, we will be dropping off a special New Year's gift at your homes and will pick up your paper grocery bags of food during the week leading up to Rosh Hashanah (September 10-17). We will then deliver the bags to the Pantry. Please watch for announcements about what day your pick-up will be.

**The items most needed by the New Trier Township Food Pantry at this time are:**  
Canned Fruit, Canned Tuna, Soups (all kinds), Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Peanut Butter, Jelly,  
Cooking Oil, Salad Dressings, Pancake Mix, Oatmeal, and Cereal.

Please contact **Danielle Wylie** ([dmwylie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dmwylie@sbcglobal.net) / 312-502-3264) or **Sara Kurensky** ([kurloon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kurloon@sbcglobal.net) / 847-251-1925) with any questions or to volunteer to help drive.

## Maot Chitim

In light of the current situation, this year the Chicago Jewish community will be fulfilling the mitzvah of *Maot Chitim* (providing meals to Jewish families in need) by purchasing and delivering Jewel gift cards that will enable recipients to safely purchase food for Rosh Hashanah - with less exposure for both volunteers and recipients.

If you would like to contribute toward the purchase of Jewel gift cards, please go to the following link to donate: <https://maotchitim.secure.nonprofitsoapbox.com/maotchitim-holiday>

Some of the recipients may require assistance shopping for their food. If you wish to volunteer to do grocery shopping, please contact Joellyn Stoliar, Executive Director of Maot Chitim of Greater Chicago, at [jstoliar@maotchitim.org](mailto:jstoliar@maotchitim.org).



## Yom Kippur Day with Hakafa This Year

Many Hakafa members spend the entire day with us on Yom Kippur. Even though we will not be together in person this year, we are committed to being open on Zoom all day.

As our schedule indicates, in addition to our regular services and our study sessions with Jonah Orlofsky and David Joel, we will again offer a Supplemental Service for those who would like to experience the Yom Kippur liturgy in a more informal, intimate setting.

In addition, Beth Fishman will be leading a guided meditation (pre-recorded), and Henry Criz has assembled a trio and recorded a number of pieces to which we will be able to listen and reflect upon in the afternoon.

Whether you stay with us all day or tune in once in a while, we will be open and available for you.

## Memorial List

On Yom Kippur afternoon, the traditional Memorial Service (*Yizkor*) will be held. To be certain that appropriate members of your family are included on the memorial list, we will be emailing you the names you have included in past years along with the names of members of your family who have passed away since last Yom Kippur. Via this email, we will ask you to confirm the list and to add any missing names.

All names will be listed in our Book of Remembrance that will be emailed out in advance of Yom Kippur. Rabbi Elder will read the names of those who have passed this year during *Yizkor* (the Memorial Service) on Monday, September 28, at approximately 5:50 PM.