



**Pine Brook Jewish Center**  
*Chevra Agudas Achim Anshy Pine Brook*  
*Established in 1896*

*Pine Brook Jewish Center Est. 1896*  
*Lake Hiawatha Jewish Center Est. 1945*  
*Affiliated 1995*  
*Congregation Beth Shalom Est. 1935*  
*Affiliated 2019*

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July 2, 2021

Dear PBJC Community,

We hope that you and your loved one are safe and healthy. We are reaching out with some important updates about our Covid protocols as well as our preliminary plans for High Holy Day services.

Mark David Finkel  
*Rabbi*

Menachem Toren  
*Cantor*

Dr. Asher Krief  
*Rabbi Emeritus*

Michelle Zuckerman  
*Executive Director*

Mary Sheydwasser  
*Educational Director*

Lisa Lerman  
Jill Buckler  
*Nursery School Co-Directors*

PBJC will be guided by the United States Center for Disease Prevention and Control ("CDC"), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration ("OSHA"), New Jersey State, local authorities and public health officials regarding the best protocols to open the synagogue. The situation is fluid and there may be changes to the applicable laws and our protocols. You will be provided notice of any such changes.

First, effective immediately the wearing of face masks will be optional (discretionary) for anyone who is fully vaccinated. Masks will be required for anyone who is not vaccinated. When there is food service, those who are not vaccinated are asked to keep their masks on except when they are sitting at a table and eating. This move is in line with the guidelines as indicated above as well as current practices in our local community. However, we also look at Israel who lifted all indoor mask requirements only to recently reinstate them for everyone (regardless of vaccination status) due to the spread of Covid variants. We feel comfortable moving to masks optional for those who are vaccinated at the present time given local conditions but will update you if that should change.

**OFFICERS**

Michael Weinstein  
*President*

Seth Friedman  
*1st Vice President*

Betsy Steckelman  
*2nd Vice President*

Michael Singer  
*3rd Vice President*

Steven Sandler  
*Treasurer*

Barry Marks  
*Financial Secretary*

Padi Nazmiyal  
*Corresponding Secretary*

Beverly Berkowitz  
*Recording Secretary*

Jay Thailer  
*Men's Club President*

Fran Simmons  
Ilene Thailer  
*Sisterhood Co-Presidents*

Next, we plan to resume serving a light *Oneg Shabbat* and a light, buffet style *Kiddush* luncheon beginning the weekend of Friday, July 22 and Saturday, July 23 and going forward. Advance registration is not required. We hope you feel comfortable coming to attend services in-person and breaking bread with your PBJC family!

Finally, we are working on plans for the High Holy Day services that will meet the needs and desires of our entire community. We plan to offer multi-access services. In-person services will be available for everyone wishing to attend (limited to some capacity constraints). Those who are not vaccinated will need to wear masks and may be seated in a section that is physically distanced from others. At the current time, masks will not be required (discretionary) for those who are vaccinated. Livestream will also be available to those who wish to view the service online. However, Zoom will not be available for High Holy Day services. Anyone participating in services will be in-person.

To help us plan for capacity and logistics as well as to understand the desire of our congregants, we ask that you take a few minutes to complete the below survey. This will help us to understand how we can best meet your needs while ensuring that everyone who wants to attend services in-person can do so. Please complete the survey by **Tuesday, July 13**. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us with any questions or concerns.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE HIGH HOLY DAY SURVEY](#)

*Shabbat Shalom,*  
Michael Weinstein, President  
Michelle Zuckerman, Executive Director  
Rabbi Mark Finkel  
Cantor Menachem Toren  
Glenn Fox, Ritual Co-Chair  
Barry Weinreb, Ritual Co-Chair  
PBJC Covid Task Force