

KOLEINU

HIGH HOLY DAYS EDITION & SERVICE PROGRAM



Days of Awe 5781 / 2020

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A Message from Rabbi Mona Alfi

The word "unprecedented" has been used a lot over the past few months. But it's no exaggeration to say that this year's High Holy Days observances will be like nothing our congregation has ever experienced.

Our services will stream on YouTube and Zoom – you are invited to join us in whatever way you feel comfortable. There will also be opportunities for members to come together virtually before and after services, as well as opportunities for study and meditation (see pages 2-5 for more details). We want to celebrate and pray together, especially in this time of the pandemic. Join us and know we are here for you. We will get through this unusual time and rejoice.

The major services will be livestreamed on YouTube and open to everyone, but other services and programming will be for members only. To access those offerings, please be sure that you can log into your ShulCloud account on the CBI website. If you need help logging into your account, or accessing our digital offerings, please email inquiry@bnais.com.

HIGH HOLY DAYS SCHEDULE

High Holy Days @ Home!
Join us at cbisacramento.org/hhd2020

S'lichot – Saturday, September 12

8:00 pm *S'lichot Service with Rabbi Alfi and Cantor Steinberg – [Livestreamed](#)*

10:00 pm *S'lichot Service with Rabbi Alfi and Cantor Steinberg (2nd opportunity) – [Livestreamed](#)*

Erev Rosh Hashanah – Friday, September 18

7:00 pm Pre-Service Meet & Greet on [Zoom](#)

7:30 pm Erev Rosh Hashanah Service – [Livestreamed](#) Hear the shofar!

Rosh Hashanah – Saturday, September 19

9:30 - 10:00 am Rosh Hashanah Family Service on [Zoom](#)

10:30 am Rosh Hashanah Morning Service, Part 1 – [Livestreamed](#)

>> Breakout sessions following the service on Zoom – see pages 3-5 for details

>> Teen (Grades 8-12) breakout sessions following the service on Zoom [link TBA]

11:50 am Rosh Hashanah Morning Service, Part 2 – [Livestreamed](#)

Tashlich – Monday, September 21

4:00 pm @ Anne Rudin Peace Pond in Land Park – Socially distanced, in-person event

Kol Nidre – Sunday, September 27

10:30 am - 12:30 pm Drop off Food Bank donations at CBI – Drive-through, no contact dropoff

7:00 pm Pre-Service Meet & Greet on [Zoom](#)

7:30 pm Kol Nidre Service – [Livestreamed](#)

Yom Kippur – Monday, September 28

9:30-10:00 am Yom Kippur Family Service on [Zoom](#)

10:30 am Yom Kippur Morning Service, Part 1 – [Livestreamed](#)

>> Breakout sessions following the service on Zoom – see pages 3-5 for details

>> Teen (Grades 8-12) breakout sessions following the service on Zoom [link TBA]

11:45 am Yom Kippur Morning Service, Part 2 – [Livestreamed](#)

1:00 pm Yom Kippur Meditation on [Zoom](#)

1:45 pm Connect with the Clergy on [Zoom](#)

2:45 pm Martyrology Study Session on [Zoom](#)

3:45 pm Yom Kippur Afternoon Torah Service – [Livestreamed](#)

4:50 pm Yizkor Service – [Livestreamed](#)

5:45 pm Neilah Service, Havdalah, and Break-the-Fast on [Zoom](#)

Sukkot – Friday, October 2

6:00 pm Blessings and celebration on [Zoom](#)

Simchat Torah – Friday, October 9

6:00 pm Service and celebration on [Zoom](#)

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

The Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur morning breakout sessions are listed on the following pages, including session titles, facilitators, and brief descriptions. Many of the Rosh Hashanah sessions will also be offered on Yom Kippur. All sessions are 45 minutes long and will begin 10 minutes after the conclusion of the 10:30 morning service (part 1).
For more details and to sign up: www.cbisacramento.org/hhd2020

ROSH HASHANAH SESSIONS - SEPT. 19

> **High Holiday Humor, Eileen Jacobowitz and Alan Steinberg:** Admission is your best two-minute (or less) High-Holiday-themed stories and jokes to share.

> **Our High Holiday Prayer Book and the Catharsis of True Repentance, Deni Marshall:** This session will help us understand how the High Holiday prayer book (*machzor*) is designed to lead us from self-reflection to *t'shuvah* (true repentance) and ultimately to redemption.

> **A Taste of Torah – How the High Holy Day Trope Transforms the High Holy Day Torah Service, Cantor Julie Steinberg:** Have you ever wondered why the High Holy Day Torah reading sounds different? What is the significance of the trope? Let's explore these and other mysteries as we look at the actual Torah text together!

> **The Binding of Isaac – A Missed Opportunity for a "Story Corps" Moment, Rabbi Ilana Mills:** Together we will read the *Akeidah*, the binding of Isaac. We will see some holes in the story and fill in the holes by creating a Midrash based on "Story Corps."

> **Spirituality in Poetry, Theo Goodwin and Laura Rosenthal:** Connect to the spirituality of the Days of Awe by writing your own poem/prayer/reflection (examples will be offered) and, at your option, sharing it with other participants in the workshop.

> **The Evolution of Jewish Visual Art through the Ages, Margaret Kane:** Explore how Judaism impacted Jewish painters from the Renaissance to the present day. We will look at 13 paintings and discuss what makes them quintessentially Jewish or Israeli.

> **T'shuvah – The Never-Ending Journey of Our People from Genesis to the Modern High Holy Days, Sherry Rudnak:** We will discuss how the order of the Jewish calendar during the High Holy Days can prepare us for spiritual and psychological growth and better connect us to our Biblical ancestors and each other.

> **Fear and Trembling (a one-act play by Ron Tocherman), Brian Landsberg and Ron Tocherman:** A staged reading of the play (the trial of Abraham for the attempted murder of Isaac), followed by the "jury's" (the audience's) deliberations. Who was guilty, God for asking Abraham to sacrifice his son or Abraham for being willing to do it?

> **Reclaiming Zionism for Progressives, Michael Hersher:** Review the writings of Rabbi John Rosove and Peter Beinart, and discuss what feelings are evoked by the word "Zionism."

> **Finding Spirituality in the Blast of the Shofar, Steve Marshall:** Get started on learning to blow the shofar with techniques, tips, and instruction, plus understand the spiritual significance, history, and meaning behind the shofar and the shofar service. BYOS (Bring Your Own Shofar).

> **And for Every Act a Consequence? Reading Genesis 21 and 22 as a Unit, Susan Aguilar:** We will study the stories of the expulsion of Hagar and Ishmael together with the story of the *Akeidah* to consider whether they are independent stories or serve as a cohesive unit about relationships and responsibility.

Continued on pages 4-5

BREAKOUT SESSIONS!

> **Tashlich: Is It for the Ducks? Nita Davidson:** *Tashlich* is an atonement ritual, an opportunity to symbolically cast our sins into a moving body of water. What are the history and evolution of *Tashlich* traditions and how do these traditions have a place in our observance today?

> **Covid, Masks, and Personal Responsibility, Ted London:** This session will talk about the changes we have made in our daily lives because of the coronavirus pandemic, and the feelings we have about why we have made those changes.

> **Telling Our Family's Tales, Drew Mendelson:** A discussion on how to research and recount stories from our family histories (see the website for more details and resources).

> **Introduction to Reading the Prayers in Hebrew, Leslie Oberst:** Join Executive Director Leslie Oberst (Rosh Hashanah) and Alef-Bet teacher Lisa Brodkey (Yom Kippur) for guided practice with *Avinu Malkeinu* and *Ashamnu*, two prayers that are repeated frequently during the High Holy Days services. Feel free to attend either or both of these sessions, space permitting.

> **Jewish Slaves and Jewish Slave Masters – What the Torah Teaches Us About Communal Atonement and Reparations, Judy Heiman and Martha Moon:** Join us to talk about how Jewish ethics can inform current conversations about reparations. We'll use an article from *The Times of Israel*, "[An American Teshuvah](#)" by [Nahma Nadich](#), to kick off our discussion.

> **Pirke Spock – How To Live Long and Prosper, Rabbi Mona Alfi:** Exploring the Jewish wisdom that can be gleaned from both Spock and Leonard Nimoy. (This is a repeat of the session Rabbi Alfi taught on *S'lichot* a few years ago.)

> **Hannah and Heschel – Developing a Jewish Prayer Practice, Michael Lewis:** We will look at the most descriptive scene of a barren woman in the Bible and explore how rabbis from the Talmud to Heschel used this narrative to derive the ideal for what prayer can look like. We will also think about ways to develop a personal prayer practice that fits the world of the 21st century Jew (even living in the middle of a global pandemic).

> **Why We Care, Willie Recht:** A discussion about why we do what we for the community, who taught us to care, and what it means to us in this current day.

YOUTH SESSIONS - ROSH HASHANAH

> **A Sweet New Year! With Miss Emma (ages 7 and younger; grownups also welcome):** Join us for music, movement, and more! Rosh Hashanah is a time to reflect on the past year and look ahead to the new one. Discuss with your children ahead of time and we'll have them share with their words, or draw a picture, sing a song, or bring a toy to represent their wishes for the new year!

> **Apples & Honey Program (3rd – 5th grades):** Grab your friends and celebrate Rosh Hashanah together with creative learning activities, games, and more!

> **Days of Awe(some!) Program (6th – 7th grades):** You've never experienced the Jewish New Year like this – look forward to time together with a program geared just for you!

> **Teen Service and Program hosted by BISO (8th – 12th grades), BISO Board and Keren Hammill:** Details coming soon.

YOM KIPPUR SESSIONS - SEPTEMBER 28

> **The Binding of Isaac – A Missed Opportunity for a "Story Corps" Moment, Rabbi Ilana Mills**

BREAKOUT SESSIONS!

> *A Taste of Torah – How the High Holy Day Trope Transforms the High Holy Day Torah Service, Cantor Julie Steinberg*

> *Telling Our Family's Tales, Drew Mendelson*

> *T'shuvah – The Never-Ending Journey of Our People from Genesis to the Modern High Holy Days, Sherry Rudnak*

> *Spirituality in Poetry, Theo Goodwin and Laura Rosenthal*

> *Avinu Malkeinu? Really? Deni Marshall:* Have you ever thought of God in some form other than "Our Father, Our King"? This session will focus on reimagining the personification of God and exploring the alternative interpretations.

> *Jewish Slaves and Jewish Slave Masters – What the Torah Teaches Us About Communal Atonement and Reparations, Judy Heiman and Martha Moon*

> *Fear and Trembling (a one-act play by Ron Tochtermann), Brian Landsberg and Ron Tochtermann*

> *Share Your Jewish Visual Art, Margaret Kane:* Explore the role of visual art in our daily lives. Bring your favorite piece of Jewish art or a ritual object and tell us what it means to you.

> *Finding Spirituality in the Blast of the Shofar, Steve Marshall*

> *The Scapegoat of Yom Kippur (Leviticus 16:1-34), Susan Aguilar:* What function did the ritual of the scapegoat serve in ancient Israel? What relevance does it have for us today?

> *Introduction to Reading the Prayers in Hebrew, Lisa Brodkey*

> *Why Do We Give? Daniel Kaufman:* This session will explore various philosophies (both Jewish and secular) for why we give tzedakah. We'll discuss our own personal motivations and consider some of the moral contradictions that result.

> *Spiritual Activism: Unlocking the Power of the Vidui, Miriam Joffe-Block:* Experience a positive affirmation of the Vidui (confessional) prayer by Rabbi Avi Weiss, "confessing" the good we have done over the past year, and complementing the traditional confessional.

> *Anochi Ivri – An Exploration of Jonah and the Other "Hebrews" in Tanach, Michael Lewis:* The origins and meaning of the word "Hebrew" are unclear. We will explore the semantic range of this word by looking at the characters who are called Hebrews in the Bible and consider how this word can have meaning for us American Jews today.

> *Covid, Masks, and Personal Responsibility, Ted London*

YOUTH SESSIONS - YOM KIPPUR

> *Family Program and Story time (birth – 2nd grade):* Join us for an engaging program geared toward children 2nd grade and younger, along with their grownups!

> *Apples & Honey Program (3rd - 5th grades):* Let's explore Yom Kippur through a variety of activities! You won't want to miss out!

> *Days of Awe(some!) Program (6th - 7th grades):* What does Yom Kippur mean for us in this time? Let's find out together through an unforgettable program!

> *Teen Service and Program hosted by BISO (8th -12th grades), BISO Board and Keren Hammill*

THE TRADITION CONTINUES - HELP US SUPPORT THE DOWNTOWN FOOD BASKET

Dear fellow congregants:

Time during this pandemic is a strange thing. We've got the regular September markers: kids back in school, the end of summer, and of course the High Holy Days. Yet nothing feels quite normal. Kids are going "back to school" at home; summer activities were adjusted for heat, smoke, travel, and health; and the High Holy Days are virtual. Normalcy is on pause; yet we carry on, finding innovative ways to adapt, connect, celebrate, and pray.

For many people, pre-pandemic normalcy meant finding ways to do the most basic thing: eat. Food insecurity is a serious problem in Sacramento and has been exacerbated by the economic impact of Covid-19. Today over 500,000 Sacramento County residents, 1/3 of the entire county, qualify for CalFresh (food assistance for those with low or no income). Seven out of 10 children in Sacramento County qualify for free or reduced-cost lunch. The demand brought on by the pandemic and joblessness has hit local food banks hard.

Every year at this time, for over two decades, our congregation has filled our foyers with donations of canned goods and nonperishable food items for the Central Downtown Food Basket. Thanks to CBI and other supporters, pre-Covid the Food Basket fed over 1,200 families and nearly 400 seniors a month. During the pandemic the need has soared. The Food Basket has had to adapt to meet the demand by rethinking how they distribute food in a safe way, including establishing drive-through and walkup popups in and around the Sacramento area.

Sadly, we can't fill our foyers during this year when the need is unprecedented. But we can adapt and make a tremendous difference for our neighbors whose lives have been upended by the pandemic.

Please reuse the bag from your High Holiday Care Package, fill it with donations of canned and nonperishable food, and bring it to the temple parking lot on Sunday, September 27, between 10:30 am and 12:30 pm.

If you'd like to make a monetary donation to the Central Downtown Food Bank instead of, or in addition to, dropping off food, please visit their website at <https://www.cdfb.org/>. Their address (for checks) is 1701 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95811.

In addition to your groceries or donations to the Food Basket, please consider donating to [Congregation B'nai Israel's Caring Community Fund](#) to support our fellow congregants.

Next year at this time, I look forward to seeing you, my B'nai Israel friends and family, smiling and unmasked in the Sanctuary, and our foyers filled with bags of groceries for the Food Basket. For now, we'll have to settle for seeing each other from afar, grocery bags in hand, in the B'nai Israel parking lot. *L'shanah tovah!*

Eileen Jacobowitz

HIGH HOLY DAY PRAYER BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR CHECKOUT!

CBI is offering its members an opportunity to borrow High Holy Day prayer books. There are a limited number of sets available, so please register in advance at www.cbisacramento.org/form/hhdprayer-book or by contacting Leslie Oberst at execdir@bnais.com. Registration deadline is Wednesday, September 16.

Prayer books may be picked up (along with care packages) on Friday, September 18, between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm in the CBI parking lot. This will be contactless, drive-through pickup.

Please note: CBI is closed to the public, so guests must stay in cars. Staff/volunteers will load items into a trunk or backseat. All guests must wear face coverings and maintain social distance.

If you are unable to pick up your prayer books in person or would like to help deliver them to others, please email [Maryann Rabovsky \(mrabovsky@gmail.com\)](mailto:Maryann.Rabovsky@gmail.com).

Alternatively, you can follow along in our digital High Holy Day prayer books for [Rosh Hashanah](#) and [Yom Kippur](#) (links located on the [CBI High Holy Days web page](#)).



KAVANAH SHABBAT FOR THE HIGH HOLY DAYS

Join us at 10:30 am on Saturday, September 12, the morning of *S'lichot*, for a special Kavanah Shabbat. The chants, teaching, and meditation will all focus on the sacred time we are entering into the week before Rosh Hashanah. If you have had an Elul practice of preparing your heart for the High Holy Days, this service will enhance your experience. If you have not yet begun to focus on the themes of the season, this Kavanah Shabbat service will help you enter the spiritual space of *t'shuvah* (repentance).

Join by Zoom [HERE](#) or from the [CBI website](#). Meeting ID: 828 8590 3985



MEDITATION SHABBAT SERVICE

Join rabbinic student Deni Marshall for a special Meditation Shabbat morning service at 10:30 on Saturday, September 26. The Shabbat between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is known as Shabbat Shuvah, which means the Shabbat of Return or Repentance. This short Shabbat morning service will feature chants and prayers that reflect the introspective mood prior to Yom Kippur. The meditation will provide an opportunity to go deep into one's personal preparation for the following evening of Kol Nidre.

Join by [Zoom HERE](#) or from the [CBI website](#).

Meeting ID: 828 8590 3985
Passcode: 446008

CONTACT US



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OUR SERVICE PROGRAM & THANK YOUS

S'lichot

Shofar Blowers: Blair Leatherwood, Steve Marshall, Sherry Okun-Rudnak

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Candle blessing: Glenn, Ezra, and Avi Hammel

Readers: Stan Wallin, Bendan Blue, Joel Schwartz, Josh Mastronarde, Annie Morgan, Barbara Allen Brecher, Ryan Behrmann

Rosh Hashanah Morning

Readers: Greg Hubbs, Brie Bajar, De Anna Stevens, Dan Rabovsky, Jeff Rabinovitz

Shofar blowers: Blair Leatherwood, Steve Marshall, Sherry Okun-Rudnak

Torah Readers: *First aliyah* – Sara Davids, Bryce Kagan, Samantha Meredith, Cayla Groveman;
Second aliyah – Ryan Hirschensohn, Miriam Zerbo, Vida Wisham, Gali Schwartz;
Third aliyah – Jacob Makarczyk, Harper Barankin, Holden Prunier, Ben Brosnan;
Fourth aliyah – Samantha Meredith, Eliana Robinson, Ben Davids, Rowan Kliman, Klara Goldberg;
Fifth aliyah – Lilah Grossman, Ben Brosnan, Mia Kaufman, Zach Stern

First Aliyah: Denise Crevin, representing the teachers and educators who had to reenvision school in a time of social distancing

Second Aliyah: Zoom Confirmation Class, representing our students who continued to study and learn, and to give us reasons to be proud of them

Third Aliyah: Mia Kaufman's family, representing our b'nai mitzvah students and families who had to quickly adapt to a different type of celebration, and who inspired us with their commitment to Judaism and our community

Fourth Aliyah: Aaron Rosenberg, MD, representing those who are taking care of others at home and who gave "work/life" balance a whole new meaning

Fifth Aliyah: Bruce & Barbara Berg, representing those whose loved ones were ill or passed away during this time and have had to give love and comfort from afar

Kol Nidre

Candle blessing: Eve Panush, Sharon Rogoff, Sean Rubenstein-Ward

Yom Kippur Morning

Readers: Jennifer Kaufman, Brian Landsberg, Nic Zoffel, Sue Schooley, Sophia Oberst, Kieran Schwartz, Judy Heiman, Alan Saunders, Jason Weiner, Davita Levin-Robinson, Eileen Jacobowitz

Yom Kippur Afternoon

Torah Readers: Sandy Lee, Deni Deutsch Marshall, Judy Emick-Leatherwood, Elizabeth Landsberg, Michael Hersher

Yom Kippur Afternoon, continued

First Aliyah: Stacey Wallach, MD, representing medical professionals, those who work in hospitals, essential workers, and those whose work put them on the front line of the Covid crisis

Second Aliyah: Leslie Oberst, representing those who worked behind the scenes to make sure that we could quickly transition to a virtual congregation

Third Aliyah: Maryann Rabovsky, representing our team of volunteers and our Board of Trustees, who reached out to our congregation to make sure everyone was okay, and to provide help if needed

Fourth Aliyah: Dorothy Landsberg and Marc Koenigsberg, representing everyone who worked on the 170th anniversary celebration throughout the year, pre- and post-Covid, reminding us of the importance of finding ways to come together and celebrate

Fifth Aliyah: Greg Hubbs, representing the Board of Trustees of Congregation B'nai Israel

Yom Kippur Neilah

Shofar blowers: Blair Leatherwood, Steve Marshall, Sherry Okun-Rudnak

Our appreciation to:

The High Holy Days Choir

Special thanks to LuAnn Higgs, our choir director and accompanist, for all that she does for us.

Music for the High Holy Day services is underwritten by generous gifts from the Schwartz Family Choir Fund and from Ken and Lindie Henderson.



Sopranos

Linda Baron
Nadine Braunstein
Lisa Brodkey
Paula Dunning
Judy Emick-Leatherwood
LuAnn Higgs
Andrea Lewis
Twila Morris
Carley Neill Vann

Altos

Amy Gilpin
Jan Goldsmith
Elaine Hussey
Beth Malinowski
Eileen Sarasohn
Barbara Takanikos
Loril Tochterman
Suzy Underwood
Jan Volkoff

Tenors

Tim Hartigan
Michael Hersher
Lee Riggs
Chuck Rosenberg
Bob Schaevitz
Robert Vann

Basses

Tom Estes
Alex Kelter
Tom McElheney
Joel Schwartz
Eric Wiesenthal

Additional thanks to:

- The Board of Trustees, Brotherhood, and Women of B'nai Israel for sponsoring the High Holiday care packages
- Everyone who volunteered to facilitate a breakout session on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur mornings (see pages 3-5 for list)
- Ryan Behrmann (special thanks!) for all of her tech savviness and IT/AV support
- Terri Cristy for her valuable editing skills on many of our High Holy Days materials.

The bimah flowers are lovingly given by Doris, Lainie, Gregg, and Ellie in memory of Bud Morris and of their parents and grandparents, Gertrude and Harold Weinberg, Gene Pittell, and Michael Josephson.

Gifts Of Love And Tzedakah

Dear Friends,

Happy and healthy holidays to you. We hope you are weathering this year with some resilience.

Last year, the Board of Trustees started a transition from the High Holiday Appeal to the Gift of Tzedakah. As with many congregations and nonprofits, our goal is to shift from a culture of fundraising to one of philanthropy – giving time, talent, and financial gifts, helping for the now and also investing for the future.

Admittedly, this was easier when we were celebrating our congregation's 170th anniversary, and a single gift could replace a number of separate event sponsorships. We love and need our community events and our history, but our congregation's mission is even deeper.

The very core of CBI's Jewish mission is that all those seeking membership, and all parents who dream of a Jewish education for their children, should have that membership or education, regardless of their financial circumstances. If every household was able to pay the basic pledge of \$2,890, all of our costs would be covered. Many were struggling in better times, and even more are now. We're grateful for what each family can afford to pledge, and we rely on those who can give more to make up the difference. It's that simple.

We have dedicated and passionate volunteers who support much of our programming. Volunteers deepen our community and help us operate efficiently. And we are working on ways to better show appreciation and recognize volunteer work as congregant tzedakah gifts.

That said, membership pledges cover about two-thirds of our costs, and your giving supports the rest. This year especially, your gift supports:

- Keeping us connected through upgraded video livestreaming and the internet/network infrastructure to support it
- Ensuring every CBI family can keep their children engaged in a Jewish education, and funding a part-time staff person who is entirely dedicated to keeping 8th - 12th graders connected to each other and to Judaism
- Keeping our temple home ready and safe for our return.

Last year the Gift of Tzedakah raised about \$154,000, nearly half of which went to our endowments – an investment towards our sustainability into the future. This year we are hoping to raise \$110,000 total – \$80,000 for current operations and \$30,000 for our endowments. We have tightened our belts in response to anticipated economic challenges. Reflecting this, our gift goals are lower this year, and the greater need is for our operating budget.

We hope every family will participate in the annual [Gift of Tzedakah](http://www.cbisacramento.org/form/gift-of-tzedakah.html) (www.cbisacramento.org/form/gift-of-tzedakah.html) in the way that feels right for you, whether it is a one-time donation of \$1,800, \$18 dollars a month, or a commitment of your choice, paid all at once or spread out over the year. Every gift helps our financial stability. All your gifts strengthen our community and show that bit of extra love we need, beyond the normal pledge-paying. Please contact Bendan Blue with any questions at bendan@sbcglobal.net.

In community,

Bendan Blue, VP Finance

Greg Hubbs, President

WELCOMING THE HIGH HOLY DAYS IN CHALLENGING TIMES

As we approach the High Holy Days, we continue to look for ways to stay connected. Who knew the circumstances we would be facing as we planned for the holidays this year? We are indeed a very creative and adaptable community. Our online programming will include a combination of streaming services along with Zoom breakout sessions. Details can be found elsewhere in this issue of the *Koleinu*, as well as on our website.

Members of the Board of Trustees and other volunteers have been reaching out to wish all congregants a "good yontif," and to make sure everyone can access services or to offer technical support as needed. If you need any assistance, please visit the "Contact Us" page on our [website](#), and click on the appropriate link.

I am grateful that we can continue to hold services (albeit with a different delivery system), and look forward to when we can gather together again in person. I know we still find ourselves in a challenging time with Covid-19 and many other issues. This is not new to Jews. We are a resilient people who meet each challenge by looking for ways to repair our world and to take care of each other and our neighbor.

Our senior staff and Executive Committee continue to meet weekly to monitor Covid-19 updates, and are working closely with the Board of Trustees to make necessary adjustments. The Board of Trustees is also working to ensure that we have quality programs and make financially prudent decisions. Please read our Gift of Tzedakah goals and plans on page 10. Crises can offer silver linings, as some changes that we're making now will inform our efforts to help CBI thrive in the future!

I would like to thank our staff and volunteers for their dedication to making sure Congregation B'nai Israel has a very meaningful High Holy Days experience. It is not an easy task they have taken on!!

Please stay safe by following the guidelines or regulations put forth by county and state officials. And a reminder that our campus is physically **closed until October 31**, at which time we will reevaluate based on the current Covid-19 situation.

Even though we cannot physically be together this year, I'm sure our High Holy Days will offer reflection and inspiration.

L'shanah tovah,

Greg Hubbs, President



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION:

New Year, New Opportunities for Education and Connections

Hi, everyone! This is the time of year when we reflect on what has been and look forward to the sweetness of a new year and what it can be. Though I miss the ability to connect in person with a hug and a non-masked smile, I am grateful we have created new ways to be together. I look forward to “seeing” you and your families at the many creative High Holiday offerings, including our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Zoom Family Services, Zoom Teen Services led by BISO, and Zoom programs for ages 0 through 13. And wait until you see what we have in store for Sukkot and Simchat Torah! You won’t want to miss it!

I am also excited for the kickoff of our youth education programs with Opening Day of Religious School on Sunday, September 13, at 9:30 a.m. Check our website and calendar for all of the dates and details! Here’s to a memorable year of Jewish learning, connection, and fun!

L’shanah tovah,
Denise



BISO News

By Heidi Grijnsztein, BISO CVP (Communications Vice President)

We are so excited to start our new 2020-2021 year! While our community is being met with unusual circumstances due to Covid-19, BISO will continue to host fun events for CBI’s teens. Our board has been busy planning out the year, and we cannot wait to share our ideas with you.

Speaking of which, BISO will be leading a breakout session for teens on Rosh Hashanah (September 19) and Yom Kippur (September 28) immediately following the morning service. Be on the lookout for details for both of these upcoming holidays, and we can’t wait to kick off the new year with you!

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact Kieran Schwartz and Sophia Oberst, our co-presidents, at bisobees1@gmail.com, or Keren Hammill, our advisor, at Keshher@bnais.com.

Thank You to Our Mask Makers!

Today rabah (thank you very much!) to our b’nai mitzvah and Confirmation students and to the adult volunteers who assembled mask making kits and sewed masks for our Religious School students, teachers, and madrichim! These will be provided in the *Kef* (Fun) Kits filled with supplies for our learners on this year’s Jewish education adventure!

A big shoutout goes to three youth: Chloe Oberst – kit organizer, Lilah Grossman – mask sewer, and Kieran Schwartz – mask sewer.

And our thanks to Maryann Rabovsky, who coordinated the project, as well as to the following adult mask makers: Elaine Berghausen, Linda Byrne, Melissa Grand, Radine Harrison, Laura Mahoney, Twila Morris, Jane Orkand, Melanie Passovoy, and Jodie Rubenstein.



From the Brotherhood

This past year has been filled with new and unexpected challenges that the CBI community has met with grace and aplomb. As the New Year begins, may you all have a blessed, joyful, and peaceful year with sweet memories. I anticipate we will have new challenges for the foreseeable future, which we will also greet with the same grace as a community.

While we can't celebrate the holidays with our traditional break-the-fast, Brotherhood is pleased to contribute to the High Holiday gift bags being distributed to the congregation. And watch for information on our upcoming September activities, including Brotherhood discussions on Racial Justice and a fun and educational activity involving cheese and local microbrews!

Finally, I hope we are all written into the book of life.
L'shanah tovah tikateivu.

L'shalom,

Sean Rubenstein-Ward
President, CBI Brotherhood



Women of B'nai Israel

Women of B'nai Israel have loved putting together the anticipated post-Rosh Hashanah reception in previous years, and we know that we will all miss getting together for our annual nosh. We have also sponsored the *S'lichot* reception in years past. In lieu of these events, we made a substantial donation to the High Holy Days (HHD) Goodie Bag Program, so don't forget to pick up your bag or ask about arranging for delivery. We will also be presenting our clergy and staff with flower bouquets, to thank them for the work they do all year – especially in this year of challenging circumstances.

Although we can't give you a smile and a hug in person, we are sending our virtual wishes for a sweet and good new year!



High Holidays at the Gift Shop

The Jonas Goldman Judaica Shop is ready to meet your High Holiday needs. The shop has a selection of shofars, tallitot, kippot, honey dishes, and gifts to send to friends and relatives. To set up an appointment, please email orkandsac@gmail.com or call Jane Orkand at 916-365-5579. Safety measures are in place, and we ask that you wear a mask.

Please note that the office is not open, so call the office (916-446-4861) for temple business.

L'shanah tovah!

