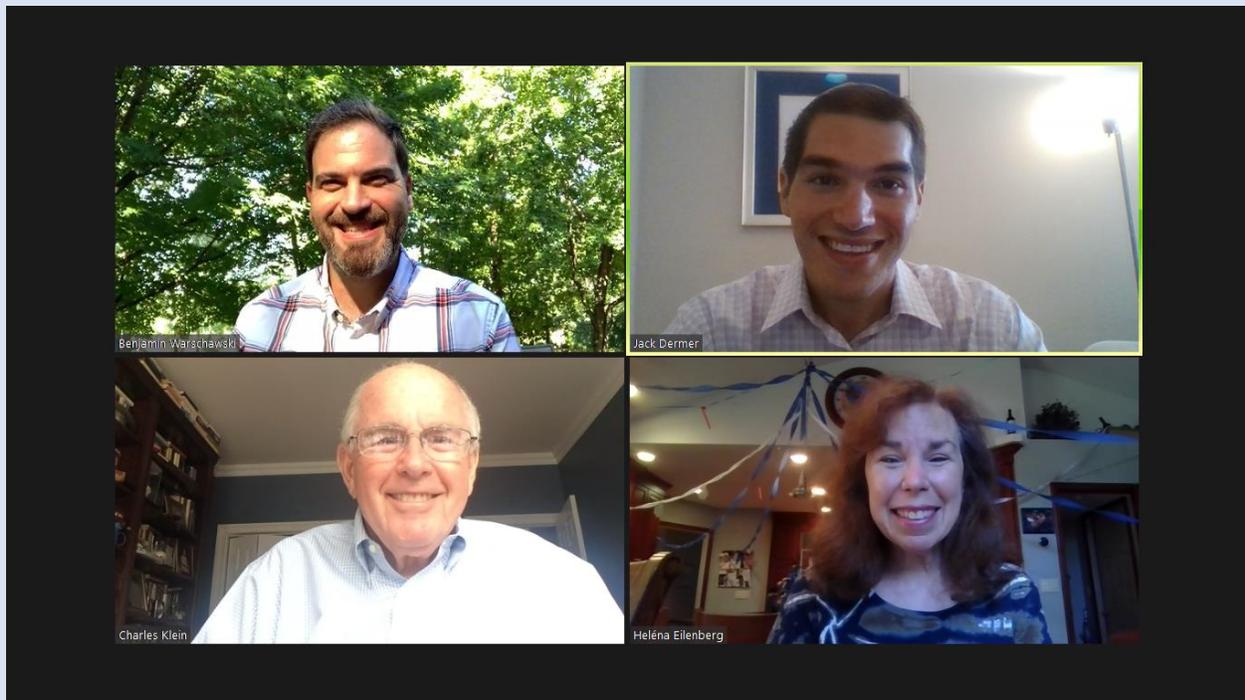


# **High Holy Days 2020**

## **Our Journey into a New Year**



**40 Days of Spiritual Growth, Personal Change, and Powerful Inspiration with your MJC Clergy and Hebrew School Staff**

# **Learning with Rabbi Klein**

**Rabbi Klein's Classes will take place on the MJC Zoom**

**Login: ID# 649-098-3015 Password: Mitzvah613**

## **Beginning a New Year in a Time of Pandemic**

**August 25th from 7-8**

What wisdom does Judaism offer us to maximize the spiritual uplift we so desperately need right now? We look to our High Holy Days to infuse us with the faith and strength we need during these challenging times. Together let's understand better how our teachings can replenish our souls as we prepare for our season of renewal.

## **Beginning Again...Finding the Authentic Me**

**September 1st from 7-8**

The weeks leading up to our High Holy Days ask us to participate in Cheshbon HaNefesh- which translates into soul searching. You're invited to a learning session which will focus on what Judaism teaches us about listening to the call that comes from within. The period before our High Holy Days are a time to pause and reflect on the question: What does my soul want me to reach for in 5781. Let's reach together.

# **Learning with Rabbi Klein**

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**Beginning Again...Taking the Path to Forgiveness**

**September 8th from 7-8**

The High Holy Days have always been an opportunity to bring forgiveness into our personal lives. We'll learn what Judaism has to teach us about forgiveness and what steps need to be taken to seek it from others and offer it as well. Forgiveness is a choice that can bring peace and reconciliation into our lives.

**Beginning Again...With Prayer**

**September 14th from 7-8**

Who by Fire, Who by plague? Those words of the Unetaneh Tokef- the most powerful prayer in our Machzor resonate very deeply this year. This prayer touches upon all of our emotions, fears and hopes as we begin a New Year. Perhaps, Unetaneh Tokef will speak to us more powerfully than ever before as we offer our prayers on the High Holy Days.

**Beginning Anew...Pressing our Reset Button**

A weekly series of recorded inspirational talks on change, growth and renewal as we look towards 5781. Can we still change? What does Judaism teach us about our capacity for self- transformation? Can we Begin Again... Better?

# **Learning and Events with Rabbi Dermer**

## **Ascending the Mountain: A Wilderness Torah Adventure with Rabbi Dermer**

**\*\*Socially Distant In-Person\*\* Sunday afternoons September 6th and 13th**

Sign up for a Merrick Mountain hike with Rabbi Dermer, where we will learn Torah relating to nature and the High Holidays and enjoy other socially distant activities along the way. Families encouraged; all are welcome!

**CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR TIMING & TO REGISTER BY SEPTEMBER 1**

## **Connecting to G-d From Home: How to Turn Your Living Room into a Synagogue for High Holidays 5781**

**\*\*A Facebook Live Event\*\***

**Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 8PM on Facebook Live**

<https://www.facebook.com/RabbiJDermer>

Bring a snack and an adult beverage and settle in for an uplifting evening of conversation and humor. Together we'll reflect on state of our world and the unique blessings and challenges of this coming holiday season. Learn what it means to pray in front of the television, how to rearrange your living room furniture to create a sacred space, and how best to mute your relatives during holiday Zoom meals!

## **The Akeidah: How Do We Pass a Test from G-d?**

**Wednesday September 16<sup>th</sup> at 7PM on the MJC Zoom**

The story of Abraham's almost-sacrifice of his beloved son Isaac has perplexed Jewish commentators for countless generations. Why does G-d test us, and how should we respond to G-d's tests? Each Rosh Hashanah, the Akeidah invites us to search our souls for answers to this question. Join Rabbi Dermer for this standalone one-hour session where we will learn and discuss the most famous commentaries on the Akeidah and look toward an answer to its mysteries.

### **The #SweetNewYear Initiative**

#### **HEBREW SCHOOL FAMILIES**

As a way of showing you how much you mean to us, each Hebrew School family will be receiving a holiday gift bag filled with Kosher honey, a fun holiday craft, and other treats!

Post pictures of your family enjoying the honey on social media using the hashtag #SweetNewYearMJC

Join other MJC parents on Zoom the evening of September 3rd for a **\*\*High Holiday Honey Infused Cocktail Hour\*\*** Bring your most interesting honey infused cocktail and get ready for a fun filled virtual hang out. An invitation with more information will be provided in the gift bags, to be distributed the first week in September.

Contact Rabbi Dermer if you would like to volunteer to help distribute gift bags!

### **Repair the World MJC – A Social Justice Guide to the High Holiday Season**

Throughout Elul, Rabbi Dermer and the MJC Social Justice Committee will be sharing Jewish perspectives and resources on social justice. Follow our synagogue community on Instagram @merrickjewishcentre to check out our posts and join in the conversation!

# **Singing with Cantor Warshawski**

**Cantor Warschawski Presents:**

## **A Virtual High Holiday Musicale**

The two, 1-hour sessions will take place on Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday, September 6, 2020 at 7pm.

Raise your voice in song with Cantor Warschawski as we sing music of the High Holidays and facilitate an open conversation about creating and appreciating the music of worship in the face of Covid-19 restrictions.

## **More Exciting Events**

**Blowing of the Shofar**

**Every evening at 6:00 pm on Zoom**

**Zoom ID# 649-098-3015, Password: Mitzvah613**

Beginning on the first night of Elul, Friday, August 21

So that each of us is able to fulfill that mitzvah in the entire month before Rosh Hashana. Moreh Nat will blow the shofar (sometimes, with surprise guests).

**Learn one short Jewish or Israeli song**

**Zoom ID# 649-098-3015, Password: Mitzvah613**

10 minutes, every Friday, beginning on August 21, at 6:05 pm immediately after the shofar is blown! We begin by learning a new melody to the classic Hinei Mah Tov.

**Holiday Baking with Morah Mina and Mrs. Thum**

**School Zoom ID# 687-927-9351, Password: Israel@72**

All ingredients will be announced before each session.

**Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm - Baking with Morah Mina**

Making and edible Challah basket with Challah Rolls for your Rosh Hashanah Table

**Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 pm - Baking with Morah Thum**

Learn to make an easy and delicious apple cake for Rosh Hashanah

**Thursday September 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm - Baking with Morah Thum**

Learn to make the round challah for Rosh Hashana if you missed it last time or make one again!

**Torah Godly Play with Morah Debbie**

**For Children & Families**

**School Zoom ID# 687-927-9351, Password: Israel@72**

Come experience the special wonder of this unique learning experience.

**Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm – 5:45 pm**

Families with children in grades 5 – 7.

**Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup> 5:00 pm – 5:45pm**

Families with children in grades 2 – 4.

**How did the Jewish People Get from the Second Temple to Poland? Find out where we come from and how we got there!**

September 2<sup>nd</sup> from 7-8PM

**Zoom ID# 649-098-3015, Password: Mitzvah613**

Helena Eilenberg, our education director, will explore our history and our path over the last 2,000 years, connecting us to where we are today



