



קהילה קדושה בית אהים

# The Brotherhood Synagogue ב"ה

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## High Holy Days 5782/2021

Dear Members:

The High Holy Days are quickly approaching and, for the second year, COVID concerns mean that our services and activities will need to be offered differently than in the past in order to keep everyone as safe as possible. We will be offering a range of options to serve both members and non-members, whether at Brotherhood, at home, or even outdoors. There will be opportunities for spiritual, educational, and just plain fun activities for adults and children. Please refer to the Synagogue webpage for a full schedule of activities, which will be updated as plans are confirmed. It may not be exactly what we are used to, and we need everyone to be patient and understanding of the constraints we are all under, but with your cooperation, we will all have a warm and meaningful High Holy Days.

**What to Expect at Brotherhood:** Members (adults and children) may attend services in person, as long as they show proof of vaccination or a recent negative COVID test result. We will be limiting attendance to approximately half the usual attendance at each service. However, we are doubling the Erev Rosh Hashanah (Monday night, September 6) and Kol Nidre (Wednesday night, September 15) services so that there are twice as many opportunities for members to attend these services in person. Also, we are dividing the Yom Kippur morning service into two roughly half sessions, again to increase the opportunities for members to attend in person. The process for requesting tickets is explained in detail below, but the basics are as follows: (i) members should request tickets in order of preference to attend any of the in-person services by July 21; (ii) the requests received will be run through an algorithm designed to award tickets as fairly as possible based on those preferences; (iii) tickets will be issued to members in early August specifying which service(s) they can attend as well as the "zone" in the Sanctuary (main level or balcony) or Community Room where they are ticketed to sit. You may not be ticketed to attend every service you wish to attend in person, and it is unlikely that in any given service you attend, you will be assigned to the area of the Sanctuary or Community Room where you usually prefer to sit. But we hope that every member who wants to will be able to attend one or more in-person services, and we ask that everyone sit in the "zone" to which they are ticketed for such services.

**Being Safe in COVID Times:** Limiting in-person attendance to those who show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test will, we hope, make many of our members comfortable about attending in-person services. We also believe that limiting the attendees allows for a measure of social distancing to reduce COVID transmission risk. We will facilitate social distancing by ticketing people for specific seating "zones" in the Sanctuary or Community Room so that attendees are distributed evenly around our prayer spaces (this is why we need people to sit only in the zone they are ticketed for). The windows in those rooms will be kept open, and the building AC will run to help circulate the air. In addition, our current plan is to require everyone in the building to wear masks regardless of vaccination status (except those on the *bimah* participating in the service). If required by New York State at the time, we also will conduct temperature checks before people enter the building. We know that COVID conditions and guidelines continue to evolve, so if there are changes in these High Holy Day COVID protocols, we will let everyone know in advance of services.

**Honors:** As in "normal" years, Rabbi Alder will be honoring members who are attending in-person services with being called to the Torah, leading prayers, and opening the ark. If a member receives an honor for a service they were not ticketed to attend, we will make accommodations so that they can attend that service.

**Participating Remotely:** Services on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur will be live streamed by the same video production firm Brotherhood hired last year. So if you prefer not to attend in-person services, or are not ticketed for all services you want to attend, you will be able to participate remotely online or over the telephone in a high-quality experience. We will set up times before the holidays when members can stop by Brotherhood to pick up prayer books to use at home, and we will make PDFs of the appropriate pages available online for every service. If you do not plan to attend any in-person services, please let us know by indicating that on the form.

**What about Non-Members?:** Only members will be ticketed for the in-person services. But non-members are welcome to watch the live stream and to participate in other activities. We know that many members regularly include friends and other family in their High Holy Day plans, but we ask that you only request tickets for yourself and the members of your family that are part of your membership unit.

**Children's Programming:** We will be offering a full slate of activities for children. We are repeating last year's program for younger children each holiday morning led by Saskia Lane and Daphna Mor on Zoom. We will hold in-person children's services each afternoon, which also will be live streamed. On the first day of Rosh Hashanah, families are invited to walk over to or meet at Stuyvesant Cove on the East River at 20th Street to attend a Children's Tashlikh ceremony after the children's service. We are working on offering a "family" service (i.e, equivalent to the one usually held at Calvary Church) the first morning of Rosh Hashanah and, while the plans are not yet confirmed, you are welcome to indicate a preference to attend that "family" service.

**Ushering:** Ushers will be particularly critical to making services run smoothly this year, as we implement special protocols. We will need help moving in-person attendees into and out of the building, particularly when we are offering multiple services close in time, and helping members find seats in the appropriate "zone." If you can volunteer to usher at any service, please contact Sam Breier of the Ushers Committee at [samuel.breier@breiergroup.com](mailto:samuel.breier@breiergroup.com).

**The High Holy Days at Brotherhood are More Than Services:** We will be blowing the shofar outside Brotherhood and holding Tashlikh at Stuyvesant Cove (20th Street and the East River) the afternoon of Tuesday, September 7th. Bob Wolf will again lead a timely discussion (via Zoom) on Yom Kippur afternoon. Stand by for information regarding adult education classes with a High Holy Day theme. And, like last year, members will be invited to contribute text and pictures to a "greetings stream" that will run on the live stream on Rosh Hashanah and on the Brotherhood home page over the holidays (more information to come).

**Electronic Ticketing:** As the instructions that follow indicate, members will need to fill out an online form to submit their preferences for in-person services. Tickets also will be issued electronically. If you have not already done so, you will be asked to activate your Brotherhood membership account on ShulCloud in order to submit your preferences and receive your tickets. But we know that not everyone has internet access. If you are unable to submit your preferences online, or will not be able to get your tickets online, call the Synagogue office and the High Holy Day Committee will work with you to make it happen.

Thanks to everyone for their cooperation.

—The High Holy Day Committee. [Highholydays2021@brotherhoodsynagogue.org](mailto:Highholydays2021@brotherhoodsynagogue.org)

## Instructions For Reserving High Holy Day Tickets

- 1) Go to the Brotherhood Synagogue Home page and click on the "Member's High Holy Day Tickets" button
- 2) Log-in to ShulCloud. If you have not activated your ShulCloud account, you must do so by creating a password. Please contact [Technology@brotherhoodsynagogue.org](mailto:Technology@brotherhoodsynagogue.org), if you are unable to activate your ShulCloud account or have other technical issues.
- 3) Rank your selection of services between 1-8 for Adult services and 1-7 for Children services. Please do not use the same ranking twice in each group of services. Also, do not give preference to services you think you cannot/will not attend.
- 4) For each service, select the number of people in your household attending and list your and/or their name(s) in the box to the right. Please do not ask for more tickets than are part of your member unit. This year, we can only offer tickets to members.
- 5) Let us know if everyone in your party will be vaccinated. To expedite entry during the High Holy Days, we will be asking you to submit your proof of vaccination in advance. Anyone who is not vaccinated will need to show proof of negative COVID test at the door to get in to services.
- 6) Please indicate in the open text box, at the end of the form, if you have a walker or wheelchair user in your group or want to attend with members of your family that have a separate synagogue membership.

Only submit one form per family. If multiple submissions are made, we will only accept the last submission from the family. The deadline to submit the form is July 21.

In early August, you will receive an e-mail telling you what services you have tickets for and how you will receive those tickets as well as further instructions regarding submitting proof of vaccination.