

FROM THE CANTOR

Dear friends,

I know many of us are disappointed that we won't be able to gather in person during these High Holy Days as we might have during "normal" times. While recognizing these feelings of disappointment and loss, I am excited nevertheless to be able to inform you of some of the very special musical and prayer experiences happening in the coming weeks:

Rosh Hashanah (September 6 - 8)

Our evening and morning services will be filled with many of the **familiar traditional melodies** and core prayers that we have come to expect, with some additional melodies from **Joey Weisenberg, Nava Tehillah and Leonard Cohen**.

- Our special outdoor and in-person **Rosh Hashanah By The Lake program (at ECHO) on September 7 at 3:30 pm** is great for children of all ages (as well as adults)! I'm looking forward to leading this service with guitar, alongside Rabbi Amy, Sharon Panitch and Toby Hecht (percussion).

"20 Years Later" (September 11)

- **We will remember 9/11** through poetry, prayer, sharing and song **at 7:00 pm** in person and on Zoom.

Yom Kippur (Sept 15 - 16)

- We have a chance to hear OZ's own **Layla Morris** offer up the special **Kol Nidrei by Max Bruch** on the **cello** as a prelude to our **Kol Nidrei Service on Wednesday, September 15 at 6:00 pm**. Following Layla, I will chant the traditional **Kol Nidre** prayer, which invites us to let go of the ways in which we feel we have "missed the mark" during the past year and helps to set the stage for our living in alignment with our values during the year to come.
- Rabbi Amy and I will be leading a special **Yom Kippur Contemplative Service, Thursday, September 16 at 3:00 pm** (between the morning and traditional afternoon/closing services). This service will feature fewer words and create additional space for silence, meditation, chant and *niggun* (wordless melody) as the pathways of prayer during these holiest of days
- Our afternoon services will feature two of our most recent **B Mitzvah, Orion Cooper and Naomi Shpaner**, who will return to the Torah to *leyn* (chant) during the **Afternoon/Mincha service on September 16 at 5:00 pm**.

Sukkot and Simchat Torah (September 20 - 29)

- Please join us for all of our special Yom Tov (Festival) services; I look forward especially to seeing you in person under the shelter of our own **OZ Sukkah** on the front lawn during the week-long holiday; to our **Sukkot/Simchat Torah Celebration with the Hebrew School on Sunday, September 26 at 11:00 am**; and to our song-filled communal **Simchat Torah observances on Wednesday, September 28 at 6:15 pm and Thursday, September 29, at 9:00 am**.

Coffee-House/Cabaret & Havdalah: (Saturday, October 23)

- **Enjoy a combination of Broadway, folk, bluegrass and jazz** performed in person and on Zoom by our many talented OZ community members at **8:00 pm on October 23**.

Artist in Residence Weekend for the OZ Family: October 29 - 30

- We are very fortunate this year to have my friend and colleague [Eliana Light](#) as our Artist/Scholar in Residence this year. She is one of the most sought-after leaders and teachers of prayer for children, as well as people of all ages and backgrounds. Please **save the dates** for an intergenerational **Friday night service, October 29 at 6:00 pm**, as well as **Havdalah on Saturday, October 30 at 6:00 pm** (plans subject to change due to COVID-19).

L'Shanah Tova! I pray that the coming year be a year of health, wholeness and hope – for you and all of your loved ones. *Olam Chesed Yibaneh*: May we care for ourselves, each other, and our world – from a place of *chesed* (loving-connection).

~ Cantor Steve Zeidenberg

802-864-0218 ext. 31

802-232-2536 (cell)

Cantorsteve@ohavizedek.org