

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Chaverim (Friends),

Ohavi Zedek's COVID Taskforce met recently to respond to the alarming spread of the Delta variant in our community. A few months ago, we were looking forward to freer days. But our essential goal of keeping one another safe now demands the opposite: a higher level of caution.

To this end, we will now **require everyone in the building aged three and up to mask at all times**. The only exception is for preschool meals, which is also the only permitted eating. Masks must be properly fitted and cover both the mouth and the nose.

We are also asking congregants not only to monitor their own masking, but to gently assist others who have difficulty keeping their masks on. Attendees at events and services who cannot mask correctly will be asked to leave the building.

Furthermore, **if you are not feeling well in any way, you must not enter the synagogue**. All services are available on both Zoom and livestream, so you will never be excluded from worship.

Finally, we are requesting that **if you travel out of state, you get tested** upon your return, and do not enter the synagogue building until your test comes back negative.

The High Holy Days

Because of the threat of contagion, we have decided to **offer the High Holy Day services primarily online**, as they were last year. This year, however, they will not be pre-recorded. For each service, most of the clergy, technical staff, service leaders, readers, and honorees will be present in the Sanctuary. They will be joined by a few other invited congregants, to provide their voices and a tone of spiritual community for the livestream.

As soon as you can, please register for the High Holy Days at <http://ohavizedek.org/spirituallife/high-holidays/>. Indicate on the form whether you have a strong need to attend a service in person. If so, and if places are available, we will try to find a seat for you. There are not many spots, and many are already spoken for, so please be patient, flexible, and understanding. This is not at all what we were hoping for.

Over the last weeks, we have celebrated Shabbatot and a whole month of B Mitzvot, set up an amazing tech system to stream our services, held our first summer camp, and kept the Preschool and Shalom Shuk up and running. I want to express my enormous gratitude to our clergy, staff, and volunteers, who have worked unceasingly in an extremely volatile environment to ensure that Ohavi Zedek continues to provide everything we can. It is hard to imagine a better and harder working team.

I hope that the new year will be truly a good and sweet one, for us and for the whole world.

L'Shalom (In Peace)

~ Nathaniel G. Lew
President of the Board
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