



Dear Congregants:

On Thursday, August 20th, we ushered in the Hebrew month of *Elul* – the month immediately preceding *Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur* – traditionally the time to begin to prepare ourselves for the High Holy Days. As Jews have done for millennia, we will welcome the month of Elul with a blast...of the shofar! Beginning on Sunday, August 23rd, you can hear the *shofar* at the start of our Sunday through Thursday evening minyan and at the end of our Monday and Thursday morning minyan.

We are all aware that this year is going to be a unique one filled with new experiences. The COVID-19 pandemic has created many challenges to our High Holiday expectations. While we would all love to gather together at CBI for our traditional services, we know that this will not be possible, and therefore are seeking new ways to have a meaningful, spiritual and holy holiday season. With that in mind, accompanying this letter is information about the many opportunities that CBI has planned starting with the beginning of the month of Elul through that last *Shofar* blast on *Yom Kippur*.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our High Holiday survey. We appreciated all the suggestions and comments and tried to incorporate many of them into the programming. One thing that we did learn, however, is that streaming from a tent becomes noisy and unsatisfying, especially for those who are experiencing the services remotely. As you will see by the High Holiday Schedule, we have tried to create a balance between indoor and outdoor offerings. Also, all indoor services will be live-streamed so that we can reach the largest possible group of members. (We are still in the process of working out all the technical details of live-streaming and will provide additional information as it becomes available. If you need technical help, please call us.)

The enclosed information lays out what we have planned for the upcoming weeks. It includes:

- 1) A schedule of programming for the month of *Elul*, leading up to Rosh Hashanah
- 2) A High Holiday Schedule of Services from *Erev Rosh Hashanah* through the end of *Yom Kippur*
- 3) A reminder notice for the “In Memoriam” Yizkor Booklet, if you have not already submitted it. (Please respond by August 31st.)
- 4) Most importantly, the **High Holiday Services – Congregant RSVP Form**. Whether you are planning on attending services in person or not, we really need you to fill out this form and return it in the enclosed envelope no later than September 1st. Because we will only be permitted to have a limited number of people gathering together, it will be necessary to assign tickets (free of charge) for indoor services. No one will be admitted to the building without a ticket. We also need a count of people planning to attend outdoor activities.

While much will be different from all the High Holidays we have experienced in the past, we are looking forward to many new and meaningful moments as we approach this High Holiday season. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us through CBI’s main office at 973-379-3811 or office@cbi-nj.org.

Shanah Tovah –

The 2020 High Holiday Committee