



Jamey Potechin, *President*

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Chevre,

We hope you are well.

Our synagogue is a unique treasure. We thank you for being part of our Congregation B'nai Israel community as we prepare for the sacred start to the Jewish year. The pandemic has left an indelible mark on virtually every aspect of our lives and has led to challenges on multiple levels.

From Selichot to Simchat Torah, we are blessed to celebrate these special days together. *Together* has taken on new meaning in the middle of a pandemic, and the clergy and lay leadership have worked tirelessly to provide a wide array of opportunities for our CBI family to participate, pray and congregate, both in person and online. We aim to provide a safe, spiritual and holy atmosphere, led by our devoted and inspiring clergy.

Thank you to all who responded to the High Holiday Survey, which guided us in crafting our plans. While we wish we could accommodate all the thoughtful suggestions, we had to make difficult choices to balance a wide range of desires with our concern for the health and safety of the community.

The enclosed information lays out our plans for High Holidays 2021:

- Schedule of Services - reflecting many ways to access in-person and Livestream/Zoom options
- Health and Safety Protocols
- Youth and Family Programming and Sign-up Form
- Reminder Notice for the "In Memoriam" Yizkor Booklet
- High Holiday Ticket Information and In-Person Sign-Up Form – If you are planning to attend in person, signing up is essential due to capacity constraints
- How to borrow a *machzor* if you will be participating from home

Services will look different this year. Most noticeably, we have split the morning services into three sections: the Shacharit section before the Torah reading will either be indoors and fully socially distanced or outside in the parking lot, the second section will include the Torah service and Musaf and be indoors with limited social distancing, and the third section on Rosh Hashanah will be an outdoor Shofar service. All services held in the sanctuary will be available on Livestream and Zoom, and services from the parking lot will be on Zoom.

Our situation is dynamic. OUR PLANS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED UPON THE CDC AND NJ DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH GUIDELINES IN EFFECT ON THE HOLIDAYS. We will keep you abreast of any changes. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the main office at 973-379-3811 or office@cbi-nj.org.

May we enter this year with renewed friendship and common purpose. May we all be blessed with good health, strength and peace.

Jamey Potechin, President