



850 Evesham Road
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
(856) 424-4220
(856) 424-2890 Fax

Religious School
(856) 424-4304

Preschool
(856) 424-7339

www.mkorshalom.org

September 2020

Dear Congregants,

We hope you enjoyed the summer! As the High Holy Days approach, we want to provide you with all the information you need to celebrate with your family of families at M'kor Shalom. All of the flyers and other information for this year's worship and other events, including registration, is on the High Holy Day Information page of our website, which can be accessed here: <https://mkorshalom.org/hhd2020>. Because so much is different this year, please read this entire letter so you do not miss anything!

We know there is a lot going on and a lot that is new this year. We will be having three informal Zoom information sessions on Thursday, September 10 at 7:30 pm, Friday, September 11 at 9:00 am, and Sunday, September 13 at 10:00 am to answer any questions you have about the High Holy Days. Anyone can attend any of these sessions. The Zoom Meeting ID is 929 7784 3688 and the passcode is B7ik03. Please join us at one of these sessions. If you do, make sure that your name appears on your Zoom account so we can identify you and admit you to the meeting.

All of our members in good standing are invited to drive by our building in their cars in a socially distanced manner. There are three different sessions: Sunday, September 13 from 5:00-5:30 pm, Monday, September 14 from 12:30-1:00 pm and Tuesday, September 15 from 4:00-4:30 pm. You can attend any one of these sessions. You will be greeted (from a distance) by a clergy member and a member of the Executive Committee (both of whom will be wearing masks). You will receive a challah and honey, a few items for the Erev Rosh Hashanah Seder, our annual calendar, bird seed for Tashlich, and if requested in advance (by online registration) HHD prayer books. You will also be able to donate for our High Holy Day food drive. The list of requested food items is on the flyer for this event that is on the High Holy Day Information page of the website. All food donations should be placed in the trunk of your car before arriving at the synagogue. Ushers will guide the cars through the parking lot and drivers will be instructed to open their trunks from inside the car. Our ushers will take the food donations from the trunk and place the gift bag, calendar and reserved prayer books in the trunk. Congregants must stay in their cars at all times and, if the windows are opened, wear masks. We look forward to greeting everyone at this event!

All High Holy Day services will be virtual. We will be using two different platforms for our HHD services. The later morning services on the first day of Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur and the service for Kol Nidre will be streamed. A link to each service will become active at the appointed start time for the service and will remain active for at least the remainder of the day. Congregants may watch these services at the appointed time or at their leisure. All other services will be available through Zoom. Services will start at the appointed time. Only those who have pre-registered will be given the links for the services and admitted from the Zoom waiting room to the services.

There will be no tickets required for High Holy Day services this year. All services are open to the community and friends and family of congregants, except for the Erev Rosh Hashanah Seder and Tashlich, which are available only to members in good standing. In order to prevent unwanted attendees, pre-registration by both congregants and non-members will be required once for all services and study sessions. Links are available on the High Holy Day Information page of the website. There are

separate links for congregants and those who are not congregants. Everyone who registers will be sent by e-mail the Zoom information for all Zoom services and study sessions and a link to services to be streamed. There will also be a separate pre-registration for Tashlich, because we will need to limit the number of attendees to properly social distance.

As in past years, we will officially enter our High Holy Day season with Selichot, a night dedicated to the themes of forgiveness and repentance. We will share a virtual seder-type experience on Erev Rosh Hashanah. There will be a service on Kol Nidre. On the mornings of the first day of Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur we will again have the Mishpacha (Family) Services geared toward families with elementary school age children followed by a later service geared toward those of B'nai Mitzvah age and older. As you will recall, last year on the afternoon of the first day of Rosh Hashanah we gathered for Tashlich at Lions Lake in Voorhees. As long as conditions allow, we will have Tashlich at Lions Lake again this year with proper social distancing protocols (but please make sure you register in advance and check the High Holy Day Information page of the website the day of for the most up to date information). There will be a service on the second day of Rosh Hashanah. Rabbi Frenkel will lead Torah study on Shabbat Shuvah. The afternoon of Yom Kippur will feature the typical study session along with services, including a Tot Family Service, Yizkor and N'eelah. Please consult the Service Schedule in this letter for all dates and times.

Because it is new to our congregation this year, we want to give you a little more detail about the Erev Rosh Hashanah Seder on Friday, September 18 from 6:30-8:00 pm. A Rosh Hashanah seder goes far beyond apples dipped in honey. It is a traditional special ceremony at home during which we recite blessings over a variety of foods that symbolize our wishes for the year ahead. The origins of the ritual date back to the Talmud, where there is a discussion of omens that carry significance, and suggests that at the beginning of each new year, people should make a habit of eating the following foods that grow in profusion and so symbolize prosperity: gourds (pumpkin, squash, etc.), beans, leeks, beets, pomegranates, fish, dates, and apples/honey. The blessings ask for divine gifts of bounty, strength, health, and peace. The ritual has come to be known as a seder (order) because the blessings are recited in a specific order. Like the Passover seder where specific foods symbolize suffering and freedom, at the Rosh Hashanah seder the foods we eat also become vessels for meaning. Each food symbolizes a good wish for the coming year, and before each food is consumed there is a special blessing to recite. The mundane aspect of food is garnished with a sense of holiness, poignancy, and even humor. The blessings and service will be screen-shared by the clergy during the evening.

This will give us an opportunity to share a holiday meal with our M'kor Shalom family and celebrate the beginning of the High Holy Days (and Erev Shabbat) together. We have arranged for Rastelli's to offer catered foods to be individually ordered, paid for, and picked up on Friday, September 18. The menu is available on the High Holy Day Information page of the website. Orders for at least 4 people must be placed by September 13. These foods may also be available from the prepared food case if you just want to fill in your own dinner.

There are many events this year, including Elul moments, virtual meditation sessions, a virtual get-together with Cantor Hochman for Burkett members and a study session on Yom Kippur. Please check the High Holy Day Information page of the website for all the details and for any updates.

On behalf of the Ritual Committee, we hope every member of your family is enriched spiritually by our High Holy Day celebrations. We wish you a healthy and sweet New Year.

Shanah Tovah,

Jeff Beenstock Rachel Hahn
for the Ritual Committee

HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Saturday, Sept. 12	Selichot	7:30 pm Study Session (<i>see flyer</i>) 8:30 pm Service
Friday, Sept. 18	Erev Rosh Hashanah Seder	6:30 pm
Saturday, Sept. 19	Rosh Hashanah Family Service	9:00-10:00 am
	Rosh Hashanah Late Service	11:00 am
	Congregational <i>Tashlich</i> at Lions Lake Park (Voorhees)	3:00 pm (<i>see flyer</i>)
Sunday, Sept. 20	Rosh Hashanah Second Day	10:00 am
Saturday, Sept. 26	Shabbat Shuvah Torah Study	10:00 am
Sunday, Sept. 27	Kol Nidre	8:00 pm
Monday, Sept. 28	Yom Kippur Family Service	9:00-10:00 am
	Yom Kippur Late Service	11:00 am
	Adult Study Session	2:30 pm (<i>see flyer</i>)
	Tot Family Service	2:30 pm
	Yom Kippur Afternoon Service	4:30 pm
Friday, Oct. 2	Erev Sukkot	7:00 pm
Friday, Oct. 9	Erev Simchat Torah/Sh 'mini Atzeret	7:00 pm
Sat., Oct. 10	Simchat Torah/ Sh 'mini Atzeret (Yitzkor)	10:00 am

All services will be virtual, except for Tashlich if conditions allow.

All services are open to the community and family and friends of congregants, except for the Erev Rosh Hashanah Seder and Tashlich.

Preregistration is required for all services.

Please check the High Holy Day Information page of the synagogue website for more information.