

September 2020 Message from President Howie Hirsch

Shalom,

The [Board of Trustees](#) has had some very hard decisions to make this year regarding the High Holidays, and I wanted to make sure that everyone understood the reasons for the decisions we made as well as what the plans are for the High Holidays.

Due to the continuing coronavirus pandemic, we have made the decision to hold our High Holiday services online. This decision was not made lightly, as all of us would have preferred to hold our services in person. Our first concern is to keep the congregation safe. We did not feel that a crowded sanctuary, or even a partially filled sanctuary with everyone praying, and especially singing, would be the best way to keep our congregation safe. Singing is an indoor activity that spreads germs at a much higher rate than normal conversation. For this reason, we decided to continue to keep our services virtual.

To keep things as normal as possible in an abnormal situation, we have been recording our congregants doing portions of the service at the temple. These recordings will be a great deal of the services this year for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

In addition, we will keep the services shorter than usual. When we need to have a longer service, as on Yom Kippur, we will divide the service into sections with breaks in between, as we know that it is hard to focus on a screen for hours at a time.

As the temple greeter and hugger, these times have been very tough for me, as I miss all of you very much. My hope for the New Year is a lot simpler than most years. I want to see and hug all of you as soon as possible. Please stay safe and make intelligent decisions to keep you and your family safe.

Lastly, to anyone who needs help with ZOOM, I am willing to give lessons to get you up and running so that you can attend the services. If you have any concerns using our ZOOM service, please contact me and I will show you how to become part of our virtual community.

Until I can see you in person, consider this a HUGE HUG from Howie.

L'Shanah Tovah
Howie

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