

HIGH HOLIDAY GUIDE 2022 - 5783



L'SHANA TOVA!

742 Main Street
Amherst, Massachusetts 01002
(413) 256-0160 ~ jcamherst.org

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MESSAGE FROM RABBI BENJAMIN WEINER

Shana tova!

When I was younger, I was more prone to go looking for adventure—maybe because it did not as frequently find its own way to my door as it seems to today.

The summer I was 25, which fell in a year I was already spending abroad in Dublin, I went with some Irish friends to the Slovakian side of the Tatra Mountains, for a memorable week of hiking. Starting from a basecamp a few miles up from the railway station, we would spend each day scaling a new peak, and then come back down pleasantly exhausted to the hostel for a dinner of trout and beer, and an evening of song.

One image that still sticks in my mind is of a narrow pass we had to traverse one day, in order to get to the higher ground we were aiming for. It was maybe seven or eight feet across. There were steep drops on either side.

Maybe you've felt that visceral dismay that comes with realizing the only way forward is to cross the narrow bridge Rebbe Nahman was always talking about, when all of life comes down to one intimidating pass. There is no choice at such a moment but to breathe deeply and take small steps, (though I'll let you in on a little secret: our Slovakian friends also recommended a discrete belt of Slivovitz.)

I remembered this moment when I sat down to compose these reflections on the start of our New Year—believe it or not the 13th time I will presume to lead the JCA through the observance of the High Holidays. It seems to me that we are at a similar pass in the life of our community, seeking to renew and reconstitute ourselves after two years of pandemic-induced fragmentation and malaise—keeping our eyes on the higher peak but knowing that in order to get there we have to confront our fears and cross the narrow bridge with careful steps, one taken after the other.

And, really, if you look beyond our little community to the wider world, you quickly realize how pervasive this predicament is, and how necessary the task of cultivating an attitude of conscious stepping, day-by-day, across the topographical challenges of our heaving landscape.

I believe the *tshuva* that we seek—the return—must this year be understood as the summoning of our spiritual attention to this moment; to the courageous crossing of the narrow bridge.

Rebbe Nahman told us not to fear as we did so, but to fill our hearts with purposeful joy. I do also have a bottle of Slivovitz on my mantle, but even more so, I have hope in a vision of the higher ground, and the expectation that, whatever we find to eat when we arrive back, pleasantly exhausted, at our places of refuge, there will be song.

May you be inscribed for a sweet New Year,
RBW

SERVICES SCHEDULE

COMMUNITY SELICHOT

Saturday, September 17

Evening Program

8:30 pm - 10:00 pm

LEYL ROSH HASHANAH*

Sunday, September 25

Evening Service

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

FIRST DAY ROSH HASHANAH

Monday, September 26

Morning Services*

9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Family Service

10:00 am - 12 noon

SECOND DAY ROSH HASHANAH

Tuesday, September 27

Morning Services

9:30 am - 1:00 pm

Hike & Mountain Service 9:30 am

KOL NIDRE YOM KIPPUR

Tuesday, October 4

Evening Services*

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

YOM KIPPUR DAY

Wednesday, October 5

Morning Services*

9:30 am - 2:00 pm

Family Service

10:00 am - 12 noon

Mincha and Ne'ilah*

4:30 pm - 7:06 pm

* **American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation** available at these services, with the exception of Musaf for both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Note, also, that interpretation is not available at the Family Services.

ABOUT OUR SERVICES ~ FROM THE RABBI

We will be having hybrid services this year, with in-person attendance available to those who have pre-registered, and also a Zoom broadcast, produced by Dan Madsen who did such beautiful camera work for us last year. A reminder that masking is mandatory for all in-person attendees.

I will be co-leading the services with Hazzan Diana Brewer, Haley Pelz, and our guitarists Aaron Kropf and Lisa Kirschenbaum, a reprise of last year's wonderful ensemble. We will be joined by members of the community serving as Torah and Haftarah readers, shofar blowers, and other significant forms of participation, including lay leader Catherine Madsen.

We are also looking forward to experiencing the poetic words of those who participated in Jena Schwartz's workshop, as well as reflections from members of the community on their experience of the High Holidays in these times.

As for that structure: we will have one track of High Holiday services this year, combining elements of both our Ne'imah musical and Lev Shalem traditional services, complete with full Torah reading and musaf.

We are also pleased to be offering ASL interpretation, available through Zoom, for many of our services this year. This is indicated on the list of services.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY CHALLAH BAKE

Wednesday, September 21 at 5:00-8:00 pm

Join baker Sam Coates-Finke to inaugurate our new, bigger, outdoor oven with a giant community challah bake. With raisins, without, round, straight, what kind of challahs will you braid for Rosh Hashanah? Make some to take home with you, and some to donate to high holiday events at the JCA.

REVERSE TASHLICH

Saturday, September 24 at 10:00 am

Join the JCA Tikkun Olam Committee and environmentally conscious Jewish communities around the world in reversing the tradition of Tashlich. Remove human 'sins' (marine debris) from the water in a collaborative waterfront cleanup. Begin at 10:00 am at the JCA for a special community service led by Rabbi Weiner. Then at 10:30 am, leave for the cleanup sites around the valley (locations provided when you arrive for the morning).

ROSH HASHANAH AND YOM KIPPUR FAMILY SERVICES

Monday, September 26 at 10:00 am-12:00 noon

Wednesday, October 5 at 10:00 am-12:00 noon

This year we are offering a two-hour family service and program on the first day of Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur. Each program will include a one-hour musical service led by Aviva Strong, followed by a one-hour holiday themed art/nature program led by Marian Parker and Rolla Herman.

Children ages 10 and older may be dropped off, as long as their parent/caretaker will remain in the building attending the main service. Children younger than 10 must be accompanied by a parent/caretaker for the duration of the program.

On Rosh Hashanah we will serve a snack during the program. On Yom Kippur, families are welcome to step out of the building to provide their children with a snack they have brought from home (vegetarian, no nuts), but out of respect for those fasting, no food is permitted to be served in the building on that day.

HIKE & MOUNTAIN SERVICE

Tuesday, September 27 at 9:30 am (second day Rosh Hashanah)

We are delighted to welcome Cara Michelle Silverberg back to the JCA to lead this service. We will meet at the **Mount Sugarloaf Parking Lot** in Deerfield. Hikers can park in either free lot down below. There is an accessible option to drive to the top rather than hike. The upper parking lot has a fee of \$5. We will begin with group introductions in the parking lot, then make our own way to the top. All meet at the observation tower for singing and sounding the shofar at the summit. Dress comfortably, wear good hiking shoes, and bring water and whatever sun protection you prefer. Rain or shine, except in severe weather. **Youth must be accompanied by an adult.** Please bring snacks if you wish (we will not be sharing food this year).

SUKKOT

Sunday, October 9 at 10:00 am

Help put up the community Sukkah. Create decorations, and join in festive donut eating! Many hands make light work.

Wednesday, October 12 at 6:00 pm

Pizza in the Sukkah Community celebration at the JCA including singing, crafts, a chance to shake the Lulav and Etrog, and pizza baked in our outdoor, wood fired oven.

SIMCHAT TORAH

Monday, October 17 at 6:00 pm

Community Simchat Torah celebration at the JCA including singing, crafts, and dancing with the Torah, and bagels from our outdoor, wood fired oven.

HIGH HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE AND MAHZOR (PRAYER BOOK) PICK-UP

For JCA community members who will be attending High Holiday services online via Zoom this year, Rabbi Weiner will be hosting a **Mahzor (High Holiday Prayer Book) pickup AND High Holiday Food Donation Drive** at the JCA parking lot on

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

4:30 - 6:00 pm

At this time of year, the JCA Tikkun Olam Committee hosts a food donation drive in support of the **Amherst Survival Center Free Pantry**: please consider bringing a food or hygiene item for donation to the Survival Center with you when you come to pick up your prayer book.

The Survival Center's "most requested" list is a good guide for donations:

- **Breakfast Cereal**
- **Pasta**
- **Hygiene items (toothpaste, shampoo, toilet paper)**
- **Gluten Free items**
- **Snacks**
- **Peanut Butter**

Please also note that there are other ways to support this year's food drive. If you'd like to donate but cannot get to the drop off, a pickup can be arranged by reaching out to Judith Souweine at [**judithsouweine@gmail.com**](mailto:judithsouweine@gmail.com) or to Amy Rothenberg at [**DrAmyRothenberg@gmail.com**](mailto:DrAmyRothenberg@gmail.com)

If you wish to support the Survival Center directly with a cash donation, visit the following link online: [**https://amherstsurvival.org/donate**](https://amherstsurvival.org/donate), and please mention "JCA Holiday Food Drive" in the comment section.

YOM KIPPUR YIZKOR (MEMORIAL) BOOKLET

As a member of our community, you are invited to submit the name(s) of deceased loved ones for inclusion in the Yom Kippur Yizkor service. Each year, we generate a new list. Even if a name has been included in previous years, you must resubmit the information. All names will be listed in the memorial booklet, which this year will be accessible on our website.

Please note the date of death (month and year) if the person to be remembered passed away in the Jewish year 5782. Only the names of those who passed away in 5782 will be read aloud at the Yizkor service that takes place after the Torah is read.

It is customary to offer a tzedakah donation in memory of those persons whose names are listed. We suggest a donation of \$18 for a listing. However, all names are welcome as part of our community's Yizkor service, whether or not a donation has been made. You may make your donation online at our website at <https://jcamherst.org/payments-and-donations/donations>.

Please be sure to choose "Yom Kippur Yizkor Booklet" as your designation in the pull-down menu of choices. You may also send a check to the JCA at 742 Main Street, Amherst MA 01002 made out to "JCA" with Yizkor in the memo line.

To submit names for inclusion in the
Yizkor Booklet, please send the following information
by [MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19](https://jcamherst.org/payments-and-donations/donations) to
jcayizkor@gmail.com

- YOUR NAME + PHONE + EMAIL
- PERSON(S) TO BE REMEMBERED
- RELATIONSHIP TO YOU
- DATE OF DEATH (ONLY IF IN 5782)

VOLUNTEER OVER THE HIGH HOLIDAYS

HIGH HOLIDAY USHERS, GREETERS AND PARKING ASSISTANTS NEEDED

One of the joyful and fulfilling elements of High Holidays at the JCA is the opportunity to help build community as volunteer ushers and greeters. Many participants have told us how much they appreciate the feelings of connection and safety created by greeters and ushers.

Please consider serving in one (or both) of these roles during one or more of the services: **Rosh Hashanah, September 25, 26, 27** and **Yom Kippur, October 4 and 5.**

For volunteers for High Holiday Services, we will continue to use the online signup process that we've used the last few years. To sign up, just click on this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4BACAE2EA31-2022>

This link will guide you through a few simple steps to sign up. You can use the same link if you need to change your time slot (or delete it altogether). The link will also show you when other JCA members are volunteering.

Please, if you have the slightest problem signing up this way, contact Beverly Woolf at 413-388-8958 or email **bev@cs.umass.edu** or or Len "Eliezer" Huber at 413-687-4650 or email **leonardhuber@hotmail.com**.