

introspective. intergenerational. interconnected.



high holidays 5784

July 2023

Dear Or Hadash Community,

We hope your family is doing well, and that you are having a wonderful and restful summer. *This year has been one of reconnection.* As we have returned to gathering together face-to-face, we have met one another anew and reintroduced ourselves to each other in all of the ways that the past three years have shaped us. As we approach the 5784 High Holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we do so with a renewed optimism and sense of belonging. Together, we embrace the holidays as an opportunity for *introspection, interconnection, and intergenerational community.*

Like during the High Holidays last year (and just as we have throughout the year), all services and programs in the sanctuary will be hybrid. We are also thrilled to welcome two new voices to the *bimah* for the holidays: Josh McHugh, in addition to conducting our *Makaylah*, will also be serving as a cantorial soloist, and RRC student Sam Kates-Goldman is joining us, much to our delight, as our 5784 Rabbinic Intern.

As always, congregant participation enriches our holiday observances. We are proud that at Or Hadash, so many hands and voices go into creating and leading the High Holidays in our community. The following page describes volunteer opportunities and service honors. *We encourage you to select a meaningful way to participate, whether big or small!* During the last week of August and first week of September, you will also receive a call from a member of our Or Hadash Board as we reach out for additional participants and offer greetings on the eve of the new Jewish year.

Please note that a few of the pieces in this mailing are forms that have deadlines. Your Participation Request form should be sent to Or Hadash office or by email to highholidays@orhadash.com by August 22nd. Guest ticket requests and Yizkor book submissions should be sent to Nadine Canter in the office by Friday, August 18th. Please note that most of the sheets are printed on both sides – don't miss anything!

We want to offer a special thanks to our Inclusion Committee, COVID Taskforce, Building and Grounds committee, and Safety & Security Taskforce for their ongoing commitment to **facilitating our gathering with the most safety and joy.**

- Congregants and guests with accessibility needs will have reserved parking at Or Hadash. Please contact Rob Klotz (Parking Coordinator) ahead of time to reserve your spot – see 'Parking at OH' flyer for more information.

- Our Bimah ramp project is now *completed*, granting much fuller access to the Ark and Torah table for those in wheelchairs, walkers and other mobility devices. Page magnifiers and assisted listening devices continue to be available at all times.
- Throughout the holidays, a “quiet space” will be available in the Staircase Art Gallery for those who either desire space to reflect, or need a space with low stimulation.
- A “pray and play” area will be set up in the sanctuary for babies and young children to play quietly with their grownups during services.
- Hired security guards will be present throughout the High Holidays, in addition to our Or Hadash members who volunteer as greeters and ushers.
- The Or Hadash COVID Taskforce continues to operate as needed, and at this point expects we will be able to continue our current approach of optional masking in services. Our HVAC system continues to provide air exchange in most of the building that is comparable to being outdoors.
- Finally, we will offer childcare for children ages 9 mo - 4 years on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur morning (see program schedule for more information). Advance registration required (look out for more information in our Elul mailer). Please note, we are hiring childcare providers - if you or someone you know are interested, let Rabbi Erin know via school@orhadash.com.

High Holiday Registration will begin later this summer and be announced in *HaKeshet* as well as featured in our digital *Elul Mailing* on Friday, August 18. Taking a minute to share how you plan to attend high holidays will help us plan for sufficient seating and food! Of course, our lives bring change - *please know that all Or Hadash congregants are enthusiastically welcomed to attend all services, whether or not you have RSVP'd*. However, do note: if you join remotely, registration is required to receive the link.

We are all looking forward to sharing a sweet New Year as we enter 5784!

L'Shana Tovah!

Rabbi Alanna Sklover
 Rabbi Erin Hirsh, Director of Education
 Miriam Tohill, High Holiday Coordinator
 & the Or Hadash Spiritual Life Committee



shedding new light on jewish tradition

OR HADASH
 A RECONSTRUCTIONIST CONGREGATION

www.orhadash.com
 Fort Washington, PA

The banner features a photograph of a synagogue interior with a wooden podium and chairs. The text is overlaid on a blue background that curves across the right side of the image.