



August 25, 2025 / 1 Elul 5785

Shalom:

Today, the 1st of *Elul*, reminds us that the High Holy Days are just one month away, beginning on the 1st of Tishrei, with Erev Rosh Hashanah falling this year on the evening of Monday, September 22nd. The month of *Elul*, in the Jewish Tradition, is a time to begin our spiritual preparation for the High Holy Day season, a time of self-reflection and repentance. There are a number of ways to undertake this preparation, and Rabbi Mandell has provided and will continue to provide you with resources to do so, one of which is [MyJewishLearning.com](https://www.MyJewishLearning.com).

The CBI Board is pleased to announce that Cantorial Soloist Mindy Harris will return to CBI again this year in the role of *Shelicha Tzibbur*. She will be working with Bashert, our cellist on *Kol Nidre*, Sara Wilkens, and Rabbi Mandell to offer joyful and meaningful services.

We are pleased to announce that we will have a community Break Fast again this year following the Ne'ilah, Havdalah, and Ma'ariv services on Yom Kippur, Thursday, October 2nd.

Please read this entire communication as several items have changed.

The enclosed High Holy Day 5786 package includes:

- ☆ Cemetery Visitation Schedule
- ☆ Schedule of Services
- ☆ Attendance Information Form
- ☆ Donation / Payment Form

Members who are in good standing by having made an Annual Fund Pledge or made donations of at least \$350 this year will be admitted to services in person or via Zoom. Additionally, your children who are enrolled in college or serve in the military will also be welcomed at no charge. *We are pleased to offer, once again, special pricing for CBI members who wish to have multiple extended family (i.e., grown children/spouses/parents) join us for services, and that special rate is \$250.*

Additional guest tickets may be purchased in advance, as follows:

- ☆ Rosh Hashanah OR Yom Kippur - \$175 per ticket
- ☆ All High Holy Days - \$300 per ticket

The High Holy Days are a time, when each Jewish person is encouraged to be part of the greater Jewish community and to attend services in community. The Rabbi and the Board of CBI do not want anyone not to attend services solely based on financial reasons. If you would like to attend services and be part of the CBI community this High Holy Day season, and if finances are an issue, please contact Rabbi Mandell at rabbi@besthisraelmv.org and be assured that the matter will be handled confidentially by the Rabbi.

Guests who are members in good standing at another synagogue may join us at no cost for services simply by requesting that a 'Letter of Reciprocity' from their synagogue be sent to us by no later than September 12th. Similarly, if a CBI member plans to attend services at another congregation, contact Janet as soon as possible and we will provide a "Letter of Reciprocity" so that you may hopefully be able to attend at no cost.

Machzorim are available to pick up at CBI during regular business hours, Monday - Thursday 9:30am – 3:30pm and Friday 9:30am – 12:00pm, or at other pre-arranged times. If a delivery is needed, please let us know by no later than Friday, September 12th. If you would prefer the electronic version of the Machzorim, please let the office know by September 12th. The cost is \$5 per email address.

Because this is such a busy time of the year here at the synagogue, with so much to do, we would greatly appreciate you complying with the following time deadlines, so that we can accomplish everything that needs to be done in a timely manner.

A Memory Book communication was previously sent (via USPS and email links in the Weekly E-News), and we need any changes or additions regarding your loved ones to be sent to CBI by **Friday, August 29th**, so that we will have time to ensure that they are included in this year's Memory Book.

A MESSAGE FROM RABBI MANDELL:

1. *Birkat HaGomel* and *Misheberach* Prayers for the Sick and Those in Need

Please let Janet know, at your earliest convenience, the Hebrew and/or English names of those for whom you would like us to say a *Misheberach* prayer for healing and blessing, as well as those who may have delivered a child, recovered from a serious illness or returned from a trip and would like for us to say a *Birkat HaGomel* prayer. We may not have time, on *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*, to go around the Sanctuary or asking on Zoom, individually, for names.

UPDATED COVID GUIDELINES FOR HIGH HOLIDAYS (AND OTHER) SERVICES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- ☆ Proof of vaccination is not required.
- ☆ Masking is not required but do feel free to mask if you wish or if you need to.
- ☆ Seating in "pods" or prearranged groups is not required; feel free to sit wherever is comfortable for you.
- ☆ As always, if you are not feeling well, please stay home and attend services virtually (on Zoom).

If you have any questions at all about the material included herein, or about the High Holy Days, in general, please don't hesitate to contact me.

We join together in sending best wishes to you and your loved ones for a very happy, healthy, peaceful, and sweet New Year 5786! L'Shanah Tovah! **לשנה טובה!**

B'Shalom,

Janet Damelin

The Board

The Rabbi

P.S. The materials included in this package are available on the CBI website, <https://www.BethIsraelMV.org>, under the Resources tab.

