



High Holiday Services 5784

Rosh Hashanah

September 15th–17th, 2023

Yom Kippur

September 24th–25th, 2023

Dear Friends,

I am looking forward to being with you during these upcoming High Holidays, in person and online. Being together with you in a community of shared values, shared history, and shared hopes means a lot to me.

These Days of Awe help us to strengthen each other. The Yamim HaNoraim are precious because they give us a time and a framework to reflect, to remember, and to examine how we live our lives and how we can better confront the darkness that surrounds us. Who among us is not deeply concerned about the future of this country? Who is not worried about the rise of antisemitism here in our own backyards? Who among us is not concerned about Israel-Palestinian relations, growing violence and anti-democratic forces there? We know that the Kehila and Am Kolel communities are responding to these concerns. However, a growing number of people are throwing up their hands, giving up, and feeling that there is no hope. One thing for sure, if we lose hope, if we do nothing, then the dark side wins. Rebbe Nachman of Bratzlav used to say, "*Asur L'hityaesh, it is forbidden to despair! When tough times come, we must go for the higher level to find joy.*" So please come join us (in person if you feel comfortable, or online) and we will sing together and lift up our sense of community, our vitality, and our resolve.

On a closing note, I want you to know that we have begun to pave the way for new leadership on the High Holidays for the years ahead. I will conduct services this September for Kehila and the community, as always. However, there will be a new leader for Kehila High Holiday services beginning next year. Am Kolel will continue to hold services under my leadership in 2024 and welcome new leadership in the future.

As we feel less restricted by COVID this year, may we feel alive, once again, in community, in joyful singing, and in meaningful reflection.

I feel blessed and grateful to have known and served you all these many years. My deep appreciation to the High Holiday Committee, headed up by Jorge Orencel and Arlindo da Silva.

L'Shanah Tovah Tikateyvnu,

Rabbi David Shneyer

Rabbi Emeritus, Kehila Chadasha

Director and Spiritual Leader, Am Kolel Jewish Renewal Community