

High Holy Days 2020/5781 with Kol HaLev

Shana tova, Kol Halev members! We look forward to gathering together as Jews have gathered for generations, and yet as no previous generation of Jews has ever done.

In holding High Holy Days services online this year, we may have to forego aspects of the High Holy Days that mean a lot to us. In return, we have the comfort of knowing that, in keeping one another safe from SARS-CoV-2, we are fulfilling our longstanding commitment to care for and stand by one another in times of danger and stress. And yet, there are many aspects of the High Holy Days we will still be able to enjoy:

- Seeing one another's faces and hearing one another's voices
- Creating together a sacred online space in which to experience moments of reflection and inspiration
- Experiencing that swell of feelings of connection, acceptance and belonging particular to those holy days when our community comes together in its largest, strongest showing
- Feeling Rabbi Steve's presence, and that of the dedicated service leaders working with him to bring us familiar and favorite High Holy Days prayers and songs, adapted for improved online viewing
- Volunteering for short readings in English
- Coming together with our most inclusive array of members and guests ever, from those who can't attend in-person services to friends who live hundreds of miles away

Three paths to join High Holy Days services

It may be difficult for you to imagine how this degree of engagement is possible during an online service, especially if you have not yet experienced one of our Shabbat morning services using the video conferencing application Zoom.

You can view most of our High Holy Days services on Zoom, or choose from two other methods: livestreaming, and Zoom phone-only access. With three ways to join our High Holy Day service, they can be more inclusive and seen by more of our members than ever before.

Zoom access with video: Many people feel that Zoom is the optimal way to participate in remote services. To use Zoom with video, you need a desktop or laptop computer with a mic and camera (or a tablet or smartphone, which typically include both) so that Zoom can bring your face and voice into the virtual "meeting" in which we are holding services. The result is very immediate; we find we really can and do connect with one another this way, learning to disregard the technology and focus on the content within. For the High Holy Days services in particular, service leaders have taken pains to create welcoming, interactive, and experiential Zoom experiences to minimize the occurrence of "Zoom fatigue," a very real mental and sensory exhaustion which can set in after 75-90 minutes of participation. The benefit to participating in services via Zoom is that it is the "next best thing to being there," as the old commercials used to say, and at times can feel as immediate and present as a service in our sanctuary at Ratner. *Please be aware that the live Zoom services are what will be livestreamed, and any participants' faces and names may appear on the stream.*

Are there reasons NOT to use Zoom? There are. Unlike livestreamed services, which you simply sit back and watch, **participating in Zoom services requires each of us to assume responsibility for:**

- **managing our own technology**
- **learning Zoom features and controls**
- **following etiquette guidelines and**

- **adhering to security policies which prevent uninvited attendees from disrupting our services** (complete information about these responsibilities and other aspects of Kol HaLev’s Zoom services can be found in the Zoom Guidelines included in this packet).

While these responsibilities aren’t difficult, they are non-negotiable. If you have doubts about following our guidelines – or if you would simply rather sit back and watch a High Holy Days service without distractions, you may prefer to watch the livestream. Thank you in advance for helping keep our services safe and secure.

Livestreamed services: In our High Holy Day survey of members, several people indicated that while they can and do use Zoom, they prefer to watch services on livestream, sometimes because they associate Zoom with work; sometimes because they prefer to avoid actively operating technology on a *yontif* (holy day); and sometimes because the anonymity of livestream allows them to focus all their attention on the service, without worrying about how they may appear to others. Watching the livestream of the service is less work; there is no special preparation, equipment, software, or links. All you need is an internet connection and a web browser open to kolhalev.net/live-stream.

Zoom phone-only access: For the first time this year, people without internet connections, and without computers or smartphones (phones with internet access) can also participate in our High Holy Days. Zoom phone-only users call a dedicated phone number from a landline or cell phone and, when prompted, enter the meeting ID and password that we will provide to you after you register. They are then connected to what is essentially a conference call: they can listen and speak, but there is no video at all. While the interactivity of a Zoom phone call is limited, the connection allows people who cannot watch the livestream to enjoy High Holy Days services by phone.

<i>The three options for joining our High Holy Days services, in brief:</i>		
Zoom phone call	Kol HaLev website livestream	Zoom meeting (video)
 Join our services even if you don’t have internet, a computer or a smart phone. You call into the service with only a landline or cell phone.	 The livestream of a Zoom service is just like watching it on TV. You’ll see it all but without settings to mess with or being asked to read aloud. All you need is internet access and web browser.	 If you have a computer with built-in camera and mic, or a tablet or smartphone and internet access, Zoom is the best way to join our services. It puts you in the (virtual) room with service leaders and other service-goers.

Everything you need to know about this year’s High Holy Days services

All High Holy Days services are FREE for everyone.

Our High Holy Days services are always free for Kol HaLev members, of course, This year they are also free for guests, and for those who have previously joined us as “High Holy Days Season members,” as well. (To learn more about inviting guests to our services, see page 4)

Registering for the High Holy Days

**** Please register online if possible ****

We’re asking everyone who can to [register online this year](#), which speeds delivery of your registration information to our various coordinators.

If that's not possible, please complete the registration form on page 9 and mail to the Kol HaLev office at 2245 Warrensville Center Road, Suite 215. University Heights, OH 44118 right away (you can also include a check for donations if you wish, or donate securely [online](#)).

Choose your path to High Holy Days services and register accordingly

How you choose to join Kol HaLev High Holy Days services (via Zoom, livestream or Zoom phone-only) will determine the steps in your registration process. (These steps reflect variables like Zoom security and the current rate of mail delivery).

HOW TO JOIN SERVICES	HOW TO REGISTER FOR HIGH HOLY DAYS SERVICES
<p>Zoom phone-only (Using a landline or cell-phone to call in into Zoom services – no video).</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Register using either the paper form (page 9) or the online form. 2. Immediately call the Kol HaLev office (216-320-1498) and leave a voicemail or a message with Bettse, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Your name b. The phone number from which you will call into Zoom meetings (so that our Zoom hosts will know it's you). c. Your current mailing address (so we can mail you the phone number, meeting IDs and passwords you'll need to join services) d. Whether you will need printed service booklets sent to you, e. If so, which services you plan to attend. <p><i>Thank you for your prompt action, so that we can send this information to you in time for Rosh Hashana.</i></p>
<p>Livestream</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete Kol HaLev's registration form online or on paper (page 9) so we can update you about changes and additions to our offerings. 2. Visit kolhalev.net/high-holy-days for more content, including Rabbi Steve's sermons 3. Go to kolhalev.net/live-stream to watch any livestreamed service.
<p>Zoom video Participating in a Zoom service using a desktop, laptop, tablet or smartphone (a phone that has internet access)</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For Zoom participants, registration is a two-part process. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Complete Kol HaLev's online or paper registration form. b. You will also need to register on Zoom, but first, create a FREE Zoom account (if you don't have one) and be sure to log in to Zoom before registering for or joining a Zoom service. c. Next, using the links on page 7, complete Zoom registrations for each day you plan to attend services. PLEASE NOTE: <i>Registration for Zoom services/events will close 24 hours before the event begins.</i> 2. After you've registered on Zoom: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Zoom will send your own unique link for each day you chose. b. Zoom registration and your unique link are required for <u>each day</u> you want to attend. Without it, Zoom hosts cannot let you in. c. Each person who wants to join services on their own device must register individually and receive and use their own Zoom link. 3. To keep our sacred space secure, please do not post or share our Zoom links with anyone else. 4. Read the High Holy Days Zoom Guidelines mailed with this packet before your first service, <i>even if you're a frequent fluent Zoomer.</i>

Whatever your process for registration, when you're done, visit our website's [High Holy Days page](#) for forms, links and additional resources, including Rabbi Steve's sermons.

Zoom Registrations Links in Brief (more info on page 7)		
Date	Registration link	Zoom services and activities taking that day
Fri. Sep. 18	Click here to register	Erev Rosh Hashanah service
Sat. Sep. 19	Click here to register	Rosh Hashanah Day 1 service, Rosh Hashanah alternative service, Kiddush and open Zoom luncheon, Intergenerational Rosh Hashanah Service
Sun. Sep. 20	Click here to register	Rosh Hashanah day 2 service with Kiddush blessings, open Zoom lunch, Socially-distanced outdoor Tashlich & Shofar gathering
Sun. Sep. 27	Click here to register	Kol Nidre
Mon. Sep. 28	Click here to register	Yom Kippur morning service, Yom Kippur alternative service, Avodah service, Intergenerational Yom Kippur service, Social Justice speaker, Torah study, Yizkor service, Neilah service.

Zoom social opportunities: Rosh Hashanah lunches and the virtual “lobby”

Register for Zoom access on those days you want to socialize

Kiddush Lunches

If you look at the schedule of services and programs on page 7, you’ll see that on Rosh Hashanah Days 1 and 2, there are opportunities to join the Zoom kiddush and lunch from 12:30 -1:30. As always, it is not necessary to have attended all or even any of the preceding services to join the Kol HaLev community for Kiddush and lunch. **You will, however, had to have completed the Zoom registration (links in list of events) in order to join and participate. Registration for Zoom services/events will close 24 hours before the event begins.**

Virtual Lobby

We are working on the possibility of creating a “virtual lobby” for people who participate using Zoom with video. In the virtual lobby, you can join others in casual conversation while services take place in the “other room.” We will provide you with information about this option promptly if it becomes available. **Use of the lobby will be restricted to registered Zoom participants, so if you’re considering this option, you must register before registration closes, 24 hours before the event begins.**

Inviting guests & the guest registration process

One benefit of online services is the opportunity to go to services with loved ones and friends who may live at a geographical distance from you. Kol HaLev members are welcome to invite guests to our High Holy Days services by following these steps.

1. First, direct your guest to our [online guest registration form](#) (or the paper version, which can be downloaded at kolhalev.net/high-holy-days).
2. Once they have submitted their Kol HaLev registration, the next step depends upon how you’re all planning to join services.
 - a. **Livestream:** Whoever is livestreaming should tune into the service chosen at kolhalev.net/live-stream.

- b. **Zoom-phone only:** If either is you is joining by Zoom for phone only, check the letter you will receive after you register for instructions.
- c. **Zoom:** If your guests will be participating by Zoom with video, send them the link for guest registration (see **High Holy Days At-A-Glance**, p. 7) and inform them that in addition to Kol HaLev's registration form, **they will also need to complete Zoom registration for each service they plan to attend. Zoom registration will close 24 hours before the event begins.**

Volunteer opportunities for members

Member volunteers have always been a big part of making our community High Holy Days experience rich and energizing. Here are some ways you can help create connection and meaning with others in our community during this sacred season:

- **Serve as a Zoom host** - Hosts will create a welcoming atmosphere and help the service leaders by managing the technical aspects of our online services and events. Specifically, they will welcome members and guests, monitor the chat window, and handle muting if needed. No experience necessary. Training will be provided. To volunteer, please email Connie Friedman at conniefriedman@gmail.com.
- **Do a reading (in English)** - This year, more than ever, we look forward to hearing multiple voices at our services. Service readers will enrich every service during the High Holy Days by reading an assigned selection in English. You will be told ahead of time what you will be reading and approximately when. If you'd like to do a reading, email Jane Kaufman at janeskaufman@gmail.com. **Please indicate all services for which you are available and willing to read.**
- **Sing a short selection** – As you've probably heard with your own ears, it's not possible to sing in unison on Zoom due to variable latency, an intrinsic aspect of digital communication. Because we can't hear all of us singing together this year, we'd love to have some volunteers who would be willing to sing very short selections from songs or prayers so that some of our music will have two alternating voices. If you'd like to lend your voice, please contact Jane Kaufman at janeskaufman@gmail.com and indicate which services you're available to sing for.
- **Deliver High Holy Day care packages to members** – To remind us of the support and connection which binds us together when we can't be physically together, volunteers will be delivering a holiday care package to each member household. They'll include some ritual objects, edible goodies and messages of greetings and connection. To volunteer 1) to deliver to fellow members or 2) host a porch pick-up location (with masks and social distancing), please check the appropriate box on the registration form. You'll be contacted to coordinate your participation.

Donations

The High Holy Days is a traditional time for members to show their appreciation for, honor, or remember loved ones and our community. Gifts will be acknowledged in a fall newsletter. Please indicate any contributions as requested on your registration form. You can send donations by check with your paper registration form, or use the safe, secure online payment portal at kolhalev.net/high-holy-days.

You can also purchase our curated book of Rabbi Steve's aliyot blessings, *Pearls of Blessing*, when you register.

Personal service preparations

Some services leaders are asking participants to make special preparations for their services on Yom Kippur.

- **For the Yom Kippur morning service:** Rabbi Steve and service co-leader Adina Davidson encourage people to wear white and to set up a Yizkor candle nearby.
- **For the Avodah service on Yom Kippur:** The traditional Avodah service that has come down to us is an attempt to capture the sense of heightened awareness and intimate connection with the Divine that the High Priest

experienced in the days of the Temple on Yom Kippur as he offered special sacrifices, culminating in the Holy of Holies. For our Kol HaLev Avodah service this year, we will again make offerings of our own, in an informal, creative, and interactive setting. **You are invited to bring an experience, story, thought, work of art, poem, or song that expresses a truth about life or otherwise serves as a vehicle to connect you to the Divine.**

Naturally, the Avodah service will feel somewhat different this year being done remotely. If you plan to share something, please let service leader Bruce Fallick know at brucefallick@gmail.com at least two days before Yom Kippur. Participants will be welcome to share even if they have not been in touch in advance, provided there is time; we have scheduled a little extra time for Avodah this year, but knowing in advance will help Bruce try to fit as many sharers as possible. **Also, please note that, in keeping with our usual practice to respect privacy, the Avodah service will not be live-streamed.**

- **For the Yizkor service, service co-leader Kirby Date writes:** We invite members of the congregation to submit photographs of loved ones they are remembering. We will use them to create a photo montage which we will share during the niggun/meditation part of the service. If you would like to submit photos, please email them to Kirby Date, kdate@sbcglobal.net. If you have paper photos only, please try to take a picture of them with your phone and email the digital images to Kirby. Old photos of ancestors are also welcomed, in addition to immediate family members, or photos of Jews of history that you think might be meaningful. Kirby will organize them, and they will not be used for any other purpose. **Deadline to submit photos to Kirby is Sunday, Sept. 20.**

We also encourage participants in the service to light a memorial Yizkor candle before Kol Nidre, and have the candle nearby during the Yizkor service, perhaps visible on your screen.

High Holy Days *machzorim* (prayerbooks) and service booklets

In response to the pandemic, Reconstructing Judaism made our High Holy Days prayerbook, *Mahzor Leyamim Nor-a'im* (Prayerbook for the Days of Awe), available in digital format (you can access it yourself, the whole or in pieces, at <https://www.reconstructingjudaism.org/highholidays2020/mahzor-resources>). For those of you using your own hardbound machzor or the digital version, service leaders will be providing page numbers as each service progresses.

For those who don't want to use the whole machzor, we're offering downloadable service booklets for each service, assembled by the service leaders, which include all you'll need for that service. **Service booklets in PDF format will be available for download at least 24 hours before the service begins** from this folder: <https://bit.ly/sservicebooklets>.

Service booklets can be printed or read online. (For strategies for keeping your service booklet handy without printing it out, see the Zoom Guidelines included in this packet).

High Holy Days 2020/5781 At-A-Glance (with Zoom registration links)

Date	Time	Event / Zoom registration link	Livestream
Fri. Sep. 18	8:00 -9:00 p.m.	Erev Rosh Hashanah- Service leader: Rabbi Steve	yes
Zoom Registration 9/18: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqd-ygpi0oGNS7Mt_M-O_zoMQbJ52oe2i7			
Sat. Sep. 19	9:15-11:15 a.m.	Rosh Hashanah Day 1 service – Service co-leaders: Jane Kaufman, Leah Kamionkowski and Rabbi Steve	yes
	11:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.	Rosh Hashanah Alternative service – Service co-leaders: Julie Handler and Maureen Dinner. On Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we will offer alternative morning services, using as our main text Marcia Falk’s book of High Holy Day readings, poetry and prayers entitled, <i>The Days Between</i> . Alternative services are co-created by all those who attend and will be structured around the sharing of selections from the Marcia Falk text by the service leaders and the sharing of responses to those selections by the attendees. If you would have questions or would like to learn more about this service, please be in touch with Julie Handler, Maureen Dinner, or Art Biagianti.	yes
	12:30-1:30 p.m.	Kiddush and Open Zoom Luncheon	no
	2:00-3:00 p.m.	Intergenerational Rosh Hashanah Service – Service leaders: Rabbi Steve and Robyn Novick	no
Zoom Registration 9/19: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAkd-6grzkeE9I68u-t3LaDnL7H1408gE7K			
Sun. Sep. 20	9:15-11:15 a.m.	Rosh Hashanah Day 2 service with Kiddush -- Service co-leaders: Bill Scher-Marcus and David Conn	yes
	11:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.	Mindful Jewish Meditation – Leader: Nancy Rubel. For the Zoom link: Members, check your Weekly Update; guests, please email drnrubel@sbcglobal.net	no
	12:30-1:30 p.m.	Zoom lunch , open to all who wish to attend	no
	2:30 -3:30 p.m.	Socially-distanced outdoor Tashlich & Shofar gathering; masks mandatory. Stay tuned for more information and rain date	yes
Zoom registration 9/20: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEtd-qorj4jHtKyOzKU_lDXUvZUvc0QKQB except Mindful Jewish Practice – see information above			
Sun. Sep. 27	6:30-8:00 p.m.	Kol Nidre – Service co-leaders Rabbi Steve and Greg Selker	yes
Zoom registration 9/27: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0kcOiqTgtE9X20YJayhUpj38J5RqtXJtc			
Mon. Sep. 28	9:15-11:15 a.m.	Yom Kippur Morning service – Service co-leaders: Rabbi Steve and Adina Davidson.	yes
	11:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.	Yom Kippur Alternative service – Service leader: Art Biagianti. See Rosh Hashanah Alternative service for description.	yes
	12:45-2:00 p.m.	Avodah Service – Service leader: Bruce Fallick	no
	2:00-3:00 p.m.	Intergenerational Yom Kippur Service – Service co-leaders: Rabbi Steve and Robyn Novick	no
		Mindful Jewish Meditation – Leader: Nancy Rubel. For the Zoom link: Members, check your Weekly Update; guests, please email drnrubel@sbcglobal.net	no
	3:15-4:00 p.m.	Social Justice Speaker TBA	yes
	4:15-5:00 p.m.	Torah Study – Leader: Nurete Brenner	no
	5:15-6:00 p.m.	Yizkor Service – Co-leaders: Rabbi Steve and Kirby Date	yes
6:15-7:15 p.m.	Neilah Service – Co-leaders: Rabbi Steve and Arthur Lieberman	yes	
Zoom registration 9/28: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0rcu6oqzohNFGQTaC-B1ZMZIVXdfBetLf except Mindful Jewish Practice – see information above			

Creating shared sacred space online

We will not be spending these holy days on a screen. We will create a communal sanctuary that, for each of us, will include our home environment.

From [the High Holy Days page](#) of Congregation Ner Shalom

To be still in meditation
And active in thought and creation
Singing with others while alone on my couch.
I am grateful that even in separation we can be together.
You who rule all time and space
Join together with us in this moment.
Help us to feel joined in You
And to know with You
We are never alone.

Rabbi Susan Gulack, "[A Psalm for Zoom](#)"

There's been a lot of discussion this year about how to create shared sacred space and how to help us feel that the space we're occupying is an extension of that shared sacred space. For resources on creating sacred space in your own home, including quotes from Jewish texts, special blessings, ideas for what to put in your sacred space and more, visit <https://bit.ly/HHD-sacred-space>.

Kol HaLev High Holy Days 2020/5781 Member Registration Form

If you can complete the [online member registration form](#) instead of this one, please do. This registration form is for members of Kol HaLev; if you are not a year-round member, please download the guest registration form [here](#) or complete it [online](#).

INSTRUCTIONS: Your registration process depends upon how you plan to access High Holy Days services.

1. If you will be watching the **livestream**, once you submit this form, your registration process is complete.
2. If you will be calling in to services using **Zoom-phone-only**, once you submit this form and place a call to the Kol HaLev office (see instructions on page 3), your registration process is complete.
3. If you will be participating by **Zoom (audio and video)**, once you submit this form, you must also complete Zoom registration for each day of services you want to attend, using the links on page 7.

Your Name _____

Email: _____ Cell # (or best # to reach you) on days of services _____

Names of others in your household attending Kol HaLev's High Holy Days services _____

Which services are you/members of your household likely to attend (non-binding!):

	Zoom with video	Watch Live-stream	Zoom- phone-only
Erev Rosh Hashanah			
Rosh Hashanah Day 1			
Rosh Hashanah Alternative service			
Rosh Hashanah Day 2			
Kol Nidre			
Yom Kippur morning service			
Yom Kippur Alternative service			
Yom Kippur Yizkor service			
Yom Kippur Neilah service			

High Holy Day care packages: Because we aren't able to gather as a community in person this season, we are sharing care packages with our members -- bags that will contain ways to symbolically and ritually connect with the holidays and each other, including apples, honey, and Yizkor candles. Please indicate whether you'd like a care package and whether you can volunteer.

- Yes, I would like to receive a High Holy Days care package. No thank you. No High Holy Days care package for me.
- I would like to host a pick-up location (masks and distancing required) for members to come get their holiday care bags
- I would like to help deliver holiday care bags to members who are unable to pick theirs up

Donations: The High Holy Days are a traditional time for members to show appreciation for, honor, or remember loved ones and our community. Gifts will be acknowledged in a fall newsletter. Please use extra paper if you are making donations to multiple funds or in honor or memory of multiple people, and make sure names are legible.

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Choose a fund and enter the amount you'd like to donate to it:

- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund \$ _____ Hesed Fund \$ _____ General Fund \$ _____
- Check here if you wish your donation to remain anonymous.
- I would also like to order *Pearls of Blessing*. _____ copies @ \$18 + \$10.95 shipping (for up to 6 books) = \$ _____

TOTAL of all donations plus copies of *Pearls of Blessings* plus shipping = \$ _____

Mail this completed form to *Kol HaLev at 2245 Warrensville Center Road, Suite 215. University Heights, OH 44118* (you can put a check for donations in the same envelope or make a [secure online donation here](#)). After registering, please visit our [High Holy Days page](#) to discover additional High Holy Days information, links and resources.