

LJCC NEWS HIGH HOLIDAY EDITION

“AN INCLUSIVE AND THRIVING CENTER OF JEWISH SPIRITUAL, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL LIFE FOR THE LAWRENCE AREA.”



This pre-Rosh Hashana afternoon, as I watch a dive-bombing hummingbird and a dozen others just trying to get a drink from our feeder, my mind is on community. How we can make and keep community. What community is at its best, and how it enacts love as a verb. Why breaking bread, breaking through barriers, and breaking new ground together matters, especially in a time of rough-edged divides, political name-calling, and one-size-fits-all labels that diminish us all.

I'm also thinking of awe: that sense of wonder at the shining edges and in-depth centers of the life force. From the vantage point of the porch I get to witness this regularly in the parade of clouds behind the translucent lines of spider webs where unfortunate moths meet their maker (and the spider). The good dog, realizing I'm not getting up to let him in, lies down gingerly, then collapses to sleep on his side. A hummingbird suspends itself in buzz on the other side of the screen, and the air is brilliantly bright and cool.

At sundown, I'll be at the Lawrence Jewish Community Congregation, singing, davening (bowing back and forth in prayer), and even dancing at our Rosh Hashana service before the annual cookie orgy that follows, all of which opens the Day of Awe — the 10 days between the new year celebration and Yom Kippur, the day of fasting, prayer and atonement. During this time, we are called to fix anything we screwed up (particularly with other humans) this year, based on the premise that while prayer can right us with God, only action can right us with each other. Of course this also entails looking at how we've messed things up with ourselves: times we may have acted not from our values and deepest goodness but from our anxieties and fearful badness.

Which gets me back to community and awe: we can't sustain positive change in our lives without the help of one another. By opening our eyes to the wonder of how we can show up for each other and ourselves, we may just find the right steps, words, breaths, and stillnesses to arrive right where we are, in the promised land of this beautiful life even while trudging through the desert of brokenness, injustice, heartbreak, and grief. Whether you're Jewish or not, a new year is here for the taking (and I believe in jumping



SHABBAT SERVICE TIMES VIA ZOOM

FRIDAYS AT
7:00PM

Friday, August 28
Mincha at 6:45 pm, with
the shofar at
7pm. Kabbalat Shabbat to
follow and Maariv led by
Robin Rosenberg and
Barry Shalinsky

Friday, September 4
Mincha at 6:45 pm, with
the shofar and Cande-
lighting followed at 7 pm
led by Cheryl Lester

**Friday, September 11 –
Saturday, September 12**
Mincha at 6:45 pm, with
the shofar followed by
Candle lighting at 7 pm
led by Sam Brody and
Carrie Caine Shacharit
and Torah study at 10:30
am led by Sam Brody and
Carrie Caine



Have Blintz, Will Travel? LJCC's Blintz and Bake Sale is on!

Good news! LJCC will have a drive-up Blintz and Bake Sale on Sunday, November 8, 2020. This event will be COVID-19 compliant. Sales will be pre-order/on-line only! We will sell frozen blintzes and possibly other savory items, like knishes.

The Bake Sale will be a little different this year, although we will once again sell babka. Consider making your signature baked good — or your Bubbe's special dish. For this sale, you will contribute the WHOLE pan of brownies, bars, or creamy dessert; all 36 cookies; 1-2 breads, a large cake, etc. Your soup, kugel, and other savories are also welcome. Refrigerators will be available. Detailed guidelines will be sent out.

Because this is something everyone in your family likes, you will make it soon, take a photo for the on-line store, and send the photo to the Blintz Brunch Committee by **October 1**. Congrats! You get to eat this batch! Close to the event date you will drop off your baked goods at the LJCC.

We emphasize that all items are pre-order only. So, if it is not pictured on the site, we have no way to sell it (more reason to get those photos in early).

Of course, we are looking for volunteers to help set up the Saturday before the event, as well as organizers, runners and other help for the day of. We will send out an email for sign-ups.

Questions? Email Beth Schwartz, schwartzmarketingkc@gmail.com.

Reopening Committee News

We are writing with an update on our planning for upcoming events in the near and long term. As Jordan wrote back in March, the spirit of pekuach nefesh—the suspension of laws to save a life—leads us to continue these difficult but necessary measures. While we very much miss the opportunity to be in the same place as each other, the ongoing novel coronavirus pandemic precludes that particular joy for now.

A recent survey of Kansas doctors ranked attending indoor services with 30 or more people as high-risk, and for us, those risks are especially high. Security needs and building restrictions prevent us from opening windows or doors for fresh air during events. Our functional but outdated gendered restrooms allow for only two users at a time. Our hallways are cozy but crowded with only a few folks in them.

Our presence as a community, however, is still in the world. Each week we usher in Shabbat together, either with a brief candle lighting and check-in service, or with good old Kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv. We hold Torah services once a month. We have gathered for holidays. We have enjoyed the recipes Mike B. has been sharing on Facebook, and we have appreciated hearing about each other's challenges and delights each week. And our switch to remote services has offered opportunities for friends and family members from afar to join us.

We would love to hear your ideas about ways that we can keep building community while staying physically distant. Contact our Program and Engagement Director, Michael Brown, at ljjc@sunflower.com, to share your thoughts or to set up a time to talk. In the meantime, we will continue to monitor conditions and re-examine our decisions on a regular basis in hopes of being together in person again soon.

Wishing you and your family good health and spirit,

The LJCC Reopening Committee (Les Schwartz, Carrie Caine)



The re-constituted Tikkun Olam Committee met for the first time on July 12th , and again on August 9th . The board has charged us to make recommendations as to changes and actions the board, congregation and members can take to:

1) Ensure all Jews, Jewish allies, and those genuinely interested in Judaism feel welcomed and included in the life of the Jewish community of Lawrence;

2) Better engage with faith communities of color and other marginalized communities in Lawrence; and

3) Advance and expand social justice to ensure genuinely equitable treatment for all in Lawrence. The work of Tikkun Olam cannot be delegated to folks willing to serve on a committee. Every LJCC member has an important role in this work.

1) Welcoming and Inclusive: We recommend the Board develop a Conversion Policy so that individuals who want to convert to Judaism have a clear path, supported by the congregation.

2) We agreed that it is important for the LJCC to create a set of community norms by which members agree to respect each other and the community at large. These would address how we relate to each other in gatherings and help us consider how our conduct affects others. We ask all of you to please participate in developing our community norms. Information about community norms can be found at:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uWQTyGiyGb0wLzLcPuDR3TcFhUifb7JKEQrtJVZC0xc/edit?usp=sharing>.

Better Engage with Faith Communities of Color and other Marginalized Communities: Committee members have begun exploring which community groups we may want to engage with. We know, however, that the LJCC has to come to an agreement about what issues we want to engage on and structure for engaging on behalf of the congregation. Agreeing on the congregation's mandate for the Committee's work is second matter we intend to bring to the members for consideration. Advancing and Expanding Social Justice to Ensure Equitable Treatment for all in Lawrence.

ShulCloud Updates

Our plan as the LJCC is to digitize our membership info, donations, and financial records and Yahrzeits. ShulCloud is a congregational management platform with its customized templates for websites and a bulk email system with Jewish lifecycle templates. ShulCloud has capabilities cemetery management. The plan is to better each community member's digital experience and to find the information on events or programming they need with a Website platform that is easier to navigate. The intent is to streamline our email systems, membership lists, financial data, and records in the cloud in one place that meets the highest standards data security standards of the European GDPR. Creating a better digital experience is critical in this time when social distancing is paramount due to COVID 19 and reducing our ecological footprint while saving trees by creating less paperwork. We hope that the new ShulCloud website will work as a virtual hub to gather and to transfer communications and dues as we did with our physical space. Any questions about ShulCloud can be sent to Michael Brown at ljcc@sunflower.com

Special Thanks To Steve Hurst

The Board congratulates Steve Hurst, Security Coordinator, for spearheading the proposal process on a recently awarded grant to bolster our security measures at the center.

Your Contributions are Appreciated!

\$36 Copy of a Siddur

\$240 Monthly Contribution to Link



ADULT EDUCATION UPDATE



The Adult Education Committee (Susan Elkins, Cheryl Lester, Suzanne Sherr) has sponsored various presentations by Rabbi Mark Levin during the past several years. These included lectures on upcoming holidays, religious practices, Jewish manuscripts, and several workshops. Mark facilitated an extraordinarily successful bi-monthly and then monthly *Wise Aging* Group.

20 participants for two years that focused on aging and health from a Jewish perspective. It led to increased self-knowledge, thoughtfulness about the future, and the ability to share our own experiences in a warm and thoughtful environment. Last year, Mark gave seminars on Personal and Medical Issues, Mussar and Learning with Middot, Judaism and Morality, and initiated a Torah study class using Ellen Davis's *Opening Israel's Scriptures*. Classes ended in March 2020

due to Covid 19.

In the Future: Adult Ed. Committee seeks new members for the Committee. We plan to build support for future LJCC programming on Zoom by envisioning additional uses for the Landsberg Adult Education Endowment Fund.

We would like to re-establish our monthly chavurah-style *Wise Aging* group using ZOOM. We would use the *Wise Aging* book, which involves perspectives on aging and health issues, and figuring out where we are in 2020 compared to 2017. We will offer an updated perspective to original participants and include new folks. We will seek a monthly attendance commitment from between 10-20 people. We would like to begin sometime after High Holidays. Further details from Susan Elkins, selkins@ku.edu.

HIGH HOLIDAYS INFORMATION FROM THE RITUAL COMMITTEE

*All Services on Zoom Besides Tashlich

Register at <https://forms.gle/Jwe6VwLq4VPJocx17> as early as possible, and ideally by September 4 if you'd like to receive copies of the prayer book we will be using. We'll send more details about services and logistics by email. Please let us know if you have questions in the meantime by writing ljjc@sunflower.com. To register or ask questions by phone, call 785-841-7636.

As always, our services are offered at no cost and are open to all who wish to attend. We suggest a donation of \$36 for members and \$72 for nonmembers to help us defray the cost of offering services. Please donate only what you can comfortably afford.

Hear the Shofar in Elul on Zoom

It is a custom for some Jews to hear the shofar during Elul, the month that leads up to High Holidays. So, during Elul, we will offer a brief Mincha service at 6:45 every Friday night before our Friday night service. Mincha will end with the sound of the shofar. Watch the LJCC announcements for connection information and log on by 7 pm to hear the shofar. (August 21, 28, September 4, 11).

Join the Community Selichot Program

On Saturday, September 12 at 8:45 pm, the KC Rabbinical Association will offer a virtual community Havdalah, with Selichot to follow at 9 pm. Find more details and registration information at <https://kcrabbi.org/event/selichot-2020/>

Ring in the New Year with a Schmooze on Zoom

Friday, September 18, 11 am. While you prepare your Rosh Hashanah feast, or while you're kicking back and preparing mentally for the holiday, Zoom in to join your fellow community members for a pre-holiday schmooze.

LJCC HIGH HOLIDAYS SCHEDULE

High Holidays

Join us (virtually) at the LJCC for High Holidays 5781! Most services will be led by Rachel Black, cantorial soloist, Sam Brody, and Carrie Caine.

We will be gathering, over Zoom for:

On Zoom

Rosh Hashanah

Erev Rosh Hashanah Friday, September 18

Mincha at 6:30, shofar-blowing 6:50pm

Erev Rosh Hashanah Maariv: 7 pm.

On Zoom

Rosh Hashanah Day 1 Saturday, September 19

Shacharit. 9:30 to 10:15 am.

- Torah service. 10:30 am.
- Musaf. 12:00 noon.

On Zoom

Rosh Hashanah Day 2 Sunday, September 20

Shacharit. 9:30 to 10:15 am.

- Torah service. 10:30 am.
- Musaf. 12:00 noon.

In Person TBD

Tashlich. about 3 pm at Burcham Park.

To allow for physical distancing, we may ask you to come to a slightly earlier or later time. In-person community Tashlich may be canceled if public health conditions or weather conditions do not allow us to safely gather.

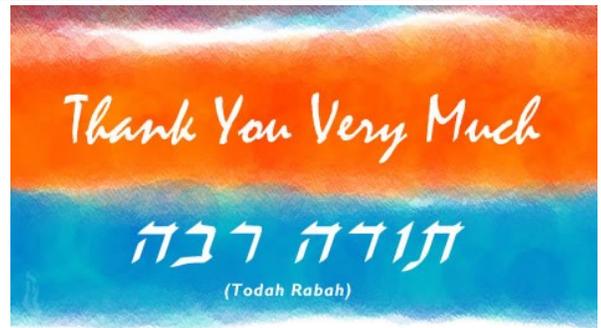
All attendees are required to wear masks, stand at least six feet apart from each other, and bring their own bread. We ask that you stay home or perform Tashlich on your own if you or someone you live with has any symptoms of COVID-19.

Yom Kippur

On Zoom

- Kol Nidre: 7 pm Sunday, September 27
 - Shacharit. 9:30 to 10:15 am Monday, Sept 28th
 - Torah service. 10:30 am.
- Musaf. 12:00 noon.

JOIN US!



Flo Harris Grant Award

The Flo Harris Foundation has met and will grant \$500 in general support to the LJCC. It is unrestricted in purpose. This can be used to provide stability to the agency or to aid children's programming.

Congratulations and Mazal Tov!

Rachel Black our Cantor and Religious School Director on being accepted into the Jewish Theological Society's Cantorial Program in New York!

From the Desk of the P&E Director: I started my interview process in February in February to become the first Programming and Engagement Director at the LJCC, it seems almost as if it was years ago. Time has moved so quickly, and yet we have only started entering the end of the Summer and the start of the Fall, which means the coming of a Jewish New Year once-again. However, this year in the "New Normal," we will be celebrating the New Year and remembering our loved ones differently. Our communication processes have changed, and where we will celebrate from our own homes this is a change from the past. I write to you from hundreds of miles away working remotely, which is also now part of "the new normal." and overcome extreme situations and challenges we evolve to meet those challenges. Some say that COVID-19 did not change history; it accelerated it. I hope this High Holiday Season we can all get closer to our loved ones and develop closer bonds as a community.

Have a meaningful Jewish New Year!

L'Shanah Tova!

-Michael Brown



LJCC BOARD REPORT



In June and July 2020, the LJCC board discussed some of the comments the membership made at the Annual Meeting. In response to an interest from members of the congregation that the board update congregants more frequently about the community's work and needs, the board agreed that we would start including summaries of our work in the newsletter. In addition, the board is working toward establishing a giving wish list. One recent unexpected expense for our community was a \$600 sump pump, and we are relieved to report that it was installed quickly after we learned that the old one had failed us.

Les Schwartz, Treasurer, undertook the work of untangling and updating designated funds that the LJCC has kept on the books for some time. Les also sent out pledge forms to congregation members, and reports that we have received pledges from about half of our member families to date. He is also working on setting up an electronic payment and contactless delivery system for the grocery cards that our community benefits from in hopes of bringing that program back as soon as possible.

Our Program and Engagement Director, Michael Brown, has been hard at work preparing our congregation to transition to congregation management software, ShulCloud. While we anticipate the transition to save us a great deal of administrative burden in the future, the work to get started in the system has been significant. We are also delighted by Michael's work to bring actor Adam B. Shapiro to us for a virtual visit on August 13. Shapiro discussed several roles but focused on his work on the recent Broadway-adjacent Yiddish production of Fiddler on the Roof. As always, the Board is interested in hearing from you! Write us with your questions and ideas. ljcc@sunflower.com.

The next meeting of the LJCC board will take place on Sunday, September 15 at 9:30am. Questions concerning board activity may be directed to any board member.

L'DOR V'DOR SOCIETY

HERMAN & LOUISE LEON
 ROBERT EINSTEIN (DECEASED)
 SUSAN ELKINS &
 JACK WINEROCK
 ANITA HERZFELD
 FRANCES & FLOYD HOROWITZ
 DINAH LOVITCH
 JUDITH ROITMAN
 BEVERLY & HOWARD
 ROSENFELD
 LENI & NEIL SALKIND
 ARTIE SHAW
 JOHN W. HOOPES &
 LAUREN MATTLEMAN HOOPES
 DAVID & SHARYN BROOKS
 KATZMAN

THE L'DOR V'DOR SOCIETY IS A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE LEFT PROPERTY OR FUNDS TO THE LJCC IN THEIR ESTATE PLANS. THIS SOCIETY IS OPEN TO EVERYONE, AND THE ONLY REQUIREMENT IS TO LET THE TREASURER KNOW THAT YOU HAVE MENTIONED THE LJCC IN YOUR ESTATE PLAN. EXACT DETAILS OF WHAT IS ALLOCATED ARE NOT REQUIRED, BUT THE ESTATE PLAN

LJCC Board	President	Jordan Yochim	LJCC Staff	
	Vice-President	Carrie Caine	P&E Director	Mike Brown
	Treasurer	Les Schwartz	Security	Steve Hurst
	Corresponding Secretary	Suzanne Sherr		
	Members-at-Large	Robin Rosenberg		
Michael Henneke				
John Hoopes				
Cheryl Lester				
	Greg Rudnick			
	Beth Schwartz			

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High Holiday Registration

Again this year, the LJCC High Holiday celebrations will recognize the extent and interconnectedness of our community by publishing .

Entry for LJCC High Holiday's Attendance (mail or submit requested information by email):

Services you will be attending: _____

Contact information: Name _____

(address) _____ (phone) _____

email _____

We suggest a \$36 donation for members and a \$72 donation for nonmembers to defray the cost of services. A donation is not required.

Attending Tashlich? Y) N)

Need a Machzor? Y) N) (High Holiday Prayer Book)

Do you want to? A) Pick the Machzor up B) Have us deliver the Machzor?

Days when you would not want a Machzor delivered? M) T) W) T) F) S) Su

Do you want an aliyah to the Torah? Y) N)

and if so, what is your Hebrew name? _____

All Services this year are virtual besides Tashlich