

LJCC NEWS HIGH HOLIDAYS EDITION

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



FROM THE PRESIDENT—

This has got to be the strangest, perhaps most difficult year in the Lawrence Jewish Community's history. It has certainly been that kind of year for me. There is a rather jarring disconnect within my professional life—a lot of uncertainty and speculation and stop-and-go planning and waiting and not doing and suddenly doing, all of which is happening virtually, while my physical reality is that I'm comfortably situated at home where I can wear clothes that essentially say "I don't care", go for a short walk, play a little guitar, get a snack, or watch a little TV whenever I want to. The frenetic anchored to the familiar. I'm among the very fortunate.

The LJCC itself has had a similar existence. While the building has been quiet, and largely unoccupied since the pandemic came to town, the community and especially the board has been BUSY. Pesach kits were delivered to many LJCC members in partnership with Chabad, we've held virtual Shabbat services nearly every week, offered Torah study with Rabbi Levin and with Carrie Caine and Sam Brody, provided children's programs, and we're about to host services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur on-line, but live! (if you haven't signed up already—information to do so is in this newsletter). Perhaps our greatest accomplishment, however, is the hiring of our new Program and Engagement Director—Michael Brown. Michael is not the "new Marty". His responsibilities are very different from what Marty's were. First, Michael is Jewish and so in addition to supporting all of the programs and services provided by planning committees (Ritual, Adult Education, Religious School, etc.) he will also be designing and providing additional Jewish programming for our congregation.

Second, Michael has been hard at work restructuring the administrative aspects of running our congregation. We have adopted new membership management software called ShulCloud. In the new software every member, full and associate, will have a profile which will keep a record of your contact information, important dates (births, b'nai mitzvah, anniversaries, yahrzeits, etc.), membership dues and contributions payments, volunteer interests, and other information. The software will also host the LJCC website, allow us to connect with you through email announcements and (continued on page 3)

LAWRENCE JEWISH COMMUNITY CONGREGATION

WWW.LAWRENCEJCC.ORG

917 HIGHLAND DRIVE
LAWRENCE, KS 66044

LJCC@SUNFLOWER.COM

OFFICE HOURS:
CURRENTLY CLOSED DUE
TO COVID-19

BOARD PRESIDENT

JORDAN YOCHIM

SHABBAT SERVICE TIMES VIA ZOOM

FRIDAYS AT
7:00PM

From the Desk of the Program & Engagement Director:

I started my interview process 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 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 develop closer bonds as a community.

-Michael Brown P&E Director

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 candlelighting 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 ljcc@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)

(FROM THE PRESIDENT, continued from page 1) the newsletter, and allow you to join LJCC committees and groups within the LJCC community. Once it's all set up, ShulCloud will streamline a great deal of the administrative work that Marty used to do.

Michael will also be a wonderful resource for our community. He will help LJCC members who would like assistance with life-cycle events or would like to become more connected to the LJCC and our activities. And he will play an important outreach role by welcoming Jews who are not yet members of the LJCC to help them engage with Jewish life in Lawrence.

Michael has not yet joined us in Lawrence (he has been working remotely from Indiana since he was hired in mid-May), but he'll be here soon! In the mean time, he has been reaching out to all our committees and to individual members to introduce himself. If you would like to get to know him better, or need assistance with anything LJCC-related, he can be reached at ljcc@sunflower.org, or leave him a message at 785-841-7636.

Though I won't be able to see you in person this year, I hope to see you on-line for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and I wholeheartedly look forward to the day, early in 5781 I hope!, when we'll once again gather at the LJCC, sing the Shabbas tunes a little slowly and a little out of tune, eat a cookie (or 3) at the oneg, and get all caught up with one another like people should. Until then, be safe, be well, be happy, and may the new year bring you blessings upon blessings.

Jordan Yochim, LJCC President

Have Blintz will Travel?

LJCC's Blintz and Bake Sale is on!

Good news Blintz Fans! LJCC will have a delicious drive-up Blintz 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 (Just like Bubbe made them!)

We emphasize that all items are pre-order only.

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.



Tikkun Olam Committee

The re-constituted Tikkun Olam Committee met for the first time on July 12 th , 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) better 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) can 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. We will call on you early and often to participate as you are able. And by early, I mean in the next few weeks when we hold our first town hall meeting were seeking your input. After our first two meetings, here's our progress on the three part charge.

- 1) Welcoming and Inclusive:

The committee's first recommendation is that the Board develop a Conversion Policy so that individuals who want to convert to Judaism have a clear path, supported by the congregation.

Second, 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 of all sorts 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, and a starting point for what those norms can include can be found at:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uWQTyGiyGb0wLzLcPuDR3TcFhUifb7JKEQrtJV>

ZC0xc/edit?usp=sharing. Please review that document and join in the discussion

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.

We cannot begin substantive work on this issue until the congregation has a common understanding of the key concepts at play and the role of Jewish congregations in social justice work. After learning together, the congregation can set the direction for how we can bring our Jewish values to work to make our community better for all. We hope that many of you will participate in the opportunities to learn with us. The Tikkun Olam Committee has had 12 participants so far and we welcome more— if anyone is interested. Please contact Michael Brown.

YOUR GENEROSITY IS APPRECIATED THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED

\$36 Copy of a Siddur
\$240 Monthly Contribution to LINK

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 a bulk Email system with Jewish lifecycle templates. ShulCloud has capabilities for religious School and 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.

-Michael Brown
Director of Programming and Engagement

Adult Education Committee

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 for about 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.

Future: Adult Ed. Committee seeks new members for the Committee. We plan to build support for future LJCC programming 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

Register at <https://forms.gle/Jwe6VwLq4VPJocx17> 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.

Ring in the New Year with a Schmooze

Friday, September 18, 11 am. While you prepare your Rosh Hashanah

Erev Rosh Hashanah (Friday, September 18).

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

Erev Rosh Hashanah Maariv: 7 pm

- Rosh Hashanah Day 1 (Saturday, September 19)

Shacharit. 9:30 to 10:15 am.

- Torah service. 10:30 am.

- Musaf. 12:00 noon.

- **Rosh Hashanah Day 2** (Sunday, September 20)

Shacharit. 9:30 to 10:15 am.

- Torah service. 10:30 am.

- Musaf. 12:00 noon.

- Tashlich. About 3 pm at Burcham Park. To allow for physical distancing,

Yom Kippur Kol Nidre: 7 pm (Sunday, September 27)

- Shacharit. 9:30 to 10:15 am (Monday, September 28).

- Torah service. 10:30 am.

- Musaf. 12:00 noon.

-**Yizkor**. 1 pm, led by Leni Salkind, Cheryl Lester, and Ron Schneider

-**Mincha**, 5:30 pm, led by Jack Winerock and Cheryl Lester.

-**Neilah**, 6:45 (ish). **Havdalah** and **Maariv**, 7:45 (ish)

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:

Rosh Hashanah

Erev Rosh Hashanah Friday, September 18
Mincha at 6:30, shofar-blowing 6:50pm
Erev Rosh Hashanah Maariv: 7 pm.

Rosh Hashanah Day 1 Saturday, September 19
Shacharit. 9:30 to 10:15 am.

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

Rosh Hashanah Day 2 Sunday, September 20
Shacharit. 9:30 to 10:15 am.

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

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.

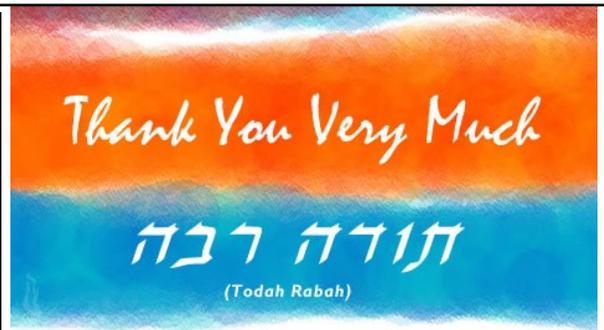
Yom Kippur

- **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.

-Yizkor. 1 pm, led by Leni Salkind, Cheryl Lester, and Ron Schneider

-Mincha, 5:30 pm, led by Jack Winerock and Cheryl Lester.

-Neilah, 6:45 Havdalah and Maariv, 7:45



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. Thanks to Rebecca Swinburne Romine for her leadership in writing and successfully receiving this award!

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!

Congratulations to Steve Hurst , Carrie Caine and Les Schwartz:

With some Steve, Carrie and Les have successfully competed for a federal award to the LJCC for security enhancements to the facilities. The LJCC has received more than \$30,000 for upgrades to our current security system and improvements to the facilities that will make them safer for all uses and participants. We are grateful to Chuck Green with the Jewish Federation in KC for his guidance in securing this award.

Over the coming weeks, Steve will be working with private contractors to implement these changes and improvements.

A Big Todah Rabah—

to the ritual committee of the LJCC—Carrie Caine, Susan Elkins, Cheryl Lester, and to Sam Brody, Jack Winerock, and Rachel Black for all their efforts to put together and offer High Holiday services in a virtual environment for us this year.



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.

The board also congratulates Steve Hurst, Security Coordinator, for spearheading the proposal process on a recently awarded grant to bolster our security measures at the center and the Religious School Action Committee for their recent receipt of a grant to support their work (see page y). We also congratulate Rachel Black, Religious School Director for 2019-20 and longtime friend of the congregation, for her acceptance to cantorial school at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

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.

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

**Lawrence Jewish
Community Congregation
917 Highland Drive
Lawrence, KS 66044
Return Service Requested**

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All Services this year are virtual besides Tashlich