

## ***A Message from the High Holy Day Committee***

With the most sacred time in the Jewish calendar fast approaching, we are called, as always, to demonstrate our ability to turn, return, and renew according to ethical values handed down from generation to generation. These times continue to challenge us. Our consultant for safety protocols during the pandemic, Dr. Rachel Kreps-Falk, a public health professional, confirmed our growing concerns about the highly transmittable Delta variant and rise in Covid diagnoses.

We must respond Jewishly. We turn to the One and our beloved community, we return to our core beliefs, and we renew our commitment to Pikuach Nefesh, our ethical belief that the preservation of life takes precedence over all other mitzvot, ritual practices, or sheer human 'druthers. This value requires us to do everything we can to avoid endangering anyone's health or safety.

So, it is with sadness and pride that we announce that HHD services at Chochmat will again be virtual this year. Only in this way can we guarantee that no one's health will be risked in our strong desire to be together as a community in prayer. We still plan to be together in-person for an outdoor observance of Taschlich and time to schmooze and picnic. You can find all details and purchase tickets [on our website](#).

Please join us in prayer, song, meditation, and joyful community.

*With care for the community  
Janet Falk and Lisa Strongin  
High Holy Day Committee*