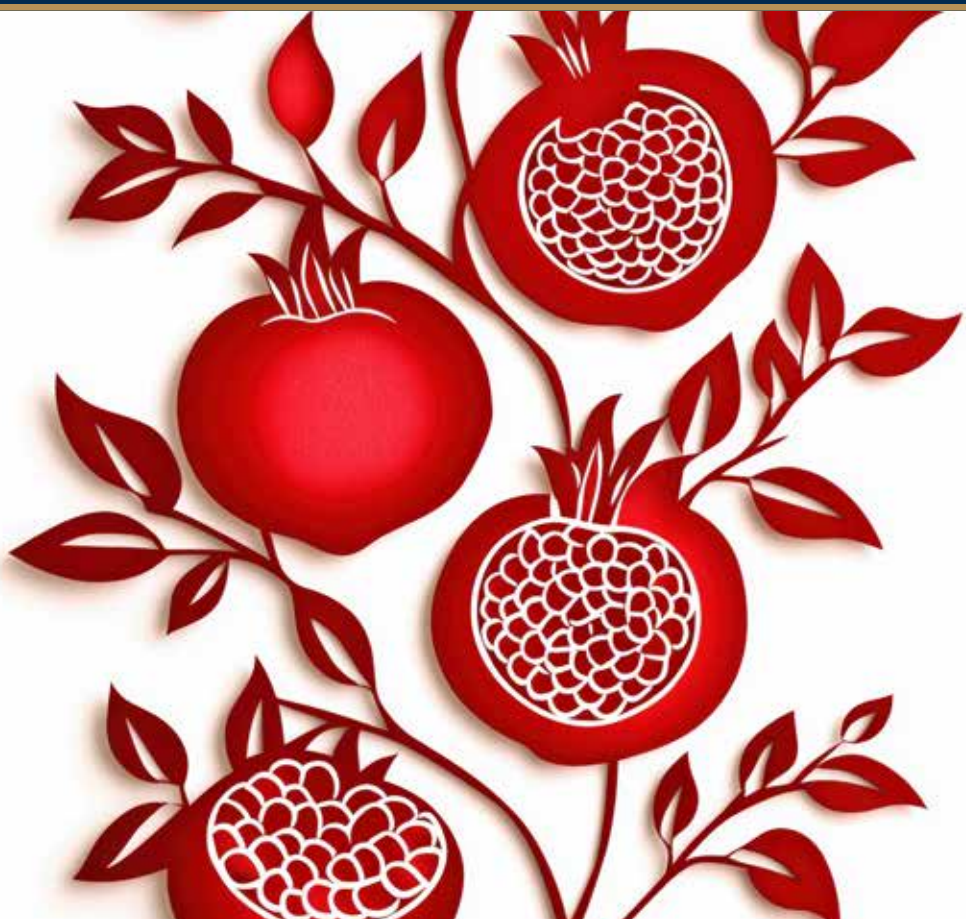


שנה טובה

# High Holidays Services 2025/5786



Charles E. Smith  
LIFE COMMUNITIES

# THE TORAH PROJECT

## A SACRED SCROLL FOR EVERY SOUL

### Help Bring A New Torah to Ring House

At Charles E. Smith Life Communities, we are honored to commission a new, lighter Sefer Torah specially designed for the residents of Ring House, making it easier for them to hold and engage with this sacred scroll during services and celebrations.



Your support will help make this meaningful project a reality. Learn more and contribute by scanning the QR code or visiting [smithlifecommunities.org/giving/torah](https://smithlifecommunities.org/giving/torah)



## Join Us to View The Writing of A Torah Scroll

Participating in the writing of a Torah is a rare and sacred opportunity to fulfill one of Judaism's 613 commandments—the mitzvah of writing a Torah. Join us at one of the following dates for your opportunity to watch Rabbi Herzfeld create this new scroll for Ring House. Opportunities to inscribe a letter may be available.



3 p.m. on **Monday, September 15**

11 a.m. on **Thursday, November 6**

3 p.m. on **Monday, November 24**

3 p.m. on **Thursday, December 18**



**Ring House**

**1801 East Jefferson Street, Rockville, MD 20852**

**Evelyn Auerbach Social Hall**

## Meet The Scribe: Rabbi Shmuel Herzfeld



Rabbi Shmuel Herzfeld is a respected Modern Orthodox rabbi, educator and Torah scribe. He previously served as senior rabbi of Ohev Sholom—The National Synagogue in Washington, D.C. His connection to Ring House is especially meaningful—his parents are proud residents, and he is honored to write this Torah for a community that has become part of his family's life.





Dear CESLC Community,

*God ascends with a shout, the Lord with the sound of the shofar. Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! (Psalms 47:6-7)*

The days pass slowly, but the years fly by. We fall into routines and settle into familiar patterns, often finding it hard to see the world anew. We celebrate the good, we lament the bad. We rise in the morning, go about our day, and return to bed.

The High Holidays are our chance to break free from this cycle—to awaken to the force behind the ticking clock. As the Psalmist says: *"God ascends with a shout, the Eternal with the sound of the shofar. Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!" (47:6-7)*

We need the loud, piercing blast of the ram's horn to shake us from our routines and remind us of the Source of all blessings. Rosh Hashanah calls us to open our minds to the sovereignty of God and to feel God's presence in our lives.

It is also the first of the Ten Days of Return, culminating in Yom Kippur. We often describe this time as one of repentance, but repentance is not the goal—it is the path. Our own perception of our failures can block our connection to God. These days are a time to reflect on our missteps, but even more so, to draw closer to God.

**ואמרת אליהם כה אמר יהוה צבאות שובו אלי נאם יהוה צבאות ואשוב אליכם אמר יהוה צבאות**  
*"Return to Me, and I will return to you," (Zechariah 1:3)*

May we use this season to release our mistakes and return to God with joy and triumph.

We hope you enjoy this High Holiday guide. It reflects the dedication of our wonderful clergy, CESLC associates, volunteers, families, and residents who make this campus a true community.

Wishing you a **Shanah Tovah תְּחַתְּמוּ וְתִכְתְּבוּ** —may you have a sweet new year and be inscribed and sealed in the Book of Life.



Rabbi Daniel Braune-Friedman

Senior Rabbi/Director, Spiritual Life | Charles E. Smith Life Communities

# Selichot

Sunday, September 14

| LANDOW HOUSE     |        |         |  |
|------------------|--------|---------|--|
| Selichot Service | 4 p.m. | Theater | Rabbah Arlene Berger/<br>Cantorial Soloist Joan Wolf |

# Erev Rosh Hashanah

Monday, September 22

| LANDOW HOUSE        |           |                                |   |
|---------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|---|
| Evening Service     | 4 p.m.    | Theater                        | Rabbah Arlene Berger/<br>Cantorial Soloist Joan Wolf  |
| REVITZ HOUSE        |           |                                |   |
| Evening Service     | 6:30 p.m. | Activity Center                | Rabbi Kim Blumenthal                                  |
| RING HOUSE          |           |                                |   |
| Evening Service     | 6:15 p.m. | Evelyn Auerbach<br>Social Hall | Rabbi David Greenspoon                                |
| WASSERMAN RESIDENCE |           |                                |   |
| Evening Service     | 4 p.m.    | Social Hall                    | Cantor Jeff Moss/<br>Rabbi Daniel Braune-<br>Friedman |



| LANDOW HOUSE                |            |         |  |
|-----------------------------|------------|---------|--|
| Morning Service with Shofar | 10:30 a.m. | Theater | Rabbah Arlene Berger/<br>Cantorial Soloist Joan Wolf |
| Spiritual Tashlich          | Noon       | Theater | Rabbah Arlene Berger/<br>Cantorial Soloist Joan Wolf |

| REVITZ HOUSE                |         |                 |                      |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Morning Service with Shofar | 10 a.m. | Activity Center | Rabbi Kim Blumenthal |

| RING HOUSE                  |         |                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Morning Service with Shofar | 10 a.m. | Evelyn Auerbach Social Hall | Rabbi David Greenspoon       |
| Tashlich                    | 3 p.m.  | Activity Center             | Rabbi Daniel Braune-Friedman |
| Evening Service             | 7 p.m.  | Evelyn Auerbach Social Hall | Rabbi David Greenspoon       |

| SMITH-KOGOD RESIDENCE       |         |   |   |
|-----------------------------|---------|---|---|
| Morning Service with Shofar | 11 a.m. | Yetta Krupsaw and Samuel Paul Cohen Social Hall | Cantorial Soloist Marcia Friedman and Steven Kerbel |

| WASSERMAN RESIDENCE         |           |              |  |
|-----------------------------|-----------|--------------|--|
| Morning Service with Shofar | 9:30 a.m. | Social Hall  | Cantor Jeff Moss/<br>Rabbi Emily Howard Meyer/<br>Rabbi Daniel Braune-Friedman |
| Tashlich                    | 2 p.m.    | Conservatory | Rabbi Daniel Braune-Friedman   |
| Evening Service             | 4 p.m.    | Social Hall  | Rabbi Daniel Braune-Friedman   |

LANDOW HOUSE

|                             |            |         |  |
|-----------------------------|------------|---------|--|
| Morning Service with Shofar | 10:30 a.m. | Theater | Rabbah Arlene Berger/<br>Cantorial Soloist Joan Wolf |
|-----------------------------|------------|---------|--|

REVITZ HOUSE

|                             |         |                 |                      |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Morning Service with Shofar | 10 a.m. | Activity Center | Rabbi Kim Blumenthal |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------|----------------------|

RING HOUSE

|                             |         |                                |                        |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Morning Service with Shofar | 10 a.m. | Evelyn Auerbach<br>Social Hall | Rabbi David Greenspoon |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------------------------------|------------------------|

SMITH-KOGOD RESIDENCE

|                             |         |   |  |
|-----------------------------|---------|---|--|
| Morning Service with Shofar | 11 a.m. | Yetta Krupsaw<br>and Samuel Paul<br>Cohen Social Hall | Cantorial Soloist<br>Marcia Friedman/<br>Steven Kerbel |
|-----------------------------|---------|---|--|

WASSERMAN RESIDENCE

|                             |           |             |   |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------|---|
| Morning Service with Shofar | 9:30 a.m. | Social Hall | Cantor Jeff Moss/<br>Rabbi Emily Howard<br>Meyer/ Rabbi Daniel<br>Braune-Friedman |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------|---|

Need a Lulav for Sukkot?



Scan the QR code or visit  
**[smithlifecommunities.org/lulav-order](https://smithlifecommunities.org/lulav-order)**  
to place an order online.

Questions? Contact Rabbi Dan at 240-283-3879 or [braune-friedman@ceslc.org](mailto:braune-friedman@ceslc.org).

Orders must be submitted by September 20.



|                              |           |   |  |
|------------------------------|-----------|---|--|
| LANDOW HOUSE                 |           |   |  |
| Musical Prelude to Kol Nidre | 1:30 p.m. | Theater   | Iris Music Project                                   |
| Kol Nidre                    | 4 p.m.    | Theater   | Rabbah Arlene Berger/<br>Cantorial Soloist Joan Wolf |
| REVITZ HOUSE                 |           |   |  |
| Musical Prelude to Kol Nidre | 11 a.m.   | Activity Center                                 | Iris Music Project                                   |
| Kol Nidre                    | 6:30 p.m. | Activity Center                                 | Rabbi Kim Blumenthal                                 |
| RING HOUSE                   |           |   |  |
| Musical Prelude to Kol Nidre | 11 a.m.   | Evelyn Auerbach Social Hall                     | Iris Music Project                                   |
| Kol Nidre                    | 6:30 p.m. | Evelyn Auerbach Social Hall                     | Rabbi David Greenspoon                               |
| SMITH-KOGOD RESIDENCE        |           |   |  |
| Musical Prelude to Kol Nidre | 2 p.m.    | Yetta Krupsaw and Samuel Paul Cohen Social Hall | Iris Music Project                                   |
| Kol Nidre                    | 4 p.m.    | Yetta Krupsaw and Samuel Paul Cohen Social Hall | Cantorial Soloist Marcia Friedman/<br>Steve Kerbel   |
| WASSERMAN RESIDENCE          |           |   |  |
| Musical Prelude to Kol Nidre | 3:30 p.m. | Elizabeth Gelman Kossow Lobby                   | Iris Music Project                                   |
| Kol Nidre                    | 6:30 p.m. | Social Hall                                     | Cantor Jeff Moss                                     |

| LANDOW HOUSE                |            |   |  |
|-----------------------------|------------|---|--|
| Morning Service with Yizkor | 10:30 a.m. | Theater   | Rabbah Arlene Berger/<br>Cantorial Soloist Joan Wolf |
| Afternoon Discussion        | 3 p.m.     | Theater   | Rabbah Arlene Berger/<br>Cantorial Soloist Joan Wolf |
| Mincha/Neila                | 4 p.m.     | Theater   | Rabbah Arlene Berger/<br>Cantorial Soloist Joan Wolf |
| Fast Ends                   | 7:28 p.m.  |   |  |
| REVITZ HOUSE                |            |   |  |
| Morning Service with Yizkor | 10 a.m.    | Activity Center                                 | Rabbi Kim Blumenthal                                 |
| Afternoon Discussion        | 3:45 p.m.  | Activity Center                                 | Rabbi Emily Howard Meyer                             |
| Neila                       | 6 p.m.     | Activity Center                                 | Rabbi Kim Blumenthal                                 |
| Final Shofar and Fast Ends  | 7:28 p.m.  |   | Rabbi Kim Blumenthal                                 |
| RING HOUSE                  |            |   |  |
| Morning Service with Yizkor | 10 a.m.    | Evelyn Auerbach Social Hall                     | Rabbi David Greenspoon                               |
| Afternoon Discussion        | 3:15p.m.   | Lobby   | Rabbi Daniel Braune-Friedman                         |
| Neila                       | 6 p.m.     | Evelyn Auerbach Social Hall                     | Rabbi David Greenspoon                               |
| Final Shofar and Fast Ends  | 7:28 p.m.  | Evelyn Auerbach Social Hall                     | Rabbi David Greenspoon                               |
| SMITH-KOGOD RESIDENCE       |            |   |  |
| Morning Service             | 11 a.m.    | Yetta Krupsaw and Samuel Paul Cohen Social Hall | Cantorial Soloist Marcia Friedman/<br>Steven Kerbel  |
| Afternoon Discussion        | 2 p.m.     | 2 South   | Rabbi Daniel Braune-Friedman                         |
| Fast Ends                   | 7:28 p.m.  |   |  |

Yom Kippur (Cont.)

Thursday, October 2

| WASSERMAN RESIDENCE         |           |             |  |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------|--|
| Morning Service with Yizkor | 9 a.m.    | Social Hall | Cantor Jeff Moss/<br>Rabbi Daniel Braune-Friedman/<br>Rabbi Emily Howard Meyer |
| Afternoon Discussion        | 3 p.m.    | Synagogue   | Rabbi David Greenspoon   |
| Mincha/Neila                | 5:30 p.m. | Social Hall | Cantor Jeff Moss/<br>Rabbi Daniel Braune-Friedman                              |
| Final Shofar and Fast Ends  | 7:28 p.m. |             | Cantor Jeff Moss/<br>Rabbi Daniel Braune-Friedman                              |

Erev Sukkot

Monday, October 6

| RING HOUSE      |           |              |                              |
|-----------------|-----------|--------------|------------------------------|
| Evening Service | 4:15 p.m. | Meeting Room | Rabbi Daniel Braune-Friedman |

Sukkot | Day 1

Tuesday, October 7

| LANDOW HOUSE          |            |   |                          |
|-----------------------|------------|---|--------------------------|
| Morning Service       | 10:30 a.m. | Theater   | Rabbah Arlene Berger     |
| REVITZ HOUSE          |            |   |                          |
| Morning Service       | 10 a.m.    | Activity Center                                 | Rabbi Emily Howard Meyer |
| RING HOUSE            |            |   |                          |
| Morning Service       | 10:30 a.m. | Meeting Room                                    | Rabbi Mark Raphael       |
| SMITH-KOGOD RESIDENCE |            |   |                          |
| Morning Service       | 10:30 a.m. | Yetta Krupsaw and Samuel Paul Cohen Social Hall | TBD                      |
| WASSERMAN RESIDENCE   |            |   |                          |
| Morning Service       | 10:30 a.m. | Social Hall                                     | Cantor Jeff Moss         |

| LANDOW HOUSE        |            |                 |                          |
|---------------------|------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Morning Service     | 10:30 a.m. | Theater         | Rabbah Arlene Berger     |
| REVITZ HOUSE        |            |                 |                          |
| Morning Service     | 10 a.m.    | Activity Center | Rabbi Emily Howard Meyer |
| RING HOUSE          |            |                 |                          |
| Morning Service     | 10:30 a.m. | Meeting Room    | Rabbi Mark Raphael       |
| WASSERMAN RESIDENCE |            |                 |                          |
| Morning Service     | 10:30 a.m. | Social Hall     | Cantor Jeff Moss         |

| RING HOUSE      |           |              |                              |
|-----------------|-----------|--------------|------------------------------|
| Evening Service | 4:15 p.m. | Meeting Room | Rabbi Daniel Braune-Friedman |

| LANDOW HOUSE               |            |                 |                          |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Morning Service and Yizkor | 10:30 a.m. | Theater         | Rabbah Arlene Berger     |
| REVITZ HOUSE               |            |                 |                          |
| Morning Service and Yizkor | 10 a.m.    | Activity Center | Rabbi Emily Howard Meyer |
| RING HOUSE                 |            |                 |                          |
| Morning Service and Yizkor | 10:30 a.m. | Meeting Room    | Rabbi Mark Raphael       |
| WASSERMAN RESIDENCE        |            |                 |                          |
| Morning Service and Yizkor | 10:30 a.m. | Social Hall     | Cantor Jeff Moss         |

|                       |            |   |  |
|-----------------------|------------|---|--|
| LANDOW HOUSE          |            |   |  |
| Hakafot and Kiddush   | 10:30 a.m. | Theater   | Rabbah Arlene Berger/<br>Cantorial Soloist Joan Wolf |
| REVITZ HOUSE          |            |   |  |
| Hakafot and Kiddush   | 10:30 a.m. | Activity Center                                       | Rabbi Emily Howard Meyer                             |
| RING HOUSE            |            |   |  |
| Hakafot and Kiddush   | 4 p.m.     | Meeting Room  | Rabbi Daniel Braune-<br>Friedman                     |
| SMITH-KOGOD RESIDENCE |            |   |  |
| Hakafot and Kiddush   | 10:30 a.m. | Yetta Krupsaw<br>and Samuel Paul<br>Cohen Social Hall | TBD  |
| WASSERMAN RESIDENCE   |            |   |  |
| Hakafot and Kiddush   | 2:30 p.m.  | Social Hall   | Rabbi Daniel Braune-<br>Friedman                     |

# Clergy Biographies



**RABBI DANIEL BRAUNE-FRIEDMAN**  
**CHARLES E. SMITH LIFE COMMUNITIES**  
**DIRECTOR OF SPIRITUAL LIFE/SENIOR RABBI**

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Rabbi Daniel Braune-Friedman is director of spiritual life and senior rabbi at CESLC. He came to CESLC in 2018 after his tenure as director of pastoral care at Hebrew Healthcare and National Healthcare in West Hartford, Connecticut. Braune-Friedman was born in Montrose, New York, and graduated from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

He studied at Yeshivat Darchei Noam in 2001 and began rabbinical school at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah in 2004. He became a chaplain at Oxford University in 2009. During his tenure at Oxford, he provided support to students, faculty members and community lay leaders. He returned to the United States after four years to complete his healthcare chaplaincy training at Hartford Hospital in Connecticut.

Rabbi Braune-Friedman is a board-certified chaplain through Neshama: Association of Jewish Chaplains.



**RABBAH ARLENE BERGER**

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Rabbah Arlene Berger has worked as a chaplain at Hebrew Home of Greater Washington since 2007. She and her children, Jennie and Alex, were the first people to lead Kabbalat Shabbat services at Landow House upon its opening.

Rabbah Berger is rabbi at Shirat Hanfesh in Chevy Chase, MD; a chaplain at Hevrat Shalom Congregation in Rockville, MD; and a community chaplain for the Jewish Social Service Agency.

A graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Rabbah Berger earned MSW and MBA degrees from Boston College, as well as a certificate in gerontology. Prior to becoming a rabbi, she spent many years working as a social worker, gerontologist, senior mobility specialist and Jewish educator. Rabbah Arlene's current goal is to embody the teaching of *l'dor va'dor/ from generation to generation*, and introduce her grandchildren to life at CESLC.



### **RABBI KIM BLUMENTHAL**

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Rabbi Kim Blumenthal is excited to celebrate and worship with the residents of Revitz for these High Holidays. Rabbi Blumenthal was ordained by The Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) and also holds a MA in Education from JTS and a BA in Sociology from Columbia University. She has served in congregations in Vernon, CT, Ann Arbor, MI and Columbia, MD.

During the pandemic, Rabbi Blumenthal transitioned focus from congregational work to chaplaincy, participating in Clinical Pastoral Education at Charles E. Smith Life Communities. She additionally became a Certified Dementia Professional. She currently works at Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA) Hospice where she is part of an interdisciplinary team caring for patients and families facing end of life.



### **CANTORIAL SOLOIST MARCIA FRIEDMAN**

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Cantorial Soloist Friedman serves as cantor at Temple Israel of Northern Westchester in Lake Peekskill, New York, and has enjoyed being involved with Jewish music activities since her childhood in Brooklyn.

She has been a music teacher in Hebrew schools since she was 18 years old, and after graduating from Hunter College, taught vocal music and drama in public schools.

In the secular sphere, Cantor Friedman has sung professionally at regional and off-Broadway venues in New York. When she is not teaching or vocal coaching, she enjoys time with her five grandchildren, three of whom live in Rockville.



## RABBI DAVID GREENSPOON

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Rabbi David Greenspoon is not a stranger to Ring House. He is a regular and popular presenter for the Jewish Scholars Series and was a Shabbat morning service leader with the return to in-person services during 2021-2022. Rabbi Greenspoon is a rarity among clergy: he's a veteran of the United States Navy—twice. From 1981–1985 he was enlisted, deployed on a guided missile cruiser and an aircraft carrier. In 1989 he was appointed as an officer in the United States Navy Reserve and served as a chaplain until 1996. These experiences led Rabbi Greenspoon to ground his rabbinic work in relationships; he understands his rabbinate is a “rabbinate of presence.” This approach resulted in numerous awards for the congregations he served, and was transformative for congregations and communities, especially in the realms of interfaith work and civic engagement.

Rabbi Greenspoon loves bringing the sweeping story of Jewish history and the Jewish people to life. His engaging style and contagious passion encourage students of all ages and backgrounds. His innovative approach as an educator goes back to the earliest days of the public internet as the first rabbi teaching Torah on AOL's Torah Chat. His writings have been published widely with appearances in *Washington Jewish Week*, *Baltimore Jewish Times*, *Jewish Bible Quarterly*, and *Navy Chaplain Magazine*.

Rabbi Greenspoon has held numerous leadership positions within and beyond the Jewish community. In 2021 he was awarded a Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa* by the Jewish Theological Seminary for his 25+ years of service to the Jewish community. Also in 2021, Rabbi Greenspoon formally launched Jewtique Concierge Rabbinic Services to serve the needs of Jewish people not connected to a congregation. His warmth, compassion, and humor have made a difference in the lives of hundreds of clients since launch.





## STEVE KERBEL

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Steve Kerbel is an independent Jewish education consultant in the Greater Washington area, and has been involved in Jewish education, formal and informal, youth group, camp, day school and congregational school for the last 35 years. Steve has served as a consultant and project director for the Haberman Institute of Jewish Studies in Washington, DC, and the

Center for Israel Education in Atlanta, and regularly teaches and leads Shabbat services at Ring House. For the last 30 years Steve led High Holiday services for Congregation Emanuel in Statesville, North Carolina.

Steve earned a law degree from the University of Baltimore and a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Maryland and is a past National President of the Jewish Educators Assembly. Steve was awarded a Doctorate of Pedagogy, *Honoris Causa*, by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. Among Steve's avocations, he facilitates wine tastings featuring Israeli wines and teaches about the geography of diversity of Israel through its wines and wine makers and leads walking tours of DC's monuments through a Jewish lens.



## IRIS MUSIC PROJECT

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Founded by cellist Lauren Latessa, Iris Music Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to reimagining senior living communities as spaces of creative exchange. The musicians of Iris Music Project have served as the ensemble-in-residence for Charles E. Smith Life Communities since 2020 where their daily presence impacts the lives of older adults across the

campus. As individuals they are talented musicians, holding advanced degrees from Indiana University, Eastman School of Music, Northwestern University and the Peabody Conservatory of Music. For the 2025 Musical Prelude to Kol Nidre, Joanna Owen (violin) and Jiyoung Oh (piano) will present concerts at Revitz House and Landow House while cellists Lauren Latessa, Katlyn DeGraw, Ismar Gomes and Catherine Mikelson will present concerts for Ring House, Smith-Kogod Residence and Wasserman Residence. 2025 will mark 10 years of these special events and will feature a collaboration with Cantorial Soloist Marcia Friedman.



## **RABBI EMILY HOWARD MEYER**

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Emily Howard Meyer is an accomplished Jewish educator, composer, arranger, conductor, teacher, singer, and pianist. She is the owner of oySongs.com, a Jewish music distribution website and ComposerGirl Publications, a music publication company. Currently, she is serving as a student rabbi and chaplain intern at CESLC while she is a full-time rabbinical

student at the Academy for Jewish Religion in New York

She received a double Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance and Theory/Composition at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley and a Masters of Music in Composition from the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University. An avid teacher, Emily has taught all aspects of music at Eastern Wyoming College, Finger Lakes Community College and the Omaha Conservatory of Music.

Howard Meyer lives in Rockville with her husband Gabe, their teenage twins Ella and Owen, and three cats. She has an active artistic life as a weaver, knitter, spinner, felter, dyer, potter, carpenter, cake maker, and gluten-free baked goods inventor.



## CANTOR JEFF MOSS

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Cantor Jeff Moss has been leading High Holiday services at Hebrew Home of Greater Washington since 1986. He has been leading services on Shabbat and festivals at Wasserman Residence regularly since 1999 and also led the sedarim on Passover.

Cantor Moss was born in Brooklyn, NY, where he attended a Jewish day school and learned the liturgy from his father, Cantor Louis Moss z”l, and his grandfather, Rabbi Aaron Masliansky z”l. He grew up at Town and Village Synagogue in lower Manhattan, where his father was the Cantor.

Upon graduating from New York University and SUNY-Binghamton, Cantor Moss moved to the Washington, DC, area where he worked for IBM and is retired from GEICO Insurance (Information Technology).

Cantor Moss is a member of Bnai Israel Congregation and has been active in the congregation. He is a past president of its Men’s Club and also of the Seaboard Region of the Federation of Jewish Men’s Clubs (FJMC). He was awarded its Regional Man of the Year Award in 2013.

In his spare time, Cantor Moss enjoys Israeli Folk Dancing. He and his wife, Debbie, have two sons, Aaron (Jessica), 43, of Gaithersburg, and Richard, 38, of Long Beach, CA, and two grandchildren, Caleb Adam, 10, and Naomi Sophia, 7.



### **RABBI MARK RAPHAEL**

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Rabbi Raphael will again be with us for Sukkot. A graduate of Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts, he received a master's degree in Jewish education and Jewish studies, in addition to his ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. He has more than 31 years of pulpit leadership from congregations in Connecticut, New York and

Maryland. He retired from leading congregations in 2012. He began his formal chaplaincy training at Shady Grove Hospital and continued his clinical pastoral education at CESLC.



### **CANTORIAL SOLOIST JOAN WOLF**

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Wolf is currently the cantorial soloist at Hevrat Shalom in Rockville and previously served as president of Zemer Chai, the Jewish chorale of the nation's capital.

In her teens, she served as vice president of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization Chicago Council and was a member of their auditioned choral ensemble.

Wolf has a degree in music and vocal performance from American University where she produced and performed in theatrical productions and in choirs, madrigal groups and recitals.

Wolf is vice president of Gerlach Real Estate, Inc. and has been a real estate sales agent since 1980.

# Jewish Holidays 5786

## 2025

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Rosh Hashanah      | September 23–24 |
| Tzom Gedaliah      | September 25    |
| Yom Kippur         | October 2       |
| Sukkot, First Days | October 7–13    |
| Shemini Atzeret    | October 14–15   |
| Chanukah           | December 14–22  |

## 2026

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| Tu Bishvat           | February 2 |
| Purim                | March 3    |
| Passover, First Days | April 2–9  |
| Yom Hashoah          | April 14   |
| Yom Hazikaron        | April 21   |
| Yom Ha'atzmaut       | April 22   |
| Lag Ba'omer          | May 5      |
| Shavuot              | May 22–23  |
| Tisha B'Av           | July 23    |

*Jewish holidays begin at sundown the day before.*

# High Holidays Explained

**Rosh Hashanah**, also known as the Jewish New Year, is one of the most significant and solemn holidays in the Jewish calendar. It marks the beginning of the Ten Days of Repentance, a period of introspection and spiritual reflection that culminates in Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. Rosh Hashanah usually falls in September or October, on the first and second days of the Jewish month of Tishrei.

On this day we blow the ram's horn, known as the *shofar*, which calls our attention to God's ruling power in the universe. We also eat special foods as ways to pray, like apples and honey to ask for sweetness and wholeness in the year ahead.

Rosh Hashanah is a time of reflection, renewal, and hope for a brighter future. It is a reminder to take stock of one's actions, seek forgiveness and reconciliation, and set positive intentions for the coming year. The holiday fosters a sense of community and unity among Jewish people worldwide as they embark on this spiritual journey together.

**Yom Kippur**, also known as the Day of Atonement, is the holiest and most solemn day in the Jewish calendar. It falls on the 10th day of the Jewish month of Tishrei, exactly ten days after Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. Yom Kippur is a day of fasting, prayer, and repentance, during which Jewish people seek atonement for their sins and transgressions committed during the past year. Yom Kippur concludes with the Neilah service, a powerful and emotional prayer recited as the day comes to an end. It is believed that at this moment, the "gates of heaven" are closing, signifying the end of the Day of Atonement. After Yom Kippur, Jewish people typically break their fast with a festive meal, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to seek forgiveness and start anew in the coming year.



**Sukkot**, also known as the Feast of Tabernacles, is a joyous and significant Jewish holiday that follows shortly after Yom Kippur. It begins on the 15th day of the Jewish month of Tishrei and lasts for seven days, with an additional day celebrated outside of Israel, known as Shemini Atzeret. Sukkot is a time of harvest celebration, historical commemoration, and religious observance. We sit in a temporary booth, known as a sukkah, to show how important God's protection is. We also wave forth plant species, a lulav (palm frond), an etrog (citron fruit), hadassim (myrtle branches), and aravot (willow branches). Each of these items has symbolic significance, and their unity represents the diverse nature of the Jewish community.

**Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah** are two Jewish holidays that are celebrated consecutively, immediately following the seven days of Sukkot. In some Jewish communities, they are considered as one combined holiday, while in others, they are observed as distinct celebrations.

Shemini Atzeret, which translates to “the eighth day of assembly,” is celebrated on the 22nd day of the Jewish month of Tishrei, one day after the conclusion of Sukkot. It is a separate holiday, though it is often grouped together with Sukkot due to its proximity.

Simchat Torah is a day of immense joy and celebration. Synagogues are filled with singing, dancing, and merriment as the Torah scrolls are taken from the ark and paraded around the synagogue in a series of seven hakafot (circuits).

Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah together mark the conclusion and renewal of the annual Torah reading cycle. These holidays hold great significance in Jewish tradition, fostering a sense of community, celebration, and commitment to the study and observance of the Torah.



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