

שנה טובה

High Holidays Services

2026/5787



Charles E. Smith
LIFE COMMUNITIES



The Torah Project

*A Sacred Scroll
for Every Soul*

JOIN US FOR THE DEDICATION OF A NEW TORAH FOR RING HOUSE

After months of preparation, Ring House will soon celebrate the dedication of a beautiful new Sefer Torah, a sacred symbol of faith, memory, and community.

**We invite residents, loved ones, and supporters
to join us for the dedication ceremony:**

Tuesday, October 13 | 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Ring House
1801 East Jefferson Street
Rockville, MD 20852

Registration

To register, visit: bit.ly/RingHouseTorah

Thoughtfully commissioned with the needs of our community in mind, our new Torah is lighter in weight and easier to carry, allowing more residents to hold, honor, and celebrate the Torah during services and celebrations.

There's Still Time to Be Part of This Special Mitzvah

Writing a Torah is the concluding mitzvah of the 613 mitzvot—among the most sacred acts in Jewish tradition. Few are ever able to fulfill it completely. By contributing to The Torah Project, you can take part in this holy commandment while advancing dignity, inclusion, and joy for our residents.

Your support will help complete this sacred project and leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.



Scan the QR code or visit
smithlifecommunities.org/giving/torah
to learn more or make a gift.





Dear CESLC Community,

"And after the fire—a still small voice." (I Kings 19:12)

The world around us is rarely quiet. Our days are filled with responsibilities, distractions, and endless streams of information. Even moments meant for reflection can become crowded with noise. We move from one task to the next, often without pausing long enough to hear what lies beneath the commotion.

The High Holidays invite us to do something different. They ask us to slow down and listen.

When the prophet Elijah stood on Mount Horeb seeking God, he witnessed a mighty wind, an earthquake, and a fire. Yet God was not found in any of these dramatic displays. Only afterward did Elijah encounter God in a **קול דממה דקה**—a still small voice.

We often imagine that spiritual awakening arrives with sudden inspiration or extraordinary moments. But more often, God's presence reveals itself quietly: in a moment of gratitude, in an act of kindness, in the embrace of family and friends, in words of prayer spoken from the heart, or in the gentle stirrings of conscience that call us toward compassion and renewal.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur remind us that returning to God does not require us to escape our lives. Rather, it asks us to become more attentive within them. Amid the sound of the shofar and the beauty of our traditions, may we also make room for silence, for reflection, and for the still small voice that has been speaking to us all along.

May this sacred season bring us closer to one another and closer to God. May we be blessed with a year of health, peace, and joy.

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 and **גמר חתימה טובה**. May you be inscribed and sealed for a year of blessing and life.



Rabbi Daniel Braune-Friedman

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

LANDOW HOUSE

Selichot Service	4 p.m.	Theater	Rabbah Arlene Berger/ Cantorial Soloist Joan Wolf
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RING HOUSE

Selichot Service	7:30 p.m.	Evelyn Auerbach Social Hall	Cantor Yehoshua Redfern
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LANDOW HOUSE

Evening Service	4 p.m.	Theater	Rabbah Arlene Berger/ Cantorial Soloist Joan Wolf
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REVITZ HOUSE

Evening Service	6:30 p.m.	Activity Center	Rabbi Emily Howard Meyer
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RING HOUSE

Evening Service	6:15 p.m.	Evelyn Auerbach Social Hall	Rabbi David Greenspoon
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WASSERMAN RESIDENCE

Evening Service	4 p.m.	Social Hall	Cantor Jeff Moss/ Rabbi Daniel Braune- Friedman
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Rosh Hashanah • Day 1

Saturday, September 12

LANDOW HOUSE

Morning Service	10:30 a.m.	Theater	Rabbah Arlene Berger/ Cantorial Soloist Joan Wolf
Spiritual Tashlich	Noon	Theater	Rabbah Arlene Berger/ Cantorial Soloist Joan Wolf

REVITZ HOUSE

Morning Service	10 a.m.	Activity Center	Rabbi Emily Howard Meyer
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RING HOUSE

Morning Service	10 a.m.	Evelyn Auerbach Social Hall	Rabbi David Greenspoon
Evening Service	7 p.m.	Evelyn Auerbach Social Hall	Rabbi Mark Raphael

SMITH-KOGOD RESIDENCE

Morning Service	3:30 p.m.	Yetta Krupsaw and Samuel Paul Cohen Social Hall	Cantorial Soloist Marcia Friedman/ Rabbi Kim Blumenthal
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WASSERMAN RESIDENCE

Morning Service	9:30 a.m.	Social Hall	Cantor Jeff Moss/ Rabbi Daniel Braune- Friedman
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LANDOW HOUSE

Morning Service with Shofar	10:30 a.m.	Theater	Rabbah Arlene Berger/ Cantorial Soloist Joan Wolf
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REVITZ HOUSE

Morning Service with Shofar	10 a.m.	Activity Center	Rabbi Emily Howard Meyer
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RING HOUSE

Morning Service with Shofar	10 a.m.	Evelyn Auerbach Social Hall	Rabbi David Greenspoon
Tashlich	2:30 p.m.	Evelyn Auerbach Social Hall	Rabbi Daniel Braune-Friedman

SMITH-KOGOD RESIDENCE

Service	3:30 p.m.	Yetta Krupsaw and Samuel Paul Cohen Social Hall	Cantorial Soloist Marcia Friedman/ Rabbi Kim Blumenthal
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WASSERMAN RESIDENCE

Morning Service	9:30 a.m.	Social Hall	Cantor Jeff Moss/ Rabbi Daniel Braune-Friedman
Tashlich	2 p.m.	Conservatory	Rabbi Renana Brooks
Evening Service	4 p.m.	Social Hall	Rabbi Daniel Braune-Friedman

Need a Lulav for Sukkot?

Scan the QR code or visit **smithlifecommunities.org/lulav-order** to place an order online.



Questions? Contact Rabbi Dan at 240-283-3879 or braune-friedman@ceslc.org.

Orders must be submitted by noon on September 16.

SMITH-KOGOD

Musical Prelude to Kol Nidre	2 p.m.	Yetta Krupsaw and Samuel Paul Cohen Social Hall	Iris Music Project
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WASSERMAN

Musical Prelude to Kol Nidre	3 p.m.	Elizabeth Gelman Kossow Lobby	Iris Music Project
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LANDOW HOUSE

Musical Prelude to Kol Nidre	11 a.m.	Theater	Iris Music Project
Kol Nidre	3:45 p.m.	Theater	Rabbah Arlene Berger/ Cantorial Soloist Joan Wolf

REVITZ HOUSE

Musical Prelude to Kol Nidre	2 p.m.	Activity Center	Iris Music Project
Kol Nidre	6:30 p.m.	Activity Center	Rabbi Emily Howard Meyer

RING HOUSE

Musical Prelude to Kol Nidre	2 p.m.	Evelyn Auerbach Social Hall	Iris Music Project
Kol Nidre	6:30 p.m.	Evelyn Auerbach Social Hall	Rabbi David Greenspoon

SMITH-KOGOD RESIDENCE

Kol Nidre	4 p.m.	Yetta Krupsaw and Samuel Paul Cohen Social Hall	Cantorial Soloist Marcia Friedman/ Rabbi Kim Blumenthal
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WASSERMAN RESIDENCE

Kol Nidre	6:30 p.m.	Social Hall	Cantor Jeff Moss
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LANDOW HOUSE

Morning Service with Yizkor	10:30 a.m.	Theater	Rabbah Arlene Berger/ Cantorial Soloist Joan Wolf
Afternoon Discussion	3 p.m.	Theater	Rabbah Arlene Berger/ Cantorial Soloist Joan Wolf
Mincha/Neila	4 p.m.	Theater	Rabbah Arlene Berger/ Cantorial Soloist Joan Wolf
Fast Ends	7:47 p.m.		

REVITZ HOUSE

Morning Service with Yizkor	10 a.m.	Activity Center	Rabbi Emily Howard Meyer
Afternoon Discussion	3:45 p.m.	Activity Center	Rabbi Emily Howard Meyer
Neila	6 p.m.	Activity Center	Rabbi Emily Howard Meyer
Final Shofar and Fast Ends	7:47 p.m.		Rabbi Emily Howard Meyer

RING HOUSE

Morning Service with Yizkor	10 a.m.	Evelyn Auerbach Social Hall	Rabbi David Greenspoon
Afternoon Discussion	3:15 p.m.	Lobby	Rabbi Daniel Braune-Friedman
Neila	6:45 p.m.	Evelyn Auerbach Social Hall	Rabbi David Greenspoon
Final Shofar and Fast Ends	7:47 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/ Rabbi Kim Blumenthal
Afternoon Discussion	2 p.m.	2 South	Rabbi Daniel Braune-Friedman
Fast Ends	7:47 p.m.		

WASSERMAN RESIDENCE

Morning Service with Yizkor	9 a.m.	Social Hall	Cantor Jeff Moss/ Rabbi Daniel Braune-Friedman
Afternoon Discussion	3 p.m.	Synagogue	Rabbi David Greenspoon
Mincha/Neila	6:15 p.m.	Social Hall	Cantor Jeff Moss/ Rabbi Daniel Braune-Friedman
Final Shofar and Fast Ends	7:47 p.m.		Cantor Jeff Moss/ Rabbi Daniel Braune-Friedman

RING HOUSE

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

Morning Service and Yizkor	10 a.m.	Activity Center	Rabbi Emily Howard Meyer
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RING HOUSE

Morning Service and Yizkor	10:30 a.m.	Meeting Room	Rabbi Mark Raphael
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WASSERMAN RESIDENCE

Morning Service and Yizkor	10:30 a.m.	Social Hall	Cantor Jeff Moss
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LANDOW HOUSE

Hakafot and Kiddush	10:30 a.m.	Theater	Rabbah Arlene Berger/ Cantorial Soloist Joan Wolf
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REVITZ HOUSE

Hakafot and Kiddush	10:30 a.m.	Activity Center	Rabbi Emily Howard Meyer
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RING HOUSE

Hakafot and Kiddush	4:15 p.m.	Meeting Room	Rabbi Daniel Braune-Friedman
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SMITH-KOGOD RESIDENCE

Hakafot and Kiddush	10:30 a.m.	Yetta Krupsaw and Samuel Paul Cohen Social Hall	TBD
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WASSERMAN RESIDENCE

Hakafot and Kiddush	2 p.m.	Social Hall	Rabbi Daniel Braune-Friedman
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Clergy Biographies

RABBI DANIEL BRAUNE-FRIEDMAN

CHARLES E. SMITH LIFE COMMUNITIES
DIRECTOR OF SPIRITUAL LIFE/SENIOR RABBI

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



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

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.



RABBI DR. RENANA BROOKS

Rabbi Dr. Renana Brooks was ordained by the Academy for Jewish Religion and is currently pursuing cantorial studies. She serves with the Jewish Legacy Project as an interim rabbi, consultant, and lay-leader trainer, helping congregations confronting threats to their long-term survival. She also works with the rabbinic team at Charles E. Smith Life Communities as a service leader, chaplain, teacher, and provider of pastoral care.

As a community rabbi, Rabbi Brooks provides meaningful Jewish ritual for people who are unaffiliated or underserved and helps communities bridge intergenerational differences regarding Israel. Before entering the rabbinate, she served as a clinical psychologist at the Sommet Institute, where she worked with individuals, families, and organizations navigating transition and change. Prior to her work at the Sommet Institute, she was affiliated with the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and worked at one of its teaching hospitals.



CANTORIAL SOLOIST MARCIA FRIEDMAN

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

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.



IRIS MUSIC PROJECT

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.



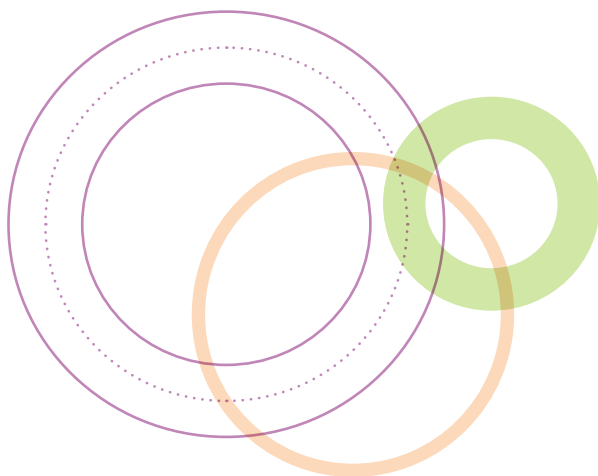


RABBI EMILY HOWARD MEYER

Rabbi 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.

Rabbi 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

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 sederim 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), of Gaithersburg, and Richard, of Long Beach, California, and two grandchildren, Caleb Adam, and Naomi Sophia.



RABBI MARK RAPHAEL

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.



CANTOR YEHOSHUA REDFERN

Cantor Yehoshua Redfern has devoted more than 50 years to Jewish liturgical music as a cantor, *ba'al kria*h, teacher, and lecturer. A graduate of the Philip and Sarah Belz School of Jewish Music at Yeshiva University, he has served congregations throughout North America, most recently Adas Kodesh Shel Emeth in Wilmington, Delaware (2011–2025). An accomplished performer and recording artist, he has appeared with Zemer Chai, performed at Carnegie Hall and the White House, and was honored with the 2011 Dr. Karl Adler Memorial Award for his contributions to Jewish music education. He currently resides in Silver Spring, Maryland.



CANTORIAL SOLOIST JOAN WOLF

Wolf is currently the cantorial soloist at Grandview Jewish Congregation at The Grandview in Bethesda, Maryland, 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 5787

2026

Rosh Hashanah	September 12–13
Tzom Gedaliah	September 14
Yom Kippur	September 21
Sukkot, First Days	September 26–October 1
Shemini Atzeret	October 3
Chanukkah	December 4–12

2027

Tu Bishvat	January 23
Purim	March 23
Passover, First Days	April 22–29
Yom Hashoah	May 4
Yom Hazikaron	May 11
Yom Ha'atzmaut	May 12
Lag Ba'omer	May 25
Shavuot	June 11–12
Tisha B'Av	August 12

*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.

Rosh Hashanah

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.

Yom Kippur

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.



Sukkot

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 & Simchat Torah

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.

Charles E. Smith Life Communities
delivers quality care and meaningful life
experiences to older adults, with dignity and
compassion rooted in Jewish values.



To learn more about Charles E. Smith
Life Communities, please scan the QR code.

