



Philipstown
✧ Reform Synagogue

HIGH HOLY DAYS
5782
(2021)

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MESSAGE FROM CO-PRESIDENT ADELE STERN

The chaos of our lives has continued into this year. Just as we thought we were seeing a light at the end of the tunnel, it was shut out again. Further, we've been shattered by events occurring from all sorts of forces: the rise of the Delta Variant, push back against the Covid vaccinations from a segment of our population (making us wonder if this ever-morphing virus will become endemic), the surge of hostilities in Washington and around the U.S., the horrifying events of Afghanistan, and catastrophic weather events. In the atmosphere are the increased voices of racism and antisemitism, rage, frustration, and helplessness expressed through our media.

Close to home, we have lost so much, especially our dearest board member and treasurer, Barry Skura, who represented all that we hope we can all be—intelligent, warm, empathetic, and active. We miss his inquiries pertaining to religion, the synagogue's activities, Jewish history, world politics and social concerns such as food shortage. He was PRS' own personal "great thinker."

The summer for Henry and me, has continued to be one of loss affecting our dear friends, some at home and those in Germany, whom we met as we returned for the first time since Henry emigrated as a Holocaust survivor to Washington Heights.

I cannot remember a time when there was a greater need to find calm amidst the noise. Now, more than ever, we need the silence and repetition of centuries-old prayer to guide us through the chaos, the angst, the powerlessness. Although it was anticipated that we would be meeting in person this season, it turns out that our patience is being tested again. Fortunately, we can still be together. We will be gathering virtually, which has proven throughout the pandemic to be a great source of comfort and support.

Henry and I returned for the fourth time to Augsburg, Germany in 2017 for the 100th Anniversary of the Augsburg Synagogue (unsuccessfully torched by Nazis). When the choir sang the Shema, all the descendants spoke of hearing parents and grandparents singing along, just as they had in services held decades before. It was as if the very stars scattered across the synagogue's blue dome were our ancestors.

So, this year as together we pray and sing and recite the traditional blessings, let's listen for those generations of voices amidst our chanting. As difficult as these years have been, we have survived. Let these experiences teach us more about ourselves, our strengths, and the importance of reaching out to others.

Co-President Cathy Duke and I thank you for being a part of the PRS community this year and for joining us for these particularly poignant High Holy Days. Next year ... in person!

L'shana tova



A place of Jewish worship, learning and assembly.

Thank you to
our presidents and board members, past and present,
for their time, energy, and thoughtfulness;
and a very special thanks to
founding member Marshall Mermell for producing our Zoom services;
Diane Botnick for her work on our liturgy;
and to you, devoted supporters, who make PRS possible!

PRS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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To keep up with what is going on at PRS, please be sure to share
your contact information by emailing us or calling Cathy Duke at 914-450-4188.

PRS 2021 HIGH HOLY DAYS SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Please sign in with our secure Zoom link 15 minutes before start times for an opportunity to greet and be greeted by PRS friends, old and new.

Mon, September 6	Rosh Hashanah Seder around the Holiday Table 7-8:00 pm	A discussion of symbolic foods for the New Year, including wine, challah, and apples & honey
Tue, September 7	Rosh Hashanah 10-11:30 am 5-6:00 pm	Morning Services Study Session & Tashlich guided meditation
Wed, September 15	Kol Nidre/Erev Yom Kippur 7-8:15 pm	Evening Services
Thu, September 16	Yom Kippur 10-11:30 am 4:15-5:15 pm 5:30-5:45 pm 5:50-6:45 pm	Morning Services Afternoon Study Session Yizkor Memorial Service Neilah and Havdalah

The shofar will be blown by Helmut Hoess on September 7 & September 16.

Please save the date: PRS Annual Sukkah decorating party, Sunday afternoon, September 19.

ABOUT RABBI HELAINE ETTINGER

PRS is delighted that Rabbi Helaine Ettinger continues to serve as PRS' spiritual leader. Rabbi Ettinger was ordained by Hebrew Union College (HUC) in 1991 and has served the Jewish Congregation of Kinnelon, NJ, and B'nai Harim in the Poconos. She spent a number of years in Israel where she worked as a teacher specializing in Bar/Bat Mitzvah training for children with disabilities. She is active in the MetroWest Jewish community (Essex & Morris Counties) in New Jersey. There she has been part of the Jewish Health and Healing Center, the Rimon initiative for adult learning, the Solomon Schechter Day School of Essex and Union, and Congregation B'nai Israel in Millburn. She is married to Henry Bloom and is the mother of Lyla, Yael, and Shai Bloom.

