



Serving Lower Fairfield County for more than 80 years

Ita Paskind, Rabbi

Keith Satter, President

July 2024, Tammuz 5784

Dear CBE Member,

We hope you've been enjoying a wonderful summer! You may have noticed that all the Jewish holidays are on the later side this year (we had an extra month of Adar!), but it's actually time to start thinking about the Jewish year of 5785, which will begin on Wednesday evening, October 2.

Prior to these Holidays, we have several fabulous community events planned for September and hope you'll be there.

- **Sunday afternoon, September 15, we welcome The Challah Prince, Idan Chabasov, to Congregation Beth El. You'll be inspired by his talent, and you'll also receive this year's CBE High Holiday Member Gift.**
- We are also embarking on a **new Selichot collaboration this year, on Saturday night, September 28, 7:45pm.** We will gather at TCS Westport along with Congregations Or Hadash (Fairfield), Rodeph Sholom (Bridgeport), and B'nai Israel (Bridgeport) to raise our voices in song in support of Israel and in anticipation of the holiday season. We are anticipating the participation of elementary, middle, and high school students and their families. This new collaboration gives us the opportunity to show up, no matter the host synagogue!

As we look ahead to the High Holidays, we are introducing one change and one new element this year:

The change. You'll notice a big change as you enter the synagogue for High Holiday services this year: **We will not require you to present tickets.** Jody and the greeting team will note your and your guests' attendance as you enter. Please stop at the table and wish them a Shana Tova so we are sure we don't miss your entry! We hope this will make your holiday experience more relational and less formal!

Something new. We are pleased to offer the **first annual Yom Kippur Conversation**, in which Rabbi Paskind will discuss with local leaders about how their work brings the prophet Isaiah's vision of justice to life. This year, we will welcome Lisa Koeppel, CEO of Norwalk's Malta House. This sacred conversation will take place on Yom Kippur afternoon, prior to the Mincha service. Please plan accordingly!

Finally, we want to share that this will be **Steve Stein's 25th High Holiday Appeal!** His Yom Kippur morning address is always a highlight of the holiday season. To honor Steve for this important role, we ask each congregant to contribute "\$25 for Steve"--or more--to honor him and help us all meet our fundraising goal for 5785. Together, we can make this the most successful appeal in Steve's 25 years.

We hope you enjoy the remainder of the summer and we look forward to seeing you soon. May each of us be inscribed and sealed in *Sefer HaChayim*, the Book of Life.

Bivracha, in blessing,

Rabbi Ita Paskind and Keith Satter, President