

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE BEIT TIKVAH BOARD**

Dear Members and Friends of Congregation Beit Tikvah:

Please join us in welcoming the New Year 5786!

Our High Holy Day communal theme this year is '*Gardens of Hope: Planting and Nurturing for Resilience*'.

Tragically, our lives continue to be disrupted by the rise in anti-Semitic speech and actions in the country and the world, and by the continuing events in Israel and Gaza. Though extremely difficult, these experiences can remind us of Judaism's legacy of strength and resilience, and of our own resilience as a Congregation. We are stronger together than apart.

As we enter the year 5786, Beit Tikvah has many things to be grateful for. Rabbi Doug Heifetz continues to be a rich source of inspiration for us with his uplifting and joyful services and adult education discussions. In addition to once-a-month Shabbat morning services and discussions, Rabbi Doug now leads a monthly Friday night Zoom service.

We have made progress this year in expanding and strengthening Beit Tikvah's structure and offerings. We elected a new Board of Directors last Fall, added a Friday night Zoom service and strengthened our website and newsletter production, held a Passover Seder and Shavuot services (including a Yizkor service) and will continue offering Yizkor services in accordance with the Jewish calendar.

### **High Holy Days 5786**

We are again meeting in person for this year's High Holy Day services (please take whatever precautions against COVID you personally wish) and will live-stream services via Zoom.

**Please see the [LINK](#) for a full schedule of High Holy Day services and activities.**

In addition to High Holy Day services, we have some special High Holy Day activities planned:

- 1. After services and a pot-luck lunch on the 1st day of Rosh Hashanah (Tuesday, September 23):**
  - An Art Project (at Roland Park Community Center) guided by our communal theme. This brief reflective art ritual invites participants to symbolically “release” what they no longer want to carry into the new year, and to plant intentions for resilience, growth and nurturing.

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- Tashlich after the art project and luncheon, at the stream at Whole Foods on Falls Road near Lake Avenue. Tashlich is a symbolic ritual performed on Rosh Hashanah in which we cast pieces of bread or natural materials into flowing water, representing the release of what no longer serves us—mistakes, regrets, or spiritual burdens. It's a powerful act of renewal, inviting us to let go and make space for growth in the new year.

**2. On the 2nd day of Rosh Hashanah (Wednesday, September 24), from 10 am - 1 pm**, a short Mincha service and discussion of 'Resilience, Compassion, and Jewish law', with a pot luck lunch.

As a participatory congregation, Beit Tikvah continues to rely on our individual and collective efforts to make our community work effectively. Our congregation is fortunate to be sustained by dedicated and generous individuals with a keen interest in Reconstructing Judaism and a wide array of talents, skills and backgrounds.

Please consider contributing your time and your talents to make the coming months as exciting, fulfilling and impactful as possible. In particular, we continue to encourage and invite members and friends to consider serving in one of the following roles:

- Creative writers – Share your literary talents to inform and inspire others
- Tikkun Olam (Healing the World) – Take the lead in the congregation's Tikkun Olam efforts.
- Program and Activity development

There are also several openings on our Board of Directors for those who may have the skills to participate if elected.

Together, our continuing commitment defines who we are as a congregation. We're ready to get the year started, and we invite you to be a part of it all! Please join us for services and other activities, and consider becoming a member to support our community.

L'Shanah Tovah,

Beit Tikvah's Board of Directors

Bill Marker, Miriam Winder-Kelly, Maria Markham Thompson, Ilene London