

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lauren Alexander, [lalexander@mmjccm.org](mailto:lalexander@mmjccm.org)

To download press photos, [click here](#)

## 2022 Jewish High Holiday Services & Event Schedule Announced for Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan and JCC Harlem

**Highlights include five sukkahs with Sukkot events;  
Forgive Me Film-a-thon; and over a dozen holiday programs**

New York, NY (September 8, 2022) – The Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan (MMJCCM) and JCC Harlem announced today the schedule of services and events for the **2022/5783 High Holidays season**, beginning September 14 through October 16. This year’s Jewish High Holidays will be celebrated on the Upper West Side at the MMJCCM and in Harlem at JCC Harlem with a mix of in-person and virtual events.

JCC Harlem will host in person **Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur High Holiday services for families and adults**. These services are available for those not affiliated with a local synagogue and/or for those looking for affordable options to observe the High Holidays. It is of deep importance that JCC programs be financially accessible for all. To discuss financial or other assistance for any JCC Harlem programs or services, please email [info@iccharlem.org](mailto:info@iccharlem.org).

“JCC Harlem is so proud to once again offer financially and spiritually accessible opportunities for the Jewish High Holy Days,” says **Meg Sullivan, Director of JCC Harlem**. “We welcome all who wish to join our makeshift synagogue—regardless of Jewish knowledge, and exactly as you are. It is of deep importance to us that our services and ritual experiences be accessible to all, and we sincerely invite the community to be in touch with us for financial assistance or other assistance in order to fully participate in our community.”

Beyond High Holiday services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the JCC will offer dozens of additional programs and events including the **Forgive Me Film-a-thon, Shabbat Shabbang, communal song, cooking, and ritual experiences**, and much more. To view the full lineup of High Holiday programs and services, additional resources, and to purchase tickets, visit [highholidays.mmjccm.org](http://highholidays.mmjccm.org).

“What does it mean to be a community center on the Jewish High Holidays? What is our role? These are the questions we ask ourselves each year when planning our High Holiday programs,” shares **Sarah-Kay Lacks, Senior Director of Special Initiatives + Shabbat and Holidays at the JCC**. “We see ourselves as a community convener, a place for people to explore and examine

their Jewish identities and ritual needs. We do this is through our myriad community worship options at our beautiful Harlem location; by creating an onramp of introspection and accountability that begins in the month of elul, a month of reflection and repentance preceding Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur; and with spiritual prep experiences, ritual music concerts, communal healing services, films, and more. As a community center, we rarely prioritize one single way to celebrate, or any particular theology. Instead, we create a sacred, fertile playground...or *prayground*...that is open and welcoming to all. Shana Tovah!”

Beginning on the evening of October 3, the JCC’s Carole Zabar Center for Film will host a free **Forgive Me Film-a-thon** as an alternative way to experience Yom Kippur, designed for those who find it easier to reflect with thoughtful movies. During the 72-hour Film-a-thon, two films will be available for online streaming: *Love & Stuff* (2020, Dir. Judith Helfand) and *Til Kingdom Come* (2020, Dir. Maya Zinshtein).

The JCC will celebrate Sukkot on October 9-16 with **five sukkahs**, each hosting programs and parties including the **annual Out at the J LGBTQIA+ Sukkot Party** on Thursday, October 13. The five sukkahs installed at the JCCs include: a Chabad-sponsored sukkah in the JCC Harlem lot; two rooftop sukkahs at the JCC; a sidewalk sukkah on Amsterdam Avenue designed by an Israeli artist from Shenkar School of Design in collaboration with the current JCC gallery *Bless*; and an installation by painter and sculptor Tobi Kahn on the JCC’s seventh floor, *IMKHA* Sukkah. The various sukkahs are open for programs and events during regular MMJCCM and JCC Harlem building hours.

“Sukkot is a time to feel at one with nature, to have an open door to strangers and invite them to participate in the holiday. I feel as if it is Judaism’s Thanksgiving,” shares **IMKHA artist Tobi Kahn**. “IMKHA was commissioned by Zelda R. Stern in memory of her beloved husband Stanley I. Rosenzweig, who eagerly looked forward each year to his favorite holiday, Sukkot.”

“He [Stanley] adored constructing and eating in a Sukkah and would be so proud to have this Sukkah built in his honor and named for him,” shares **IMKHA funder Zelda R. Stern**. “He was a warm, engaging, nurturing man who would have invited the world into the Sukkah had there been room! And he had a beautiful aesthetic sense and so would have loved this Sukkah all the more for its beauty and elegance.”

IMKHA Sukkah is an installation consisting of 13 interrelated sculpted painted wooden panels, constituting a single work of art. It juxtaposes elements of different scales, with the shape and shadow modifying each other to form an eloquent assembly. The Hebrew word *imkha* means ‘with you’. When not in use as a Sukkah, the panels of IMKHA serve as an art installation on the walls of the JCC Makom Studio and throughout the seventh floor of the JCC building.

## **JCC-LED HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE**

### **Erev Rosh Hashanah Seder for Families** with Rabbi Rachel Maimin

In Person, JCC Harlem

[Sunday, September 25, 4:00-6:00 PM](#)

Join in the Harlem lot on erev Rosh Hashanah (the night before Rosh Hashanah day 1) for a seder celebrating Jewish New Year’s Eve. Using the beautiful and artistic Kol HaOt Rosh Hashanah Haggadah, we will share blessings and traditional fruits, vegetables, challah, and sweets, all designed to create a meaningful beginning to the Hebrew year 5783. No experience or Hebrew knowledge is required—our seder is an accessible way to kick off your High Holiday experience.

**Rosh Hashanah Day 1 Family Service** with Rabbi Nikki DeBlosi, Ph.D.

In Person, JCC Harlem

[Monday, September 26, 9:30-11:00 AM](#)

Warm, welcoming, come-as-you-are service led by Rabbi Nikki DeBlosi, Ph.D. Rosh Hashanah is a time of joy at the beginning of a new year as well as introspection, as we help one another to become our best selves—in community. Followed by kiddush and schmooze in the lot.

**Rosh Hashanah Day 1 Adult Service** with Rabbi Igael Gurin-Malous + T'Shuvah Center

In Person, JCC Harlem

[Monday, September 26, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM](#)

T'Shuvah Center's High Holiday services, led by Rabbi Iggy Gurin-Malous, are filled with connection, practical spirituality, recovery, Torah study, gratitude and of course shofar blowing. Join us to find new ways to look at the new Jewish year as a time for reflection, renewal, and return. Followed by kiddush and schmooze in the lot

**Harlem Community Tashlich and Shofar Service**

In Person, West Harlem Piers, FREE

[Monday, September 26, 5:30-7:30 PM](#)

On Rosh Hashanah, all are invited to engage in self-examination. The blast of the shofar acts as a spiritual alarm clock, and the ritual of *tashlich* invites us to symbolically put things behind us by casting crumbs into the river. Join Harlem's Jewish community for a shofar service and communal *tashlich* ritual at the West Harlem Piers (Marginal Street and West 132nd St).

**Rosh Hashanah Wine Down with Embrace Harlem and FED**

In Person, JCC Harlem

[Tuesday, September 27, 4:00-6:00 PM](#)

Join Embrace Harlem in JCC Harlem's outdoor lot for a very sweet Rosh Hashanah Wine Down, in partnership with the Oyven: a project of FED and JCC Harlem. Celebrate the Jewish New Year with music, led by Shira Averbuch; hands-on holiday cooking in the Oyven's mobile oven; arts activities; community service; a community shofar blow; and wine. Ideal for families with kids 12 and under.

**Yom Kippur Kol Nidre with Rabbi Igael "Iggy" Gurin-Malous + T'Shuvah Center**

In Person, JCC Harlem

[Tuesday, October 4, 6:30-8:00 PM](#)

This service will be rooted in traditional liturgy in Hebrew, complemented by English poetry, additional readings, practical spirituality, and instrumental accompaniment. While all are welcome, this experience is designed with adults in mind.

**Yom Kippur Morning Family Service** with Rabbi Nikki DeBlosi, Ph.D.

In Person, JCC Harlem

[Wednesday, October 5, 9:30-11:00 AM](#)

Warm, welcoming, come-as-you-are services led by Rabbi Nikki DeBlosi, Ph.D. Yom Kippur is our day of introspection and atoning for what we've done wrong and agreeing in community to do better in the year ahead.

**Yom Kippur Morning Adult Service** with Rabbi Igael Gurin-Malous + T'Shuvah Center

In Person, JCC Harlem

[Wednesday, October 5, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM](#)

T'Shuvah Center's High Holiday services, led by Rabbi Iggy Gurin-Malous, are filled with connection, practical spirituality, recovery, Torah study, and gratitude. Yom Kippur is our day of introspection and atoning for what we've done wrong and agreeing in community to do better in the year ahead. Followed by schmooze in the lot.

## **JCC HIGH HOLIDAY EVENTS SCHEDULE**

### **Existential Reckonings: A Reading by Hila Ratzabi, Shelly Oria, and Rosebud Ben-Oni**

In Person and Virtual, MMJCCM

[Wednesday, September 14, 7:00-8:30 PM](#)

Celebrate the release of the debut book of poetry, *There Are Still Woods*, a spiritual reckoning with the climate crisis by Hila Ratzabi. The month of Elul leading up to the High Holidays is an ideal time to grapple with the essential questions that touch our souls and the world around us. Hila will be joined by Lambda Literary Award–nominated author Shelly Oria and National Jewish Book Award finalist Rosebud Ben-Oni for a reading of their work that invites us to examine our lives through visions that are dystopian, experimental, mystical, heartfelt, and funny. Followed by book signing and reception.

### **Preparing for the High Holidays**

In Person, MMJCCM

[Thursday, September 15, 2:00-3:30 PM](#)

Join us in exploring several well-known prayers from Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. All texts will be provided in English or will include the English translation, and the program will include time for discussion and personal reflection.

### **The Healing Shofar: A Night of Remembrance and Renewal**

Virtual, FREE

[Tuesday, September 20, 5:30-7:00 PM](#)

Come together with others who are grieving the loss of a loved one to explore ways of finding meaning and comfort through the themes of the High Holidays, especially renewal and return. The shofar blast calls each of us to awaken to our new lives, without loved ones who have died. This is a program for bereaved adults experiencing the major Jewish holidays after the death of a loved one.

### **Sounds and Silence: Mindfully Hearing the Shofar**

In Person, MMJCCM

[Tuesday, September 20, 7:30-8:30 PM](#)

The sounding of the shofar during Elul and the Yamim Nora'im (Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur) is deeply soul-stirring, as it awakens primitive sensations and emotions. How can we prepare to listen with intention and be aware of the messages that resonate within us? This session will include mindfulness meditation and the sounding of the shofar to help our preparation for the High Holy Days.

### **Challah Baking for the High Holidays, 60+**

In Person, MMJCCM

[Friday, September 23, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM](#)

Challah is a traditional egg bread eaten on the Sabbath and many other Jewish holidays. This staple of Jewish cuisine is not only fun to bake, but delicious too. Join in the ancient Jewish tradition of kneading, braiding, and baking through the spiritual side of challah. Learn special ways

to prepare challah for the upcoming High Holidays and leave with a baked challah ready to eat as well as dough to bake in your home.

### **Tashlich in Riverside Park**

In Person, Riverside Park, FREE

[Thursday, September 29, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM](#)

*Tashlich*, meaning "casting off," is a Jewish ritual that traditionally takes place during the Days of Awe, when people cast off their sins (represented by pieces of bread, stones, twigs, or other objects) into a naturally flowing body of water. Participate in *tashlich* together with singing and reflection in Riverside Park.

### **Shabbat Shabbang**

In Person, MMJCCM

[Friday, September 30, 7:00–9:30 PM](#)

It starts with rituals and appetizers. It continues with a choice of fascinating programs paired with a dairy meal and seasonal wines. Then, reconvene for desserts and coffee. The weekend has not just begun. It's kicked off—with a shabbang. On Friday, September 30, the JCC will offer six Shabbat Shabbang tracks ranging from Drag Me to Shul, to Selichot—A Musical Journey in Search of Remorse, to Prayers for the New Year.

### **Singing through the Season of Return: A 10 Days Communal Gathering**

In Person, MMJCCM

[Saturday, October 1, 9:00-10:30 PM](#)

Mark the season of teshuva through communal song and ritual, co-presented by Hadar and the Rising Song Institute. Hadar's Rabbi Deborah Sacks Mintz and her musical ensemble, together with Rabbi Joanna Samuels, CEO of the MMJCCM, will uplift this season through music, mindfulness, and learning.

### **Service of Memory + Healing**

In Person, Plaza Jewish Community Chapel

[Sunday, October 2, 4:00-5:30 PM](#)

Join in community for a healing service during the Days of Awe, a contemplative time between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. With ritual, poetry, and other teachings, this gathering provides an opportunity to honor family members and friends, acknowledge communal and global suffering, reflect on this prolonged period of pandemic, and be comforted by our community in its full diversity and broad range of religious thinking. With Rabbi Joanna Samuels, CEO of the MMJCCM; Rabbi Melanie Levav, executive director of the Shomer Collective; and Rabbi Marc Margolius, senior program director at the Institute for Jewish Spirituality. Co-presented with Plaza Jewish Community Chapel.

### **Forgive Me Film-a-thon**

Virtual, FREE

[Monday, October 3-Wednesday, October 5](#)

Forgive Me Film-a-thon is an alternative way to experience Yom Kippur, designed for those who find it easier to reflect with thoughtful movies and treat movie theaters as temples. During the 72-hour Film-a-thon, two films will be available for online streaming: *Love & Stuff* (2020, Dir. Judith Helfand) and *'Til Kingdom Come* (2020, Dir. Maya Zinshtein).

### **Yom Kippur Yizkor Memorial Service**

Virtual, FREE

[Wednesday, October 5, 1:30-2:30 PM](#)

Yizkor, or "remembrance," is a Jewish memorial service and prayer to honor the deceased. It is most commonly said for a parent, child, sibling, or spouse, but may also be recited for any relative or close friend. Join to remember those we have personally and communally lost.

### **About the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan**

Together with its community, the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan creates opportunities for people to connect, grow, and learn within an ever-changing Jewish landscape. Located on 76th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, the JCC is a vibrant non-profit community center on the Upper West Side. It also presents a robust slate of virtual programming, serving an even wider community. The JCC serves over 55,000 people annually through 1,200 programs each season that educate, inspire, and transform participants' minds, bodies, and spirits. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the JCC pivoted to meet the community online, exceeding 102,000 registrations to over 3,000 virtual classes and programs. Since its inception, the JCC has been committed to serving the community by offering programs, classes, and events that reach beyond neighborhood boundaries, reaching people at all stages of their lives. Learn more at [mmjccm.org](http://mmjccm.org)

### **About JCC Harlem**

An initiative of the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan in collaboration with UJA-Federation of NY, JCC Harlem creates unique and diverse access points to Jewish and communal life for members of the Harlem community. It is an institution that is at once both intentionally Jewish and committed to facilitating experiences between those who identify Jewishly and those who identify otherwise – in service of connecting, growing, and learning within an ever-changing Jewish landscape. It is located at 318 W. 118<sup>th</sup> Street. Learn more at [jccharlem.org](http://jccharlem.org).

###