



Mah Nishtanah ?

What makes this New Year different to all others?

On the one hand, nothing. As for every other year, a dedicated team of Kedem-ites are working behind the scenes to provide the High Holyday program.

From Rosi, to the Board, to the Chayim and Ritual Matters (CHARM) committee, to members who will be service leading, cantor -ing, giving drashes, leining Torah portions, blowing shofar, leading discussions, reading prayers and giving reflections during services, to Nat who designs our newsletter flyers. We couldn't do it without every one of you!

On the other hand, everything is different this New Year. We have to work harder and more creatively to ensure we engage you, inspire you and connect with you on-line.

The focus groups that we ran to ask members how they would like High Holydays services on Zoom to be designed, identified maintaining a connection with the Kedem community as a priority.

In order to do this, we are going to include lots of people in services, so you just don't see and hear the service leaders and cantors. Other people will be reading a prayer or giving a short reflection during the services.

The focus groups also identified shorter services as a priority. In order to do this, we are reducing the main services to one and a half hours, and we have replaced the Yom Kippur afternoon service with two short discussion sessions.

If you used to spend a good part of Yom Kippur at Orrong Rd schmoozing outside, or going for a walk, we are offering on-line schmoozing and a Kedem Calm session so you can stretch gently, breathe and meditate.

Just like the bitter herbs and the sweet charoset of Pesach, these High Holydays will also be bitter and sweet. There are personal and communal challenges. There are silver linings: plenty to be grateful for.

So, we've got you - in community, in spirit and in the Kedem style all of our own.

Looking forward to sharing these High Holydays with you, on-line,
with best wishes for a Shanah Tovah,
and may we all be inscribed for a year of abundant blessing.



שנה טובה

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Kedem

Joyful Jewish Life

