

# Shana Tova

August 15, 2023

Dear UJCBR Family,

These High Holidays are a journey when we come together as a community. At this time we reflect on the past year, welcome the New Year and all the future has in store for us. Some have been part of our community for most of their lives and we also meet people coming to the community for the first time. We feel a spirit of connection as we join together in song, prayer, and learning. We hear the blast of the Shofar together as Jews have for thousands of years. We live in a time when it is easy to feel disconnected from the people around us. We can feel isolated in our jobs and daily routines. The High Holidays provide us, as does much of Jewish life, with an opportunity to plug into something greater than ourselves and to reach out to the other people in our community. Ron Wolfson says “...the task of Judaism is to build a relationship between individuals and the Jewish experience. ...the approach needs to focus on how Jewish practice can be a path to meaning and purpose, belonging and blessing. Jewish life cycle and holiday rituals, liturgy, and study are all means to a goal—to self-discovery, celebrating relationships, and fulfilling communal obligations.”

This past year has been a year of growth and evolution for the UJCBR. Rabbi Smiley has helped us develop meaningful prayer, worship and study that reflect the deeply Jewish values and diverse backgrounds of our congregants. Julie Tepper, our religious school director, continues to work tirelessly to provide quality Jewish and Hebrew education to our children. Latonia Douglas directs the Rayner Center, maintaining it as a first in class early childhood center. Our office staff are dedicated to the smooth operation of our synagogue. Numerous volunteers have devoted many hours to projects and activities from cleaning sidewalks to making sandwiches to building the Sukkah to guiding our finances. A special group of volunteers, led by Marc Sager and Greg LaCour, have zealously worked on the plans, design and construction of our new campus.

So as we enter 5784 and strive for the UJCBR to be a place of Keruv, closeness to God, I pray we will continue to be a center of:

- Tikkun Olam – The commitment to repair God’s world through the pursuit of justice;
- Tikkun Nefesh – Personal and spiritual growth as a Jew and as a human being;
- Talmud Torah – Life-long study of Torah and of Jewish history and tradition;
- Mishpacha – A sense of extended family through a warm and supportive atmosphere;
- Reform Judaism – Its principles and values.

I can think of three ways to help accomplish these goals.

First – Volunteer.

Second – Spread the word and bring a friend.

Third – Donate to UJCBR. Yes, you knew that was coming.

All we have and want to accomplish comes with a cost. We depend on our High Holiday Appeal to supplement the annual commitment you make in the form of “dues.” Our goal for this year’s appeal is \$36,000. Whether its \$36 or \$3,600, we ask that you give what feels meaningful to you. We all want to continue to build upon our tremendous accomplishments since the founding of our congregation in January 2022.

L’shanah Tovah,

*Steve*

Steven Cavalier  
President

# Welcome to the High Holidays at UJCBR 2023 | 5784

## SERVICES AND EVENTS

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Selichot | Saturday, September 9

Service | 7:00 PM

Cemetery Memorial Service / Kevar Avot v'Imahot | Sunday, September 10

Service | 2:00 PM | Beth Shalom Cemetery | 9665 Florida Street

Service | 4:00 PM | Jewish Cemetery | 1415 North Street

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## ROSH HASHANAH

Erev Rosh Hashanah | Friday, September 15

Services | 7:00 PM | Oneg to follow hosted by Sisterhood

Rosh Hashanah 1 | Saturday, September 16

Services | 10:00 AM | UJCBR

Tashlich Extravaganza | 4:00 PM | North Sherwood Forest Community Park

Rosh Hashanah 2 | Sunday, September 17

Services | 10:00 AM | Luncheon to follow hosted by Brotherhood

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## YOM KIPPUR

Erev Yom Kippur / Kol Nidre | Sunday, September 24

Services | 7:00 PM

Yom Kippur | Monday, September 25

Children's Services | 8:45 - 9:15 AM

Morning Service | 10:00 AM

Study | 1:30 PM

Afternoon Service | 2:30 PM

Musical Interlude | 4:10 PM

Yizkor | 5:00 PM

Concluding Service / Neilah | 5:30 PM | Break Fast to follow

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## SUKKOT

Erev Shabbat & Sukkot Service | Friday, September 29

Services | 6:00 PM | Sukkah Mixology & Dairy Potluck to follow

Shabbat Morning & Sukkot Festival Service | Saturday, September 30

Services | 10:00 AM

Erev Shabbat & Simchat Torah | Friday, October 6

Services | 6:00 PM | Oneg to follow

Shabbat Morning & Shemini Atzeret Service with Yizkor | Saturday, October 7

Services | 10:00 AM

Join Sisterhood for a  
special Sukkot event  
**SANGRIA &  
SALADS**  
in the SUKKAH  
**6 PM TUES OCT 3**

# UJCBR High Holidays

## 2023 | 5784

Join us as we enter 5784 in the company of our UJCBR family. This year we welcome Michelle Cox as our cantorial soloist as well as musical guests Michael and Joey Roth. Michelle and Rabbi Smiley, along side our Ritual, Prayer, and Music Committee are crafting services to reflect a uniquely UJCBR experience. We hope to see you at one or all of the many programs this High Holiday season.



### Michelle Cox, Cantorial Soloist

Michelle Cox is a self-taught multi-instrumentalist playing keyboard, rhythm guitar, mandolin, ukulele, and violin. She is also a classically trained vocalist and has her undergraduate degree in music. She served for several years as the music director for Kansas City's oldest and largest Jewish congregation, The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah. Michelle enjoys singing opera as well as jamming on some classic rock and lives for musical improv.

## UJCBR Programing 2023 | 2024

### Holidays & Special Events\*

- August 20 - Sisterhood MSJE Trip
- August 25 - Brotherhood Shabbat
- September 10 - First day of Religious School
- October 18 - Geaux to Shul
- November 10 - Veterans Day Shabbat
- November 12 - Turkey Train
- November 15 - Geaux to Shul
- December 8 - Shabbat of Hanukkah
- December 10 - Hanukkah Party
- January 10 - BRJFF begins
- January 21 - Annual Meeting
- TBD - Building Dedication Weekend
- March 24 - Purim Carnival
- April 23 - Second Night Seder
- May 5 - Mitzvah Day
- TBD - Yom Hashoah Program with JFGBR
- May 10 - Youth Shabbat Service & Confirmation

\*High Holidays listed separately

### B'nai Mitzvah

- October 20th and 21st - Sloan Marks
- January 12th and 13th - Rowan Hutchison
- February 17th - Joshua Abadie
- April 12th and 13th - Lee Berg
- May 31st and June 1st - Eleanor Cohen

### Life Long Learning with Rabbi Smiley

*First Sunday of each month at 2:00 PM*

- November 5
- December 3
- January 7
- February 4
- March 3
- May 5

# Tashlich Extravaganza

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The UJCBR Tashlich Extravaganza will be held at North Sherwood Forest Community Park on Rosh Hashanah, Saturday, September 16 at 4 PM. This event invites all generations to celebrate Rosh Hashanah with joy and meaning.

The event will begin with a Tashlich service, a time for introspection and renewal, as we cast away our sins symbolically into the water. Afterwards, we will move on to indoor and outdoor fun!

Indoors, small children have a dedicated play area. There is an indoor virtual park with video games, a bounce house, a rock wall, pool, and foosball. Rosh Hashanah themed games and activities for all ages will be featured in the center of the indoor park.

Outdoors, we invite families to enjoy the splash pad and shaded playground. The facility also features a walking path surrounding the lake and shaded pavilions.

Come join us at North Sherwood Forest Community Park for a time filled with joy, connections, and a new opportunity for your family to celebrate Rosh Hashanah. We can't wait to share this special day with you!



## ***Calling all Shofars***

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We invite all generations to bring your shofar to the Tashlich Extravaganza where we will sound them together.

**North Sherwood Forest Community Center**  
**Saturday, September 16**  
**4:00 - 5:30 PM**

3140 N Sherwood Forest Dr  
Baton Rouge, LA 70814

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# UJCBR High Holidays *Annual Appeal*

## 2023 | 5784

I would like to make a donation or pledge to support UJCBR during these High Holidays in the gift of:

\$36

\$72

\$180

\$360

My check, payable to UJCBR, is enclosed.

\$540

\$1,000

Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to charge my gift. (Please see reverse.)

Bill my account.

To give online, please visit [ujcbr.org/donate](https://ujcbr.org/donate)

## Payment Information

Please complete only if you are charging your contribution.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my contribution to my:  American Express  Visa  Mastercard

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I will give through my donor-advised fund, named \_\_\_\_\_, a gift in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

To give online, please visit [ujcbr.org/donate](https://ujcbr.org/donate)

Register, donate, or volunteer for UJCBR High Holidays events online.

**Register**

*Save the Date*

## CONSECRATION

Sunday, October 1 | 10:30 AM

Join us in celebration of our kindergarten class

**PIZZA IN  
THE HUT**



**PETTING  
ZOO**



**SNOW  
BALLS**



*Sponsored by:* the UJCBR Religious School & Brotherhood

# Elul: Preparing for the High Holidays

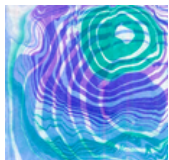
2023 | 5784

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## Friday, August 18 | 6:00 PM | Shabbat

We kick off Elul with a water-themed Shabbat service. A few of our UJCBR congregants who have experienced immersion in the Mikveh will share their story with the congregation. Oneg to follow.



## Thursday, August 24 | 6:00 PM | Text and Suminagashi

We will continue the theme of water as a purifying ritual in this class where we will study texts and experiment with the Japanese paper marbling technique Suminagashi.



## Sunday, August 27 | 11:30 AM | Yoga

Prepare our bodies for the High Holidays with a yoga class designed for all ages and skill levels. Please bring a mat, towel, or blanket. Chairs will be provided for chair yoga modifications.



## Tuesday, September 5 | 6:00 PM | Meaning in the Mahzor

Study the unique pieces of liturgy that are only done during the High Holidays to help bring even more meaning to them as we say and sing them together this year.

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## Prepare for the New Year with the URJ

**Mondays & Thursdays | August 17 - September 11 | 11:00 AM**

As one year comes to an end, we have the opportunity to reflect on our past, weighing our actions and finding our footing ahead of the New Year.

Rabbis from small congregations across North America will offer twice-weekly, 20 minute sessions of study, reflection and meditation on Zoom [Register](#)

