

A Guide to the High Holidays at Park Synagogue

We want everyone to enjoy his/her experience at Park Synagogue's High Holiday services. The following is a list of frequently asked questions you may find helpful. If you have any questions that are not addressed here, please call Ellen Petler in the Synagogue office (216/371-2244 ext. 122).

Where are High Holiday services held?

Park Synagogue holds its major High Holiday services at Park Synagogue Main, 3300 Mayfield Road in Cleveland Heights. Two identical, simultaneous services are held on the first and second days of Rosh Hashanah, Kol Nidre, and Yom Kippur Day. The services are located in the Main Sanctuary/Rosenthal Ballroom (on the upper level) and in Kangesser Hall (on the lower level). The seats in the Sanctuary are reserved, i.e., members pay additional fees for those seats. The chairs in Rosenthal Ballroom (the social hall behind the Sanctuary where Kiddush on Shabbat mornings is held) are unreserved. The walls between Rosenthal Ballroom and the Sanctuary are opened for the High Holidays, making one large area.

The seating in Kangesser Hall, on the lower level of the building, is entirely unreserved. The area is made up of Stein Auditorium, with 600 theater-style seats and a stage set-up as the bima, and Goldberg Assembly Hall, with chair seating. Again, the wall between the rooms is opened, making one large area. Kangesser Hall is best accessed by its separate entrance on the lower level of the building. One can also enter Kangesser Hall by using the upper floor doors, walking down the stairs, and through the Bridge, Park's art gallery.

PLEASE NOTE: Only one service is offered for Erev Rosh Hashanah, as well as for the Neilah service at the close of Yom Kippur. These services are held in the Sanctuary/Rosenthal Ballroom on the upper level ONLY, and there is open seating (reserved seating is not in effect) for everyone. If you have a ticket for Kangesser Hall, it is good in the Sanctuary/Rosenthal for these two services. The Rosh Hashanah Evening services at the end of the first day and the second day will be held at 6:00 pm at Park Synagogue East. Everyone should come for the Family Tashlikh Service at 5:35 pm on the first day of Rosh Hashanah, right before the 6:00 pm Evening service. See page 3 for an explanation of Tashlikh.

How will I know which service to attend?

Each adult member receives a ticket for the High Holidays marked with a particular location-- either **Rosenthal Ballroom** or **Kangesser Hall** (for members who have unreserved seats) and the **Main Sanctuary** (for members with reserved seats). If you prefer the opposite location from what you were given, you can come to the office at Park Synagogue East to exchange the ticket(s) on Monday-Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm or call Mary Lauriel at 216-371-2244 ext. 135.

Is there any difference between the two seating locations?

While there are minor differences, the two locations offer identical services. Some people prefer the Sanctuary/Rosenthal Ballroom service because it is closer to the childcare area. Others prefer the Kangesser Hall service since they can sit up as close to the bima as they want, depending upon what time they arrive at the service. Both services offer inspirational prayers and beautiful music led by a cantor and choir.

Which Rabbi will be leading services in a particular location?

It is not announced in advance which Rabbis will be leading services in the two different locations. The Rabbis switch locations from service to service, so that everyone attending services will have the opportunity to hear both of the Park Rabbis. We have a guest cantor in addition to our regular cantor, Misha Pisman. Rabbi Joshua Skoff and one of the cantors will be leading one service, and Rabbi Sharon Marcus and the other cantor will lead the other service. They will then switch services on the following day. The services are identical; only the sermons will be different.

Who needs to have a ticket for High Holiday services?

Everyone 18 years of age and older needs to have a ticket to enter the building to attend High Holiday services at Park Synagogue. Members are mailed tickets several weeks before the holidays--one ticket for each adult member and for each young adult in the family ages 18-25 who has been enrolled as a Park Young Adult Member. Children under the age of 18 do not need tickets. Tickets are non-transferable. Tickets will be checked at all entrances. In the event that your ticket is lost or misplaced and it is impossible to have it re-issued in time, please use the office/east entrance where staff will be available to check your membership status and give you a special pass to attend services.

Can I buy tickets for my parents/family who are not Park members?

Members can purchase tickets for unreserved seats for \$150 a seat for **out-of-town** guests or relatives only, but not for those who live in-town. Tickets can be purchased in the office at Park Synagogue East by calling Mary Lauriel at 216-371-2244 ext. 135. Ellen Petler would be happy to discuss membership options for your in-town friends and family members who wish to attend High Holiday services. We cannot sell tickets **for** or **to** in-town non-members.

How do I or an out-of-town guest get reciprocal tickets at Park or at another synagogue?

If your guest or family member belongs to a temple or synagogue in Cleveland or out-of-town and is in good standing, s/he can request a complimentary reciprocal ticket to attend services at Park Synagogue. S/he must have a letter sent or FAXED to our main office well in advance of the Holidays from the congregation to which s/he belongs that states: (1) the name(s), address, and phone number of the person(s) requesting the ticket(s); (2) that s/he is a member in good standing of the congregation; (3) what service(s) s/he will be attending at Park; and (4) where to send the ticket(s). We, in turn, can do the same for any member who will be out-of-town for the Holidays. Please email or FAX the pertinent information well in advance of the Holidays to Mary Lauriel in the Synagogue office at lauriel@parksyn.org or 216-321-0639 (fax).

How do I purchase reserved seats in the Sanctuary?

A limited number of reserved seats are available for purchase at \$200 a seat by members on an annual basis. For more information about reserved seats, please call Judy Kaufman, Park's Development Director, in the Synagogue office at 216/371-2244 ext.133.

What time should I arrive at services?

Please check your Bulletin or the back of your tickets for the beginning times of the services. When you choose to arrive is according to your personal preference, of course. If you want to sit in the front of Kangesser or Rosenthal Ballroom, it is best to arrive early. Unreserved seats are available on a first come basis, and we ask that you not save seats for others. Please be aware that there are certain times when our ushers will ask you to wait in the lobby before entering the service—during the Torah procession, the sermon, etc. We ask that you wait quietly, as to not disturb the services inside.

Can we bring our children with us to High Holiday services?

Children are always welcome to join their parents in High Holiday services (and in Shabbat services all year round). For the High Holidays, we do offer childcare, special family services, and children's activities designed to give you and your children a positive holiday experience.

Childcare is offered for children ages 2 through kindergarten on both mornings of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur day in the former school wing classrooms at Park Synagogue Main. Children will do holiday appropriate activities and have a snack. **Prepaid registration is mandatory for childcare by Friday, September 19th**. Childcare cannot accommodate children who require special care or who cannot be managed in a group setting. Since there are no provisions for changing diapers, parents must be "on call" for any diaper

changing. Childcare begins at 9:30 am on Rosh Hashanah and at 10:00 am on Yom Kippur in the corridor outside Room 104 in the former school wing. Please check the letter and childcare registration form accompanying your tickets for more information. Contact Debbie Sterling at 216-831-8895 with any questions about childcare.

We offer a **Family Service** in Glass Auditorium (on the second floor of the office wing of the main building) on both days of Rosh Hashanah for students in first through fifth grades and their parents from 9:40-10:40 am. Following the Family Service and until the end of the main services, there will be activities for children in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades on the second floor of the former school wing. On first day of Rosh Hashanah only, there will be drop-in activities for 4th, 5th, & 6th graders in the Library from 10:45 am to noon. No pre-registration is required for the children's activities.

Again this year, there will be a special **Family Service for Young Children** in 1st grade and younger **and** parents on **Thursday, Sept. 25**, the first day of Rosh Hashanah, at **4:30 pm at Park Synagogue EAST**. **This service is open to the community and does not require any tickets**. It is a short service, geared for young children, conducted by Rabbi Marcus and followed by an apples and honey reception.

On Yom Kippur day there will be one **Family Service** for children in 1st grade and younger and their parents from 9:30-10:00 am, and another **Family Service** for students in grades 1 through 5 and their parents from 12 noon- 1:00 pm. Children's activities for 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders are also available from 9:45 am to 12 noon. There will also be drop-in activities for 4th, 5th, & 6th graders from 10 am to noon in the Library. Please check the letter accompanying your tickets, the Park bulletin or website for exact times of these services and activities.

If you choose to bring your children into one of the main services, please be considerate of others around you. It is best to sit near an exit so you can easily leave the service if your children get fussy. We want all children to be safe and secure during services. Please do not let your children wander unattended in the building or outside while you are in services. Please have them in appropriate children activities or with you at all times.

When is the Yizkor service?

Yizkor, or the memorial service, is held as part of the Yom Kippur morning service. It follows the Torah service and begins at approximately 10:20 am.

How are Holiday honors given to members?

Holiday honors---Torah aliyot and opening/closing the arks--- are given very democratically at Park Synagogue. Each year, members whose last names begin with specific letters of the alphabet are asked to have an honor. This way, honors are rotated so that all members will have an opportunity to participate in services over the course of several years. If you are not asked, but would like to participate, please contact Eva in Rabbi Skoff's office to see if there are any honors still available.

What is the Tashlikh service and when is it?

Tashlikh is an outdoor service at which bread is cast upon the waters—actually upon the creek that flows through the Park Synagogue **East** property. It is a Jewish custom reflecting one's ability to learn from and move beyond one's sins. Our Family Tashlikh Service will be held on **Thursday, Sept. 25 at 5:35 pm** at the creek at Park Synagogue East, just before the 6:00 pm Rosh Hashanah Evening Service in the Sanctuary. Please join us—we provide the bread!!

What is the Neilah service and when is it?

The Neilah service is a beautiful service at the end of Yom Kippur that is held in the Main Sanctuary/Rosenthal Ballroom (no reserved seating is in effect). It begins at 4:30 pm and concludes with **the blowing of the shofar at the end of Yom Kippur at 7:45 pm**. All children are invited to participate at the end of the Neilah service by marching into the Sanctuary carrying small lightsticks that we provide. It is a moving experience to see all

the lights at the end of the holidays, and the service is a wonderful family event. Also, there is challah available to end your fast as you leave the service.

Will there be a High Holiday mahzor, tallit, and kippah available for me at services?

While we have plenty of kippot (yamulkas) available, we do **not** provide High Holiday mahzorim (prayer books) or tallitot (prayer shawls) at the services. Each person attending services must bring his/her own copy of ***The New Mahzor***. These prayer books are given complimentary to each Park member over the age of 13. If you haven't already gotten your mahzor(im), it is important to pick up your book(s) or purchase extra copies at Park Synagogue East on Monday-Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm **by Sept. 23**. You can also pick up or purchase books on **Sunday, Sept. 7 & 21 from 9:30 am to 12 noon** in the Park Synagogue East Lobby. Extra prayer books are available for purchase for \$30.00. **We highly recommend that you put your name and phone number in the front of all your mahzorim so if they can easily be returned to you if left at services.**

If you have your own tallit, please bring it with you since we do not have them available for High Holiday services. Any Jewish male or female over bar/bat mitzvah age is encouraged to wear a tallit. Don't worry if you don't have a tallit—it is fine to attend any service without one. Please be aware that it is the custom to wear a tallit during the Kol Nidre service. **Also, please put your name and phone number in your tallit bag so it can be returned to you if left behind.**

How do I know where to park when coming to High Holiday services?

Everyone who receives tickets for the holidays will also receive a parking pass for a particular parking area. Please display it on your windshield or dashboard. The passes designate that you park in one of four places: on the Park grounds, at Severance Town Center's parking lot between the entrance to Bally's and the Cleveland Heights City Hall, in the parking lot next to the Civic (on Mayfield closer to Lee Rd.), or in the Greek Orthodox Church lot (just east of Park). Free shuttle bus service that stops at both the Kangesser doors and the Sanctuary doors is provided for those parking at the Severance Town Center and the Civic. If you are attending the Kangesser Hall service and have a pass to park on the Synagogue grounds, it is best to enter the grounds from Mayfield Road, park in the lower lot by Mayfield Rd., and walk up the driveway on the east side of the parking lot to the Kangesser Hall doors. **PLEASE NOTE: When attending the Erev Rosh Hashanah service or the Yom Kippur Neilah service, everyone should park on the Synagogue grounds, even if your parking pass is for a different area. No shuttle buses will be available for those two services.**

I need handicapped parking. Where should I park?

Parking by the office doors on the east side of the building is set aside only for handicapped parking. There also is limited handicapped parking on the side of Kangesser Hall. If you need handicapped parking, please call the Synagogue office to request a parking pass for the Synagogue grounds. You must have that pass **and** your own state authorized handicapped parking permit to be admitted to our parking areas designated for handicapped parking.

I don't drive anymore, but want to come to services. Is there any transportation available?

Park Synagogue provides complimentary van transportation for members to attend High Holiday services. Please call Ellen Petler **by September 12th** at 216/371-2244 ext.122 to request transportation for High Holiday services.

What is Operation Isaiah?

Operation Isaiah is the annual drive to collect non-perishable food and non-food items for those in need in our community. Please pick up a brown paper bag at High Holiday services to fill with items for the collection. Bring your filled bag to either building **by October 13**. If you prefer, monetary donations can be made to the Park Hunger/Mitzvah Fund. The food/non-food items will be packed, and delivered by volunteers to JFSA clients in need on **Sunday, October 19 at Park Synagogue Main**. To volunteer to help with Operation Isaiah (to pass out bags at services or to sort, pack, and deliver food), please contact **Ina Burday** (440-461-6751; eyena8@att.net) or **Amy Kaplan** (216-382-7574; bubblesack@sbcglobal.net, Operation Isaiah Co-Chairs.