



August 2018

Dear Friends,

The sound of the Shofar calls us to attention and reminds us to prepare ourselves for Rosh Hashanah. I am grateful that you have chosen to be with us at this special and sacred time. Traditionally, the High Holidays provide an important opportunity to pause from our usual routines and to reflect internally about self-improvement and service to others, so that we can develop a clear vision of a new year filled with hope, sweetness, and blessings for ourselves and our families, and our friends and our communities. The Shofar's call to attention is equally important in the home of our spiritual family. In this 12th decade of the Huntington Jewish Center, we reflect, once again, on our 111 years of service, our achievements and our important place in Jewish and American history. This helps us to look ahead and to plan for the future.

I am proud to say that we enter 5779 in a position of strength. With our growing membership, a strong and talented Rabbi, and a devoted and gifted Cantor, we are building on the dreams and plans of our founding members. They envisioned the blessing of having a community that would be the cornerstone of Jewish life for their families, and a spiritual home that would be a place to pray together, learn together, have fun together, and create lasting memories together. The personal connections and relationships that we all enjoy at HJC continue to grow and flourish, creating a community where we can enrich our Jewish lives and enhance our Jewish identities. Our dreams still continue to inspire, engage, sustain, and encourage us to become even better than we are today.

Perhaps the greatest gifts of our community are the dedication, commitment and selflessness of our members – past and present – who have made possible all that we treasure here at HJC. As we unite together during these High Holidays and throughout the year to connect and be a part of this dynamic community, we owe a great deal to our clergy, staff, lay leaders and to so many of you. The Huntington Jewish Center has grown and flourished because of the efforts of all of us – whether participating in the service, planning a program, attending a meeting, working in the garden, or greeting us at the door on Shabbat with a smile. Every one of us is an

essential link in the chain of HJC's history. Our vision statement is clear and simple: "We approach, engage and nurture our members on their lifelong Jewish journeys. We offer meaningful opportunities for communal and self-expression rooted in our tradition and in connection to the Jewish people and Israel." There are no other words that truly reflect who we are and for what we stand. A synagogue community that values a strong vision, relationships, learning, and shared leadership in its sacred space, is a synagogue that is long lasting.

It is in this spirit that I look forward to greeting you on the High Holidays. The enclosed pages will help you to plan your High Holiday experience with our community. Your tickets for High Holiday services are included with this mailing if your HJC account is current. Tickets will be mailed until September 1. After that, they will be available in the office, which is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Additionally, the office will be open on Wednesday, September 5 and Thursday, September 6 until 7:00 pm. Please feel free to contact me if I can help you in any way.

On behalf of Arthur and I, and the Officers, Trustees, clergy and staff of the Huntington Jewish Center, I wish you a happy, healthy, sweet, and peaceful New Year.

L'Shanah Tovah u'Metukah,
Vicki Perler, President