



Congregation Eitz Or
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Tishrei 5769

Shalom chevre,

L'Shana Tova! Welcome to Congregation Eitz Or's celebration of the High Holidays.

In the past year, we have been going through some exciting changes in our community. We have had many opportunities for people to step into new roles and to redefine their ongoing participation. First, we moved from having a board called the *Shomerim* that planned, coordinated, and executed all the programs of Eitz Or to a new structure. Our new elected board, now called the *Va'ad*, provides policy direction. Members of the *Va'ad* are: Annette Olson, outgoing President; Ellen Jablow, incoming President; Joe Puchot, Treasurer; Miriam Forman (soon to be Treasurer in-training); and Terry Walsh.

We now have working Committees that plan, coordinate, and put on our programs and services:

High Holiday Committee: David S (chair), Miriam F, Elric W, Marlene H, Hadiyah C, Tree M, and Joe P. This committee has worked for the past nine months so that we can all daven together.

Shabbat/Program Committee: Lynn C (chair for fall cycle), Annette O (chair for winter cycle), Rebecca C, Joe P, Ellen J, Renny R (coordinator for Come Home to Shabbat), Terry W and Tree M (liaisons for Jewish Learning Committee), Mira L, and Elric W. Past members include: Gail G (initial chair for 6 months), Jesse K, Araya S. The Shabbat/Program Committee is responsible for planning, hiring, and leading our once a month Shabbatons, a monthly teaching or Havdallah service, and for helping individual community members to facilitate our holiday activities. We currently have a rotating chair every quarter in order to share leadership.

Jewish Learning Committee: Terry W (chair), Deborah H (liaison with Teens), Tree M. The JLC is coordinating with the Program Committee to plan and schedule learning opportunities for members. This past year included a series of classes led by Reb Arik Labowitz, meetings with Eitz Or parents to plan intergenerational events, and is planning an upcoming Tallit making workshop to coincide with Jesse L's Bar Mitzvah in the Spring 2009.

Heart and Soul Talk: Meeting monthly facilitated by Delphine B & Miriam F which are currently exploring the S'firot.

Beyond our Committees, individuals contribute to Eitz Or's programming in many ways. For example, this past year several individuals have hosted our various holiday celebrations: Joe K, Kate F & Mark U, Jokhanah E, Virginia S, Lynn C, Ed & Renny R to name a few. And many others have done service leadership and teaching: Barak G, Ellen J, Miriam Ellen B, Pablo S, Terry W, Perry S, and Tammy L. We've been blessed with wonderful musicians providing us with support in our davening: Maxxine S, Judy M, Eli S, and Miriam Ellen B. And Steve S continues to coordinate our Torah portions for services.

Members of Eitz Or contribute to *Tikkun Olam* (Healing the World) through a number of member-initiated projects. Our current *Tikkun Olam* projects are:

- Relay for Life. Eitz Or teens organize and participate in the annual Relay for Life to raise money for the American Cancer Society's research programs. This is "a fun-filled overnight event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money for research and programs of the American Cancer Society. During the event, teams of people gather at schools, fairgrounds, or parks and take turns walking or running laps. Each team tries to keep at least one team member on the track at all times." This activity was coordinated by Joanna H.
- High Holy Days Food Drive. Members and guests of Eitz Or have participated for many years in the annual High Holy Days Food Drive through Jewish Family Services. This year's food drive is being coordinated by the Maas-Schwartz Household. In 2007 Congregation Eitz Or contributed the most food per household of any congregation in Seattle!
- Prison Visits. Members visit Jewish prisoners at McNeil Island Correction Center to celebrate several holidays coordinated by Akiva S.
- Knitting Circle for Homeless. This new on-going group of members gather to knit and crochet scarves and hats for Seattle area homeless. Contact Terry W for more information.

This past year also brought us a new Administrator: Tree/Talya McCurdy. She has been a wonderful resource for our congregation, as we have changed our way of operating. Tree/Talya represents Eitz Or on all the Committees, providing a coherent thread of communication among all the various members. She coordinates our calendar, does our bookkeeping, answers the phone, welcomes new members, and makes certain that our programs and services have all the support they need to be successful! Tree/Talya took over the reins from Zann Jacobson whose increasing commitments to her artwork and to *Shir Hayam* (she has several students readying for B'nai Mitzvah this year) made it necessary for her to leave her position as Administrator after last year's High Holidays. We miss her wise input and look forward to her assisting us this year by leading the Yizkor and Healing Services during Yom Kippur.

Araya Sol, after many years of dedicated service as Administrator and Bookkeeper, handed off the last of her paid responsibilities to Tree/Talya this past summer and is now a world traveler. We send her our warmest wishes and prayers for a safe and exciting adventure.

We invite you to consider joining a committee, volunteering to host or lead a service, our helping with our holiday celebrations! Many volunteer hands go into making our congregation successful. Please join us!

With Warm Blessings:

Ellen Jablow, Annette Olson, Miriam Forman, Joe Puchot, and Terry Walsh
The Va'ad (Board of Directors), Congregation Eitz Or