

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
September 23, 2022**

High Holidays of Hope at the JCC

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh - Center for Loving Kindness invites the community to participate in High Holidays of Hope, two events around the Jewish High Holidays that provide conversation, comfort and uplift towards nurturing a more just society.

WHAT: High Holidays of Hope

Rosh Hashanah - Immigrants, Refugees, and Yinzers: All of Us Neighbors
Monday, September 26, 3-4 pm.

Yom Kippur - When Rights are Challenged: Standing UP with Our Neighbors

Wednesday, October 5, 3-4 pm.

WHERE: JCC Levinson Hall, 5738 Forbes Avenue, Squirrel Hill.

LIVESTREAMED: <https://www.facebook.com/centerforlovingkindnesspgh/>

DETAILS:

Rosh Hashanah - Immigrants, Refugees, and Yinzers: All of Us Neighbors

Join us for a soulful conversation with our Pittsburgh neighbors no matter their country of origin. Our conversation will be highlighted with the sounding of the shofar (ram's horn) as a wake-up call to all of us for how we need to "love the stranger because we were strangers in the land of Egypt." We will share apples and honey for sweetness. Our moderator, Feyisola Akintola, Manager, Office of Immigration Affairs for the City of Pittsburgh, will guide us through a conversation with neighbors including those from Afghanistan, Ukraine, the Congo, Latin America, and Asia.

Yom Kippur - When Rights are Challenged: Standing UP with Our Neighbors
Women and their families – The Incarcerated and their families – The LGBTQ+ community and their families.

Join us for an essential conversation about our responsibility to stand UP with our neighbors when their reproductive rights, civic engagement rights, and gender identity rights are taken away or restricted. Our conversation will be highlighted with modern interpretations of the Yom Kippur confessional prayers and concluded with a contemporary Yizkor Memorial Service.

Our moderator, Lisa Schroeder, President and CEO of The Pittsburgh Foundation, will guide us in a conversation with Sydney Etheredge, President and CEO, Planned Parenthood of Western Pennsylvania; Anna Hollis, President and CEO, Amachi Pittsburgh; and Lynz Sickler, Executive Director, Proud Haven.

This program provides the community with a spiritual way of better understanding the challenges our neighbors face. While each of us might have our own opinions, the JCC – as an agency – focuses on the impact on our neighbors and how we can stand UP with each other. We choose a values-based approach rather than a partisan approach.

The JCC Center for Loving Kindness, established in 2017 with the goal of redefining the word *neighbor* from a geographic term to a moral concept, works to strengthen the fabric of community and the Jewish value of "love your neighbor as yourself." CFLK serves as a catalyst for social change and connectedness through social action, community building and interfaith work.

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