PREPARING OURSELVES FOR THE DAYS OF AWE

Cantor Rachel Gottlieb Kalmowitz

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August 9 begins the month of Elul, in which there are no holidays, allowing us to prepare ourselves spiritually for the Days of Awe. The culmination of this month is S’lichot on August 28, and through the generosity of Mary and Larry Epstein, we are bringing in Galeet Dardashti as our Global Voices Scholar-in-Residence. Iranian-descended performer, composer, and anthropologist Dr. Galeet Dardashti has earned a reputation as a trail-blazing advocate of Middle Eastern and North African Jewish culture, as well as the first woman to continue her family’s tradition of distinguished Persian and Jewish musicianship.

Friday, August 27, Galeet will join our clergy in a Global Voices Shabbat, bringing her knowledge and incredible talents to our informal outdoor services. On Saturday, August 28 at 1pm, join us for an interactive and participatory Nosh and Knowledge on Jewish Middle Eastern and North African piyyut traditions. Come hear, study, and learn to sing several of these artistic and beautiful religious songs, and gain an understanding of their shifting cultural significance throughout Jewish history and in Israeli pop and rock music today. Saturday evening at 7pm, we will come together for an intoxicating reimagining of the S’lichot ritual called Monajat. Galeet will lead this in collaboration with an acclaimed ensemble of musicians, an electronic soundscape, and dynamic live video art. Monajat is a Persian word meaning an intimate dialogue with the Divine. Using Persian melodies and Hebrew texts, the work pays homage to Dardashti’s grandfather, a master Persian classical vocalist. She performs some of the Persian piyutim (liturgical songs) traditionally chanted as part of the S’lichot service, as well as other liturgical and non-liturgical Hebrew and Persian poetry set to new music. Through electronics, she defies time and performs with her grandfather. Join us for this holy and unique experience, which will be followed by a short S’lichot service led by our TBE clergy.

We are so lucky to have this brilliant scholar and performer leading us through this preparatory moment in our calendar, as we climb to the spiritual summit of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Shanah tovah u’vi’rah - a good and healthy year to each one of you!
As the summer begins to wind down, we may not yet be able to feel in the hot, humid air the scent of Autumn. And yet, the High Holidays are fast approaching.

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Galeet DARDASHTI

As the granddaughter of Yona Dardashti, the most renowned singer of Persian classical music in Iran in his day, and daughter of highly esteemed cantor Farid Dardashti, Middle Eastern vocalist and composer Galeet Dardashti is the first woman in her family to continue her family tradition of distinguished Persian and Jewish musicianship. Galeet also pursues her passion for Jewish music and culture as an anthropologist. She holds a Ph.D. in anthropology, specializing in cultural politics and contemporary Middle Eastern/Arab music in Israel. She is currently Assistant Professor of Jewish Music and Musician-in-Residence at the Jewish Theological Seminary, and she has published widely on her work. She offers residencies, lectures, and workshops on her artistic and academic work.

HIGH HOLIDAYS AT TBE

One of our primary goals every year is to craft a High Holiday experience that is deeply meaningful and accessible to a broadly diverse congregation. We are thrilled to announce that we are moving forward with preparations to hold our primary Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services in our majestic Sanctuary … and, of course, to ensure that all of our services are streamed live at a high level of quality, for anyone who cannot join us or chooses to remain at home.

We have put a tremendous amount of thought into creating a series of services and events that will encompass the best of our traditions, along with some of the innovations that we found to be most successful last year. Please visit our website at tbeonline.org for our 5782/2021 High Holiday schedule! For assistance call 248-851-1100.