

# Tikvat Israel Congregation

2200 Baltimore Road  
Rockville, MD 20851

תקות ישראל

(301) 762-7338  
fax (301) 424-4399



Marc D. Israel, Rabbi  
Howard D. Gorin, Rabbi Emeritus

Rochelle Helzner, Cantor

August 17, 2021 • 9 Elul 5781

Dear Friends,

Soon the High Holiday season will be upon us. To prepare us for the holidays, at Rosh Chodesh Elul – a full month ahead – we began including blasts of the shofar and a special Psalm in our daily service. But these additions by themselves are not the actual preparation; rather, they remind us that we need to begin the process of atonement that goes into making these days meaningful. Similarly, this annual letter in and of itself does not help us prepare for the holidays; it is your reminder of what you need to do to make sure we all have a meaningful – and logistically smooth – holiday season. Your attention to, and prompt submission of, the forms is especially important today.

Please note that this packet of information includes **Tikvat Israel's 2021/5782 High Holiday COVID-19 Health and Safety Requirements, with the following stipulation:**

All persons 12 years old and older **MUST** be vaccinated against COVID-19 to attend indoor services in the synagogue building. Advance registration for services, which includes attesting to attendees' vaccination status, must be submitted by August 24. Register online at [www.tikvatisrael.org/HHregistration21](http://www.tikvatisrael.org/HHregistration21).

This packet also includes information about and, when necessary, order forms for:

1. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Guest Tickets
2. Book of Remembrance
3. Memorial Plaques
4. Shana Tova Greetings
5. Mahzorim Dedications
6. Service Participation
7. Lulav and Etrog for Sukkot
8. Home Hospitality
9. Youth and Family Services and Babysitting

We have also included information about the Women's Network and forms for membership and the Torah Fund, as well as a letter from the Tikvat Israel Strategic Planning Committee. Please take time to review all the materials and submit all forms in a timely manner.

High Holiday tickets for those who register, and other important holiday information, will be mailed by August 31 to all members in good standing and pre-registered guests. If you have any questions about your membership, please contact the Synagogue office. To register see the High Holiday email. If you do not have email please call the office to register.

On **Saturday evening, August 28, at 8:45 pm**, Tikvat Israel will partner with Kehillat Shalom, Shaare Tefila, and B'nai Shalom of Olney for Selichot via Zoom (there will be no in-person Selichot service). Prior to the service, we will have an opportunity to hear a presentation by Laura Shaw Frank, director, Contemporary Jewish Life at the American Jewish Committee (AJC).

On **Sunday morning, September 12, at 10:30 am**, Rabbi Israel will join with clergy from other congregations in conducting a **Community Memorial Service** at Judean Memorial Gardens.

We wish you and your family *Shana tova u'metukah* - a sweet new year filled with health and prosperity.

*Marc D. Israel*  
Rabbi Marc D. Israel

*Rochelle Helzner*  
Cantor Rochelle Helzner

*Sam Gilston*  
Sam Gilston  
High Holiday Committee Chair

*Warren Berger*  
Warren Berger  
President

*Sam Freedenberg*  
Sam Freedenberg  
Executive Director

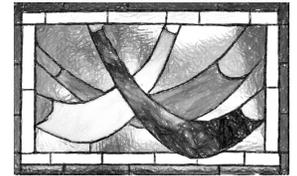
## **Tikvat Israel 2021/5782 High Holiday COVID-19 Health and Safety Requirements**

*With the understanding that no amount of restrictions can guarantee a 100% risk-free environment during the High Holidays, the following are the health and safety rules for those attending services.*

- All persons 12 years old and older **MUST** be vaccinated against COVID-19 to attend indoor services in the synagogue building. Advance registration for services, which includes attesting to attendees' vaccination status, must be submitted by August 24. Register online at **[www.tikvatisrael.org/HHregistration21](http://www.tikvatisrael.org/HHregistration21)**
- To assure the health of our community, on the day of services all attendees must be free of all cold and COVID symptoms, including fever, coughs, flu-like conditions, shortness of breath, or loss of sense of smell or taste. If you have any symptoms or are not feeling well, please attend via Livestream instead. You may attend if someone else in your household is ill, unless that person has been diagnosed with COVID-19 (if so, you must be tested and have a negative result);
- Masks **MUST** be worn at all times by all persons 2 years old and older inside the synagogue building, except service leaders, Torah/Haftarah readers and shofar blowers;
- Guests who meet the same vaccination requirements as members may attend if space allows;
- Seating in the Social Hall during all services will be limited to 275 people;
- Chairs in the Social Hall will be spread out in small groupings to allow distancing between family groups;
- Family services will be conducted outdoors, weather permitting. Babysitting will also be available, with advance registration required. Masks will not be required for the outdoor services, or for babysitting when children are on the playground, but parents have that option if they choose;
- We will hold an outdoor shofar blowing on Rosh Hashanah and an outdoor Yizkor service on Yom Kippur for those who are not comfortable coming inside the building.



**TIKVAT ISRAEL CONGREGATION**  
**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**  
***HIGH HOLIDAYS 5782 / 2021***



**ROSH HASHANAH**

**Monday, September 6**

**Erev Rosh Hashanah**

“The Blast” (see notes below)	4:00 pm
Mincha & Maariv (Social Hall and Livestream)	6:00 pm
Candle Lighting	7:15 pm

**Tuesday, September 7**

**First Day of Rosh Hashanah**

Services Begin <sup>☆</sup> (Social Hall and Livestream)	9:30 am
Shofar Blowing (Rockville High School)	4:00 pm
Mincha at Tikvat Israel	4:30 pm
Tashlich at the Bridge	5:00 pm
Ma’ariv (Rabbi Israel’s House* and Zoom)	6:00 pm
Candle Lighting	8:12 pm

**Wednesday, September 8**

**Second Day of Rosh Hashanah**

Services Begin <sup>☆</sup> (Social Hall and Livestream)	9:30 am
Mincha/Ma’ariv (Zoom)	7:15 pm

**YOM KIPPUR**

**Wednesday, September 15**

**Layl Yom Kippur**

Kol Nidre (Social Hall and Livestream)	6:45 pm
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**Thursday, September 16**

**Yom Kippur**

Services Begin <sup>☆</sup> (Social Hall and Livestream)	9:30 am
Yizkor Outdoors (Rockville High School – for those not entering shul)	2:00 pm
Study Sessions (During Break, In-Person and Zoom)	1:00 - 5:00 pm
Mincha w/ Yizkor, Neilah (Social Hall and Livestream)	5:00 pm
Ma’ariv, Havdalah, Shofar (Social Hall and Livestream)	7:45 pm (Shofar 7:54 pm)

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- On Saturday Evening, August 28, 8:45 pm Tikvat Israel will partner with Kehillat Shalom, Shaare Tefila, and B'nai Shalom of Olney for a virtual Selichot via Zoom. Prior to the service, we will have an opportunity to hear a presentation by Laura Shaw Frank, director, Contemporary Jewish Life at the American Jewish Committee (AJC).
  - On Sunday, September 12, at 10:30 am, Rabbi Israel will join with other congregations in conducting a community memorial service at Judean Memorial Gardens.
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**NOTES:**

- All High Holy Day services will be offered both in-person and online.
- You must register to attend services in the building. To register for tickets: [www.tikvatisrael.org/HHregistration21](http://www.tikvatisrael.org/HHregistration21)
- \*An informal lay-led Pesukei D’zimra will begin at 9:00 am on both days of Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur.
- Youth Services, Family Services and Babysitting Registration forms, with schedules, are included in this packet.
- “The Blast” is an opportunity for the Washington Jewish community to welcome Rosh Hashanah with city-wide shofar blasts. Just walk outside your house with your shofar and sound the shofar as best or as loud as you can! Rabbi Israel will be participating from his house and invites you to join him in his driveway (\*Rabbi Israel’s House: 5007 Butternut Drive, Rockville, MD). More information: [www.theblastdc.com](http://www.theblastdc.com)
- Parking is limited at Tikvat Israel. When you receive your tickets, you will receive information about overflow parking. For more information, please contact the Tikvat Israel office at 301-762-7338. *Shana tova!*



# TIKVAT ISRAEL CONGREGATION

## High Holiday Member, Guest and Non-Member Reservations 5782 / 2021

All members in good standing who **register** for services will receive tickets in the mail. **Use this form to order tickets\* if you do not have internet access.** Return the completed form to the synagogue office by **Monday, August 23.**

To register for tickets, please go to [www.tikvatisrael.org/HHregistration21](http://www.tikvatisrael.org/HHregistration21)

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Daytime Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Guests [see below for ticket fees and terms— indicate with an X day(s) attending, at right]	ROSH HASHANAH		KOL NIDRE YOM KIPPUR
	1 <sup>st</sup> Day 9/7/2021	2 <sup>nd</sup> Day 9/8/2021	9/15 – 9/16/2021

*\*NOTE: Tikvat Israel accommodates reciprocal seating requests to and from other synagogues. Please contact the Synagogue office to make arrangements.*

### Guest Tickets Fees

First price is for attendance on all three days. Second price is for a one-day ticket only. Kol Nidre and all of Yom Kippur count as one day. For security reasons, we can only admit individuals who have tickets. If you do not carry, please contact the office to make arrangements for will-call tickets.

To register for tickets, please go to [www.tikvatisrael.org/HHregistration21](http://www.tikvatisrael.org/HHregistration21).  
Seating is limited and tickets will be given to members first.

Guest Type	Cost per Holiday/Day	Number of Tickets	Total Price for Your Tickets
Adult Children over 26 / Other Adult Relatives / Guests of TI Members	<b>\$260 / \$90</b>		
Non-Members	<b>\$375 / \$130</b>		
Military Personnel	<b>No Charge</b>		
Total Number of Tickets Ordered:			
		Amount Enclosed:	
		Amount to Bill (Members Only):	

### Service Participation (for Tikvat Israel Members)

**Yes**, I would like to participate in High Holiday services with an aliyah or ark opening, or by carrying, lifting or dressing the Torah. Please contact me in advance with details.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Daytime Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please turn over for Book of Remembrance, Mahzorim, Shana Tova Greeting, Memorial Plaques and Lulav & Etrog →)*

**TIKVAT ISRAEL CONGREGATION**  
**5782 *Book of Remembrance* • Mahzor • Shana Tova Greeting**  
**Memorial Plaques • Lulav & Etrog**

*Return the completed form to the synagogue office by Monday, August 23. Please write legibly, and use an additional sheet if necessary.*

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Day Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**I. *Book of Remembrance***

**Renewal Listing:** View/download last year's *Book of Remembrance* at [tikvatisrael.org/yizkorbook](http://tikvatisrael.org/yizkorbook)

Put a checkmark here  if you wish to repeat your listing as is. Note below any additions/changes.

**New listing:** Please list the name(s) of your departed ones as you wish them to be listed:

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_ (5) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_ (6) \_\_\_\_\_

Please write the way you want *your* name(s) listed in the *Book of Remembrance*:

\_\_\_\_\_

A donation of **\$36** for one or two listings or **\$54** for three or more listings is requested. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**II. Mahzor Dedication** – Honor loved ones with an inscribed bookplate in our Mahzor:

I would like to dedicate \_\_\_\_\_ Mahzor(s) at **\$36** each for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: All inscriptions will be in this format. Please use additional sheets for additional inscriptions.

*Presented to Tikvat Israel By (Your Name[s]):* \_\_\_\_\_

*In Memory of (Honor of)* \_\_\_\_\_

**III. Shana Tova Greetings** – A contribution of **\$18** is requested for your listing on this community card. Please indicate the exact way you want your name or family name to appear on the Shana Tova card:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**IV. Memorial Plaques** – The synagogue office will contact you for details. Plaques arrive approximately 4-6 weeks after the order is placed.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a Tikvat Israel member and would like to order a Memorial Plaque(s) for **\$450** each.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am *not* a Tikvat Israel member and would like to order a Memorial Plaque(s) for **\$725** each.

**V. Lulav & Etrog** – We will contact you before Sukkot when your order is ready for pickup. The cost is \$72 per set.

Number of sets at **\$72 each** \_\_\_\_\_ (Total = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ )

**Total for Sections I-V:**

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or Amount to Bill (Members Only) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please turn over for Guest Tickets and Service Participation Forms →)*



**5782 / 2021 HIGH HOLIDAY OFFERINGS  
FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN (ages 5 and under)**

**– Family Services Registration –**

*Tikvat Israel is pleased to offer a selection of High Holiday experiences for families with young children. Our engaging Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Family Services will feature blessings, songs and stories related to the High Holidays. These Family Services are geared towards families with children ages 8 and under and are open to the community. **There is no charge to attend, but in keeping with our safety and security policies, advance registration is required and children must be accompanied by an adult.***

Holiday	Time	Names / Ages of Children
Rosh Hashanah Morning (day 1 only) Tuesday, September 7	11:00 AM*	_____
Yom Kippur Morning Thursday, September 16	11:00 AM*	_____

\* Family Services will begin promptly at 11:00 AM outdoors at Rockville High School (weather permitting). The service is timed so that all children may experience the Shofar Service beforehand.

**– Babysitting Registration –**

*Tikvat Israel provides adult supervision for children ages 18 months – 5 years at the times listed below **so that parents may attend High Holiday Services**. Food will not be served this year, but should your child need snacks, you may provide them a dairy / nut-free snack in the babysitting room. **There is no charge to attend, but in keeping with our safety and security policies, advance registration is required. We are unable to provide babysitting for any child who is not registered.***

To register for babysitting, please print the names and ages of your children below, corresponding to the times during which you require babysitting, and sign below. **Please return to the synagogue office by August 27.**

Holiday	Date	Time	Names / Ages of Children
Rosh Hashanah Morning (Day 1)	Tuesday, September 7	10:30 AM – 12:30 PM	_____
Rosh Hashanah Morning (Day 2)	Wednesday, September 8	10:30 AM – 12:30 PM	_____
Erev Yom Kippur / Kol Nidre	Wednesday, September 15	6:30 PM – End of Service	_____
Yom Kippur Morning	Thursday, September 16	10:30 AM – 1:00 PM	_____
Yom Kippur Evening / Neilah	Thursday, September 16	5:15 PM – End of Service	_____

***I give my permission for my child(ren) to be in the care of babysitters at Tikvat Israel during High Holidays.***

Parent(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ TI Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Daytime Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration is also available on-line: [www.tikvatisrael.org/HHfamilybabysitting21](http://www.tikvatisrael.org/HHfamilybabysitting21)



## HIGH HOLIDAY YOUTH (K-7) PROGRAMMING 5782 / 2021

### Youth Services Registration – K-7th Grade

Tikvat Israel is pleased to offer High Holiday services and programming catered to our Youth. *For the security of your children, **registration is required for each event.** Tikvat Israel would be grateful for a donation of \$18 per child to defray the costs of programming.*

*Please check the boxes below indicating which service or program your child(ren) will be attending.*

		<u>PRIMARY PROGRAM</u>		<u>JUNIOR CONGREGATION</u>	
		Grades K-2		Grades 3-7	
		11 am		11 am	
Child's Name	Grade	<u>R.H.</u>	<u>Y.K.</u>	<u>R.H.</u>	<u>Y.K.</u>
		Tues. 9/7	Thurs. 9/16	Tues. 9/7	Thurs. 9/16
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

***Please complete and sign below and return to the synagogue office by August 27 or by September 10 for Yom Kippur only.***

*I give my permission for my child(ren) to attend Tikvat Israel's High Holiday Youth events.*

Parent(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ T.I. Member: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Daytime Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Bill Me: \_\_\_\_\_ Check Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

*Should your child need supplemental snacks, you may provide them a dairy / nut-free snack.*

Registration is also available online: [www.tikvatisrael.org/HHyouth21](http://www.tikvatisrael.org/HHyouth21)



**Tikvat Israel Women's Network — TI's Sisterhood**  
**2200 Baltimore Road**  
**Rockville, MD 20851**



Rabbi Marc D. Israel  
Cantor Rochelle Helzner

August 2021 / Elul 5781

**Dear Women of Tikvat Israel,**

We hope that this letter finds you and your families well. It sure has been a difficult year, but I am confident that we are ready to get back to some new normalcy. But despite it all the Tikvat Israel Women's Network continued to stay connected and planned many exciting programs. We hope that you have enjoyed the Zoom programs that we had scheduled and will support us again in the fall with new programs.

It is time to renew your membership in Tikvat Israel's Women's Network or to become a member for the first time! Women's Network connects you to a wonderful network of women committed to learning, supporting one another, enhancing the mitzvot in our lives, and providing support to the Tikvat Israel community and the community-at-large. Please join us in making the Women's Network a strong, vibrant component of Tikvat Israel! Often, we see women in the building or on Zoom but do not know them. The Women's Network creates events so that we can learn, inspire each other, and create lasting connections. There's no better way to get to know other women of all ages who are part of the TI community than through the Women's Network.

This year we plan to schedule programs both in-person and on Zoom for everyone, including the continuation of the book club, Rosh Chodesh programs, social action events, art projects, and our annual Shelly Goldin Shabbat scheduled for November 6th. Look for our "Women's Network News," a weekly email that highlights our upcoming events. We hope you will support us and join us this coming year so that we can continue to grow and contribute.

You can be a member for only \$36 a year, which supports our Women's Network and the Women's League of Conservative Judaism (WLCJ). We also are offering a Sponsor Membership Level of \$54, which further supports costs associated with our many activities. We hope you will join. We also hope that you will support the Torah Fund, which promotes and perpetuates Conservative/Masorti Judaism by supporting the education and training of rabbis, cantors, scholars, educators, summer camp directors, chaplains, campus Jewish life staff, and committed lay leaders. Membership forms and checks should be mailed to **Brenda Brooks, Treasurer**, or you can pay with PayPal, by October 31, 2021. (See specifics on the attached application.) If you are a new member of Tikvat Israel, you will receive FREE membership in the Women's Network this year. Just fill out the enclosed form and indicate that you are a new member. To contribute to the Torah Fund, please note that we will continue using the electronic submission of donations this year using the link on the form and contact **Anita Brenner**, our new Torah Fund Chairperson with questions.

Even if you do not think that you can attend all of our programs, please support the Women's Network by sending in your dues. We would like to keep most of our programs free or at minimal cost to members, so your support is important. The benefits of membership, as stated on the WLCJ website, are to be informed, enriched, involved, and inspired. Now is the time to support those efforts for yourself and your "sisters" at Tikvat Israel by joining the Women's Network. We look forward to a wonderful year together! Thanks so much for your support.

B'Shalom,

*Janice, Brenda, & Anita*

**Tikvat Israel Women's Network**  
**2021-2022 Membership / Torah Fund**  
**Payment & Forms Deadline: October 31, 2021**

Women's Network Annual Dues: \$36.00

Sponsor Membership: \$54.00 (to further support our activities)

Membership checks should be made payable to: **Tikvat Israel Sisterhood.**

Please mail your membership payment and form to:

**Brenda Brooks, 7338 Oskaloosa Drive, Derwood, MD 20855**

or pay by PayPal ([www.paypal.com/paypalme/WNTikvatIsrael](http://www.paypal.com/paypalme/WNTikvatIsrael))

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a new member of Tikvat Israel Congregation.

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**Torah Fund Benefactor/Contributor Information (Please Keep for your Records)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to donate \$180 to the Torah Fund Campaign to help the future clergy and educators in the Conservative/Masorti Movement. (If you received a pin in 2020 you will not receive a new pin for 2021. Because of supply issues the pin for 2021 is the same one as 2020)



\_\_\_\_\_ I am pledging \$180 and will pay \$90 now and the balance by January 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Torah Fund Campaign.

To donate to the Women's League **Torah Fund Campaign** go to [www.jtsa.edu/torah-fund](http://www.jtsa.edu/torah-fund)

Please notify Anita Brenner by email) when you make a donation to the Torah Fund so that she can track all Tikvat Israel donations.

All questions should be referred to **Anita Brenner** - [anitabrenner@comcast.net](mailto:anitabrenner@comcast.net) or (301-933-2280)



## Tikvat Israel High Holidays Hospitality 2021/5782

When Abraham sent his servant to find a wife for his son Isaac, Rebecca graciously watered the traveler's thirsty horses (Gen. 24:28-32). The Bible contains many examples of the importance of being welcoming, and the rewards that one receives for that particular act of kindness. One might say that after our time of isolation, like Abraham's servant, we are hungry and thirsty for the company of others. We therefore seek those who need a place to go and those who can offer hospitality for the High Holidays. Please let us know if you have room at your table for guests, or if you need a place to go for the evening Yom Tov meals, Monday, September 6, or Tuesday, September 7, or break fast on Thursday evening, September 16.

Please fill out the attached form by September 1 and return it to the office. You may also contact Hope Levy Kott directly at (301) 921-8268 or [hkott@aol.com](mailto:hkott@aol.com).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Best phone number/e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

For Hosts	For Guests
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes! We would like to <b>host</b> We have room for as many as _____ people.  <input type="checkbox"/> Erev Rosh Hashanah, Monday, September 6 <input type="checkbox"/> the <b>second night</b> , Tuesday, September 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Yom Kippur <b>break fast</b> , Thursday, September 16.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes! I / We would like to <b>attend</b> a Yom Tov meal  <input type="checkbox"/> Erev Rosh Hashanah, Monday, September 6 <input type="checkbox"/> the <b>second night</b> , Tuesday, September 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Yom Kippur <b>break fast</b> , Thursday, September 16.

For Guests: List the names (and ages of children) of all who will be attending:

Name	Age
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Please indicate if your family: **(For both hosts and guests)**

- does  does not keep Kosher.
- does  does not eat exclusively vegetarian meals.
- does  does not observe traditional Yom Tov restrictions.

Please tell us anything else your host would need to know (allergies, transportation needs, etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_

May You Be Inscribed in the Book of Life for a Good Year!

August 2021 / Elul 5781

Shana Tova,

I am writing to you on behalf of Tikvat Israel's Strategic Planning Team. In February 2020 Co-Presidents Warren Berger and Jim Perlmutter charged us with developing a unified plan that Tikvat Israel's leaders and members can use to build our congregation into a broader, sustainable community, with a long-lasting future.

This task is important to me personally because my husband Bob and I have been members of Tikvat Israel for over 40 years. We named a daughter here, all three of our children became b'nai mitzvah here, our two daughters were married by our clergy, Bob served as president and I chaired the education committee. I also celebrated my adult Bat Mitzvah along with 12 other congregants over 30 years ago. Tikvat Israel, with its special warmth and sense of community, has been our spiritual home and a place where we made some of our closest friends.

Like you, however, we are concerned about the decline in membership and the need to bring more young people to Tikvat Israel. We need to take action now to ensure our beloved synagogue can meet the needs of the next generation.

Speaking recently to a congregation meeting, Rachel Lipsy, our team leader, said: "Current leadership is concerned that the community we value may not survive for the long term without some structural, strategic changes. The reasons for this concern are varied, and not unique to our synagogue. Changing technology, economic forces and social expectations have altered the synagogue landscape over the past 50 years. But with the right perspective, these changes can become opportunities. We can take what we all know and love about Tikvat Israel today and help create a vibrant future for our community."

To do that, our team is looking at what other synagogues (locally and nationally) are doing and talking with our clergy, officers and board members to hear their ideas. Just as important, we will reach out to you and other members after the High Holidays, because improvements cannot happen without your ideas and opinions. We will be sending out a survey, holding small focus groups and conducting round table discussions with members.

As Rachel said, "Whether you respond to our surveys, talk to us in person, or email us with questions, comments or responses to our questions in the *Bulletin*, we want to hear from you."

Rosh Hashanah is a time of introspection when we can recreate ourselves to be the best we can be. Together we can create a vision for Tikvat Israel that will ensure our congregation remains a thriving, multi-generational community.

Wishing you a happy, healthy New Year,

*Roni Silverstein*