



Temple B'nai Chaim
Georgetown, CT
Templebnaichaim.org



"A Year of Healing and Repair: A Time for Action"

HHD GUIDE FOR 2022/5783

TEMPLE B'NAI CHAIM

Cantor Harriet Dunkerley

CantorHarriet@templebnaichaim.org

Denise Seccurra, Administrator

officeadmin@templebnaichaim.org

**Ellie Gluck, Assistant Director of
Education/Youth Coordinator**

morahellie@templebnaichaim.org

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A Message from Cantor Dunkerley



Dear TBC Families:

Over the past many weeks amid summer vacations and the blessing of freer schedules, I along with TBC's dedicated Ritual Committee and lay leadership have been busy planning TBC's upcoming High Holy Day experiences. Our Student Rabbi this year, Amanda Weiss, and I have met several times to craft what we pray are meaningful and inspiring services, musical preparations with our quartet have begun, our building is being beautified, all the technical requirements to ensure multiple access options and great sound have been discussed. And now that Elul, the final month in our calendar, has arrived, it won't be long before we welcome everyone back to our gorgeous sanctuary on

Erev Rosh Hashanah.

This is when the preparation shifts, when each of you has the opportunity to play a vital role in making us ready as a community to welcome 5783 on Sunday evening September 25th. The process of *Cheshbon HaNefesh* - the accounting of one's soul - is not just about each of us as individuals, it

is also about how we as a community have fared over this past year. Where have we met the mark, and where have we fallen short? Have we invited contribution or been reticent to ask for help, even when we needed it? Were we generous enough? Did we get involved and seek opportunities to do so, or were we content to let others carry the lion's share? Were our communications open and honest bringing to the fore with compassion all that was on our minds, or have we hidden our voices, content to go with the flow?

All these questions apply both to the individual and to us collectively as a *Kehilla Kedosha* - a Sacred Community. For it is as a community made up of many souls, each with a unique voice, that we join together to best affect the change in our world that we envision. To do that, we must each first be clear about our own souls. This is why your individual work is so critical, right now, during the month of Elul. So that when we come together for our High Holy Day worship, we do so ready, as one communal voice rising. There is much to tackle in the coming months - much to repair and heal in our struggling and fractured country and world. Let us pray that 5783 will be a "Year of Healing and Repair: A Time for Action." All of you are invited to join collectively - the TBC community - in that action. I look forward to working beside you as we move forward.

With wishes for a *Shanah Tovah u'Metukah* - a Good and Sweet Year...

Cantor Harriet Dunkerley

If you need additional High Holy Days tickets for visiting family members or friends, please use the [HHD TICKET FORM TO ORDER!](#)

A Message from TBC President June Mara



As we approach the High Holy Days, we begin to reflect as individuals on the past year, what we did and did not do, as well as on our relationships with others – both close and personal and those with the wider community and the world. The TBC senior leadership team has also been reflecting on the past year for our TBC Community and considering whether – as a community – we are doing all we possibly can to repair what seems to be an increasingly broken world.

From this reflection and discussion we have designated 5783 as a “Year of Healing and Repair: A Time for Action.” A year to begin stepping up and making our voices heard. A year to focus our energies and our resources on Tikkun Olam – taking action to repair the world.

There is so much that needs repair. How do we begin?

1. In the envelope with your High Holy Day tickets you will find three action labels numbered 1, 2, 3 with your name on them. Bring those labels to HHD services along with your tickets.
2. We will have a large chart in the lobby with several columns identifying different social action opportunities.
3. Use your action labels to identify the opportunities that are most meaningful and significant to you and for which you will be willing to get involved.
4. If you plan to attend via Zoom, you will have an opportunity to make your selections online.

With your “votes” we will have a good sense of where we should focus our attention for this year.

We intend to work swiftly and get a plan of action in place as soon as possible. We will be asking for your input and assistance along the way so that, together, we can fulfill our obligation to work for the betterment of the world and pursue justice for all.

Shanah Tovah
June Mara, President

A Message from Student Rabbi, Amanda Weiss

Elul, a month for reflection, as Cantor Dunkerley wrote, leads us to ask ourselves many questions and to think on what inspires us to move and to improve within the new year. I find myself thinking about a line from Talmud Berakhot, in which Rabbi Eliezer teaches us that when we pray, we should *de'u lifnei mi atem omdim*—know before whom you (plural) stand. This line has been personalized on many arks and bimot into the singular—*da lifnei atah omed*—know before whom YOU (singular) stand. As we embark on these prayer-filled holy days, I can't help but sit here in awe realizing the gratitude I feel for the ability to stand before two entities: God, whom we pray to, asking for atonement, and recognizing the lapse in our own judgment, and the kahal, the congregation, to whom I am responsible. But how can a brand new rabbinical student coming to your kehillah kedoshah (holy community) really know you as we stand before God together?

Over the past few months, I have made sure to ask Cantor Dunkerley questions about the members of the community, learning about the strengths of your shofar blowers, the timbre of the Torah readers, the heart of the Haftarah chanters. I have learned your melodies, your timings, your locations. I have learned about the importance of giving back in this community, that social justice and communal change are a galvanizing force in this community—moving people to act, praying with their feet and standing before and for others in need.

As we stand together during these High Holy Days, I am grateful to continue to know you even better: by our inspirations, questions, thoughts, jokes, concerns, and the things that get you ready for reflection. When someone asks me if I know before whom I stand, I look forward to smiling and saying, “Yes”—but I know the secret: the best part is getting to know you and continuing to grow together.

With wishes for a *Shanah Tovah u'Metukah* - a Good and Sweet Year...

Student Rabbi Amanda K. Weiss

A Message from TBC's Sisterhood

How is the year ahead of us different from all the other years? TBC has pledged to make 5783 **"A Year of Healing and Repair: A Time for Action."** We will learn much more about what this means for TBC as an institution, and for each of us as members within our collective community, throughout the High Holy Days ahead. And we'll have the opportunity to raise our voices and speak to what *Tikkun Olam* and *social justice* mean to us as individual Jews, and how we can amplify our effectiveness by coming together in community.

Within Sisterhood, we've been mulling over what this all means. To be honest – and the High Holy Days are a time for honesty and self-inventory – this pledge evokes both hope, and a degree of trembling, within Sisterhood. As a community of women within a community of Jews, we approach this sacred challenge with a blend (at once profoundly serious, and also hilarious) of simultaneous anticipation / foreboding, determination / overwhelm, renewed energy about the opportunities ahead / exhaustion at the challenges of the moment.

To pick up the challenge to heal and repair is daunting. Where do we even begin? What does it even mean? How can a handful of individuals possibly make a difference? We'll be hearing, and learning, and discussing more about such questions, and refining where we and the rest of our TBC community feel the greatest sense of urgency.

In the meantime, we hold several insights, again all at once. Everyone is good at something – some at writing, others at speaking. Some at organizing events, others at energizing and rallying at the events. Some of us think in big picture, systems terms; others of us are focused on individuals in need immediately in our midst. Some of us are at a stage of life where we have more time and energy to give, others have to fit our participation into smaller blocks.

It's all good. There is plenty to do, just pick up whatever corner seems plausible, and go.

Several of We Band of Sisters, along with the other TBC Torah Study regulars, have been working through Pirkei Avot, the Wisdom of our Ancestors. One such forebear, Rabbi Tarfon, assured us: *we are not expected to complete the work. But neither may we refrain from picking it up and beginning.*

Shanah Tovah - Pam Klem and Sharon Sobel, Sisterhood Co-Presidents

A Message from the Social Action Committee

Tikkun Olam - Repairing the World

In this most challenging time - We all need to pitch in!

Check out ChaiLites for upcoming calls to action.

The desire to take action to make the world a better place is the only requirement for participation in the Social Action Committee. From the smallest job to the most complex, each act of kindness and caring makes a huge impact on achieving social justice and equity. This year we will work on policies at all levels that would help repair the world.

The Social Action Committee at TBC provides the focus and mechanism for congregants to get involved in a multitude of projects with very varied objectives and populations served. Without regard to religion, the Social Action Committee provides assistance to a wide variety of projects locally, nationally and internationally.

Support for all of our projects comes directly from our membership with various ways to donate including: a general donation to the fund from members in celebration of events such as Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Weddings, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Births, Deaths; and directed donations to one of our projects.

Bridge of Hope - International Cystic Fibrosis Project

Rise Against Hunger – Meal packing with food sent to a country in need.

Laundry Love - Jointly with Sisterhood

Food/Paper Products/Diaper/Wipes Collection

Menstrual Supplies Collection

Dorothy Day Hospitality House aka Danbury Soup Kitchen -- Staff/Donate Funds

Community Food Pantries, i.e., Daily Bread, Danbury -- Staff/ Donate Funds/Items

Thanksgiving Gift Cards through Wilton Social Services Department

Chanukah Gift Cards for Wilton children

Danbury Farmers' Market Community Collaborative- Fresh Produce Food Security Project

We always need help. The more members we have the more progress we can make in repairing the world, in Tikkun Olam. To get involved contact: socialaction@templebnaichaim.org

Jane Alexander and Peggy Zamore, Co-Chairs

"A Year of Healing and Repair - A Time for Action" ***TBC Social Action Agenda for 2022/2023 / 5783***

TBC has consistently embraced our Jewish responsibility to repair the world (Tikkun Olam) with a robust and successful [social action program](#). However, in view of the enormous challenges we face in the world today, we can and must do more ... for ourselves, for our neighbors and for our children. **Which is why we have designated 5783 as "A Year of Healing and Repair - A Time for Action."**

To begin this initiative, we are asking all members attending High Holy Day Services – either in person or online – to "vote" for three social action opportunities they believe are the most urgent and for which they would be willing to volunteer their time – even if only for a day or an hour.

You can use the three "action labels" included with your High Holy Day tickets to make your choices on the poster in the TBC lobby or [click here](#) to make your selections online.

Choose from the following broad social action opportunities:

Voter Turnout / Free and Fair Elections

Antisemitism and Hate Crimes

Environmental Action

Womens' Reproductive and Health Rights

LGBTQ Rights

Promoting Racial Justice

Preventing Gun Violence

Immigration Justice

Food Insecurity

Based on your voting, we expect two or three areas to emerge that we can truly commit to as a congregation.

What exactly that commitment might mean, in terms of special actions or activities, can be determined by small groups engaging in brainstorming and planning efforts. We hope and expect that some Religious School students will also participate in these discussions.

We will partner with other synagogues and Jewish organizations where feasible, as well as the wider community, to accomplish a more powerful 2022-2023 social action agenda. The [URJ Religious Action Center](#) will also provide guidance and inspiration.

Healing and repairing the world is our Jewish responsibility. The current broken state of the world reinforces the need for social action/responsibility to be at the top of our TBC congregational priorities. If not now, when?

SERVICE TIMES



All services are in person



Indicates that Zoom access is also available

S'lichot

Saturday, September 17



S'lichot – An Evening of Music, Poetry & Prayer – Gateway to the High Holy Days

7:00-9:00 pm – United Jewish Center, Danbury
Refreshments will be served. [More information.](#)

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Sunday, September 25



Erev Rosh Hashanah Service – 7:30 pm



Community Oneg & Honey Tasting – 9:30 pm

Rosh Hashanah Day One

Monday, September 26



Family Service – 9:00 am to 10:15 am

Adults and families who enjoy the participatory feeling of our TBC Family Services will feel comfortable at this service



Traditional Service – 11:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Meant for adults and families who enjoy the classic High Holy Day prayer experience



Contemplative Tashlich Service – 1:30 pm ***For TBC Members and Prospectives only***

Rosh Hashanah Day Two

Tuesday, September 27



Rosh Hashanah Morning Service and Outdoor Shofar Service – 10:00 am

For TBC Members and Prospectives only

Shabbat Shuva Service

Friday, September 30



Shabbat Shuva Service – 7:30 pm

Erev Yom Kippur

Tuesday, October 4



Kol Nidre Service – 7:30 pm

Yom Kippur

Wednesday, October 5



Family Service – 9:00 am to 10:15 am

Adults and families who enjoy the participatory feeling of our TBC Family Services will feel comfortable at this service



Traditional Service – 11:00 pm to 1:00 pm

For adults and families who enjoy the classic High Holy Day prayer experience



Study Session – 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

“Why are we compelled as Jews to pray with our feet?” Led by our student Rabbi Amanda Weiss.



Avodah Healing Service – 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm



Yizkor Service – 4:45 pm



Neilah Service and Havdalah – 6:00 to 7:00 pm



Sisterhood Break Fast – 7:15 pm
([RSVP Required](#))



Sisterhood Break-Fast

Sisterhood is once again planning to provide a scrumptious Yom Kippur Break-Fast on Wednesday, October 5 at 7:15 pm, following Yizkor and Neilah services. All are welcome, but PLEASE RSVP by Wednesday, September 28, so that we are able to plan accordingly. ([RSVP link here.](#))

Masks and Social Distancing

Wearing a mask inside our building is currently optional; full vaccination is required. Because the COVID pandemic continues to evolve, please check the [TBC COVID Safety Policy](#) on our website before attending High Holy Day services.

Memorial Book

TBC will again publish an online Memorial Book with the names of all loved ones whom you wish to memorialize at the Yizkor Service on Yom Kippur. The names of your loved ones that you listed on your membership renewal form will be shown on screen during the Yizkor Service. A PDF version of the Memorial Book will be available to anyone who contacts the office to request one (officeadmin@templebnaichaim.org).

Prayer Books for Those Attending From Home

If you would like to have copies of Mishkan Hanafesh (our High Holiday prayerbooks) for use at home during the High Holy Days, you can pick up copies at the front entrance of TBC on Saturday 9/17 from 11:00 until 1:00 or on Wednesday 9/21 from 10:00 until noon.

Books must be returned by October 8. You can deposit the books into a box that will be provided for that purpose at the front entrance of the Temple. For any books not returned by October 8, we may charge your account \$50 to cover the cost of the book.

Registration for Services

TBC members do not need to register for on-site services. (Zoom attendance does require registration as always.) If you wish to obtain tickets for guests must register using the [High Holiday 5783/2022 Ticket Order Form](#).

Michael Heft Food Drive & Miriam Messe Diaper Collection



It is time once again for the food and diaper drive to help local food banks. The items will be delivered to the Redding Food Pantry (**Redding Food Pantry will only accept gift Cards - no food**), Wilton Food Pantry, the Women's Center of Greater Danbury, and the Community Action Agency of Western Connecticut.

All of the pantries can use grocery store gift cards in addition to the items on the list. Personal care items are always in great need as well as toilet paper, paper towels and tissues. Coffee and juice boxes are needed for all pantries. Household cleaning products also. Lists will be distributed at Rosh Hashanah and items will be collected on Erev Yom Kippur, and during family and traditional Yom Kippur services. Drivers will be needed after the second service to deliver to Wilton, Redding and Danbury. Please contact Jane Alexander at <mailto:Jane@nodhill.net>, 203-943-5819, to sign up to help with food collection, to drive or if you have questions. [A printable list of items needed can be found here!](#)

Please do not include items that are past the "best used by date."

High Holiday Appeal



According to Jewish tradition, tzedakah (righteous giving), tefillah (prayer), and teshuvah (repentance) are all part of the Yom Kippur observance. Giving tzedakah before every holiday is a mitzvah of long standing.

Please give generously to Temple B'nai Chaim's High Holy Days Appeal. Your gift will enable TBC to:

- Purchase two new computers (the old computers are more than 10 years old and can no longer be updated)
- Obtain new tables and chairs for the Religious School
- Make needed repairs to the building and roof.

You can make your tax-deductible contribution online by [clicking here](#) or by sending a check to Temple B'nai Chaim, P.O. Box 305, Georgetown, CT 06829. Thank you in advance for your generous support.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS!

Please remember to:

- Check TBC's [COVID Safety Policy](#) on our website for any changes
- Bring your tickets and have them available as you come in
- Arrive at the stated time for the start of each service
- Fill in the seats from the front first
- Leave your tallit at your seat if leaving sanctuary during service
- Add your Action Labels to the social action categories posted in the hallway or online, prioritizing those you believe to be the most urgent for TBC in 2022-2023!