

Temple B'nai Chaim
Georgetown, CT
Templebnaichaim.org

HIGH HOLY DAYS AT



TEMPLE
B'NAI
CHAIM

HHD GUIDE FOR 2020/5781



TEMPLE B'NAI CHAIM

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Executive Committee

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Second Vice President	Valerie Rosenson
Third Vice President	Elise Serby
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B'nai Mitzvah	
Coordinator	Elise Serby
Men's Club	Judson Scruton

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Dear TBC Families:

I could not be more delighted or excited to be celebrating my first High Holy Days at Temple B'nai Chaim! Although I officially began as your Cantor only two months ago, the warmth, dedication and enthusiasm of our community has already captured my heart. Although these High Holy Days will look decidedly different than what I had imagined - all of us

gathering in our beautiful sanctuary to meet and greet each other and welcome 5781 arm in arm surrounded by beautiful music, friends and family - I have no doubt that they will be every bit as meaningful, rejuvenating, spiritual and fulfilling.

This year we face a High Holiday season that no one could have imagined, one that can be viewed both as a challenge and, perhaps more productively, as an incredible opportunity. It is a chance to reimagine the ideas that are central to these days of Awe: T'shuva - Repentance (returning), T'filah - Prayer (worship), and Tzedakah - Righteousness (acts of charity), and the ways they manifest in our lives individually and communally. We are commanded during the month of Elul, the month that leads up to Rosh Hashanah, to turn inward and listen to the yearning of our soul, and to turn outward and listen daily to the sound of the shofar. Each turning urges us to wake up, literally and spiritually, to reflect and re-examine the things in our lives that are most precious; where are we whole and complete, and where is there room for recommitment, expansion or greater focus?

Our TBC leadership team and I have been listening. We have been reaching out to congregants to learn what is most important when imagining a fulfilling, enriching, and spiritually moving virtual High Holy Day experience. What we have learned is not so surprising. Our community is craving connection, tradition, a sense of community and belonging, beautiful music and relevant messages. We want to emerge from our High Holy Day experiences feeling energized, rejuvenated, refreshed, empowered and hopeful with a real sense of attachment to each other and to our heritage. We all want to hear the melodies that make the High Holy Days special, to listen to the sound of the shofar, to hear the cello play Kol Nidre and to be comforted by the liturgy and familiar prayers that help to ground us each year in who we are as a people.

With all that in mind, our TBC leadership team and I have been working to create what we pray will fulfill all that you are looking for this High Holy Day season, while at the same providing something more - a chance to go beyond your expectations of what has always been - to embrace the possibility of what can now be. And that may include things that you haven't imagined yet! This Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur as we pray, sing, repent, celebrate and yes, even mourn what we may be missing, I invite you to open your hearts to receive the sound of the shofar deep within your souls. Open your minds to stretch beyond anything that has limited you this past year. Allow your eyes to see with renewed clarity the opportunities that these High Holy Days 5781 are providing us. Yes, we can focus on the challenge, but if I may be so bold as to suggest, the opportunity is where the magic lies. It is in opening to the opportunity for T'shuvah, T'filah and Tzedakah that we can most fully experience the blessings found within.

Wishing you all a meaningful season of renewal and a sweet 5781 filled with abundant blessings of peace, good health, joy, and togetherness. L'shanah Tovah u'Metukah - may this be indeed a good and sweet year!

Cantor Harriet Dunkerley



Dear TBC Members and Friends,
TBC's lay leadership, Cantor Dunkerley and the Ritual Committee are delighted to invite you to this year's High Holy Day services. We have all worked diligently to create an experience that is spiritually familiar and rejuvenating as well as creative and personal as we worship in these unique and challenging times.

Many volunteers have come together to make all of this happen and I want to thank them all. A very special thank you to Steve West-Rosenthal, who early on stepped forward to lead the technology side of this endeavor. It has been a herculean effort. Thank you as well to Simon Curtis and Moses Alexander who have worked with Steve to create what we expect will be memorable High Holy Days in their own right. And, of course, a huge thank you to the Ritual Committee – Bonnie Heft (Chair), Valerie Rosenson (EC Liaison), Iris Busch, Marilyn Van Raalte, Russ Robbins, Michele Scruton, Marlene Serby and Michael Wolfman.

We developed this Guide to provide you with all of the information you will need to understand how and when services will take place, how to register and how to invite guests. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me at President@templebnaichaim.org or to call the TBC office at (203) 544-8695.

May 5781 bring peace, joy and a sweet, healthy year.

L'Shana Tovah
June Mara, President



Dear TBC Community,
The Ritual Committee has been working together online with temple leadership and Cantor Dunkerley all summer to plan our High Holiday experience. Our focus has been on retaining key memories and moments of High Holiday worship that will keep us close as we worship safely apart.

We collectively reviewed feedback on what you hoped to experience during High Holiday services this year to capture the essence of your favorite spiritual practices and moments. While we are newly challenged utilizing technology most effectively, we've already seen record numbers of each other at Shabbat, Havdallah and B'nai Mitzvah services.

The Ritual Committee sends its warmest Shana Tovah wishes for a sweet, happy and certainly healthy new year ahead. May we all be inscribed together, though socially distanced, in the Book of Life.

Bonnie Heft, Ritual Committee Chair

SERVICE TIMES



Zoom



Zoom Webinar



In-person

Selichot

Saturday, 9/12



A Spiritually Uplifting Musical Gateway to the High Holy Days – 8:30 pm

Havdallah followed by a Selichot service

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Friday, 9/18



Erev Rosh Hashanah Service – 7:30 pm

Rosh Hashanah Day One

Saturday, 9/19



Morning Service – 9:30 am

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



Family Service – 12 pm

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



Drive In Shofar Service – 2 pm

Please park in every other parking space and remain in or next to your car; masks required

If you wish to bring your own Shofar, you must securely place a mask at the end of the Shofar.

For TBC Members and Prospectives only



Tashlich Service – 3 pm

Brandstrom Instruments, 85 Ethan Allen Highway, Ridgefield, CT 06877

For TBC Members and Prospectives only

Rosh Hashanah Day Two

Sunday, 9/20



Contemplative Walk – 10:30 am

Location provided when you register

For TBC Members and Prospectives only



Zoom



Zoom Webinar



In-person

Shabbat Service

Friday, 9/25



Shabbat Shuva – 7:30 pm

Erev Yom Kippur

Sunday, 9/27



Kol Nidre Service – 7:30 pm

Yom Kippur

Monday, 9/28



Morning Service – 9:30 am

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



Family Service – 12:00 pm

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



Study Sessions – 1:30 pm

A choice of two study sessions – a discussion of:

- **Jonah** with Bruce Miller – to understand why Jonah tried to escape his divine mission and its relevance today
- or
- **Thou Shall be Holy** with Emma Dubin – delve into the historical understanding and contemporary thinking around the holiness code.



Avodah Healing Services – 3:30 pm



Yizkor Service – 5:00 pm



N'ilah Service – 6:00 pm



Registration for Online Access

TBC members must register for ALL High Holy Day services. Please make sure your name is properly entered for online services so you will be allowed to enter the service easily and quickly. If you need technical help, contact the TBC office (**see page 9**). To register, TBC members in good standing [click here](#).

Access information will be emailed to all TBC members in good standing who have registered by September 16. If you register after that date, you may not receive your access information in time to participate in all services.

Friends and extended family of congregants may also request access to services by completing the [Guest Registration Form](#). Suggested donation amounts are \$54 for one person; \$180 for a family.

Prayerbooks

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 a copy of the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur books at the front entrance of TBC on Sunday, Sept. 13 from 11 am through 1 pm or Monday, Sept. 14 from 4 pm through 6 pm.

Books must be returned by Oct 4. 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 4, we will charge your account \$50 to cover the cost of the book.

You will receive a PDF of the prayers we will read and chant after you register. The prayers will also be shown online.



Technology Help

If you need assistance with technology, please call the office no later than Friday, September 11 at (203) 544-8695 to set up an appointment with one of our technology experts.

Zoom Security

To ensure Zoom services run smoothly all guests should use an identifiable name for entry into the service.

Yom Kippur Study Sessions

You can choose from either one of two study sessions. You will receive instructions on how to select the study session of your choice with you log in information. Brief descriptions of the two study sessions follow.

Jonah – Why Do We Read the Book of Jonah On the Day of Atonement? We will study the book of Jonah and discuss some of the themes of the book of repentance and the role of Jews in the world. Why did Jonah not do what God wanted? Why did Jonah flee? Why did Jonah wait three days to pray to God in the whale? Why did Jonah want to die?

You Shall Be Holy (Lev. 19:1-18) – The Torah reading traditionally read in Reform communities on Yom Kippur afternoon is a rapid-fire summary of the laws of holiness. Echoing the Ten Commandments -- but with some subtle and meaningful differences – this text emphasizes ethical laws that create a moral climate. From all-time Jewish classics like "do not turn to idols" to biblical workers' rights to laws around consumption of offerings, this short text packs a punch. Join congregant Emma Dubin to delve into the historical understanding and contemporary thinking around the holiness code.

Masks and Social Distancing

For all in-person High Holy Day events, you must wear a mask properly (over your nose and mouth) and you must maintain the recommended six feet of distance between you and anyone outside of your immediate family.

Memorial Book

This year TBC will 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 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 calls the office to request one.



Michael Heft Food Drive & Miriam Messe Diaper Collection

Please consider donating to our annual HHD food and diaper drives to help local food banks, including the Redding Food Pantry, Wilton Food Pantry, the Women's Center of Greater Danbury, and the Community Action Agency of Western CT. Because of the pandemic, we will not be collecting food this year. We ask, instead, that you make a contribution by sending a check to Temple B'nai Chaim and indicating that it is for the food drive. Diapers can be dropped off at the front entrance of TBC during the High Holidays.

High Holiday Appeal

According to Jewish tradition, tzedakah (charity), 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 the High Holy Days Appeal. You can make your 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.