



September 12th, 2021

4th Annual

# REVERSE TASHLICH

How to lead the Jewish  
community's innovative marine  
conservation initiative.



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## What is Reverse Tashlich?

Reverse Tashlich is an inexpensive, easy, and positive program that can raise awareness about the environment among your students, congregants, and community.

It is customary on Rosh HaShanah to symbolically cleanse ourselves by casting our sins into a body of water. In 2016, Scubi Jew® students at Eckerd College questioned why, with humans dumping 6-8 million tons of trash into the ocean every year, Jews were throwing more sins into the water. The students devised the idea of reversing the process and removing human "sins" during a cleanup of the waterfront on campus. Thus, Reverse Tashlich was born.

Every year since then the program has grown in size and impact and we're excited to have your participation this year.





## What is Tikkun HaYam?

As Jews, we are expected to be stewards of the planet. This responsibility, however, is not limited to the dry land on which we live. It includes the blue waters on which we rely as well.

Tikkun HaYam is the world's first Jewish Marine Conservation community movement. Our goal is to raise awareness about the deep Jewish connection to the Sea, the profound spiritual nature of water, and instill in every Jew the recognition of the urgent moral imperative to protect the marine environment and Repair the Sea.





Miami, FL

2019 IN REVIEW



850+ PARTICIPANTS



47 LOCATIONS



THOUSANDS OF PIECES OF DEBRIS



Hillel of San Diego

## WATER TORAH

### Jewish Values in Marine Restoration: Bal Tashchit

Bal Tashchit, בלֹתַשְׁחִית (literally “Do Not Destroy”), is a fundamental ethical principle in Judaism. It is based on the Mitzvah in Deuteronomy 20:19–20 which says it is forbidden to cut down fruit trees in a time of war, but which the Babylonian Talmud expanded to include all forms of senseless damage or waste. It has become a central aspect of the ethical character of the Jewish people. Today, the destruction of the ocean and waterways of the world through pollution, single-use plastic products, and simple carelessness represent a blatant violation of the ethical principle of Bal Tashchit.





# SITE SELECTION PART I

**Waterfront:** You can perform Reverse Tashlich at a beach, river, lake, pond, canal, or stream.

However, if you don't have access to water, you can still participate! Choose a park, a local natural area, or a place that is highly trafficked.

If you need help choosing a location, reach out to our Coordinator, Shayna Cohen, for help.

**Accessible:** Pick a location that fits the number of expected attendees and is accessible for your community. Consider whether or not your participants need transportation to reach the site, and if there is enough parking. (Carpooling is encouraged!)



## SITE SELECTION PART 2

**Trashed:** Reverse Tashlich aims to make the biggest impact possible. Visit your chosen location to ensure there is trash on-site, either large pieces of debris, or micro-plastics that may be harder to spot. We recommend partnering with a local clean-up organization, such as [Keep America Beautiful](#) or [Waterkeeper](#), to advise you on what sites need the most help.

**Safe:** Ensure the location is in a safe area, and consider water quality as a factor. Occasionally sewage treatment systems and chemical runoff can cause unsafe conditions to be in or around. Use the [Swim Guide app](#) for information on water quality, and reach out to local officials for more advice.





Congregation Beth Am  
Tampa, FL

# PARTICIPATION AND REGISTRATION

Register as a Reverse Tashlich Team on our website  
([www.repairthesea.org/reverse-tashlich-teams](http://www.repairthesea.org/reverse-tashlich-teams)).

Registering allows us to maintain communication and provide you with program assistance. Once registered your team will be listed on our website as an official Reverse Tashlich Team.

Following confirmation, direct interested participants to [www.repairthesea.org/reverse-tashlich](http://www.repairthesea.org/reverse-tashlich) to register. You will have access to participant information for future communication.



Miami, FL

## MATERIALS

### Required

Trash Bags / Buckets / Repurposed Containers

Marine Debris Tracker App

Liability/Photo Waivers (we provide)

Gloves

### Recommended

Grabber Tools

First Aid Kit

Bug Spray

Sunscreen

Drinking Water (minimize your waste by encouraging participants to bring their own water bottles, and providing a water refill station)





## DATA COLLECTION

Debris removal indisputably has a positive effect on the local environment, but clean-ups can have a much larger impact if they involve data collection. During your clean-up, enter debris data on the Tikkun HaYam page of the Marine Debris Tracker App. That data will enter a global database, giving policymakers and researchers insight to help support policies and improve solid waste management around the world.

Encourage participants to split into groups of two or three, with one participant in every group using the app to classify every piece of debris as it is collected.

Find more information at

<https://www.repairthesea.org/marine-debris-tracker-app>

The app can be downloaded from The Apple App Store or the Google Play Store.



# DEBRIS COLLECTION

## Hazardous Items

Before the event, instruct participants to not touch anything sharp or potentially dangerous. If a hazardous item is found, take a picture, note the location, and send the information to local authorities.

## Debris Disposal

Ensure that items are properly disposed of in one of three ways:

- 1) Use dumpster or trash cans on site
- 2) Arrange for transportation of debris to a local dump
- 3) Coordinate pickup with local clean up organization or government

## Trash Versus Recycling

Orient yourself on what is recyclable in your municipality, bring a separate container for recyclables, remembering that anything sent to recycling must be clean.





## ANY QUESTIONS?

Our Community Coordinator Shayna Cohen is here to help.

Register as a team to receive notification for future virtual orientations to walk you through planning your own Reverse Tashlich.

We look forward to working with you!

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[www.repairthesea.org](http://www.repairthesea.org)