

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Alameda's Temple Israel announces all High Holy Days services will be online**

**Alameda, CA**— Temple Israel, a Reform congregation in Alameda, celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, has announced that due to Covid-19, all High Holy Days services this Fall will be conducted online and not in-person. Services begin on the evening of September 12 with Selichot, concluding on September 28 with Yom Kippur. Services will be free with advance registration required. Donations will be gratefully accepted. Services will be led by the congregation's clergy, Rabbi Annette Koch. Rabbi Cheryl Rosenstein returns as the soloist. The High Holy Day season will continue with online services through Simchat Torah in October.

Melita Siberstein will again be leading the special Early Childhood Education services on the mornings of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. These "tot" services are designed for children 0-5 years of age and their families. Silberstein is a founding member of the group Octopretzel. Our youth services, led by Temple Israel's religious school teachers, Jenn & Miriam Levine, are for children in grades K-4 and their families. All services are free and will be online with advance registration required.

When Shelter-in-Place Policy went into effect in March, Temple Israel began conducting Shabbat Services, Torah Study and their Beit Bina religious school sessions online. According to Temple Israel's President, Eric Strimling, "Being online has really opened doors for us. We are able connect with home-bound congregants and members who have moved away in ways that we never could before," adding, "It has redefined community for us. We look forward to seeing many old friends and new faces, soon to be friends, this year."

For the complete service schedule and to register, visit [www.templeisraelalameda.org/high-holy-days](http://www.templeisraelalameda.org/high-holy-days). Families may also enroll their children in Religious School by sending an email to [Educator@templeisraelalameda.org](mailto:Educator@templeisraelalameda.org).

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