



# TEMPLE ALIYAH

CREATING COMMUNITY • CELEBRATING TRADITION

## HIGH HOLIDAYS 2020 (5781) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **1. Will Temple Aliyah offer High Holiday services this year?**

Absolutely! During this uncertain and unsettling time, one of the certainties in our Jewish lives is that the High Holidays will arrive (either early or late!) and give us time and space to reflect on the past year. Our clergy, professional staff, and many devoted volunteers have been working diligently to make certain that we can celebrate our High Holidays together as a community in a spiritually fulfilling and creative manner.

### **2. Where will services be held this year?**

Services will be held **virtually** with live streaming or using Zoom. The only possible exception will be a socially distanced *Tashlich* service on the second day of Rosh Hashanah. During the coming weeks, we will be sharing more information on how to access our virtual services through weekly Tuesday emails entitled “*Celebrating Elul: Prelude to the High Holidays.*” Elul is the Hebrew month that precedes Rosh Hashanah, the beginning of the month of *Tishrei*.

### **3. Will the content and nature of our services be different this year?**

The content of our services will largely remain the same as in past years, although their pace and timing will take into account the reality that we will be attending services in a virtual world. To account for “zoom fatigue,” our clergy have worked hard to create a fully engaging and spiritually fulfilling service of approximately three hours in length. Additionally, our services will include several unique experiences that make use of the strengths of the virtual medium.

### **4. Will there be services for our youth?**

Yes! Temple Tots, Youth, and Family services will always be an important part of our High Holidays, and this year is no exception! These services will also be offered online. Additionally, we will be offering supplemental youth programming during the days of the Holidays to engage our younger members more than ever before.

### **5. When can I expect the Yizkor service to start?**

This year, our Yizkor service will be held on Yom Kippur afternoon just before the reading of the Book of Jonah. Keep an eye out for emails regarding specific times.

**6. Will I need a Mahzor, the High Holiday Prayerbook?**

Yes - and we have plans for you to borrow one from the synagogue. This pertains to prayer books for all services: adult, teen, and children's services. We ask all members of the congregation who are able to do so to pick up a "High Holiday Survival Kit," which will include prayer books, a *tallit*, and other items for the Holidays, on *Thursday, September 3, Monday, September 7, or Sunday, September 13*. Click [here](#) so you can let us know the number of prayer books and *tallitot* if you will need them. For those unable to drive to the synagogue, volunteers have agreed to make home deliveries of the kits. Look for more information on this in synagogue emails and in our Tuesday emails, "*Celebrating Elul: A Prelude to the High Holidays*."

Additionally, you may purchase a copy of our *mahzor*, *Mahzor Lev Shalem: Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur*, online, at local book stores, or from the [Rabbinical Assembly website](#) (which has reduced the price significantly until August 20). You may also download a pdf for a nominal fee by clicking [here](#).

Our editions of the teen and children's prayer books are not available for purchase so we strongly encourage you to order one on the [High Holiday Order Form](#) to enable your child to participate in services as fully as possible. If you purchase your own *mahzor*, we still encourage you to pick up your High Holiday Survival Kit, as it will contain important communications and a gift. Pertinent information will also be accessible on our website.

\*\*\* Please note that we will not be posting the High Holiday services texts online (as we do during our Shabbat and evening *minyan* services), and we highly recommend you make certain to have a *mahzor* so that you have the opportunity to follow along and engage with the richness and depth of our services.

**7. Do I need tickets to attend and how do I access services?**

Your membership is your ticket. For non-members, we ask for a [donation](#) in the amount of \$118 for those over the age of 25, which is the amount we normally charge for a ticket.

**8. How do I join services if I am not proficient at Zoom?**

You do not need to be proficient at Zoom to join the morning services on Rosh Hashanah or any of the services on Yom Kippur because these services will be live streamed (that is, they will not be Zoomed). Other services and offerings during the High Holidays will be presented on Zoom and, to make sure that everyone can participate, we will be offering Zoom informational sessions for those unfamiliar with this technology. Be assured that we are working on making access to all of our High Holiday programming as easy as possible. Look in *Celebrating Elul: Prelude to the High Holidays* on Tuesdays for more information and for Zoom classes.

**9. What if I have trouble accessing services on the Holidays?**

We will offer a "help desk" that will be available during services. Additionally, on Tuesday through Thursday, September 8, 9, and 10, we will have a congregational "dress rehearsal" where you can try out your computer access with the help desk on call. You will receive more information on this during the coming weeks in *Celebrating Elul: Prelude to the High Holidays*, which will be released to your inbox on Tuesdays.

**10. Will I be seen or heard if I talk during services?**

No. You will not be seen or heard during the morning services on Rosh Hashanah or on any of the services on Yom Kippur, as they will be live streamed (that is, they will not be Zoomed). For all of the services that are Zoomed, you will have the option of not being seen (by turning off your Zoom video). You will also be muted and invited to unmute yourself at certain points during the service. We will be sending you information on which services will be presented via live stream and which via Zoom.

**11. Will I have the opportunity to hear the Shofar blown live this year?**

Yes! Listening to live Shofar blasts is a *mitzvah* and an important element of the High Holiday experience. We do not want to let the opportunity pass! This year, our Shofar blowers have agreed to *go to your home* and blow the Shofar for you -outside, at a safe distance before the Holidays. Sign up for this on our [High Holiday Order Form](#) or complete the form mailed to you and send it back to the synagogue office.

And for our aspiring Shofar blowers, we are holding our first ever *Blow Your Own Horn!* virtual class on Wednesday, August 19 and Monday, August 24 at 8 pm (with possible additional private FaceTime lessons). To register online, click [here](#). Click [here](#) to see the flier for this program.

**12. Will we be holding a Tashlich service?**

At the time of this printing, we are planning to hold socially distanced *Tashlich* services. We are also posting the service on the synagogue website so that you can conduct your own *Tashlich*. *Tashlich* is a tactile and low-key way of visualizing the purposes of Rosh Hashanah, where we recite a few prayers and then sing *Avinu Malkeinu* as we symbolically unburden ourselves of our sins by throwing small pieces of bread (representing our sins) into a body of running water (which metaphorically carries the sins away). To keep us all safe and in compliance with state and local requirements, we will be limiting the number of participants in synagogue *Tashlich* services and participation will be by reservation only. Look for the posting of the service and for information about synagogue services on *Celebrating Elul: Prelude to the High Holidays* and on our synagogue website.

**13. Will we be holding Selichot services?**

Yes. This year our community will join other Conservative congregations at *Selichot Night Live*, a unique evening where members of Conservative congregations will come together virtually to learn, sing, and connect. (Go to <https://www.cjselichot.org/> for further details). Selichot services will be held on the evening of Saturday, September 13. Watch your inbox for more information.

**14. Will there be a way for us to spend time with other congregants and to wish others a happy and healthy New Year?**

Yes. For the services that are live streamed, you will have the option to gather with friends and family using a video conferencing software, e.g., Zoom, and to share the live streamed service from your computer. For services that will be Zoomed, you will have the opportunity to see your friends online and wish them *Shanah Tova* at the conclusion of the service. More information on how to share services and how to use Zoom will be forthcoming in *Celebrating Elul: Prelude to the High Holidays*, in your inbox on Tuesdays.

Also, we are creating a video entitled “Temple Aliyah: Community Greetings and Stories” **and are encouraging all members to participate**. Some ideas for content in a SHORT video of NO LONGER THAN 30 SECONDS are:

- Relating a fond or poignant memory you have from a High Holiday experience from your childhood or from times more recent, followed by a Shanah Tova. Keep it to a FEW SENTENCES!
- IN A FEW SENTENCES, telling fellow congregants about a meaningful experience at Temple Aliyah, followed by a Shanah Tova.
- Tell us – BRIEFLY – what the High Holidays or Temple Aliyah mean to you, followed by a Shanah Tova.

**Making a video is easy.** Simply go to <https://www.tribute.co/aliyah-memories> and send your SHORT video of NO LONGER THAN 30 SECONDS BY THURSDAY, September 3.

**15. *There is so much information that I will need to know. How will this all be communicated?***

This year we are unveiling our homegrown “*Elul Celebration: A Prelude to the High Holidays.*” Look in your inbox every Tuesday starting in late August to find all of the information you will need for the High Holidays, including links to lectures, videos, music and some light-hearted fare, and much more to help you immerse yourself in the spirit of the High Holidays. Pertinent information will also be on the Temple Aliyah website and in temple wide emails.

You will be receiving links and ways to access all of our High Holiday services and day-of programming schedules closer to the actual Holidays via email. This information will also be located on the synagogue website.

**16. *I am so appreciative of the efforts to make the High Holidays a meaningful and spiritually experience and I know that this must cost money. How can I contribute to this cost?***

As you are probably aware, membership dues do not cover the entirety of our operating budget. Each year, we rely on donations to compensate for the shortfall and need your support even more at this particularly unusual and costly time. There are three ways you can help:

1. Give generously to the Annual Appeal, which will be launched in September.
2. [Donate](#) an extra gift, with a note indicating that this is for “HH 2020 expenses”
3. [Donate](#) in honor of each individual guest or relative that you will be inviting to join our High Holiday services this year or ask them to donate. Ticket prices are generally \$118 for those over the age of 25. Historically, we raise \$20,000 in High Holiday ticket sales.

**17. *The temple is doing such a great job. What if I have other questions, concerns, or input?***

Feel free to reach out to Peter Seresky, [peters@souvenirsource.com](mailto:peters@souvenirsource.com), or to Aviva Jezer, [aviva.jezer@gmail.com](mailto:aviva.jezer@gmail.com), this year’s High Holidays Committee Co-Chairs with your questions, concerns, or input. They look forward to hearing from you.