

K.K. Bene Israel
Rockdale Temple
8501 Ridge Rd • Cincinnati, Ohio • 45236
513.891.9900 • shalom@rockdaletemple.org
www.RockdaleTemple.org

FOUNDED 1824

MEREDITH KAHAN
SENIOR RABBI

ERIN BINDER
ASSISTANT RABBI & EDUCATOR

DAVID SOLOMON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARK N. GOLDMAN, D.D.
RABBI EMERITUS

August 19, 2021

Dear Rockdale Temple Family,

We are looking with great anticipation towards the High Holy Days 5782. Your Rockdale Temple clergy, staff, and leadership are deep in preparations for this sacred season. We look forward to worshipping, learning, and congregating with our holy community.

We are heartened by the strides our own congregation and broader community have made in addressing the Covid-19 pandemic, all the while discouraged by the Delta variant and the current trends that require renewed health safety procedures. Rockdale Temple's Health Safety Team, comprised of Dr. Edward Herzig, Jennifer Clark, Dani Reiss, and Larry Smilg, working in conjunction with Rabbis Kahan and Binder, Executive Director David Solomon, and Events and Operations Coordinator Scott Larsen, has been meeting regularly since early spring to recommend policies and procedures for the health and wellbeing of our entire congregation. The Health Safety Team is guided by science and medical data; advisories from the CDC and state, county, and city; the needs of our Rockdale Temple community; and Jewish values. At our August 17th board meeting, the Health Safety Team brought recommendations to the Board of Directors to aid decision making for our upcoming High Holy Day season. The Board unanimously approved a multi-access model, which will allow our members to join us both in-person and online.

We look forward to welcoming in person those who are comfortable. Our Erev Rosh HaShanah, Rosh HaShanah morning, Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre, Yom Kippur morning, and Yom Kippur Afternoon, Yizkor, and Neilah services will all be held in the JCC Amberley Room. The following policies and procedures will be in place for those who attend these services (as well as the Yom Kippur afternoon study in the Rockdale chapel) in-person:

- Covid-19 vaccination is required. Attendees are limited to those aged 12+.
- Masks must be worn at all times.
- Seating will be by household with space for distancing.
- Prior RSVP or day-of sign-in for non-member guests is required.
- All service leaders and musicians will be masked when not actively leading from the pulpit.
- Sacred distancing will be maintained throughout our spaces.

In an effort to keep safe our children for whom vaccination is not yet an option, we will hold FoRT (young family) and Youth (grade school student) services and activities outdoors under the JCC tent.

The following policies and procedures will be in place for those who attend these services and activities:

- Covid-19 vaccination is required for all people aged 12+.
- Masks must be worn at all times by anyone over the age of 2.
- Seating will be by household with space for distancing.
- Prior RSVP or day-of sign-in for non-member guests is required.

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Officers: John G. Cobey, President ✦ Sally Korkin, Vice President ✦ Aaron Herzig, Treasurer ✦ Justin Levy, Secretary

Directors: Jennifer Clark ✦ Janet Cohen ✦ Stephanie De Falco ✦ Risa Feagins ✦ Bennett Kottler ✦ Barrie Kraus ✦ Tracy McMullen ✦ Joan Roberts ✦ Abby Schwartz ✦ Larry Smilg

Ex-Officio Directors: James G. Heldman, Past President ✦ Susan Klug Kahan, Women of Rockdale President, Andrew Gollin & Mark Friedman, Men of Rockdale Co-Presidents

- All service leaders and musicians will be masked when not actively leading from the pulpit.
- Parents/caregivers are invited to participate in all services and activities.
- Sacred distancing will be maintained throughout our spaces.
- In the event of inclement weather, both live streamed and pre-recorded services and programming will be made available online.

For those who would prefer to attend High Holy Day services and programs online, we will live stream all Amberley Room services on the Rockdale Temple website. Special content for children will also be available online for those who are more comfortable at home. Visual T'filah slides with the prayer text will appear on the screen next to our service leaders so that all may participate with ease. If you prefer to utilize a physical prayerbook, please contact the Temple office. Yom Kippur afternoon study with Rabbi Gary Zola, Ph.D. will be held both in-person and on Zoom so that those at home may participate in the conversation in real time. If you need technological support, please let us know as soon as possible.

We are working on plans for a safe *tashlich* service, Rosh HaShanah reception, and congregational Break-the-Fast. Please watch for more details.

We look forward to providing a meaningful High Holy Day season with opportunities for all to pray and gather safely. Thank you in advance for honoring and adhering to the above policies and procedures. Our tradition teaches that we are all responsible for one another. As we approach the Days of Awe, let us do so with the intention of keeping one another healthy and whole.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Temple office. We thank our community for your understanding, care for one another, and dedication to our Jewish values.

L'Shanah Tovah,



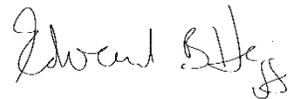
Rabbi Meredith Kahan
Senior Rabbi



John G. Cobey
President



David Solomon
Executive Director



Dr. Edward Herzig
MD, FACP, MACR
Health & Safety Committee