



## Critical High Holy Days Service Information Response Required

Dear TCS members,

Based on the latest events and safety concerns, we will be limiting the number of congregants in the sanctuary to 125 during the High Holy Day services listed below.

- ◆ Tues., September 7th: *Rosh ha-Shanah* Early Morning 8:30 am to 10:30 am
- ◆ Tues., September 7th: *Rosh ha-Shanah* Late Morning 11:30 am to 1:30 pm
- ◆ Wed., September 15th: *Erev Yom Kippur (Kol Nidrei)* 7:15 pm
- ◆ Thurs., September 16th: *Yom Kippur* Early Morning 8:30 am to 10:30 am
- ◆ Thurs., September 16th: *Yom Kippur* Late Morning 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Therefore, please click on the link below to register in advance for the specific services you would like to attend:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F44ABA822A31-high>

We hope you understand that if you arrive at the temple and we have already met our limit, we will need to ask you to either join us through Zoom at home or to sign up for the next service if there is still space.

We also ask for your patience when you arrive at the door, so our ushers can check our registration list and confirm your reservation. Arriving early for your service will help to ensure you are in and seated before the service begins.

Just a reminder, anyone joining us in the sanctuary will need to be safely masked. We look forward to seeing you in person if you feel comfortable in doing so.

*Shana Tova*



Wishing you all a good  
and sweet new year!



# KOL SHOFAR

Temple Chayai Shalom

Rabbi Kenneth Carr  
David Rothberg  
Cantorial Soloist

Jeri Robins  
Education Director  
Rabbi Paul Levenson  
Rabbi Emeritus



## From Rabbi Ken.... Live by Them

On the morning of *Yom Kippur*, the traditional Torah reading comes from the book of Leviticus, Chapter 18. Verse 5 portrays God telling the Israelites:

“*U- sh'martem et chukotai v'et mishpatai asher ya-aseh otam ha-adam v'chai ba-hem*; you shall keep My laws and My rules, which a person should do and

live by them.” On its face, the end of this verse simply tells us that Judaism ought to be a way of life; we should live by the *mitzvot*, God’s commandments. While Jewish tradition certainly supports this approach, it also understands this teaching more literally. The *Talmud* (*Sanhedrin* 74a) uses this text to suggest that if observing a *mitzvah* would lead to a person dying (or being killed), they should disregard the *mitzvah*. The Rabbis reason that the verse says “and live by them,” not “and die by them.” There are three exceptions to this rule—the *mitzvot* prohibiting idolatry, sexual immorality, and murder—but in general, the value of *piku-ach nefesh*, preserving life, takes precedence over following the specifics of the *mitzvot*. [Read More](#)



## A Time of Uncertainty

It’s a time of uncertainty. We don’t know what the coming year has in store for us.

Will things get better or get

worse? When will our lives return to normal? Will our health and the health of those we love be good? How will the economy and our finances be? How will our nation be? Will our politics get better or worse?

We don’t need the High Holy Days to be wondering about these questions this year, but they are in our tradition. As you probably know, according to tradition, God remembers everything we do, weighs our good and bad deeds, passes judgment during this time. God writes our fate in the Book of Life on *Rosh ha-Shanah* and seals it on *Yom Kippur*. We can influence God to be extra merciful and assign us a better fate through *teshuvah* (resolving to be a better person), *tefillah* (prayer) and *tzedakah* (helping those less fortunate than we). As we say in the *Rosh ha-Shanah* liturgy: *Teshuvah, tefillah and tzedakah* can avert a harsh decree! [Read More](#)



## Hello TCS Community,

I hope this finds you healthy and safe and looking forward to celebrating the High Holy Days.

As I write this article for the newsletter, sitting at our kitchen counter looking out onto Elaine’s gardens and watching the family of hummingbirds chase each other between bird feeders, I reflect on the past 12 months and where our community has been and where I hope it will be this Fall and into 2022. 2021 has had its ups and downs and although not as difficult as 2020, we still have faced many challenges as a congregation, a community and a nation. As I indicated last year, despite the ongoing challenges, I maintain my great faith and confidence in our community’s ability to respond and endure. I know how difficult it must be to rejoice in the return to the sanctuary, only to face the harsh reality of the Delta variant and the need to once again wear masks for services and activities at the temple.

[Read More](#)

### Continued from Rabbi Ken: Live by Them

This same rationale undergirds a famous story told of Rabbi Israel Salanter, who lived in Vilna in the mid-19th century. During the devastating cholera epidemic of 1848, according to the story, Rabbi Salanter worked hard to protect his people. He gave them permission to violate *Shabbat* and the laws of *kashrut* in order to save life. He told them to obey their doctors, equating their instructions with religious imperatives. Approaching Yom Kippur of 1848, he feared that if people fasted, they would die, so he urged them to eat instead. Worrying that they would not listen, he took even more dramatic action: on *Yom Kippur* morning, he brought wine and cake into the synagogue, made *kiddush*, and ate the cake. One version of the story says that he then made sure everyone in the shul ate; another says that he went around to other synagogues to encourage them to eat.<sup>1</sup> Health comes first.

As our congregation has wrestled with how to respond to the changing coronavirus pandemic, we have kept this principle primary. Our Reopening Task Force, chaired by Alycia Dancy and guided by the best scientific and medical information, including the CDC guidance and state and local health regulations, determined and implemented our actions. Early on, as much as we wanted to be able to gather together, the risk of catching or spreading the virus was too high, so for 16 months, we moved all our activities—services, classes, meetings, life cycle events—online, keeping temple life open even while the building was closed. This spring, as mask wearing and physical distancing limited transmission, vaccination rates rose, with the vaccines proving amazingly effective at preventing infection and illness. In time, incidences of COVID became rare enough that we felt safe returning to our building, holding a joyous *Shabbat* service in person on July 2. It was so good to be able to see people in person, to sing together, even to hug those who were comfortable doing so! As we looked toward the High Holy Days, we anticipated a full sanctuary, all of us able to be back together again.

In scientific notation, the Greek letter delta means change. And so too, as we are well aware, the delta variant of the coronavirus is forcing us to contemplate changes to our High Holy Day plans. As I write these words, we are still planning on services in person, but by the time you read them, our plans may have changed; please watch your TCS email and the TCS website for updates. It makes me very sad to contemplate the possibility of not all being together, but *piku-ach nefesh* takes precedence; I know that whatever decisions we make will have the best health interests of our community in mind. This variant seems to be so much more contagious, spreading particularly but not only among the unvaccinated population that we may need to be very careful. And so too for each of you: your health comes first. Even if we do have services in person, especially if you are not vaccinated, or if you have unvaccinated people in your household, or even if you are vaccinated and you feel that coming to services in person would be too risky, or if you are just not feeling well that day, please stay home and join us online. It will not be the same as being in our building with our community, but Judaism does not only permit prioritizing health—it mandates it. “Live by them,” and may we all be written in the Book of Life for a good, sweet, and healthy new year.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/how-one-19th-century-rabbi-responded-to-a-worldwide-cholera-epidemic/>

### From David Rothberg

God's examination of our lives is echoed in our own self-examination as part of our process of *teshuvah*. That brings us back to the questions I asked at the beginning of this piece. Yes, there is a good deal of uncertainty, with many things outside our control. But there are things we can do to make the coming year better, for our health, for our finances, for our relationships – for every area of our lives. *Teshuvah* is not the same as New Year's resolutions, as it includes plans of action for self-improvement. In that way, regardless of what we believe about God's Book of Life, the High Holy Days can have a profound impact on our lives, and the lives of those around us.

Wishing everyone a *Shanah tovah umetukah* – a good and sweet year!



David Rothberg  
Cantorial Soloist

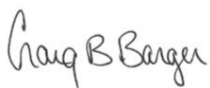
### From Craig B. Barger

We will get through this second phase of the pandemic and we will become even stronger through our efforts and our support for one another.

I want to bring your attention to two committees that have done some extraordinary things over the past 12 months. These two committees, the Membership/Engagement and the Reopening Task Force, are led by two extraordinary members of our congregation who have put in enormous effort on our behalf. Joe Emerson has coordinated the development of a comprehensive marketing plan with the goals of increasing our visibility and increasing our membership. Alycia Dancey has coordinated a response to the pandemic, not once but twice, utilizing the expertise of some very talented members of our community. I commend both Joe and Alycia, and the members of their committees for their efforts and their successes.

You have heard me say many times, that some of the wonderful aspects of our congregation are our generosity, our culture of philanthropy and our willingness to help and support one another. I look forward to another very successful High Holy Day Appeal and thank you in advance for that generosity and support.

Stay safe,

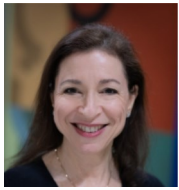


Craig B. Barger



#### Who Do You Know?

The TCS Membership and Engagement Committee want to thank everyone for their help in sharing the great programs and services at TCS to their family and friends. With your efforts and our recent social media campaign we are seeing a great deal of engagement with potential new members. Continue spreading the word and keep an eye out for new members at upcoming events! Thank you - Joe Emerson, Committee Chair



**From Jeri Robins, Director of Education**  
**Time for *Shmita***

“One foot in front of the other” is an expression we hear in more than one context. It is an injunction to keep going, to keep forging ahead in trying times. It feels optimistic and hopeful as, with each step, one draws closer to the outcome.

For me, urging myself to keep putting one foot in front of the other is something I do when I am out running. I like to run and I have been running on and off for years. This summer, I’ve worked my mileage up to the highest I have ever achieved, regularly running 3-4 miles two to three times a week. I would love to run most days but I know that it is important to have time to rest and recover between the periods of exertion.

Understanding the benefits of rest and recovery is built into the Jewish calendar through Shabbat each week and the concept of *shmita*, which means “release.” This new Jewish year is a *shmita* year, more generally referred to as a sabbatical year, due to the relationship to the number seven (like *Shabbat*). The instruction to let the fields lie fallow and unfarmed is first mentioned in the Book of Exodus 23:10-11:

For six years you are to sow your land and to gather in its produce, but in the seventh, you are to let it go and to let it be, that the needy of your people may eat, and what remains, the wildlife of the field shall eat. Do thus with your vineyard, with your olive grove.

The Torah tells us not only to let our fields rest, but also that during this year, debts are forgiven. These rules are limited to the State of Israel and, practically speaking, *shmita* practices today are primarily followed only by Orthodox Jews. [Click here](#) for one of the clearest articles I found in the Jewish Virtual Library

The organization Hazon seeks to integrate sustainability into Jewish life and to foster opportunities to build a more just world. As part of their efforts, they have launched the “[Shmita Project](#)” to explore the ways that traditional teachings about *shmita* can be applied to issues of our times, such as work-life balance, how we treat the land, building community, approaches to debt and debt relief, inequality, and consumption. *Shmita* is about faith and mindfulness - trust that the land will provide enough food to get us through a period of rest, and awareness that we do not want to deplete the land of its rich minerals. Like the land, we, too, need to rest and replenish ourselves in order to be able to do our best work as individuals and as a community.

At TCS, we strive to live these values every year, not just during *shmita* years. In SULAM and *Gesher* and our Teen programming, we teach our students about the importance of social justice through the curriculum and our actions, including *Mitzvah* Day and participation in the Religious Action Center’s *L’Taken* trip to Washington DC (*l’taken* means to repair and has the same root as the phrase *Tikkun Olam*, repairing the world). Of course, our T.O.R.C.H. committee also organizes events to support the community.

May this *shmita* year provide all of us a chance to find balance and restoration, even as we continue to put one foot in front of the other to create a fairer and more just society. Across our educational programs, we will be finding ways to incorporate these themes into our learning.

*Shana tova u’metukah*, may it be a good and sweet year, from our family to yours,

Jeri Robins



### **TCS Sisterhood Life Members**



#### **From Anita Hirschorn**

I became a Sisterhood Lifetime member several years ago when my daughters gifted it to me for a special birthday present. It was a wonderful surprise and a gift that I cherish.

Being a Lifetime Sisterhood member is important because I am among a group of TCS women who are dedicated to supporting the congregation. I am proud of the financial and community support that Sisterhood provides to the temple and to the Easton community in general. Lifetime membership in TCS Sisterhood demonstrates a long-term commitment to this community support. Although I have been socially involved in the TCS Senior Chai group, Lifetime Sisterhood membership provides an opportunity to connect to TCS women of all ages.

I would encourage a Sisterhood member to become a Lifetime Member because the dues are used to support the temple, support the community, and the social opportunities are great. Even during the pandemic and the age of social distancing, the Sisterhood has continued to have virtual events, game nights, speakers, and cultural offerings. Supporting this group by becoming a Lifetime Member is a wonderful opportunity.

When you become a Lifetime Sisterhood Member, you are also given a certificate of membership and the choice of receiving a beautiful bracelet or pin! When I wear my bracelet, I get compliments on it! Consider giving Lifetime Membership as a gift!



### From Jane Nash

I've been a member of TCS Sisterhood since it started. I should have become a Life Member at that time!

My favorite Sisterhood events revolve around food! The cooking demonstration that was off-site (Whole Foods?) was fun. I also thought the rugelach baking session on Zoom was neat. The best part of these programs is that you get to taste yummy food. And who doesn't love that?

It's nice to have the opportunity to connect to fellow congregants in a social setting. You realize we all have so much more in common besides the fact that we are members of TCS.

I would tell someone who is thinking about becoming a Sisterhood member to go for it. It's a great way to meet people in the congregation of all ages--from young new members to women who have been in the cogeneration for decades.

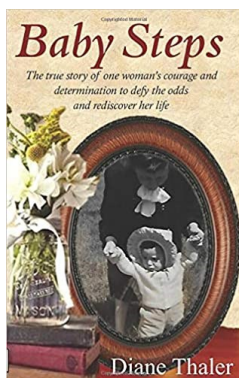
Sisterhood is a welcoming community where it's easy to meet new people in a social setting. And that makes your experience in the sanctuary better because there are friendly faces surrounding you.

## Save the dates...

### Sisterhood is finalizing plans for this year's Kick-off event.

It's tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of **Sunday, October 3, 2021**. Kick-off is a wonderful way to meet new members and reconnect with long-time friends, however, this year, we are working out some unique ideas for keeping us healthy and safe, too. More info to come!

Questions: [tcssisterhood.com](http://tcssisterhood.com)



### Guest speaker, Diane Thaler, sponsored by Senior Chai Thursday, September 9th at 6:30 pm on Zoom



In 2013, Diane Thaler was a healthy active woman who enjoyed a successful career and a happy life with her family and friends. And then one morning while preparing to leave on vacation, she suffered a near fatal heart attack. That moment, and the unexpected medical complications that followed, would change her life forever.

In "Baby Steps", the author recounts, in heartbreaking detail, the ups and downs of a personal year-long battle that took her through the dangers of open-heart surgery, the horror of two amputations, and the seemingly endless months of painful rehabilitation. And in the end, despite the incredible hardship, she attained a level of recovery and that could only be described as miraculous and inspiring.

**Zoom link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82795289661?pwd=dFdxM0tVK3U3TkJQUmEwZFY3UkIrUT09>

**Meeting ID: 827 9528 9661, Passcode: 949628**



### The Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy (GBJCL)

This organization mobilizes the Jewish community to help elementary school children discover the joy of reading by building meaningful relationships with a caring adult. Through partnerships with synagogues, Jewish community organizations, day schools, and businesses, GBJCL engages volunteers in school-based one-to-one reading tutoring, book drives, and advocacy efforts in high-needs schools.

Participants include “empty nesters,” working professionals, at-home parents, retirees, and teens. Volunteers come from all backgrounds and do not need professional training in education nor are they required to be Jewish. GBJCL is a community engagement effort of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston. JCRC is a coalition of organizations and individuals that represents and advances the values, interests, and priorities of the organized Jewish community in Greater Boston through its network of agencies, programs and partnerships.

**Temple Chayai Shalom has been a member of the GBJCL for 12 years.** Over that time we have sent more than 25 tutors into the Arnone School in Brockton to work one on one in reading with children in grades K-5. This involves a two hour training, a CORI and fingerprinting identifiers, and one hour a week working with the children. The days and times you tutor are very flexible and can be arranged around your specific schedule. It is rewarding and fun. Surely you have an hour a week to spend with a child who loves to read and loves to read with you?

You won't be disappointed! I look forward to hearing from you.

Please contact [Amy Glaser at mis7fit@comcast.net](mailto:mis7fit@comcast.net) with any questions.

*Masks will be worn. However, it is subject to change if the Brockton Public Schools change their guidelines. Anyone interested can just contact Amy Glaser.*



### Support Family Table at the 10th Annual Ride for Food Sunday, October 3rd

Family Table will participate in the Ride for Food, a cycling event that raises critical dollars for Family Table. Sponsored by Three Squares New England, the Ride for Food brings together local food pantries such as Family Table, giving them a chance to raise money for their own organizations. Family Table is looking for riders for this fun event.

**Note: Riders must be at least 14 years old to participate.**

This year will also feature a virtual format (**open to all ages**) called “**Off the Beaten Path**” which invites participants to undertake any activity independently and dedicate their fundraising to Family Table. You can ride a bike, hike, run, swim, shoot baskets...anything you like to show your commitment to fighting hunger! No matter what activity you choose, you can [join the Family Table Ride for Food team](#) or [donate to our Family Table team](#) today. If you or members of your community would like to form a team to support Family Table, please [contact Bernice Behar](#).

**Please note: TCS is committed to collecting 30 cans of tuna and vegetarian beans each month for Family Table. If you are coming to TCS, please remember to bring food and drop it in the wooden container in the foyer.**



## **Giving Tz'dakah is a Primary Jewish Value**

A donation to the temple is a meaningful way to mark any occasion to celebrate a life cycle event, to honor someone, to remember a loved one, to thank the professional staff, or for any other reason and is always appreciated. A big thank you to everyone who has contributed.

### **To the General Giving Fund from:**

Ruth Albert in appreciation of the temple building being able to open

Food Truck Festival in the parking lot with food, games and music...thank you!

in appreciation of Joan Carr, Rita & Stan Spiegelman, Neal Blackman & Norm Berk for their participation, attention and cooperation at my lay-led Havdalah service June 26<sup>th</sup>, 100% members pass the test.

in honor of David & Libby Reichman's 50th wedding anniversary

in memory of her uncle, Bernard Reines

in memory of her father, Morris Ralph Albert

in appreciation of David Rothberg for the wonderful year of music & learning you provided her and the congregation this past year. *Shana Tova!*

in appreciation of Rabbi Carr for all he does to make TCS such a spiritual and special place

in appreciation of Rabbi Carr for making Torah Study available on zoom to the Albert Siblings this summer

in appreciation of Craig & Elaine Barger for all they do to make TCS run so smoothly & be so welcoming

Craig & Elaine Barger, in memory of Lucille Herr

Maxine Bloom, in memory of her sister, Roberta Clayman

Maxine Bloom, in memory of her mother-in-law, Charlotte Bloom

Steve & Rebeca Braidman, in appreciation of TCS

Emmy and James Ducharm, in memory of Estelle Blackman

Joe & Jodi Emerson, in appreciation of TCS

Rhonda Fleming, in appreciation of the Food Truck event and the Sisterhood Holocaust speaker

Gary & Marjorie Fradin, in honor of the marriage of Anya Bowen & Isaac Fradin

in memory of Beth Herr's mother, Lucille Herr

Vivian & Ed Garber, in honor of Noah Garber's Bar Mitzvah service

in appreciation of Rabbi Ken & Cantorial Soloist David Rothberg

Shelley Goverman, in memory of her father, Jerome Sydney Cohen, on his 1st yahrzeit

Denise Kravitz, in honor of the yahrzeit of her mother, Maureen Levangie

in honor of the yahrzeit of her father, Edward Levangie

Ira Krull, in memory of his mother, Anne Krull

Myra Lapides, in memory of her husband, Morris Lapides

Nancy Methelis, in memory of her beloved mother and grandmother, Mina Shindler

Adele & Martin Miller, in loving memory of our mother, Gertrude White

Ethel Schultz, in appreciation of Friday night zoom services

Rona & Richard Slotnick, for the reopening of TCS

Stan & Rita Spiegelman, in memory of Isabella Steir, Rose Katz & Francis Spiegelman

Janet Sturman, in memory of her father, Morris Edelstein

Cindy & John Thomas, in memory of Jay Feinberg

Yarlas family, in appreciation of TCS

### **To the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund from:**

Ruth Karacek and Leslie Bahadosingh, for the yahrzeit of Alice Bahadosingh and Milton Karacek

Joni Mayer & her family, in memory of her beloved mother, Bea Wilensky

Mary-Ellen & Barry Meltzer, in appreciation of Rabbi Carr and all he did leading up to and at Ben & Jackie's wedding

### **To the Malie Baier Educational Fund from:**

Ross Mayer, remembering his mother, Marion Mayer

Amy Glaser, in appreciation of two incredible teachers, Tammi Kassler & Lisa Rodriguez

Judith Romaine, in memory of Melanie Gould

Terry Starr-Klein, in memory of her mother, June Starr-Eden

### **To the Rabbi Levenson/Sol Krumins Youth Scholarship Fund from:**

Stuart & Laurel Silverman, in memory of their parents Richard Silver, Sandra Silverman and Harvey Silverman