



MAY WE SHARE THE HOPE OF A YEAR FILLED WITH HEALTH, CONNECTION, AND GROWTH.



TEMPLE
BETH EL

July 20, 2020

Dear Temple Beth El family,

I was recently explaining to my boys how every generation has defining moments. Often, they are so striking that you will always remember exactly where you were – it may have been JFK's assassination, Armstrong walking on the moon, the Challenger explosion, or 9/11.

We can now add Covid-19 to the list. But unlike previous events, this one is not a singular incident so that we can "remember where we were." Instead, it has unfolded over many months and will most likely continue to impact us for years. And as we work to address the tremendous suffering it has caused, I have felt deep admiration for the way so many adapted during this pandemic. We have witnessed moments of joy, acts of selflessness, focused relationships, and a surge of creativity. Which leads me to the rapidly approaching High Holidays.

For the past two months, our clergy team has been working closely with the Temple's leadership, a High Holiday Task Force, our Medical Advisory Panel, Jewish professionals from across Metro Detroit, and national colleagues in order to figure out how to offer what promises to be the most unique Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur of our lives.

It will probably not come as a surprise that TBE will be presenting a virtual High Holiday season in September. And while there may be a sense of loss accompanying this decision, since we will miss the majesty of our Sanctuary and the comfort of being together ... we also feel a jolt of excitement at presenting the Jewish holiday season in ways that we simply couldn't have imagined previously. You can look forward to a level of intimacy and creativity that will guide our community in connecting with God and tradition, all in the pursuit of teshuvah (each one of us becoming a little bit better in the coming year).

We recognize that on-line services may present some technical challenges – please be assured that our staff is already preparing detailed instructions in order to get us all connected, and assembling a group of volunteers to specifically help anyone who needs assistance before or during the holidays.

Temple will be sharing more details soon – but please put Rosh Hashanah (September 18-19) and Yom Kippur (September 27-28) on your calendar. I am confident that we will eventually look back on these holidays as a moment that we remember vividly. In the midst of a world that has changed dramatically, let us choose to define our lives with joy and gratitude.

On behalf of our entire team, I look forward to a happy and healthy year ahead!