

# Shanah Tovah!

*Join us as we welcome the New Year together!*



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*\*The blue threads flowing through this packet are intended to invoke the blue threads commanded in Numbers 15 representing the commandments of the Torah or as some may say: "the ties that bind."*

Dear Temple Sholom Members,

On Rosh HaShanah, the machzor will remind us, “Hayom Harat Olam - Today the world was born.” We hope to apply that message to our work at Temple Sholom as we celebrate God’s Creation of the World. Our sacred community stands poised for our annual renewal as we strive to create a Jewish space that is meaningful and relevant for you. We hope you will join us for as much as you are able for these upcoming holidays. Whether you are with us regularly or occasionally, it is our deepest honor to be your “second Jewish home.” We look forward to greeting you and hope to find moments of connection, not just during these days, but all year long. May it be a sweet and healthy New Year for Temple Sholom and the entirety of the People of Israel. With the words below, we wish each of you and your loved ones a New Year of blessing and potential, of promise and possibility.

Jay Adler, Temple President

Mark Cohn, Rabbi

### **A Meditation for the New Year**

*From the Wilshire Boulevard Temple High Holy Days Prayerbook*

*In the twilight of the vanishing year, I lift my heart to You, O God.*

*I give thanks for all the blessings which fill my life with joy, for the love of family and support of friends, for the comfort others have given me in difficult moments, and for the privilege of life that You have granted me.*

*Now the time of repentance and renewal has come. These Days of Awe provide me with moments to meditate on the meaning of my life, on the worth of my deeds, and upon the regrets that mock my noblest intentions. No human being lives without failures. No year passes without its disappointments, its sorrow, its sins.*

*On this eve of the New Year, awaken me to the wisdom of my faith and people. Let these sacred days remind me that life is Your precious gift and that you have called me to your service. You have made me in your image, a fragile soul empowered with goodness and truth, justice and love.*

*So turn me to You now. Open the gates of the New Year, and grant to me, to my loved ones, my people, and all peoples, life and health, contentment and peace.*

## ***High Holy Days Security Procedures***

Dear friends,

This year, we will enhance our security procedures, as has been recommended by the Secure Community Network (SCN), the official safety and security organization for the Jewish Community in North America. Their services are made available to us through the Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut.

As we all know, there has been a significant rise in antisemitism in the United States and worldwide, and so we will be implementing greater security measures here at Temple Sholom.

**Our overall goals are to be welcoming and to be secure.** Our challenge is to make sure we do not compromise on either value. We will be following an entry procedure recommended by SCN. It's important for everyone to know and understand the process before the High Holy Days arrive. Entry will likely take a little longer than usual, so please have patience, and try to arrive at least fifteen to thirty minutes before services are scheduled to start.

You will be welcomed by someone for check-in, a Temple Sholom greeter, and a New Milford police officer who will all be ready to assist with smiles for your presence! Remember that to be on the Temple Sholom membership list you must have renewed your membership for 2025-2026. Visitors must have pre-arranged attendance with a suggested donation of \$180/person for the HHD Services. No one will be turned away for financial reasons but entry will not be permitted without membership or pre-registration.

When you arrive at the reception table, you may be asked for photo ID. Some of the receptionists and greeters may be relatively new to Temple Sholom and may not recognize everyone. If our greeter does not recognize you, please try not to be offended and remember we are simply trying to keep our facility safe.

We are working to be welcoming and secure. Our processes will be new and could take time to both get used to and to accommodate everyone. We apologize in advance if this causes any inconvenience, but we want to keep you as safe as possible. This is simply the world we live in today and what matters the most is how we will treat one another in our relationships and consider what kind of community we can build together.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me ([president@tsholom.org](mailto:president@tsholom.org)) or the rabbi ([rabbicohn@tsholom.org](mailto:rabbicohn@tsholom.org)).

Wishing everyone a sweet and healthy New Year,

Jay Adler, Temple President

## ***Welcoming Members and Guests***

We welcome our temple members to join us for the High Holy Days Services! If you are traveling during the High Holy Days and wish to attend services at another synagogue, our temple office is happy to provide a membership letter so you may receive reciprocal privileges. For non-members, entry to High Holy Days services requires pre-registration. We recommend a donation of \$180 per person and will gladly accept a gift at any level.

**NOTE: This year, we will enter the Temple through the back parking lot door. The front door will be closed, locked, and unstaffed.**

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## ***Performing Acts of Tzedakah - Deeds of Loving-Kindness***

During the High Holy Days, the machzor (prayerbook) reminds us: "teshuvah, tefillah, and tzedakah (repentance, prayer, and charity) help avert the evil decree." We can improve both our own lot and that of our neighbor by seeking forgiveness, offering sincere prayer, and performing deeds of loving-kindness, justice, and good-will.

While teshuvah relies very much upon the individual and our services will provide a platform for your tefillah, communally we can share in tzedakah. During the ten Days of Repentance, from Rosh HaShanah to Yom Kippur, please bring non-perishable items to the temple OR drop off a check made out to: New Milford Food Bank. Bags and checks will be delivered after Yom Kippur.

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## ***A Way to Remember and a Way to Beautify the Holy Days***

There are two ways you can help underwrite some of the holiday expenses: through the annual Yizkor Memorial Book and by beautifying the experience of worshipping at Temple Sholom.

### ***Hiddur Mitzvah - Beautifying a Mitzvah***

Would you like to add a special touch to our High Holy Days celebrations? Please help with a donation towards Sanctuary flowers, Rosh HaShanah Kiddush, or Yom Kippur Break Fast. Your support will be gratefully appreciated and recognized in our High Holy Days program.

**Please find my donation enclosed for:**

High Holy Days Flowers: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Rosh HaShanah Evening Kiddush: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Yom Kippur Break Fast: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

We look forward to thanking and honoring those who kindly donate and serve to enrich our worship experience and environment. Thank you for considering the opportunity to engage with the concept of hiddur mitzvah - beautifying the mitzvah!

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### ***Yizkor Memorial Book***

For most of us, the memory of our loved ones is with us twelve months a year; we need no special reminder to recall the countless ways in which they enriched our lives. Yet, during the Yizkor Service on Yom Kippur, we remember them collectively as a congregation and a tangible booklet provides comfort to many. If you would like to list your loved ones, of blessed memory, please let us know with the enclosed form.

**Please list the names you wish to be remembered:**

*(if you would like attach a list of names, feel free to do so)*

**Remembered by:**

**In memory of our loved ones, we contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Please return this form via USPS or email: [admin@tsholom.org](mailto:admin@tsholom.org) by September 8th.  
Payment can be made by check or by credit card using the enclosed form.

## ***2025 / 5786 High Holy Days Schedule***

### **ROSH HASHANAH**

September 22 (Monday)	Rosh HaShanah Evening Service	7:30 pm
September 23 (Tuesday)	Rosh HaShanah Morning Service	10:00 am
	Tashlich / Casting away Sins Lovers Leap Park	4:00 pm

### **SHABBAT SHUVAH**

September 26 (Friday)	Kabbalat Shabbat Service	6:30 pm
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### **YOM KIPPUR**

October 1 (Wednesday)	Kol Nidre - Yom Kippur Evening Service	7:30 pm
October 2 (Thursday)	Yom Kippur Morning Service (Yizkor - approximately 12:30 pm)	10:00 am
	If I Knew Then What I Know Now: Teshuvah by Way of Reflection and Growth	4:00 pm
	Creative Afternoon Service with Reading the Torah and the Book of Jonah	5:00 pm
	Neilah / Concluding & Havdalah	6:00 pm
	Break Fast	6:45 pm

### **SUKKOT**

October 6 (Monday)	Sukkah Building	4:30 pm
	Potluck Dinner and Brief Service	5:30 pm

### **SHABBAT CHOL HAMOED SUKKOT**

October 10 (Friday)	Kabbalat Shabbat Service	6:30 pm
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### **SHEMINI ATZERET/ SIMCHAT TORAH**

October 15 (Wednesday)	Torah Rolling	5:00 pm
	Potluck Dinner	6:00 pm

## Credit Card Information

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*This slip will be shredded once payment has been processed\**