



TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

Connection • Caring • Meaning • Making Memories Together. . . All in Your Shul by the Sea!

Dear Friends,

This is not a letter I even remotely imagined writing to you. This is not a world I ever imagined living in. This is not a daily life that any of us could have conceived of short of believing that Science Fiction is actually some sort of prescient pre-historical document.

And yet, here we find ourselves. We are both victim and perpetrator, both participant and spectator, both *Tzaddik* and *Rasha* (do-gooder and ne'er-do-well). We have come this far and found our path lacking. So, let us continue on the journey, but only in a new direction.

If we have taken this moment seriously, we have been preparing our souls for this moment of re-calibration for at least the last three weeks. And, now, we have the opportunity to gather together to uplift each other even though we cannot offer a hand. That fact cannot and will not stop us from touching each other's souls.

Instead, we will rush into the breach. We will stand together to celebrate the New Year with all of its hopes and promises while remaining aware that we are being measured for clothing fitted to our fate. We are blessed to have this opportunity to bring ourselves spiritually close despite being physically apart.

In the end, we are where we are: I am not a perfect man or Rabbi, and so I ask you for forgiveness for my small transgressions and great ones. And, as always, if you will bless me with the opportunity, I will ask you to stand with me and by me, together, as we search for the way forward, the way illuminated by the light of that which is greater than any of us alone. For, in the end, all that matters is that "we" is great than "I."

Neither Celebration on Rosh Hashanah nor *Teshuvah* on Yom Kippur are spectator sports. They require more focus than observation, but always call for more participation than stagnation. This year's High Holidays services will be like no other. And, as such, our participation will make all the difference. How so? When each of us sees our neighbor singing, even if we cannot hear each other, we are able to share a common experience. So, when we are together during services, please raise your voice as we raise our spirits. Nothing is more powerful on the High Holidays than living a shared human experience, especially one of a spiritual nature.

To wit, please see the attached sheets for some information about our services this year and how to participate in making your prayer experience more spiritually uplifting and meaningful. I have also included some materials to enhance our experience and, for those of you who will be receiving the Zoom informational email for High Holidays services,

I will include a PDF of our High Holiday Supplement. These resources are best viewed before services and after services to elevate our prayer experience.

It is my hope that despite any technological or other bumps in the road, each of us will find something meaningful from our shared service experience to inspire us toward a world made more whole. No matter what we find on the other side of this year's High Holidays, let us remember to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. And, most certainly, may we all go from strength to strength.

L'Shanah Tovah Tikateivu v'Tichateimu — May we be written and sealed for a good year.

Rabbi Fox and Sarah, Matan and Doron

P.S. For your reference, the following have been included in this mailing:

- This letter from Rabbi Fox
- High Holidays Service Schedule
- Guide to High Holidays Services via Zoom at Temple Beth Shalom
- The *Tashlikh* service booklet to be used for your contemplative *Tashlikh* alone or with your family on the **second** day of Rosh Hashanah (this ritual is not done on Shabbat)
- A guided meditation to aid you in making your *Tashlikh* service meaningful
- Since we will be abbreviating the reading of each day's *Haftarah*, commentaries and study guides have been included to add to your spiritual experience. These include:
 - Rosh Hashanah First Day *Haftarah*
 - Rosh Hashanah Second Day *Haftarah*
 - Yom Kippur *Mincha* — Book of Jonah study guide