

ראש השנה תשפ"ו Rosh Hashanah 5786

L'shanah tovah!

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to our High Holy Days observances at B'nai Shalom. We hope that this season is a time of renewal, reflection, and joy for you, your family, and our entire community.

Along with our active group of volunteers and professionals, we have worked hard to create a schedule of programming that is both meaningful and accessible. At the same time, we are aware of the great challenges that this season poses: services can feel long and are in a language that many of us do not understand. While sometimes the themes of prayers feel immediate, at other times they reflect a worldview that may seem alien to us. With that in mind, we offer the following suggestions for adding meaning to our observances.

Explore

B'nai Shalom offers many spaces for quiet reflection. If you need a break from our services, we encourage you to spend a moment with a book in our conference room or enjoy the natural beauty of our outdoor spaces. We understand the physical and emotional toll of today's services and encourage you to take the time you need to make your experience meaningful.

Experiment

Often, growth occurs when we move beyond our comfort zone. This year try adding something new to your practice. During our morning services, we offer both traditional and alternative services; why not visit a service you've not attended in the past? Or perhaps you've never attended *tashlikh*--the service where we symbolically cast off our sins. You may discover something new by changing your routine.

Meditate

Meditation is a practice that has been used by many religions. Coming back to ourselves, we are grounded in the present reality, where the possibility of experiencing God's presence is heightened, and we become open to new insights and new possibilities for teshuvah: repentance and return.

Experience Gratitude

As we gather together to take an accounting of our lives, we can be overwhelmed by the sadness and challenges that unite us. As we enter the new year, let us begin by practicing gratitude: if we begin by counting our blessings, we are strengthened to deal with our challenges.

No matter how you choose to enter into the holidays, please know that the clergy, leadership team, staff, and our dedicated volunteers are here for you. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to make your time more meaningful. On behalf of our community, we wish you all the best for a shanah tovah — a year of goodness, health, prosperity and peace.

L'shanah Tovah Tikatevu,
Rabbi Daniel Stein

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Erev Rosh Hashanah Service **Monday, September 22, 2025 – 8:00 PM** **ZOOM Link: bit.ly/erevRH5786**

Service conducted by Rabbi Stein and Hazzan Bernstein in the Rothenberg Sanctuary and streaming.

Pg. 5	Reading: God and Nature at Interpretive Translation	Catherine Lytell
Pg. 9	Responsive Reading Peace in the Night	David Lytell
Pg. 23	Reading Meditation	David Marshak

Sermon

Rabbi Daniel Stein

President's Announcements

Ami Dodson

In honor of a sweet New Year, The Women of B'nai Shalom invites the community to an oneg following services in the courtyard adjacent to the Rothenberg sanctuary.

Rosh Hashanah Services – Day 1 **Tuesday, September 23, 2025** **Traditional ZOOM Link: bit.ly/RHmorning5786** **Alternative ZOOM Link: bit.ly/AltRH5786**

Traditional preliminary, Shaharit, Torah, and Musaf services will be conducted in the Rothenberg Sanctuary and streaming by Rabbi Daniel Stein and Hazzan Sandy Bernstein. Hazzan Michael Stein and Gastón Bernstein will conduct the Alternative service in the social hall and streaming.

10:00 AM **Alternative Service** - led by Hazzan Michael Stein and Gastón Bernstein in the social hall. Alan Schaer is the Ba'al T'kiyah.

9:00 AM ***Pesukei d'Zimrah*** – *The preliminary service, beginning on page 35, will be led by Bruce Locke*

Pg. 40	On Rosh Hashanah	Norma Kaufman & Henry Hirschel
Pg. 45	Psalm 30	

9:00 AM ***Shaharit Service*** – *Beginning on page 69, will be led by William Gourdin*

Pg. 81	Ark opening/closing	Steve Goodman
Pg. 84	Ark opening /closing	Gabe & Julie Guevara
Pg. 92	Ark opening/closing	Jackie & Joel Zaves

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10:30 AM

Torah Service – *Beginning on page 95, conducted by Rabbi Daniel Stein and
Hazzan Sandy Bernstein*

Pg. 96 Ark opening/closing

Jane Nishio

Pg. 96 Torah Processional

Amy Romem

Ron Wasserman

Gabbaim

Evan Spinrod, Michael Fischer

Pg. 100 First Aliyah

Eileen & Elliot Stein

Read by Avah Dodson

Second Aliyah

Susan & Earl Agron

Read by Rebecca Knell

Third Aliyah

Maya & Tal Levy Meruk

Read by Amanda Mischel

Pg. 101 Fourth Aliyah

Lynda & Allan Chasnoff

Read by Ben Bress

Fifth Aliyah

Ellen & Jim Liston

Read by Merav Singer

Raise and wrap the first Sefer Torah

Hagbah

Dan Katzki

G'lilah

Suzy Lutz

Pg. 106 Maftir Aliyah

Tim Plattner

Read by Michael Cooper

Raise and wrap the second Sefer Torah

Hagbah

Ken Firestein

G'lilah

Gitty Altman

Pg. 108 Haftarah

Tim Plattner

Pg. 117 Prayer for Our Country

Scott Dodson

Prayer for the State of Israel

Lisa Katzki

President's Announcements & Greetings **Ami Dodson**

11:15 AM

Sermon

Rabbi Daniel Stein

On Judaism and the Value of Free Expression

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Shofar Service

Shofar Blasts Ba'al T'kiah	Alan Schaer
Reading I – Shofar Service	Cindy Schaer
Reading II – Shofar Service	Cindy Schaer
Reading III – Shofar Service	Cindy Schaer

Pg. 120 Ashrei	Kalina Singer
Pg. 121 Ark opening/closing	Susan & Larry Grossman
Torah Recessional	Debbie Roudman
Torah Recessional	Leonard Roudman

12:00 PM **Musaf Service** – *Beginning on page 125, conducted by Rabbi Daniel Stein and Hazzan Sandy Bernstein*

Pg. 125 Individual Amidah Ba'al T'kiyah	Alan Roth
Pg. 141 Ark opening/closing	Joel White
Pg. 143 Ark opening/closing	Marcy Weiss
Pg. 144 Reading: Each Person's Origin	Stacey Weinberger
Pg. 154 Ark opening/closing for Aleinu	Helene & Gary Freeman
Pg. 158 Shofar Malchuyot – 10 blasts	Geoffrey Robinson Kronrod
Remembering: I stood with Abraham	Katie McMahon
Pg. 162 Shofar Zichronot – 10 blasts	Geoffrey Robinson Kronrod
Pg. 166 Shofar Shofarot – 10 blasts	Geoffrey Robinson Kronrod
Pg. 170 Ark opening/closing	
Pg. 171 Kaddish Shalem – 10 blasts	Rabbi Gordon Freeman
Pg. 173 Ark opening/closing	Patty & Steve Bort

In honor of a sweet New Year, the community is invited to an oneg following services in the courtyard adjacent to the Rothenberg sanctuary.

Afternoon Family Seder

Led by Rabbi Daniel Stein and Hazzan Sandy Bernstein

4:30 PM Walnut Creek Civic Park, at the bridge on Creek Walk. Park opposite the fire station

Tashlikh

Led by Rabbi Daniel Stein & Hazzan Sandy Bernstein

5:00 PM Walnut Creek Civic Park

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Rosh Hashanah Services – Day 2

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

ZOOM Link: bit.ly/RHmorning5786

Traditional preliminary, Shaharit, Torah, and Musaf services will be conducted in the Rothenberg Sanctuary and streaming by Rabbi Daniel Stein and Hazzan Sandy Bernstein.

9:00 AM ***Pesukei d'Zimrah*** – *The preliminary service, beginning on page 35, will be led by Bruce Locke*

Pg. 40 On Rosh Hashanah

Pg. 67 Were our mouths

Michael Messer

Pg. 81 Ark opening/closing Amidah

SuRae & Larry Pomrantz

Pg. 84 Ark opening/closing

Tara & Tom Tarantino

9:00 AM ***Shaharit Service***, beginning on page 60, led by William Gourdin

Pg. 92 Ark opening/closing

Linda Hellman

10:30 AM ***Torah Service***, beginning on page 96
Gabbaim:

Evan Spinrod, Mordechai Rabinowitz

Pg. 96 Ark opening/closing

Rhonda Povlak

Pg. 96 Torah Processional

Rachel Holloway

Henry Holloway

Pg. 103 First Aliyah

Jill Robinson Kronrod & James Kronrod

Read by Michael Cooper

Pg. 104 Second Aliyah

Margalit Ir & Sid Landman

Read by Michael Cooper

Pg. 104 Third Aliyah

Ronnie Theirman & Dennis Danziger

Read by Begonia Valbuena

Pg. 105 Fourth Aliyah

Barry Le Vine

Read by Begonia Valbuena

Pg. 105 Fifth Aliyah

Sandy & David Eliaser

Read by Susan Jaffe

Raise and wrap the first Sefer Torah

Hagbah

Debbie Kirsch

G'lilah

Stu Kirsch

Pg. 106 Maftir Aliyah

Evan Spinrod

Read by Michael Cooper

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Raise and wrap the second Sefer Torah

Hagbah

Jim Solomon

G'lilah

Julie Solomon

Pg. 111 Haftarah

Evan Spinrod

Pg. 117 Prayer for Our Country

Helen Sweet

Pg. 117 Prayer for the State of Israel

Margalit Ir

Announcements & Greetings

11:15 AM

Sermon

Rabbi Daniel Stein

Text Study: Divine Sovereignty

11:40 AM

Shofar Service

Shofar Blasts Ba'al T'kiah

Elliot Kallen

Reading I

Anne Nicolson

Reading II

Anne Nicolson

Reading III

Anne Nicolson

Torah Recessional

JoAnn Knell

Dena Stein

Pg. 121 Ark opening/closing

Cheryl & Sam Vincent

12:00 PM

Musaf Service

Pg. 125 Individual Amidah Ba'al T'kiyah

Elliot Kallen

Pg. 141 Ark opening/closing

Susan Jaffe

Pg. 143 Ark opening/closing

Lily Schneider

Pg. 154 Ark opening/closing

Channah & Larry Katz

Pg. 158 Shofar Malchuyot – 10 blasts

William Gourdin

Pg. 162 Shofar Zichronot – 10 blasts

William Gourdin

Pg. 166 Shofar Shofarot – 10 blasts

William Gourdin

Pg. 170 Ark opening/closing

Jordana Green & Sarah Vital

Pg. 171 Kaddish Shalem – 10 blasts

William Gourdin

Pg. 173 Ark opening/closing

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Kever Avot

Sunday, September 28, 2025 at 1:30 PM

Oakmont Memorial Park, Lafayette & Gan Shalom, Briones

Kever Avot ("graves of the ancestors") is the custom of visiting the graveside of parents or close relatives. The theme of the prayers is peaceful eternal rest for the departed and an invocation for God's aid to the living on the basis of the pious deeds and dead performed in their lifetime. Rabbi Daniel Stein will lead the services at Oakmont Memorial Park; Hazzan Sandy Bernstein will lead service at Gan Shalom Cemetery--Both at 1:30pm.

Reverse Tashlikh

Sunday, September 28, 2025 at 2:00 PM

At an Oakland waterfront area, with Temple Isaiah

Preregister at repairthesea.org

Special Thanks

Flowers and Music

Funds for Flowers and Music have been graciously donated this year by the following families. Please join us by also extending your thanks to them.

Gitty & David Altman
Lisa & Solomon Elgazzar
Margie & Stuart Goldware
Eve & Bernie Notas

Debbie & Leonard Roudman
Karla & Neil Smith
Susan & Joel White
Naim Yashar

Erev Rosh Hashanah Oneg

Thank you to the Women of B'nai Shalom for sponsoring the Oneg after Erev Rosh Hashanah services.

Break-the-Fast Oneg

Thank you to the B'nai Shalom Men's Club for sponsoring the break-the-fast oneg after Yom Kippur services.

CBS Webcam

The streams of services are available at <http://bshalom.org/worship/bnai-shalom-webcam>

Greeters

We are grateful to the leaders and members of our community who have volunteered time away from their personal observance to greet you upon your arrival, welcome you to Congregation B'nai Shalom, answer your questions, and do all that they can to make your experience more meaningful and inspiring.

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Ritual Honors Committee

Thank you to Tim Plattner, Dorothy Blint, David Eliaser, Stan Goldman, Karen Gourdin, Gabe Guevara, JoAnn Knell, Sue Lefelstein, Bruce Locke, Maya Levy Meruk, Ronnie Thierman, and all the members of the Ritual Committee for their efforts in ensuring the smooth running of our services.

Office and Facilities Staff

And a special thank you to our office and facilities staff: Kathy Goehring, Samantha Friedman, Erica Padilla, Carmen Chacon, Dominique Deverene, Haylie Eisele, Andrew Hidalgo, Javon Hopkins, Tina Hutton, Paul Jarske, Nate Martinez, Junior Sorrell, Tamra Stewart, and Alberto Yabao. They have put in extra efforts, energy, and thought this season into how our synagogue presents itself. We couldn't do it without you!

Safety & Security

The rising tide of anti-Jewish violence in recent years has caused us to be ever vigilant of the level of security necessary to protect all of us. Therefore, we continue to make changes to our physical structure and to our procedures to increase the safety of every person who walks through our doors. We know some of these changes may be inconvenient, and we appreciate you taking an active role in our security to keep us all safe. Our gates and access system are fully functional, with a single entry to the upper campus from the parking lot. Your card or app will also allow you to move from the Alternative Service in the Social Hall to the Sanctuary via the pathway gate. If you have any questions about your access, whether by app or by keycard, please contact Executive Director Stu Kirsch. In the event of any incident, please calmly and efficiently follow the instructions given by Rabbi Stein, our High Holy Day incident leader Stu Kirsch, and law enforcement officials.

If you have any questions about security at B'nai Shalom, please see a greeter or Stu Kirsch, or the leaders of our Safety and Security Team, Earl Agron, David Eliaser, or Michael Tejeda.

Emergency Preparedness and Special Needs

Greeters and other leaders have been instructed in the location of our AEDs (automated external defibrillator) and First Aid supplies.

There is an AED in the lobby, above which is an emergency kit containing basic first-aid supplies. There is also an AED by the front door of the social hall.

We are requesting that doctors and nurses in the community volunteer to be part of the First Responder team. If you would like to participate in this mitzvah, please tell the greeters at the desk your name and approximate location at which you will be sitting.

Walking up to the Bimah in the Main Sanctuary

We have found that there is increasing concern about congregants slipping, falling, or losing their balance when going up to the Bimah for an honor. When you are called to the Bimah for an ark opening, an Aliyah, a Torah reading, to blow the shofar, or to deliver an English reading, please approach from the ramp side of the sanctuary and return to your seat using the same ramp.