

Temple Israel of Natick Tashlich 5780—2019

*“Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity
and passing over transgression...You will cast all our sins
into the depths of the sea” (Micah 7:18-20).*

The ritual of Tashlich makes concrete the words of contrition and atonement that we state during the High Holidays. In Tashlich, we symbolically cast away our sins into a natural flowing body of water. The ritual is often performed on the first day of Rosh Hashanah, though it can be performed anytime, until the end of Sukkot.

Traditionally Jews have used bread crumbs to symbolize sins, emptying these from their pockets into flowing water. Today, conscious of the problems caused when we provide food for wildlife, alternatives to bread crumbs are sometimes used. These include small sticks, pebbles, or other natural objects.

This year Temple Israel of Natick is offering 3 options to make participation in this beautiful ritual accessible to as many of us as possible:

First day of Rosh Hashanah, Monday, September 29 @ 5:00 PM. Meet at TI and we will walk to the creek on Boden Lane and perform Tashlich together. For those who wish to stay, evening Services for the second day of Rosh Hashanah immediately follow in our sanctuary, at 6:00 PM.

Sunday, October 6 @ 10:00 AM. Meet at South Natick Dam Park, near the Bacon Library. The Religious School is sponsoring this event, and it will include readings, singing and some peaceful time in nature with your friends and family. It's become a tradition in our religious school to not only cast away sins at tashlich, but to ingest some sweetness too.

Like many rituals of Judaism, you can do Tashlich your way! Find a time that is convenient for you and your family to gather at a flowing body of water. Two resource sheets are attached, one with the traditional readings for Tashlich and one with some inspirational readings and questions.

Whichever way you choose, we hope you won't miss out on this lovely holiday practice!

Shana tova u'metuka! Best wishes for a happy and sweet new year!