

SELICHOT 5786

Rabbi Moses Maimonides interprets the call of the shofar on Rosh Hashanah as a wake-up call imploring us. “Awake, you sleepers from your sleep! Return to God, you who are caught up in the daily routine, losing sight of eternal truth!” Rambam (same guy) depicts our daily existence as a headlong rush from one activity to another forgetting about God and Torah, neglecting to give thanks for our lives, our blessings, our creation, ignoring the precepts of our tradition and our pursuits of righteousness and justice.

Yet, it is not so easy to apply the brakes on the white line at the red light of the Days of Awe. That is why we have Selichot, the ultimate speed bump, so we do not fly through the intersection hurting others, failing to be responsible and accountable for our words and actions. With Selichot, we begin the process of turning back towards the true and right road, beginning the process of *teshuvah*, returning, also defined as repentance.

At Temple Bat Yam, we begin Selichot services a week before the High Holidays, traditionally on the Saturday night before Rosh Hashanah, in order to give us ample opportunity for reflection and consideration of our lives in the past and in the years to come. The Selichot program for the Jewish New Year of 5786 will be held on Saturday night, September 13, 2025, beginning promptly at 7:00PM.

We will begin with an amplified oneg, celebrating the traditional third meal of Shabbat, and then we will officially say good-bye to the Sabbath Queen with a short Havdalah service. Immediately following Havdalah, we will adjourn to the sanctuary, where we will continue with a most inspiring Selichot service.

Remember to mark your calendar!

SELICHOT SERVICE
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2025
7:00 pm

About TASHLICH

Tashlich is a ritual that many Jews observe during Rosh Hashanah. “Tashlich” means “casting off” in Hebrew and involves symbolically casting off the sins of the previous year by tossing pieces of bread or another food into a body of flowing water. Just as the water carries away the bits of bread, so too are the sins symbolically carried away. In this way the participant hopes to start the New Year with a clean slate. This is a tradition which helps to build strong and lasting memories!

As in previous years, the Temple Bat Yam Family will gather on Rosh Hashanah afternoon at The Isle of Wight Nature Park to perform the act of “casting off sins.” If you frequent the Route 90 bridge, you've undoubtedly seen the sign for Isle of Wight Park. A quick detour will take you to a beautiful fishing pier, bay beach and scenic wetlands. The Tashlich ritual begins with a prayer and a song on the pier, followed by the ritual casting off of sins by feeding the local sea birds with pieces of day-old bread. The gulls get a little *nosh*, and we come away free of sin—a win-win for the soul!

Add this event to your growing High Holy Days Activities Calendar!
TASHLICH IN THE PARK

Tuesday, September 23, 4:30 pm
At Cape Isle of Wight Nature Park

Bring family and friends—DON'T MISS THIS EVENT

There will be no rain date. In case of inclement weather, Tashlich will be cancelled.