

HIGHER HOLIDAYS

Tashlich



WHAT IS TASHLICH?

The Tashlich tradition comes from the Hebrew word that means “to cast” and is your opportunity to metaphorically cast away your sins and regrets of the year into a body of water. We all have something to let go!

It’s observed near water, such as a sea, river, stream, lake or pond - preferably one that has fish - because Jewish mysticism teaches that water corresponds with kindness. Special [verses](#) are recited.

We invite you to use our guide to celebrate in any way you can:

- 1. Locate some water.** Interpret “body of water” in any way you want and can. When no traditional body of water was available, some rabbis were known to do Tashlich next to a well, even one that had dried up, or next to a bucket of water. So for you today, a bucket, a sink, a pool or even a glass of water will do.
- 2. Connect.** Whether you are gathering with family at home, assembling some friends, getting together with Hillel on campus or gathering through Zoom, pause and find your community.
- 3. Cast off!**

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Reboot and Tashliq

For nearly 15 years, Reboot and the JCC San Francisco have been reimagining Tashlich as “Tashliq” with hundreds of people gathering on the beach in San Francisco to throw crumbs (we now use birdseed to be more eco-conscious) into the water and symbolically write the things they want to leave in the past year into the wet sand and watch the waves erase them. We play the shofar together with Irish bagpipers and horn players from the Jazz Mafia and the Ministers of Sound of the Saint John Will-I-Am Coltrane African Orthodox Church and walk to the water’s edge immersed in sound. We finish the evening with a bonfire and s’mores. However you cast your “sins” away, this is an opportunity to create a ritual and reflect on the year you envision ahead.



Whatever form Tashlich takes for you, consider the following:

- We don’t have the ability to change the past, but we do have the ability to make it mean something different. But that takes work. How do you want to change the meaning of your experience? What will you do to make that happen?
- Rosh Hashanah holds on to the idea that no matter what has happened, change is still possible. Tashlich allows us to choose to leave behind what needs to be left so we can change. What will you leave behind?

After you have paused for this moment, enjoy your hopes for a sweet new year with the traditional apples and honey, or of course roasting s’mores.

Find out more about how Reboot reimagines tradition and ritual at: rebooting.com