



**Rosh Hashanah  
& Yom Kippur**  
at Ohel Leah Synagogue  
**5781/2020**

*Ohel Leah  
High Holidays  
Guide*



*Rabbi Asher & Rachel Oser*

*together with*

*Shay & Michal Tyk*

*Eyal & Orít Gínatí*

*wish you a*

*Shana Tova!*

אבינו מלכנו החזירנו בתשובה שלמה לפניך

*“Our Father our King, return us to You  
in perfect repentance”*





# Ohel Leah Synagogue

70 Robinson Road, Mid-Levels, Hong Kong

Tel: (852) 2589-2621 / Cell: (852) 9848-1422

Email Address: RabbiA@OhelLeah.org

Dear Friends,

The High Holidays will soon be here. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are the highlight of our spiritual calendar - a time for reflection, reckoning, and renewal. This year the dreaded “new normal” has shattered plans and ruptured everyday routines. More than ever, we need this season. Our deepest hope is to find a glimmer of comfort and refuge in our God, traditions, and Synagogue. Because we are optimists, we are planning for the possibility that even without our beloved Cantor Arnon, we may still hold services. We will continue to do our best to accommodate every request. When this is not possible, I beg your patience and consideration as together we navigate uncharted territory. As always, our decision to hold services will reflect the law and spirit of our government’s guidelines.

Enclosed is a provisional timetable for our High Holiday services and the booking form to reserve your seats. Please complete and return the form before September 4, 2020.

On behalf of Ohel Leah Synagogue I have the pleasure of presenting you with our calendar for the Jewish Year 5781 and the OLS Gold Card for your convenience. The calendar goes until December 2021 and I hope it will only hold happy occasions for you and your loved ones. Rachel and I, together with our family, wish you a year of good health and great happiness.

כתיבה וחתימה טובה

Rabbi Asher C. Oser

OLS HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES 5781/2020

**MEMBER'S BOOKING FORM**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve for me the following seats:

**ROSH HASHANAH SERVICE** **MALE** **FEMALE**

**Day 1 Rosh Hashanah – Sat, September 19**

First Service: 8:30am-10:30am

\_\_\_\_\_

Second Service: 11:00am-12:30pm

\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 2 Rosh Hashanah – Sun, September 20**

First Service: 8:15am-10:30am

\_\_\_\_\_

Second Service: 11:00am-12:45pm

\_\_\_\_\_

**ROSH HASHANAH SEPHARDIC SERVICE** **MALE** **FEMALE**

**Day 1 Rosh Hashanah – Sat, September 19**

Morning Service: 8:00am

\_\_\_\_\_

**Day 2 Rosh Hashanah – Sun, September 20**

Morning Service: 8:00am

\_\_\_\_\_

**YOM KIPPUR SERVICE** **MALE** **FEMALE**

**Yom Kippur Eve – Sun, September 27**

Kol Nidre Service: 6:00pm

\_\_\_\_\_

**Yom Kippur Day – Mon, September 28**

Morning Service: 9:00am-2:00pm

\_\_\_\_\_

Neila Service: 5:00pm

\_\_\_\_\_

**YOM KIPPUR SEPHARDIC SERVICE** **MALE** **FEMALE**

**Yom Kippur Eve – Sun, September 27**

Lecha Eli Service: 5:50pm

\_\_\_\_\_

**Yom Kippur Day – Mon, September 28**

Morning Service: 8:00am-1:30pm

\_\_\_\_\_

Neila Service: 5:00pm

\_\_\_\_\_

<b>Comments:</b>   
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Kindly return this form by **September 4, 2020**.



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Dear Friends,

The Yizkor prayer will be recited on Yom Kippur (September 28) and on Shemini Atzeret (October 10).

In order for the names of your relatives or friends to be mentioned during the Yizkor prayer, please complete and return the enclosed form. Alternatively, you could email the details to the synagogue office on OLS@OhelLeah.org.

גמר חתימה טובה

Rabbi Asher C. Oser

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Hebrew name of deceased relative/friend:

Father's Hebrew name of deceased relative/friend:

Your relationship with deceased relative:

Your name & family name:

## Top Twenty Rosh HaShana/Yom Kippur Questions 5781/2020

**1. When is Rosh HaShana?**

*This year Rosh HaShana begins on Friday night September 18th and continues until Sunday night September 20th.*

**2. Is Rosh HaShana also two days in Israel?**

*Yes, even in Israel Rosh HaShana is kept for two days and both days are equally important.*

**3. How many blasts of the shofar are heard?**

*On Rosh HaShana there are an hundred blasts of the shofar. The most important are the first set of thirty.*

**4. Do women make a *sh'hecheyanu* blessing before candle lighting on both nights?**

*Yes. There is a custom to buy a new fruit or wear a new garment while making this blessing on the second night.*

**5. What is *Hatarat Nedarimim* and when does it take place?**

*Hatarat Nedarim is the annulment of religious vows and it is done in the synagogue after shacharit on the morning before Rosh HaShana.*

**6. What other customs are there before Rosh HaShana?**

*There is a custom to give charity, take a haircut and shave.*

**7. Why do we eat special foods on Rosh HaShana?**

*Certain foods are symbolic representations of the good year we expect.*

**8. What is *tashlikh*?**

*Tashlikh is the custom of going to a body of water and "throwing" one's sins in the sea. Many do this on the second day of Rosh HaShana but one can perform tashlikh until Yom Kippur.*

**9. Am I allowed to cook on Yom Tov?**

*Yes, unlike Shabbat, one is allowed to cook food on Yom Tov to be eaten that Yom Tov day. Care should be taken to use a pre-existing flame to light the stove. To ensure a pre-existing flame is always available, many have the custom to light a 26hr *yahrzeit* candle at the beginning of Yom Tov.*

**10. When does the Yom Kippur fast start and end in Hong Kong?**

*It starts Sunday, September 27th at 5:56pm and ends on September 28th at 6:47pm*

**11. What should I do if it's difficult for me to fast or if I am taking medication?**

*People who need to take medication or who need to eat should consult a Rabbi about the best method to do so on Yom Kippur.*

**12. Besides for eating and drinking, what else is forbidden on Yom Kippur?**

- *We don't wear leather shoes.*
- *We don't bathe.*
- *We don't use perfumes, oils or moisturizers.*
- *We're not intimate with our spouses.*

**13. What time is Yom Kippur candle lighting?** 5:56pm

**14. How many blessings are there over the candles and when are they recited?**

*Tonight at candle lighting women recite two blessings. These blessings can be recited in Hebrew or English and we include the words in brackets. The first blessing is:*

*Baruch ata Ado-noi Elo-heinu melech ha-olam, asher kid-shanu bi-mitzvotav, ve-tzee-vanu le-had-lik ner shel Shabbat v'shel yom ha-ki-purim*

(Blessed are You, our God, Creator of time and space, who enriches our lives with holiness, commanding us to kindle the (Shabbat and) Yom Kippur lights.)

*The second blessing is the shehecheyanu blessing:*

*Ba-ruch a-tah A-do-noi E-loi-hei-nu Me-lech ha-o-lam she-he-chee-ya-nu v'ki-yi-ma-nu vi-hi-gi-ya-nu liz-man ha-zeh*

(Blessed are You, our God, Creator of time and space, who has supported us, protected us, and brought us to this moment.)

**15. Besides the two Shabbat / Yom Tov candles, how many other candles are lit?**

*At candle lighting time, married men have a custom of lighting their own candle and anyone who has lost a parent lights a yahrzeit candle. If one has lost two parents it's ok to light a single yahrzeit candle. No blessing is recited on these candles.*

**16. Do I recite a blessing on the tallit every time it is worn?**

*Whenever a tallit is put on during daylight we make a blessing. If one leaves synagogue during the Yom Kippur break then on return a blessing is made again.*

**17. What is the seduah ha-mafeseket?**

*This is the last meal before the fast begins. Kiddush is not recited at this meal and it is not necessary to have two challas.*

**18. Should children be encouraged to try fasting?**

*The custom is to encourage children nine above to have their meals a little later than usual.*

**19. What must be done in order for Yom Kippur to be effective?**

*Yom Kippur brings atonement when there is genuine repentance beforehand. Before Yom Kippur we apologize to people whom we think have offended. We forgive others in the hope that God will forgive us.*

**20. How is Havdala on Yom Kippur different from Havdala on Shabbat?**

*Havdala marks the transition from sacred time to everyday time. Whereas at the conclusion of Shabbat we light a new flame for Havdala, at the conclusion of Yom Kippur we are careful to light the Havdala candle from a flame that was burning throughout Yom Kippur. The Havdala candle at the conclusion of Shabbat (also) resembles the creation of fire at the beginning of the week and so it is recreated anew. The Havdala flame at the conclusion of Yom Kippur only represents the fact that we were prohibited from using a flame during Yom Kippur; it does not represent the recreation of fire at the beginning of the week. To mark this distinction we use a flame that was burning during Yom Kippur.*