

## **Welcome to Boston Workers Circle (BWC) Neighborhood Tashlikh Sept. 16, 2023**

Boston Workers Circle welcomes you to Tashlikh, a traditional Jewish ceremony. At BWC we bring a secular, progressive Jewish focus to casting away the past year's regrets and to embracing hopes for our future.

### **Introductions**

*Leader or another participant:* Standing at this body of water, we realize that in many places in the world, water is now, or soon will be, an issue of worldwide struggle over quality as well as quantity. As we partner with the element of water today, we look forward to a world in which waters run abundantly free and clear for all.

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional and not-ceded territory of the Massachusett, the Pequossette, the Wampanoag, the Nipmuc, the Pawtucket, and other indigenous peoples. And we call for recognition by us and by our governments of centuries of appropriation and mistreatment.

### **Please join us in song: Hiney Ma Tov (Hebrew)/Oy Vi Gut (Yiddish)**

Hineh mah tov umah na'im  
Shevet achim gam yachad

Oy vi gut un vi voyl es iz  
Briders and shvesters tzumen

<https://www.facebook.com/ud6official/videos/1207831066257184/>

### **Group cast away**

*Leader or another participant:* We throw pebbles into the water to represent those burdens, regrets, disappointments, excuses, or rationalizations that interfere with our living full lives. In the shadows of shortening days, on the bright edge of the New Year, we come bearing the pressure from the inevitable weight of a full past year's decisions, inactions, and omissions.

*Leader or another participant:* After the first line is read, we will toss our pebbles into the water, and then say the second line all together.

We cast away doubt, disbelief, and apathy.

*We embrace hope.*

We cast away acceptance of things as they are.

*We embrace a belief in a better world.*

We cast away intolerance.

*We embrace raising our voices for equity and freedom.*

We cast away rejection of desperate migrants and refugees and separation of families.

*We embrace sanctuary and refuge.*

We cast away indifference to the wellbeing of the earth and inaction in the face of the climate crisis.

*We embrace inhabiting our world more sustainably and standing up to irresponsible institutions.*

We cast away ruthless individualism, social isolation, selfish-interest, and constant distraction,

*And we embrace connection, humility, and meaningful interaction.*

As a community we cast away pessimism and cynicism,

*And we embrace the belief that we can be the change we are waiting for.*

*[Adapted freely from Jews for Racial and Economic Justice]*

### **Individual cast away**

Take a few minutes to think about some things that you would like to cast away in order to better your relationships with other human beings and the natural world. After you say each thing silently, or aloud toss a pebble into the water and experience it floating away.

**Please join us in Song** - *Born of Water* - Lindie Lila

Audio Recording:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EOOlOiamJy72yn6F1omsmBpU2DiZ3aRG/view?usp=sharing>

Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wxee6i7\\_zyw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wxee6i7_zyw)

Born of water

Cleansing, powerful

Healing, changing

I am (repeat)

### **Group sharing and in closing**

*Leader:* Turn to your neighbor and share anything that you'd like to about what you have cast away, what you hope for, and what this ritual means to you.

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**On September 25 we will be holding Yom Kippur services at 10:00 am at Eliot Church at 474 Centre St in Newton Corner. If you have not already reserved a seat, please contact [info@circleboston.org](mailto:info@circleboston.org) to learn if space is still available. The service will also be live-streamed. (Everyone who purchases an in-person ticket will also receive the livestream link.)**

### **Brief History of Tashlikh and Explanation of Tashlikh**

*Freely adapted from the original by Joanna Kent Katz and Dori Midnight from the Jewish Voice for Peace [JVP Tashlich Ritual Guide 5778](#) given to us at BWC by Joanna Kent Katz and Dori Midnight.*

Since the late medieval period Jews have observed the practice of Tashlich, often on the first day of Rosh Hashanah. It is based on several passages in the bible, most notably Book of Micah (7:9): "You will hurl all of our sins into the depths of the sea."

"Tashlikh (you shall cast away), from שלך (shalach, to throw or fling) is also related to shalechet, shedding. This time of year, we should be asking ourselves: What are we casting away this year? What are we shedding? What must we release in order to stand more fully aligned with our values and our visions?

*Thank you to Pauli Katz for sharing the BWC 2020 Days of Awe Tashlikh document which has been adapted for this service.*

**Virtual participants and others, If you are unable to get to water this year:**

You can close your eyes and imagine standing on the banks of the Charles River or at the ocean and reach deep into your pockets for pebbles. Then, in your imagination, take pebbles and feel yourself casting them into the water; with empty pockets, you can move lightly into the New Year, ready to rededicate yourself to your ideals.

**The BWC Calendar** [circleboston.org/calendar](https://circleboston.org/calendar) has information about the many other programs and activities that we offer as a secular progressive Jewish presence in the Boston area.

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