

The process of reflection is built into the Jewish calendar. From Rosh Hashanah, during the ten day period that ends with Yom Kippur, our tradition tells us to think about how we may have missed the mark in the past year and how we can be our best selves in the coming year.

This year, we are asking the Temple Israel community to consider focusing on racial inequality. Judaism teaches us that all human beings are created *b'tselem Elohim*, in the image of God, and, therefore, connected and equal to one another. The Racial Justice Initiative at TI has compiled a series of readings, movies, art, cartoons, and suggestions for experiences and actions designed to frame individual and communal reflection on issues of racial inequality, privilege, discrimination and injustice. We invite you (with a caregiver or by yourself) to choose one, a few, or all of the activities as you look back on the past year and forward to the year ahead.

Day 1; Wednesday 9/20 Erev Rosh Hashanah

Either with a caregiver or by yourself, read or watch Frank Tashlin's [The Bear That Wasn't](#) (ages 4 to adult). Consider the questions provided by [Facing History and Ourselves](#).

Day 2; Thursday 9/21 Rosh Hashanah

Either with a caregiver or by yourself, study [this cartoon](#) illustrating the difference between equity and equality. What do you think?

Day 3; Friday 9/22

What questions do you have about race or racism? Around the dinner table tonight, ask your family a question about something you have learned over the first two days of this reflective process.

Day 4; Saturday 9/23

Choose one of the following black-owned restaurants to visit for a meal with family or friends

1. [Blue Nile Restaurant](#) (vegan Ethiopian cuisine), Jamaica Plain
2. [Darryl's Corner Bar and Kitchen](#) (Southern style dishes with live music), Boston
3. [MIDA](#) (Italian-inspired food), South End
4. [Haley House](#) (locally-sourced food prepared from scratch on site), Roxbury

What did you notice? What did you wonder?

Day 5; Sunday 9/24

With a caregiver or with friends, choose one of these ways to spend your day. These selected activities will provide experiences in environments that are racially diverse.

1. Explore two Boston neighborhoods, Back Bay and Dudley Square. Choose your starting point and travel between the two on the Orange Line (Back Bay Station and Roxbury Crossing).

What's different about the two neighborhoods? What's the same?

2. Visit Franklin Park

How does it compare to other green spaces in which you spend time?

Day 6; Monday 9/25

Either with a caregiver or by yourself, watch this performance [Breaking the Chains](#) (10 minutes), from [Teen Empowerment's](#) 25 Years of Impact Celebration. What do you think the "chains" in this performance are that need to be broken?

Optional art activity: Draw the feeling of being enslaved using only your MARKS (lines, dots and dashes). Now draw the feeling of FREEDOM again using only your MARKS. Creating an abstract interpretation of these feelings/experiences.

Day 7; Tuesday 9/26

Watch the movie Zootopia (1h50m) (available on Netflix). How does this movie challenge stereotypes?

Day 8; Wednesday 9/27

Commit to reading one of these books over the course of the year

- The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas (**Teens/Young Adult**)
- Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson (**Ages 10 and up**)
- One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia (**Ages 8-12**)
- Frederick Douglass: The Lion Who Wrote History by Walter Dean Myers (author) and Floyd Cooper (illustrator) (**Ages 4-8**)

Alternatively sign up to receive books each month with <https://www.justlikemebox.com/>. Great for children up to 12 years old.

Day 9; Thursday 9/28

Even when crimes among different races are committed at the same rate, the Criminal Justice System in the U.S. puts People of Color in prison at much higher rates than it does White people. [Look up your state Senator and Representative](#) and write them a postcard, email, call, tweet, or post on their facebook page to let them know what you think about unfair Criminal Justice policies against People of Color.

Day 10; Friday 9/29, Erev Yom Kippur

With the Jewish New Year, we blow the shofar (a ram's horn) as a wake up call, motivating us to reflect on our actions and intentions in the year past and calling us to enter the new year as our best selves. How did this journey through the 10 Days of Awe/Racial Justice Reflections help you to wake up to the reality of racial inequality and injustice? In what ways was it a call to action? How can we as individuals and our community assist in this effort?