

A Wonderfully Successful TBO Retreat



Autumn at Temple Beth Or was ushered in with the sounds of laughter, singing, praying, cooking, playing, eating, drinking, and yes, even snoring! In early October, we held our first (in a long time) overnight camp retreat at Camp Kalsman in Arlington.

With more than 100 people in attendance, members of all ages, backgrounds, interests, and abilities trekked to the Union for Reform Judaism's camp to participate in a variety of different classes and events. One of the major highlights included the Camp Kalsman Giant Swing. Brave children and adults strapped on harnesses to experience flying up to 50 feet in the air. Saturday evening participants of all ages donned aprons in an attempt to win a prize at Temple Beth Or's "Chopped" dessert cooking challenge. We sang together with Pacific Northwest singer-songwriting sensation Josh Niehaus, during both Saturday Shabbat services and, with faces flushed by the fire of the flames, Saturday evening *havdalah*. In addition to singing parts of the *Pirke Avot* to the tune of Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody," the Rabbi tried to stump participants with questions from Torah. The only way to be prepared for such pressure was to partake in the happy hour sing-a-long. With the new signature cocktail, the TBOMG, everyone had a chance to shmooze, dance, and laugh together. But it wasn't all just silliness! Things became competitive during the *Parsha* and Poker led by Rabbi Rachel Kort. Finally, things settled down to a dull roar in the evening for the almost 40 people who stayed overnight in the heated, comfy cabins. Sharing breakfast together was a sweet and delicious way to end a wonderful weekend.

Our next retreat will be in the spring of 2020. You don't want to miss out. If you are interested in the planning of a future Temple Beth Or camp retreat, please contact Sonia Siegel Vexler.



Our Rabbi

K'hilah/
Mishpachah
Torah
Avodah
Tzedakah/
Tikkun Olam

Engaging With Israel

It was easy for me to fall in love with Israel, coming of age in the 1990s. I was inspired by the egalitarian army service and the rescue of Ethiopian Jews. I mourned when Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated and joined with the majority of Jews in the US and Israel in keeping hope that Israeli and Palestinian leaders could achieve peace in the near future.

I'm not exactly sure how it happened, but despite identifying as a Zionist my entire life and even having worked for the Israeli government as an emissary, it has been a decade since I've been to Israel! While I have used beginning a career and a family as an excuse, I recently read an essay that made me reevaluate my relationship with Israel. Dr. Joshua Holo, Dean of Hebrew Union College in LA, suggests in "Peering into the Nationalist Mirror" that American Jews are increasingly conflicted

between their Zionism and liberalism and are increasingly choosing to identify with the later. If you were to ask me if my Zionist identity has dwindled, my knee jerk reaction would be "absolutely not," but my actions show my favoritism. My engagement with Israel has decreased while my involvement in social justice causes here in the US has increased. *I wonder how many of you have experienced something similar?*

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As a rabbinic leader committed to *ahavat Tzion* — love of Israel — as a core Reform Jewish value, I have to be honest with myself and think deeply about why I have not prioritized Israel more in my life. In addition to *ahavat Tzion*, our Reform Movement embraces informed choice. If you are like me and may have lost some connection with Israel



and Zionism, I want to invite you to engage with Israel along with me this month.

I'm proud to travel to Israel and represent Temple Beth Or and all of Washington State on an intimate delegation through the

Jewish National Fund with Consul General of Israel Shlomi Koffman who serves Northern California and the

Pacific Northwest. I'll post regularly while traveling and share articles and resources to help us better understand the beauty and complexities of Israel at age 70. Friend me on Facebook if you would like to "join" me on this journey to Israel.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Rachel Kort

.....
Rabbi Kort invites you to *call upon her* for help or support, or just to talk.

Office Hours: Please contact Rabbi Kort directly to make an appointment. She is typically available to meet in Everett on Wednesdays and the Fridays when she is leading Shabbat Service.

Phone: 425-954-1223

Email: rabbikort@TempleBethOr.org

Rabbi Kort's sermons and writings can be found on the TBO website.

Welcome to TBO's Newest Members!

Koby and Aileen Wexler
Julie Mackoff and John Bennett
Ken and Kellye Moses, Mitch, age 10
Tovah Miller, Zachary, age 5, and Alexandra, age 3
Eric and Shelley Elsemore, Erica, age 12, Andie, age 10
Kelsey Bresnick
Rabbi Kort and family

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TBO members with children aged 25-32 who are interested in becoming members, please contact Rabbi Kort or a Membership Committee member.

Life & Legacy — Temple Beth Or's Future

How do you express your commitment to your Jewish community? What can you do for future generations to ensure that Temple Beth Or is here for them? The Life & Legacy program encourages Temple Beth Or Members to designate a gift to Temple Beth Or in their estate planning to fund an endowment that will insure the future financial stability of Temple Beth Or. The program is sponsored by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle.

We are currently in the third year of a four year program. In the first two years, TBO has benefited in the amount of \$17,500 by having 41 members sign letters of intent to designate a gift to TBO in their wills. This year we will be asking more members to sign letters of intent and confirming that members have actually made the changes to their wills or otherwise designated a gift to TBO from other investment vehicles.

The Life & Legacy Committee will be hosting an adult education session on the “ins and outs” of estate planning on Sunday, January 6, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. at the Temple. Elizabeth Monroe Asher, Attorney at Law in Seattle, and Temple Beth Or member, Sandy Voit, will share their years of experience and expertise in helping people plan for their own families' futures. Both have received rave reviews from their clients.

Please contact any of the following committee members for more information about the Life & Legacy program: Barbara Black, Harold Dash, Bob Goodmark, Amy Paquette, Sonia Siegel Vexler, or Eldon Wexler.

Jewish tradition teaches us to make the world a better place for future generations. Make sure the legacy you want to leave to your children and your community is included in your will.

Our Rabbi

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Religious School News

Temple Beth Or Religious School is in full-swing, with over 40 students attending on a weekly basis filling every nook and cranny of the building and portables. Students participate in two hours of Jewish studies and 90 minutes of Hebrew as they prepare for their bar and bat mitzvot. However, connection with the school does not end when they leave the *bimah*. For the third year in a row, we have welcomed post-bar and bat mitzvah grads as *madrichim* (teachers) within the school. Their responsibilities include assisting teachers, working with students on Hebrew, and the ensuring that the ever-critical snack is delivered to classrooms. As new *madrichim* Lily Center said, "I like to work with my friends to help with projects around Temple." Maddie Center concurred, "I like being active in synagogue life after my bat mitzvah."

Anyone is welcome to come by and see what is happening. For more information on our schedule and special events, please contact Terri in the TBO office. Also, in 2019 look for adult ed offerings during school hours!

BOTY is BACK!

These three words were met with a round of applause at the NFTY-NW (National Federation of Temple Youth—Northwest) Leadership Retreat in September. BOTY (Beth Or Temple Youth) is the Temple Youth Group for our synagogue. BOTY started over 20 years ago and many of its former members served in both local and regional leadership roles. However, a lack of high school age participants forced BOTY into hiatus. There is good news, though! With our students getting older, and new families joining Beth Or, BOTY was revived in the fall.

We have had two events already. We took a trip to a very cold, dark, and sort of spooky corn maze in October. Then we held our largest event, with over 15 participants working together to "flee the facility" at Escape Scene (an escape room game) in Everett. Coming up in 2019, we will continue to offer events for students in grades 8 and up.

Not to be outdone, Jr. BOTY is also starting. Geared towards students in grades 6-8, events include Neon Night at Altitude Trampoline Park in December. More events will continue for this cohort in 2019 as well.

For more information on Youth Group events, please contact Amy Paquette.

Service Schedule

Friday, January 4

Family Shabbat

Service

7:00pm

Led by

Rabbi Kort

Music Leader

Noah Zeichner

Friday, January 11

Evening Shabbat

Service

7:30 pm

Led by

Ron Green

Music Leader

Josh Niehaus

Saturday, January 19

Morning Shabbat

Service

10:00 am

Led by

Heidi Piel

Music Leader

Judy Magidson

Friday, January 25

Tu B'Shevat Seder and

Evening Shabbat

Service

7:00 pm

Note time change

Led by

Rabbi Kort

Music Leader

Neil Weinstein



Worship

Tu B'Shevat Seder

The Social Action Committee is once again hosting the Temple Beth Or Tu B'Shevat Seder Friday, January 25, 7:00 p.m. at the synagogue. Through the generations Tu B'Shevat, the New Year of Trees, has evolved from marking the start of a new fiscal year for tithe on fruit trees, to being a Zionist holiday emphasizing tree planting in Israel, to its most recent incarnation as a Jewish Earth Day promoting environmentalism.

At this year's Seder a "Tu 'Bee' Shevat-Shabbat Experience," we will highlight the important role bees play in keeping our planet healthy and how the recent bee blight threatens the viability of the ecosystem. The seder will also include some elements of a typical Friday night Shabbat service such as candle lighting and a Mourner's Kaddish.

Save the date!

New Member Welcome and Rabbi Installation

Congregants are all invited to the New Member Welcome Shabbat and Rabbi Kort's Installation on February 22, 2019.

FYI: IF THERE IS A DEATH IN THE FAMILY...

Please call the Temple, 425-259-7125 x2, to be directed to one of the Bereavement Coordinators or call one of the coordinators on this list. If you don't reach someone, continue down the list of contact people until you speak with one of us.

In the event of a death, we will provide all possible guidance and assistance to members of Temple Beth Or.

Bereavement Coordinators are:

Susan Cross
Carolyn Wexler
Melanie Field
Vicky Romero
Amy Paquette
Melanie Bober

Our Rabbi

*K'hilah/
Mishpachah*

Torah

Avodah

*Tzedakah/
Tikkun Olam*

Our Rabbi
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 Tikkun
 Olam

Social Action News

Tzedakah Box Recipient: The Tzedakah Box recipient for January – March 2019 is the Interfaith Association of Northwest Washington. Temple Beth Or has been a long-time supporter and partner with the Association which envisions a world in which faith groups and other community members are united in action to ensure that families experiencing homelessness have access to the economic, social, and holistic support needed to overcome poverty and thrive. The Association operates a family shelter to help stabilize families experiencing homelessness with safe and secure housing. Since 2011, 179 families, including 329 children, have found support at Interfaith's Family Shelter.

Interfaith Association of Northwest Washington Family Shelter: In addition to financial support, volunteers are needed to help cook dinners at the Interfaith Family Shelter, located in Everett, on Saturday and Sunday evenings. The Social Action Committee's goal is to sign up enough TBO volunteers to be able to commit to provide this service to the shelter 6-8 times in 2019. The family shelter typically has about 20 people living there at any one time. Most days the families prepare their own meals but the Association would like to provide them a break by recruiting volunteers to do dinner preparation on weekends. The food is provided by the Association. Volunteers coordinate with the Association to find out what food is available for their dinner to help them decide what the menu would be. An Association staff member will be on site to provide support with the meal preparation. Ideally, at least 2-3 volunteers would work on each meal. Volunteers not only prepare the meal but then enjoy the fruit of their efforts by sitting down with the shelter residents to eat the dinner, making this an excellent opportunity for families to volunteer as a unit. If you're interested in performing this mitzvah, contact Social Action Committee members Nancy Wilkinson at nancy.f.wilkinson@gmail.com or Naomi Katsch Barger at nkbarger@gmail.com.

A Green Temple Beth Or: It's a group effort to make Temple Beth Or a green synagogue. Oneg hosts are reminded to compost leftover food waste and to use glass *Kiddush* cups. Members are encouraged to drop off their dead batteries and CFL light bulbs for recycling in the appropriate boxes located on the stairway landing at the synagogue.

*Temple Leadership

Rabbi

Rachel Kort

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VP of Finance*

VP of Membership*

VP of Programming

Heidi Piel

Assist. VP of Finance

Bob Goodmark

Assist. VP of Membership*

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Social Action

Naomi Katsh

Religious School Principal

Amy Paquette

Administrative Assistant

Terri Schweigert

***Please note: As of the publication of this ORacle issue, new members of the 2019 Governing Board have not yet been elected.**

January 2019

Tevet—Sh'vat 5779

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1	2	3	4 Family Shabbat Service 7:00pm	5
6 No Religious School — Teacher Meeting Life and Legacy Program 2:00- 3:30pm	7	8	9 <i>Atidaynu</i> 5:30pm (by invitation only)	10	11 Evening Shabbat Service 7:30pm	12
13 Religious School & Tots TBO Book Club 10:00 offsite	14	15	16	17	18	19 Morning Shabbat Service 10:00am
20 Religious School (No Tots)	21 Tu Bi Sh'vat	22	23	24	25 Tu B'Shevat Seder and Evening Shabbat Service 7:00pm (Note time change)	26
27 Religious School & Tots	28 PTSA Meeting 6:00pm	29	30	31		



Temple Beth Or
3215 Lombard Ave
Everett, WA 98201
425-259-7125

Return Service Requested

Temple Beth Or Mission Statement

Temple Beth Or is a warm, compassionate, vibrant, spirited, inclusive, and participatory Reform Jewish community.

We are religiously and geographically diverse,
serving the northern Puget Sound region of Washington State.

As God's covenantal partners in fulfilling mitzvot, our priorities are:

- ***K'hilah*** (community)/***Mishpachah*** (family) — nurturing our interactive, multigenerational extended family;
- ***Torah*** — lifelong learning, searching for meaning, and seeking comfort and healing;
 - ***Avodah*** — worship and celebration through the observance of meaningful, creative, and traditional rituals;
- ***Tikkun Olam*** — transforming ourselves and our world through *tzedakah* (fairness), social justice, and *g'milut chasadim* (acts of loving kindness).