

February 2021 / Sh'vat — Adar 5781

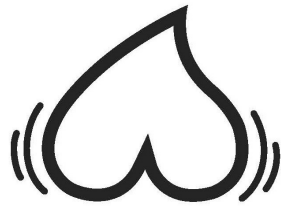
Volume 32, Issue 2

## Chag Sameach! Happy Purim!

We will celebrate Purim three different times and ways this month! When and how, you ask?

Look inside this *ORacle* and see!

(Hint: try pages 4 and 8)



**MOVE YOUR  
TUCHUS-A-THON**  
Temple Beth Or

### ....Or Just Move-A-Thon!

Time to get moving! We've been isolated for so long — unable to be together (or possibly too much togetherness), in the dark, in the wet, and with an unclear end in sight! Time to shake off the cobwebs, get the blood moving, yada, yada, yada. In other words, time for the **Move Your Tuchus-A-Thon!**

The Move Your Tuchus-A-Thon will be held **March 13-27, 2021**. Everyone is encouraged to participate! The primary goal is to get moving and stay healthy during this winter of social distancing and limited activity while also benefitting Temple Beth Or.

The registration form and more information are on the website or can be mailed to you on request. Don't delay! Early bird registration is \$18/individual or \$36/immediate family through **March 5**. After March 5, full price registration is available. Be creative! Get sponsors! Encourage friends, neighbors, extended family to participate! Registrants receive a TBO mask! How can you resist?

You will receive simple instructions on tracking and reporting your progress.

Activities include anything that gets you moving — walking, jogging, hiking, chair exercises. Make it fun and ideally you will continue with your activity when the Move-A-Thon is concluded.



**House of Light**

**3215 Lombard Ave, Everett, WA 98201**

**425.259.7125**

**Founded 1985**

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## Move-A-Thon; It's a Mitzvah

The author Vicki Weber imagines a famous Midrash (*Vayikra Rabbah* 34:3) about the first century sage, Rabbi Hillel.\* His students would not simply learn from him in the classroom, but would also follow him around town, to glean all his wisdom. One day as his students walked with him down the street, he whisked a cloth off his shoulder and snapped it in the air. Brandishing the large linen cloth, Hillel announced he would use it to do a mitzvah and invited the students to guess what mitzvah he would perform.

The students suggested possible mitzvot to their teacher: giving the cloth as *tzedakah*, using it as a Shabbat tablecloth, or shading their parents with it. To demonstrate his lesson, Hillel showed the students workers cleaning the Roman king's statue. The king's image should be respected, but his students must understand something more important: that they "are made in God's image" (Genesis 9:6). He says, "When we keep ourselves clean, we honor God. And that is why taking a bath is an important mitzvah." Taking care of our bodies, working to keep our bodies healthy is a way for us to recognize that we "are made in God's image."

In another famous teaching from the time of Rabbi Hillel, Rabbi Shimon HaTzaddik declares that "the world stands on three things: Torah (study), *avodah* (worship) and *g'milut chasadim* (acts of loving kindness) (*Pirkei Avot* 1:2). In the time of our Temple in Jerusalem, worship meant sacrifice of animals and grain. After the destruction of our Temple in the Rabbinic period, physical *avodah* was replaced by our prayers and worship service. Inspired by the Midrash of Hillel and the bathhouse, I like to think of selfcare as a form of *avodah*, service to God. *Avodah* as exercise also resonates with me because *avodah* literally means 'work' in Hebrew.

For some of us, exercise is easy to prioritize. For others, like myself, I have to put effort into my healthy habits. Some of you know that I have a neuromuscular disease called Charcot Marie Tooth Disease (CMT) that causes muscle atrophy in my feet, legs, and hands. Up until two years ago, CMT felt more like a nuisance than a disability. When I lived in California, I regularly enjoyed a perfect walking loop near my house with spectacular views and stairs to get my heartrate up and I was pretty fit. But years of pounding the pavement with feet and legs weak with muscle atrophy caused

debilitating arthritis in my ankles.

After a year of living in denial and another year getting set up with the right leg braces and a lot of PT, I'm finally able to walk and I have an exercise bike and most days my ankle pain isn't too bad. These past High Holy Days, my *t'shuvah* was to lean into the mitzvah of self-care. I've been able to hold myself accountable. Five to six days a week, I do my prescribed PT and 30 minutes of cardio and mark my achievement with one of our 'blessings for daily miracles' in our prayer book, *Mishkan T'filah*: Praised are You, *Adonai* our God, Sovereign of the Universe, who made me in the image of God.

I want to personally invite you to participate with me and our congregation in our upcoming Move-A-Thon (March 13-27). Not only is it a way to get moving and fundraise for the Temple, according to our sage, Rabbi Hillel, self-care is a mitzvah.

\* Vicki L. Weber, *Hillel Takes a Bath*. Apples and Honey Press, 2019.

**Rabbi Rachel Kort**



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

Please contact Rabbi Kort directly to make an appointment. She's working remotely and is happy to set up a virtual meeting over Zoom or by phone.

Phone: 425.954.1223; Email: [RabbiKort@TempleBethOr.org](mailto:RabbiKort@TempleBethOr.org)

Rabbi Kort's sermons and writings can be found on the TBO website under "About Us/Rabbi."



## Goals for the Year Ahead

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Often, one starts off the year or a new project with an assessment of what you want to accomplish. The goals below arise directly from the TBO values of inclusiveness and respect and are aligned with our Mission Statement, shown on the back page of this publication. I envision two parallel tracks of goals for TBO in the year ahead; one track I am calling programmatic goals and the other thematic goals.

### *Programmatic Goals:*

Our number one priority for the year is for us to have our hybrid system up and running by the time folks are vaccinated and it is safe to return to in-person activities. A hybrid system involves having activities, such as services, available **both** in person and virtually. During this time of only virtual offerings, we have seen the many advantages of having online access to our programs. We want to be sure that those who prefer the online mode can still participate in that manner once others are back in the building and attending in person. **Glen Pickus** is coordinating this effort with technological expertise provided by **Koby Wexler** and input from all our fantastic committees and task

forces.

Our other major programmatic priority is to plan the implementation of the recommendations developed by the Strategic Planning Task Force. Sections one and two of their report, dealing with Community Building and Programming and Activities, identify opportunities for improvements. The report provides a wonderful "to do" list. Hopefully, many of you were with us at the meeting on January 17 and heard about our plans to accomplish this. Some of the items are already underway! **Tim Douglass** will be leading the implementation planning. If you would like to join this effort, feel free to reach out to Tim.

### *Thematic Goals:*

The thematic goals are harder to quantify; they are less concrete, but no less important. I would like to find ways to further increase kindness and empathy in our community – both internally and externally. We can improve our volunteer recognition efforts, treat others with respect and dignity while challenging them to perform at their highest level, use active listening skills, robustly welcome newcomers, etc. At the same time, I hope we can

increase the sense of connectedness in the congregation, with more awareness of all the wonderful ongoing efforts of our amazing volunteers. To facilitate this process, we will be featuring different committees each month in the *ORacle*, at governing board meetings, and on other platforms.

In conjunction with these objectives, I would also like to see our members feel empowered to take on projects that they feel passionate about, to take ownership of their community, to embrace stepping into leadership positions, and to join one or more of our outstanding committees or task forces. If you are interested in joining a committee or starting a new program, let's talk, text, or email! I would be delighted to help you get started.

As we move through the year I am hoping that we will make progress in all these areas. Feel free to share any ideas or thoughts about these topics or any others with me. I welcome your input and look forward to your participation.

Shalom,  
*Melanie*

*A community is too heavy to carry alone. Deuteronomy Rabbah 1:10*

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## Purim Activities

### Baking Hamantaschen, Building Community

Calling interested bakers and “want to be” hamantaschen bakers! All ages are invited to share a Zoom hamantaschen baking party. Leslie Elsemore (baker extraordinaire) will supply the recipe, you supply the ingredients and we'll all have delicious hamantaschen to eat and/or share while enjoying some schmooze time with TBO friends!

Leslie will lead a few hamantaschen sessions before February 25 in time for Purim. **Email Leslie if you are interested in participating by Sunday, February 7** and she will work to schedule baking dates.



### Purim's Greatest Hits: Adult Purim Party

Thursday, February 25, 7:30 pm

Calling all grown-ups, 21+. You are invited to an online Purim party featuring the greatest hits of Beth Or Purimspiels past! Bring your own libation. If you wish, you can create your own Purim themed cocktail and share the recipe in our Zoom chat.

## LIFE & LEGACY

***“I found a fruitful world because my ancestors planted it for me. Likewise, I am planting for future generations.”*** – Talmud, Taanit 23a

The story of Honi the Circle Maker asking an elderly man why he was planting a carob tree when the old man would not live to see it bear fruit is one that we have heard many times. The man responded that he was planting the tree so that his children and grandchildren would be able to eat the tree's fruit. We are entering the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the LIFE & LEGACY program for TBO. Thank you to the many TBO members who have “planted the tree” by making a commitment to the program in support of TBO's future. We are proud that so many in our congregation are following in the footsteps of Honi. **Paul Vexler and Sonia Siegel Vexler** share a testimonial



regarding their decision to participate in the LIFE & LEGACY program:

**“Being part of LIFE & LEGACY is an excellent way to ensure that our Jewish community remains strong and healthy after we ourselves are just a memory to those we have encountered.”**

***Paul Vexler and Sonia Siegel Vexler***

If you would like to learn more about LIFE & LEGACY or would like to add your name to those participating in the program, please contact **Harold Dash**, chair of the Legacy Committee, **Bob Goodmark**, **Sonia Siegel Vexler**, or **Eldon Wexler**. You are welcome to also leave a message with Sarah at the Temple office.



## Member Spotlight: Debbie Halliday



Shalom! My name is **Debbie Halliday**. I joined TBO in the early 1990's. My two kids, Sam and Ellie, went through the TBO Religious School. I work as a special education preschool teacher. I feel fortunate to have a job that I look forward to! I enjoy reading, canning, my cats, and collecting and working on dollhouses.

I feel very fortunate to have found TBO. It is close to my house and the congregation is wonderful! I have made many life long friendships with TBO members.

Two wonderful memories out of many that I enjoy at TBO are dinner in the Sukkah and Camp Kalsman

Weekend.

My favorite holiday is Passover! I enjoy all of the special foods that are prepared and listening to the story every year.

Currently I am on the Membership and Nominating Committees, and I stock supplies.

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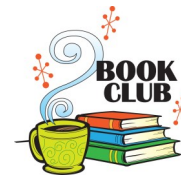
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## TBO Book Club

The book for the February book club meeting is *A Tale Of Love and Darkness* by Amos Oz. The facilitator will be Julie Maltos.



The Zoom meeting will be on February 21, 2021, 10:00 am-noon.

All are welcome! Please RSVP to Julie Maltos or Ellie Hochman if you plan to attend. We will send you a link.



## Mitzvah Corps — The “Heart” of Our Congregation

Mitzvah Corps continues to offer support to many members through phone calls and notes in the USPS mail. We have supplied numerous meals to members with health related issues and have accommodated their dietary restrictions. Please let **Carolyn Wexler** know if you know of a member with a Mitzvah Corps need or if you would like to be part of this amazing team of caring congregants.

The obligation is small and flexible while the rewards are great.

## Youth Page

### We Have a New Youth Group Leader!

As the VP of Jewish Life, I'm thrilled to announce that we have a new Youth Group Leader, **Eian Snyder!** Eian comes highly recommended from Camp Kalsman, where he worked as the high school unit head from 2017 until coronavirus shut it down last summer. Currently, Eian is working on his BA in education while teaching 7<sup>th</sup> grade religious school at Temple De Hirsch Sinai. Eian will be organizing monthly events for our Jr. BOTY and helping to coordinate with Seattle-area Jewish organizations for BOTY events. He has nine months experience in creating online social events and we're looking forward to his creativity and *ruach* inspiring our young adults.

*Jennifer Cail*



### Jewish Summer Camp

We are hopeful that Camp Kalsman will be open this coming summer to provide your child(ren) with a rich Jewish experience in a safe environment. Jewish overnight summer camp is a place where being Jewish is easy and fun. It is a place that provides opportunities to grow and gain independence, make lifelong friendships, and explore interests. Jewish camp weaves Jewish values, culture, and traditions into the fabric of camp, helping campers to connect to their own identity and the larger Jewish community.

We are fortunate that **Billy and Mary Sturman's** children believe in the value of a Jewish overnight summer camp experience as well as recognize that the costs of Jewish camping can be significant. Thanks to their generosity as well as that of the **Waldbaum Family Foundation** we have camperships available for those who need help in sending their children to camp this coming summer. To apply for a campership, parents/guardians of children wishing to attend camp should fill out the application which every religious school family should have received via email. If you have not received an application, please contact the office. Applications are due by **February 28**. If you have questions, please contact **Sonia Siegel Vexler**.

## Spotlight On A Committee

Each month, the *ORacle* will highlight one or more TBO committees and task forces. If one or more of these speak to you as an avenue of Temple involvement, please contact the chair.



### The Social Action Committee

The overarching goal of the Social Action Committee is to enhance and maintain Temple Beth Or as a *socially aware congregation*, bringing information related to *tikkun olam*, or transforming ourselves and our world, to our members. We

welcome participation of all our Temple members and encourage you to give us your ideas and time. The following are some of the methods used to achieve the goal of the Social Action Committee.

- **Education** – To raise the awareness of the congregation and greater community, where applicable, regarding social justice issues through timely information, speakers, and discussion.
- **Action** – To encourage and facilitate congregants of all ages to participate as a group and/or individually in social justice activities, for example, environmental stewardship. Pre-COVID -19 we encouraged congregants to bring batteries and light bulbs to the Temple and the committee took care of recycling. We also facilitated recycling and composting and using reusable kitchenware when possible. Those measures are currently on hold because of restrictions based on the public health response to the Coronavirus pandemic but will be restarted when it is safe to do so.
- **Inter-group Cooperation** – To partner, where appropriate, with other faith-based and community organizations in the pursuit of social justice.
- **Tzedakah** – To offer the congregation avenues of monetary giving to organizations engaged in social justice. The Committee sets the *Tzedakah* Box recipients each quarter and works together with the Rabbi to distribute money raised through the Community Giving Fund (previously called the Tzedakah Fund). See page 9 for this quarter's recipient.
- **Advocacy** – To offer avenues of, and encourage congregational participation in active public espousal of social justice issues.

*"Justice, Justice, you shall pursue."* – Deuteronomy 16:20

For more information on our Social Action Committee, contact us at [social.action@templebethor.org](mailto:social.action@templebethor.org) or **Naomi Katsh Barger** directly.

For more information on Social Justice in Reform Judaism go to the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism at [rac.org](http://rac.org).

*Naomi Katsh Barger*

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## Virtual Shabbat and Worship Service Offerings in February

*Please find Zoom invitation links in ORbits.*

**Important note for those who use Dial In:** In order to save resources, starting in March dial in information will no longer be mailed individually to members without internet. The information will be included in the *ORacle* on the *Avodah* page, beginning this month.

### **Tu BiShvat Celebration and K'hilah - Community Shabbat Service** **Friday, February 5, 5:45 pm**

Join us for a musical, multi-generational Shabbat with **Rabbi Kort and Noah Zeichner**, that honors the themes of Tu BiShvat: nature, renewal, trees, and *tzedakah*. Our evening together will include candle lighting, singing, and a story. There will be an opportunity to remember loved ones with our *Kaddish*—mourner's prayer. This service is great for all ages and will last about 45 minutes.

**Dial by your location:** +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

**Meeting ID:** 830 0216 7136 **Passcode:** 773592

### **Shabbat Service**

**Friday, February 12, 7:30 pm**

Join **Rabbi Kort and Shoshana Stombough** for a more formal Shabbat worship experience using our prayer book, *Mishkan T'filah*. This Shabbat service will include a *drash* (sermon), and an opportunity to remember loved ones with our *Kaddish*—mourner's prayer. This service is geared towards our adult and b'nei mitzvah student community and will last just over an hour.

**Dial by your location:** +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

**Meeting ID:** 842 1222 4255 **Passcode:** 354540

### **A Purim Themed Tot Shabbat**

**Saturday, February 20, 9:30 am**

Join **Rabbi Kort and Shoshana Stombaugh** for an interactive Purim and Shabbat experience geared towards 2-7 year old children. All are welcome! Please feel free to share with your friends and family around the country or even the world! Also feel free to wear a mask or costume for Purim. You are *always* welcome to bring an instrument and a 'stuffie' to tot services.

**Dial by your location:** +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

**Meeting ID:** 833 7237 8506 **Passcode:** 197738

### **Shabbat Service**

**Saturday, February 20, 10:00 am**

Join **Rabbi Kort and Noah Zeichner**, for a more formal Shabbat worship experience using our prayer book, *Mishkan T'filah*. This Shabbat service will include a Torah reading, Torah teaching, and an opportunity to remember loved ones with our *Kaddish*—mourner's prayer. This service is geared towards our adult and b'nei mitzvah student community and will last just over an hour.

**Dial by your location:** +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

**Meeting ID:** 814 5427 6533 **Passcode:** 599431

### **Shabbat Candle Lighting**

**Friday, February 26, 5:45 pm**

Join **Ron Green** and our Temple Beth Or Family as we welcome Shabbat with singing, a healing prayer, candle lighting, and *Kiddush*. This service is great for all ages and will last less than 30 minutes.

**Dial by your location:** +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

**Meeting ID:** 894 8611 6493 **Passcode:** 253907





## Social Action

The January - March 2021 *Tzedakah* Box recipient is the **Volunteers of America of Western Washington Food Bank**. In this time of great economic and health instability for so many people in our community, the incidence of food insecurity and hunger have risen dramatically. Therefore, we are asking congregants, if possible, to donate to our local

food bank or to a charity of your choice keeping in mind the pressing needs of the day. We realize that it might not be possible to give financially at this difficult time. Other volunteer opportunities are limited currently but more information can be found on the website, [voaww.org](http://voaww.org).

Donations can be made on that same website or checks can be mailed to: Volunteers of America Western Washington, 2802 Broadway, Everett, WA 98201.



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## ***Tzedakah* Funds Policy Update**

As part of our on-going effort to update and clarify current TBO policies, the *Tzedakah* Box Fund and Temple Beth Or Community Giving Fund (previously *Tzedakah* Fund) have been clarified and approved by the Governing Board. Many thanks to **Naomi Katsh Barger** and committee for this clearer and stronger policy.

### ***Tzedakah* Box Fund and Temple Beth Or Community Giving Fund Policy**

1. The *Tzedakah* Box Fund will include cash and checks placed into the physical *Tzedakah* Box at the synagogue as well as money donated electronically or mailed to the Temple and designated for the *Tzedakah* Box Fund. The *Tzedakah* Box Fund should be included as a choice in the quarterly statement for the sacred commitment obligation. The Social Action Committee (SAC), with input from other congregants when possible, will determine the charitable organization which will be the recipient of this fund on a quarterly basis. This Fund is intended for 501(c)(3) organizations. The SAC will inform the congregation through service bulletins, communications (*ORbits* and *ORacle*) and the Finance Committee which charitable organization is the recipient each quarter. Educational materials regarding the designated organization will be included in these communications.

2. The Temple Beth Or Community Giving Fund (previously called the *Tzedakah* Fund) will include money donated electronically or mailed to the Temple and designated for this fund. The Rabbi and whoever else they designate will determine which charitable organization(s) will be the recipient(s) of the fund for the first one-half of the fiscal year. The SAC, with the concurrence of the Rabbi, will designate recipients for the second half of the fiscal year.

## Leadership Nus

At the January 2021 Governing Board (GB) meeting the following business occurred and information was shared. The Governing Board:

1. Enjoyed a presentation about the Social Action Committee, given by Committee Chair **Naomi Katsh Barger**.
2. Passed a newly updated *Tzedakah* Fund and Temple Beth Or Community Giving Fund Policy, clarifying the management of donations intended for the *Tzedakah* Box and for general community giving.
3. Passed an updated Emergency Savings Policy, stipulating that emergency funds should be maintained for use in an emergency, as approved by the Governing Board.
4. Passed a motion to authorize the Finance Committee to invest certain funds, in accordance with the plan presented.
5. Approved the updated banking authorization information, reflecting new Board officers.
6. Learned about the newly hired Youth Group Leader from **Jennifer Cail**, the Vice President of Jewish Life.
7. Was introduced to a survey from the DEI Committee by **Melissa VanAschen Cook** that is headed to Board members to complete.
8. Discussed updates and reminders about the January 17 Strategic Planning Information Meeting, the Hybrid Task Force, and the Committee/Task Force Chair Orientation.

## TBO Directories

Do you have a current TBO directory? If it has been a while since you requested an updated one, please email Sarah and ask for her to send you one.

## Going Paperless in 2021?

Statements are now available via email!

If you would prefer to receive your sacred commitment statements via email instead of USPS, please contact Sarah at [office@templebethor.org](mailto:office@templebethor.org).



## Gentle Reminder:

The Temple building is closed to everyone except Sarah at this point. Please do not enter the building for any reason, even to just drop something off, without coordinating with her first. The building is her safe work space where she can work without wearing a mask or gloves unless she has a pre-arranged drop-off. This also applies to times she is not in the building. Thanks, all, for your cooperation to make everyone safe and comfortable.

### Temple Leadership Rabbi

Rachel Kort

### Governing Board

President  
Melanie Field

VP of Finance & Facilities Management  
Bob Goodmark

VP of Community & Engagement  
Tim Douglass

VP of Jewish Life  
Jennifer Cail

Board Secretary  
Tina Roth

Assist. VP of Finance & Facilities Management  
James Feinberg

Assist. VP of Community & Engagement  
Wanda Bresnick

Assist. VP of Jewish Life  
Melissa VonAschen-Cook

Members-At-Large  
Deb Henry  
Eric Elsmore  
Mila Lowery

Immediate Past President  
Vicky Romero

### Committees & Task Forces

Adult Education: Vacant

Bereavement: Susan Cross

Book Club: Ellie Hochman

Building: Jeff St. George

Calendar: Janis Warner

Campership: Sonia Siegel Vexler

College and Military Outreach: Sarah Davis

Communications: JonaRose Feinberg

COVID-19: Ron Green

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI):

Sonia Siegel Vexler

Facebook: Deb Henry

Financial Administrator: Norm Black

First Chapter: Michelle Douglass

Fundraising: Michele Goodmark

High Holy Days: Vacant

Hybridization: Glen Pickus

Legacy: Harold Dash

Library: Vacant

Membership: Leslie Elsmore

Mitzvah Corps: Carolyn Wexler

Next Chapter: Sonia Siegel Vexler

Nominations: Sonia Siegel Vexler

ORacle: Vicky Romero

ORbits: Lori Wolff

Security: Miriam VonAschen-Cook

Small Groups: Rebecca Hicks

Social Action: Naomi Katsh

Spirituality & Ritual: Vicki Schwartz

Strategic Planning: Paul Vexler

Website: JonaRose Feinberg

Youth Education: Mila Lowery and Tina Roth

Youth Group: Eian Snyder

### Staff

Office Administrator: Sarah Davis



# February 2021

## Sh'vat — Adar 5780

All Activities are virtual at this time. Links are in *ORbits*.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Finance Committee Mtg, 6:30pm	2	3	4	5 Tu BiShvat and <i>K'hilah</i> Shabbat Service 5:45pm	6
7 Exec. Bd. 9:00am Adult Hebrew Class 12:00pm Deadline for Hamentaschen Baking Class Choices	8	9	10 DEI Task Force 4:00pm	11	12 <i>ORacle</i> Submission Deadline  Shabbat Service 7:30pm	13
14 RS Mid-Winter Break Gov. Bd. Meeting 9:00am	15 RS Mid-Winter Break	16 RS Mid-Winter Break	17 RS Mid-Winter Break	18 RS Mid-Winter Break	19 RS Mid-Winter Break	20 RS Mid-Winter Break  Purim-themed Tot Shabbat 9:30am  Morning Shabbat Service 10:00am
21 Book Club 10:00am Adult Hebrew Class 12:00pm	22	23	24 DEI Task Force 4:00pm	25 <i>Erev Purim</i> Adult Purim Party 7:30pm	26 <i>Purim</i> Shabbat Candle- lighting 5:45pm	27
28 <i>Campership</i> <i>applications due</i> Committee/Task Force Orientation 10:00am	Move Your Tuchus-A-Thon March 13-27					

The Temple building remains completely closed with the exception of our Office Administrator, Sarah, and one weekly cleaning. We will keep you posted regarding reopening.

Check *ORbits*, TBO Facebook page, or the TBO website for the most up-to-date information.



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).