

March 2021 / Adar — Nisan 5781

Volume 32, Issue 3





Our Rabbi

President's Message

K'hílah/ Míshpachah

Torah

Avodah

Tzedakah/ Tikkun Olam

Leadership

This month Rabbi Kort has enclosed her annual Passover Supplement for our community instead of writing an *ORacle* article.

The Insider's View

One of the super fun aspects of being your president is that I get a front row seat (that's a painful metaphor!) to all the fantastic efforts of our dedicated volunteers. You folks totally rock! Lots of you are doing great work on behalf of our community. There is so much good stuff going on it is hard to keep up. I am going to use this space to highlight just a couple of wonderful efforts that I'd like to bring to your attention.



Reaching Out

Many are struggling in these uncertain times. Our Mitzvah Corps, led by **Carolyn Wexler**, and our Membership Committee, led by **Leslie Elsemore**, are reaching out to our members to check in. They are most focused on members who may be in need, are struggling, or are isolated, but are trying to get to everyone. If you need assistance in these difficult days please contact one of them. If you can help others who are in need please let Carolyn know you'd like to join the team.

Move Your Tuchus-a-Thon!

Registration for our spring fundraiser, launched by **Michele Goodmark**, is underway. Time to get moving, shake off those winter blues (and maybe pounds), and help raise money for TBO. All are welcome to participate — members, friends, neighbors, athletes, couch potatoes, younger, older, all abilities alike. More information about this program is available through *ORbits*, the website and Facebook. Contact the office with questions.

TBO 10-Week Equity Challenge

Watch for information about this exciting new program sponsored by our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Taskforce, chaired by **Sonia Siegel Vexler**, and our Social Action Committee, cochaired by **Naomi Katsh Barger** and **Melissa VonAschen-Cook**. The TBO 10-Week Challenge will help you to learn about and better understand issues related to privilege, bias, and other topics. This challenge brings up difficult and thought-provoking topics using articles, videos, and conversations. See page 6 for more details.

This is just a taste of the great work underway in our community. I'm delighted to report that our volunteers are addressing the needs of our minds, bodies, and souls. So proud of all you do!

Shalom, Melanie

Communications Survey We Need Your Thoughts!

We are gathering information about our Temple Beth Or community and your experiences with our various communications tools and platforms.

Each individual adult and post b'nei mitzvah is invited to participate in the TBO survey. The survey should take approximately five minutes to complete. Visit templebethor.org/survey to access the online survey. If you don't have access to a computer or smartphone contact Sarah in the TBO office for a paper copy. **Deadline for completing the survey is March 15.** Questions? Contact Communications@Templebethor.org.



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

The group of participants is growing. Don't miss out! The program runs from March 13 through 27. Get moving (or continue your regular exercise routine) and report your data. You may win a prize and the allimportant bragging rights! Registration forms are on the website or call the office and Sarah will send you one. Early bird registration, \$18 per individual or \$36 for immediate households, ends March 5. Starting March 6 registration is \$26 per individual or \$45 per immediate household. Non-members are also welcome to participate.

Our Rabbí

President's Message

K'hílah/ Míshpachah

Torah

Avodah

Tzedakah/ Tíkkun Olam

Leadership

LIFE & LEGACY

I found a fruitful world because my ancestors planted it for me. Likewise, I am planting for future generations." — *Talmud, Taamit 23a*



We have been members of Temple Beth Or since 1992 and have had many wonderful Jewish life experiences. Our children, **Cecelia** and **Lester**, have had their b'nei mitzvah at TBO. Through the LIFE & LEGACY program we can contribute to the future of TBO to ensure families will still be able to experience the same things that we have.

Janis Warner and Norm Black

Note: **Cece** is now a member. See page 4 for her New Member Spotlight!

Some Words of Thanks to Our Community for Support During a Challenging Time

The **Paquette/Piel** family would like to express our overflowing gratitude for all the kind words, food, gift cards, flowers, well wishes, check-ins, and offers to give whatever we might need. Your generosity added so much ease to our lives during a time that has been a little challenging. We appreciate the true *mishpachah* who share our spiritual home. Thank you so much for being part of the most important moments in our lives and for bringing all the same love and support to this moment.

Heidí, Dan, Amy, and Adina

Our Rabbí

President's Message

K'hílah/ Míshpachah

Torah

Avodah

Tzedakah/ Tikkun Olam

Leadership

New Member Spotlight: Cecelia Black

Please welcome **Cece Black** to our TBO family. Cece is the daughter of **Janis Warner** and **Norm Black** and grew up at Temple Beth Or attending Religious School and became a bat mitzvah.

Cece's hobbies include playing wheelchair rugby, mountain biking, and traveling. She has spent time in a small village on the plateau of Tibet among other travels.



Currently, Cece serves on two TBO Task Forces: the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force and the New Facilities Task Force. Cece has a Master's Degree in Public Policy and hopes to work in local or state government.

Upcoming B'nei Mitzvah: Genevieve Morales

Genevieve, child of **Cari and Louis Morales** and grandchild of **Phyllis and Bernie Busch**, is a 7th grader at Whitman Middle School where their favorite subjects are science and world history. Genevieve's favorite extra-curricular activities involve art, particularly sketching. Their favorite Jewish activity is going to camp at Camp Solomon Schechter. They commented that studying for their b'nei mitzvah taught them, "That I can accomplish a long term project."

Genevieve would like to thank their grandpa, **Bernie Busch**, who provided tutoring and support the whole way.



Mitzvah Corps — The "Heart" of Our Congregation

Mitzvah Corps continues to offer support to many members through phone calls and notes in the mail. We have supplied numerous meals to members with health related issues, accommodating their dietary restrictions. Please let **Carolyn Wexler** know if you are aware 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 abundant.

When the Need is so Great

The Bereavement Committee is here to help when the death of a loved one occurs. We can assist in funeral arrangements, pre-planning, or when there is a death of a member of your family. We are also responsible for the Yahrzeit Board. The members of the committee are **Susan Cross** (chair), **Carolyn Wexler**, **Melanie Bober**, **Melanie Field**, **Amber Waldbaum**, and **Amy Paquette**. We would be happy to welcome new members to the committee. Please join us in helping care for members and families in their time of need.



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.

Our Rabbí

President's Message

K'hílah/ Míshpachah

Torah

Avodah

Tzedakah/ Tikkun Olam

Leadership

The Finance Committee



Did you ever wonder who is on the Finance Committee and what they do? Read on and learn all about them.

Article XI of the Temple Beth Or Bylaws delegates "management of finances to the Finance Committee, whose actions are subject to the approval of the Governing Board." Management of finances begins with developing a budget for the coming year, which has already begun for the 2021-22 fiscal year, coordinated by **James Feinberg**, Assistant Vice President (AVP) of Finance and Facilities Management. See below for other members of the

committee.

Bob Goodmark, Vice President of Finance and Facilities Management co-chairs the Finance Committee, inputs data necessary for the Union for Reform Judaism to determine the Temple's dues, inputs data for the Rabbi's pension, maintains members' sacred commitments, awards Religious School scholarships, and is the liaison with the rental property management company.

Norm Black is the Financial Administrator for the Temple. Norm's primary responsibilities are maintenance of our accounting software, Rakefet, preparation of monthly financial reports, reconciling the bank statements each month, and coordinating the annual audit.

Steve Wolff is the Secretary of the committee and keeps detailed minutes of each meeting. He also tracks late payments and prepares letters to members regarding their financial status and is the committee representative to the Campership Committee.

Susan Cross prepares quarterly and annual payroll and income tax reports. In addition, she performs monthly audits of all financial transactions to assure that the data in Rakefet is correct.

Koby Wexler coordinates the Temple's insurance policies and claims. He also tracks the Temple's investments and recommends changes in investment allocations within the guidelines approved by the Board.

Michele Goodmark's primary role on the committee is as chair of the Fundraising Committee. She also represents the committee on the Membership and High Holy Days Committees. Other members of the committee, **Steve Russakoff** and **Ken Moses**, tackle special projects.

Our Rabbí

President's Message

K'hílah/ Míshpachah

Torah

Avodah

Tzedakah/ Tíkkun Olam

Leadership

TBO 10-Week Equity Challenge

Temple Beth's Or Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Taskforce and the Social Action Committee (SAC) will be offering a **10-week Equity Challenge**. The Challenge is based on the work of Eddie Moore, Jr., a diversity expert, who developed the 21-Day Challenge to advance deeper understandings of the intersections of race, power, privilege, supremacy, and oppression.



Each week a challenge will be sent to those who register. Registrants will be provided with a selection of content material each Monday beginning **March 29**. There will be several options for participation, such as articles to read, TED Talks to listen to, assessments to take, and charts to review. You select the content with which you wish to interact. The intent is to keep learning to 15-30 minutes per week, although you are more than welcome to spend more time on the content. You can register using the following link tinyurl.com/tboequitychallenge, which will also be in *ORbits*, or by calling the office (425-259-7125). The content is appropriate for those who have become b'nei mitzvah.

We want to encourage everyone participating in the Challenge to gather each Sunday at 4:00 pm for a one-hour conversation to talk about the challenge of the week. The first Zoom meeting will be on **April 4**. We hope that by participating in these conversations you will have a richer experience. There will be small group and large group conversations and different facilitators throughout the challenge.

It is our goal to share resources that help you to:

- acquire a greater cultural literacy while increasing your compassion;
- have a deeper understanding of the historical context of current events;
- be inspired to become engaged in the fight against cultural inequality.

We will provide weekly prompts that will hopefully help raise your awareness, change your understanding, and shift the way you think and behave. As individuals and as a group we will take a closer look at the inequities that are deeply rooted in our systems and institutions.

Topics that will be covered are:

- Understanding Systemic Racism
- Effects of Racism
- Understanding Bias
- Understanding Privilege
- Cultural Competence
- Wealth and Income
- Housing and Redlining
- Segregation
- Ableism
- Immigrants and Refugees

There will also be suggestions for children's books on many of the above topics. We would love for you to join us for the whole 10 weeks but understand if you need to float in and out of the Challenge.

Our end goal is to educate the members of the Temple Beth Or community so that we can understand our own biases and the ways we benefit from privilege.

If you have questions, contact **Sonia Siegel Vexler**.

B'nei Mitzvah Workshop: Creating Your Spiritual Playlist

Sunday, March 7, 10:30 - 11:30 am *Note time change

Together we will look at music through a Jewish lens and explore what makes music spiritual and sacred. Students will create a personal spiritual playlist with their sacred songs and this framework will help students and families make meaningful musical selections with your song leader for b'nei mitzvah services. There is a link in *ORbits* for an optional resource on Jewish Music 101 to enhance your learning either before or after class.

Our Rabbi

President's Message

K'hílah/ Míshpachah

Torah

Avodah

Tzedakah/ Tíkkun Olam

Leadership

The Nosh



Have you ever wanted to learn about Jewish history, Torah, Hebrew (biblical and modern), the Jewish calendar, the life cycle from a Jewish perspective, Israel (biblical and, yes, modern), and other Jewish topics in a bite-sized, conversation-driven format?

Well, good news! Join us every Sunday as we discuss these topics and a whole lot more in 30ish minutes via Zoom, totally free, zero commitment, no registration, and open to all congregants and guests ages 13 and above.

Growing out of our very successful Adult Hebrew classes, these weekly "tastes" of Judaism will weave in current events, what's happening in the Torah portion of the week, relevance to Jewish history, and much, much more, all in a fun, chill, engaging format.

Recently, on Super Bowl Sunday in fact, The Nosh began by asking "What's Jewish about football?" We discussed how Jerusalem has an actual American football stadium (it's true!) and how there have been a smattering of Jewish football players over the years. We also took a deep dive into the *Sh'ma* and noticed how it's more like SHHH followed by HMMMM and ends with a solid AHHHH! We rounded out our conversation by discussing the recently passed Tu Bi Shvat, the birthday of the trees, (why do we have the Jewish Arbor Day in the middle of winter!?), and International Holocaust Remembrance Day, and why that particular day was chosen for our non-Jewish calendars.

We really hope you'll join us on a future Sunday! The link and the topic for each Sunday's Nosh will be posted on the synagogue Facebook page, in *ORbits*, and soon on the synagogue website.

Future topics will include: kashrut, famous Jews in Hollywood, the Holocaust, conversion, Jewish cooking, preparing for Purim, becoming clergy, social action, Jewish death rituals, Kabbalah, Passover 2.0, rituals around the birth of a child (bris/simchat bat), Jewish views on LGBTQ+ identities, the death penalty, and our weekly pillars: Torah, calendar, and Hebrew!

Grab a bagel! Grab some shmear! Grab a nosh! Spread the word (see what I did there?)! We hope to see you soon!

Al hatorah, al haavodah, v'al g'milut chasadim... on three things does the world rest: on torah (study), on work, and on acts of loving kindness.

Shalom, Roland Roth

Our Rabbi

President's Message

K'hilah/

Míshpachah

Torah

K'hilah - Community Shabbat Service

Friday, March 5, 5:45 pm

Join Rabbi Kort and Noah Zeichner for a multi-generational, musical Shabbat worship experience that includes community, 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.

For those who use dial in, the phone number is +1 253-215-8782 US (Tacoma).

Virtual Shabbat and Worship Service

Offerings in March

Please find Zoom invitation links in ORbits.

Meeting ID: 846 3429 1226 **Passcode:** 738093

Shabbat Morning Service and B'nei Mitzvah of Genevieve Morales Saturday, March 13, 10:00 am

Our Shabbat morning service will be led by **Genevieve Morales**, **Rabbi Kort**, and song leader, Noah Zeichner, and will use 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. While we cannot physically be together our community will gather and Genevieve will share their leadership and Torah virtually.

Meeting ID: 878 3660 5673 **Passcode:** 413686

Shabbat Service with song leader Shoshana Stombaugh and service leader TBD Friday, March 19, 7:30 pm

Join us 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.

Meeting ID: 867 8033 7325 **Passcode:** 177225

2nd Night Zoom Seder Sunday March 28, 5:45 pm Led by Rabbi Kort and song leader, Dan Steingart

"Let all who are hungry come and eat, let all in need come and partake of our Passover celebration." We share these words around our Seder table each year, but this year, with social distancing measures still in place, we'll gather together as a community to celebrate Seder over Zoom. Our Seder is appropriate for all ages and will include traditional and creative elements. It will last about an hour and you may feel free to *nosh* throughout. Haggadah resources will be provided in *ORbits*.

Meeting ID: 835 1063 8440 Passcode: 897408

Tikkun Olam

Leadership

Avodah

Tzedakah/



Social Action

Tzedakah Box

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 incidences 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.

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

President's Message K'hilah/ Mishpachah

Our Rabbi

Avodah

Torah

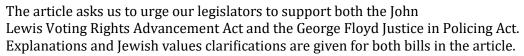
Tzedakah/ Tikkun Olam

Leadership



From the Religious Action Center of The Union for Reform Judaism

In the wake of the insurrection on the US Capitol on January 6, the Religious Action Center of the URI has called for members to contact their US Senators and their Representative in the US House. Please go to www.urj.org/nextsteps to read this January 13 article by K. B. Kaput: "Justice, Justice, We Shall Pursue: Resources for Action after the Capitol Insurrection."



Both bills will have to start from scratch this year since we are now in a new session of Congress.

Thanks so much, The Social Action Committee of TBO



Our Rabbí

President's Message

K'hílah/ Míshpachah

Torah

Avodah

Tzedakah/ Tikkun Olam

Leadership

What's Next - Reopening the Building

While most of us are still wondering when we will be able to get our vaccines, the TBO Governing Board is already looking ahead to when and how we will return to in-person use of our synagogue. Wanda Bresnick is leading a team to develop our plan for how to make this happen safely. The Reopening Task Force will be coordinating with the COVID-19 Task Force, the Safety and Security Committee, the Building Committee, and others to prepare us for that glorious time when we can all be together again. They will be looking at such topics as building deep cleaning, spacing of seating in the sanctuary, when and how singing can be done safely, sanitizing stations, ventilation, etc. If you have any thoughts or ideas about this process feel free to reach out to Wanda. We wish this new team luck as they tackle this very important and complicated topic.

Electronic Payment Options

Temple Beth Or has multiple ways of accepting payments if you would like to avoid writing a check. If you have any questions please contact Sarah in the office.



- 1. Bank Bill Pay Set up the payment directly with your bank. This is the most economical way since there are no additional fees.
- 2. Website Donation Button Payments can be made on the website. This goes through PayPal so there is a transaction fee: https://templebethor.org/donate/.
- 3. Rakefet Sarah can give you access to manage your account online. This allows you to view your account as well as pay bills. There is also a PayPal fee for transactions processed this way.
- 4. Credit Card Credit card payments can be made over the phone with Sarah in the office. This also goes through PayPal so there is a transaction fee.

Gentle Reminder

The Temple building remains closed to everyone except Sarah. Please do not enter the building for any reason, even to drop something off, without coordinating with her first. This also applies to when Sarah is not in the building. Thanks to all for your cooperation to make everyone safe.

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 Elsemore 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 Elsemore 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 and

Melissa VonAshen-Cook

Spirituality & Ritual: Vicki Schwartz Strategic Planning: Paul Vexler

Website: JonaRose Feinberg Youth Education: Mila Lowery and Tina Roth

Staff

Office Administrator: Sarah Davis Youth Group: Eian Snyder



March 2021 Adar — Nisan 5781

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Finance Committee Mtg, 6:30pm	2	3	4	5 MYTAT Early Bird Reg. ends K'hilah Shabbat Service 5:45pm	6
7 Exec. Bd. 9:00am B'nei Mitzvah Workshop 10:30am The Nosh 12:00pm	8 Communications Committee Mtg. 6:30pm	9	Legacy Committee Meeting 10:00am DEI Task Force 4:00pm Re-opening TF 7:00pm	11	12 ORacle Submission Deadline	13 Move Your Tuchus-A-Thon Morning Shabbat Service and Genevieve Morales B'nei Mitzvah 10:00am
14 Move Your Tuchus-A-Thon Gov. Bd. Meeting 9:00am The Nosh 12:00pm	15 Move Your Tuchus-A-Thon Membership Committee Mtg. 5:00pm Communications Survey Deadline	16 Move Your Tuchus-A-Thon	17 Move Your Tuchus-A-Thon	18 Move Your Tuchus-A-Thon	19 Move Your Tuchus-A-Thon Shabbat Service 7:30pm	20 Move Your Tuchus-A-Thon
21 Move Your Tuchus-A-Thon The Nosh 12:00pm	22 Move Your Tuchus-A-Thon	23 Move Your Tuchus-A-Thon	24 Move Your Tuchus-A-Thon DEI Task Force 4:00pm	25 Move Your Tuchus-A-Thon	26 Move Your Tu- chus-A-Thon	27 1st Night Passover Last Day! Move Your Tuchus-A- Thon
28 2nd Night Passover The Nosh 12:00pm Zoom Seder 5:45pm	10-Week Equity Challenge will be sent to Registrants	30	31			

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.



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).