

A Very Special Children's Rosh HaShanah Service

This year our High Holy Days services were truly wonderful. While difficult to single out one from the many uplifting services, of special note was our Rosh HaShanah Children's Service followed by *Tashlich*. Rabbi Kort's innovative idea to observe the Children's Service at the Everett boat launch, immediately followed by the *Tashlich* service, was enjoyed by many. The day was beautiful, the music led by the inspiring Cantor Dreskin was moving, and the adults enjoyed it as much as the children!



Our Rabbi

*K'hilah/
Mishpachah*

Torah

Avodah

*Tzedakah/
Tikkun Olam*

Leadership

The Holiness of Shabbat

Those who keep Shabbat by calling it a delight will rejoice in Your realm.

*Yism'chu v'malchut'cha
shomrei Shabbat v'korei oneg.*

The *Yism'chu* prayer we sing on Shabbat contains twenty-four Hebrew words said to correspond to the twenty-four hours of Shabbat. *Oneg* Shabbat (literally, the joy of Shabbat) is often thought of as the dessert reception after Friday night services (which are delightful and delicious at Beth Or). Our *Yism'chu* prayer reminds us that *Oneg* Shabbat is meant to extend into every aspect of our Shabbat, including Torah study!

Jewish legal authorities throughout our vast tradition have advised not to engage in strenuous Torah study on Shabbat. Fourth century sage, Rav Zeira, would interrupt his pupils who spent too much time studying on Shabbat, insisting that they engage in more pleasurable pursuits. In the traditional world, Torah study "light" means sticking to narrative commentaries like *Midrash*

instead of legalist works. But I like to take a more modern approach to this injunction.

Some of my most memorable *Shabbatot* involved great reading and great discussion with friends. While living in Brooklyn, Dan and I would gather with our Jewish community for elaborate potluck lunches. After eating and enjoying each other's company, we would sprawl out on couches and carpets or a mosaic of blankets in Prospect Park and spend the afternoon reading, often out loud, the best of that week's periodical offerings.

While my life has changed completely since I first integrated the joy Shabbat learning into my life, I have found new ways to embrace relaxed Torah learning on Shabbat. When I am making my way home from Everett from services, I like to listen to my favorite Jewish podcasts like "Israel Story, On the Other Hand" from the Union for Reform Judaism, or "Can We Talk?" from Jewish Women's Archive. On Shabbat afternoon you will



often find me in my chair next to the fireplace with a stack of varying Jewish journals either reading or snoozing.

What would it look like if you applied the concept of *oneg* to your favorite areas of learning? As we move into fall and begin to cozy up in our homes, next Shabbat, think about grabbing a stack of your professional journals, your Kindle, iPad, or old school print books and magazines and indulge in some sweet learning.

L'shalom,
Rabbi Rachel Kort

Rabbi Kort invites you to call upon her for help, 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 Services.

Phone: 425-954-1223; Email: RabbiKort@TempleBethOr.org

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

Next Chapter Chavurah Event

What We Take For Truth

Members of Next Chapter (our chavurah for those whose children are no longer living at home or those of a “certain age” without children) gathered to celebrate the publishing of Temple and Next Chapter member, Deborah Nedelman’s book, *What We Take for Truth*. The book “is the story of a young woman who finds her strength when the world around her crumbles. It is a timely tale about shifting loyalties and the painful choices we are forced to make in order to preserve what we value most.” Set in a logging town in the Pacific Northwest during a time when logging became threatened by conservation efforts, it “tells a story that both defends a way of life that is dying and celebrates a landscape that is being lost.” Next Chapter members highly recommend reading Deborah’s book!

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Introducing... The First Chapter— Temple Beth Or’s New Chavurah for Families with Children Under age 18!

Our first event will take place this month and will be a parents’ karaoke night. Details to be announced soon.

Contact Michelle Douglass or Mila Lowery for more information, or find us on Facebook by searching “The First Chapter Chavurah at TBO.”

TBO Book Club

The book for this month is *The Lake on Fire*, by Rosellen Brown. It is an epic narrative that begins among 19th century Jewish immigrants on a failing Wisconsin farm and continues to the struggles of city life. The gathering will be Sunday, November 17, 10:00 am to noon, at the home of Vicki Schwartz. All are welcome. RSVPs appreciated.

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Leadership

BOTY Youth Group Events for November and December

BOTY (Beth Or Temple Youth) is Temple Beth Or's youth group for all students in 9th grade and older and JR. BOTY is Temple Beth Or's junior youth group for all students in 6th-8th grades. Mark your calendars for the upcoming BOTY and Jr. BOTY events for November and December:

Saturday, November 2 - BOTY Escape Room and Dinner Experience

Calling all 9th-12th graders! You are welcome to attend our first BOTY event of 2019-20 school year. On November 3 we will be heading out for a brand new Escape Room experience. You should have received registration info. Please contact Amy if you have not .

Friday - Sunday, November 15-17 - BOTY Goes to NFTY-NW Fall Kallah

NFTY-NW Fall Kallah Registration Is Open Now!

If you are in 9th - 12th grade and want to have a great time with your Kalsman friends or meet new ones, attend NFTY-NW Fall Kallah! A weekend full of fun is waiting for you. Scholarships are available. Contact Amy at youth.ed@templebethor.org for more information. Below is the link to register: https://northwest.nfty.org/event/nfty-nw-fall-kallah-5/?event_date=2019-11-08

Mark your calendars for these December events:

Saturday, December 7 - BOTY and Jr. BOTY Fundraiser Event for TBO Religious School

Monday, December 30 - BOTY and Jr. BOTY Go to the Movies: Rise of Skywalker

More info to follow in December.

Save the Dates for our Shalom Tots Program

If you have a child ages 5 and under you are welcome to attend our Shalom Tots program!

Sunday, November 3 - Shalom Tots Make Challah at Temple Beth Or with Elaine Boles

10:15 - 11:30am

Saturday, November 16 - Shalom Tots Celebrate Shabbat at Temple Beth Or with Rabbi Rachel Kort

This will be part of our Saturday morning services with a fun child-friendly trip after! Time and location of the event to follow.

Saturday, December 7- Babysitting provided by BOTY (Fundraiser for Temple Beth Or Religious School)

Looking for a night out on the town? Bring your child(ren) to Temple Beth Or where we will have students available to play and have fun with your kiddo, as well as adult supervision. Make sure to tell your friends as well as this is a fundraiser to support TBO Religious School! More information on time will be coming out soon.

Sunday, December 8 - Shalom Tots Celebrate Hanukkah at Temple Beth Or with Elaine Boles

10:15 - 11:30 AM

Art/Building Task Force

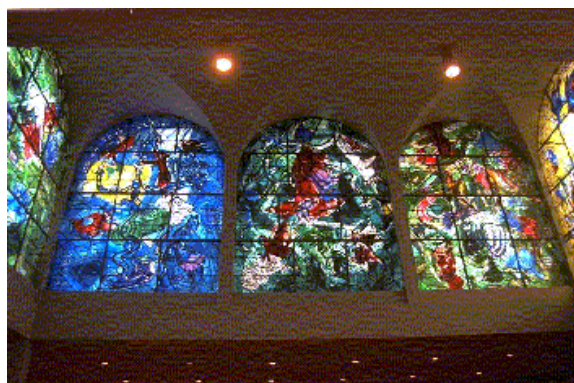
In September, upon recommendation from our Membership Committee, I was invited to assemble a nimble group of volunteers to begin to address making our synagogue home more inviting – optimally before the Fall holidays. A hearty thank you to Janis Warner and Norm Black, Michele and Bob Goodmark, Melanie Field and Vinaya Chepuri, and Jerry Waldbaum, for their willing assistance. Of course, we bumped shoulders with a number of other devoted volunteers, cleaning and organizing, during this season of preparation in our synagogue life.

Many items on our developed list of recommendations are easily addressed. Other recommendations have budget impact, and those have been shared with our leadership. We welcome your thoughts as we try to maintain forward momentum with some of these ideas/recommendations later in the year. Please contact Vicky Romero or me, if you would like to help.

You may have already noticed one new piece of art hung at the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you to Bob and Michele Goodmark for donating these colorful Chagall prints, as well as framing them. See more about this art below. Perhaps an appropriate segue for a trip to Israel?

Cheryl Waldbaum

Our Rabbi
K'hilah/
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Leadership



The Chagall Windows

The Abell Synagogue of the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center (architect, Joseph Neufeld) was dedicated in 1962 as the highlight of the celebration of Hadassah's Golden Jubilee (Anniversary). Marc Chagall, the great French Jewish modernist painter, had been commissioned by Hadassah to create twelve stained glass windows to form a lantern surrounding the *Ner Tamid* (Eternal Light) in the sanctuary. This sanctuary design also emulates the marching formation of the tribes described in

Exodus, as the Ark of the Torah was located in the middle of their encampment, with three tribes in each direction to protect their flanks. The windows represent Jacob's twelve sons, from whom came the Twelve Tribes of Israel. Before being installed in the synagogue, the windows were also exhibited at the Louvre in Paris and the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

At that 1962 dedication ceremony in Jerusalem, Chagall described his feelings:

"For me a stained glass window is a transparent partition between my heart and the heart of the world. Stained glass has to be serious and passionate. It is something elevating and exhilarating. It has to live through the perception of light. To read the Bible is to perceive a certain light, and the window has to make this obvious through its simplicity and grace... The thoughts have nested in me for many years, since the time when my feet walked on the Holy Land, when I prepared myself to create engravings of the Bible. They strengthened me and encouraged me to bring my modest gift to the Jewish people—that people that lived here thousands of years ago, among the other Semitic peoples." (*Marc Chagall on Art and Culture*, editor: Benjamin Harshav, 2003)

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Volunteers Needed: Activity Coordinating and Fundraising

Does it sometimes feel like feast or famine where Temple activities and fundraisers are concerned? Being part of the Temple community we all want to support others' efforts and enjoy the fruits of their labors, but when activities are too close together it can be difficult. Here are two opportunities to help even out our annual calendar of activities and our fundraising efforts.

Consider chairing or joining the Fundraising Committee: Our budget and dues commitments rely on fundraising to support the Temple. This is a critical piece of our "pie."

Calendar Coordinator: With guidelines set in conjunction with the Board, this person would be the focal person for all events, and activities, including fundraisers. As a central "clearing house" there will be communication and coordination among all areas of the Temple.

It really does take a village!

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Office Info:

If you have recently changed your mailing address or email address, please email or call Sarah, our office administrator. It would help her keep our data current.

If you need to go to the Temple office during Sarah's work week (Tues-Fri., 9:00 am-4:30 pm), please call in advance to let her know you are coming and about what time. This way she can rearrange any errands she might otherwise be doing for us. It is also a layer of security for her to know to expect someone at the door.

Keep TBO Inviting and Safe

We are asking all adult members to sign up to be a community greeter on our Shabbat Volunteer Google Sheet. As a community greeter you will join the Board greeter prior to services to welcome members and guests. You will also be an extra set of eyes and ears which will enhance security. To sign up go to the Temple Beth Or website/Members Services; click on Shabbat Volunteer Tracker. To sign up for 2020 see the tab at the bottom, sign your name and hit enter. If you cannot get in you may need permission. Send a permission request to Heidi Piel. Thank you!

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Mitzvah Corps

Have You Signed Up for Mitzvah Corps Yet?

It's easy — and there is no obligation! The Mitzvah Corps coordinates meal deliveries and visits to TBO members in need. If you can help meet a need, great! If not, you can consider volunteering at another time. We will send you a welcome email, then all you have to do is confirm your participation by clicking on the enclosed link. You will automatically receive email notifications of Mitzvah Corps needs (you don't have to keep checking) and will be connected with other Temple Beth Or volunteers. Register on our community website: templebethor.org. Contact Vicki Schwartz for more information.

Service Schedule For November

Friday, November 1
Family Shabbat
Service
7:00 pm
Led by
Rabbi Kort
Music Leader
Noah Zeichner

Friday, November 8
Evening Shabbat
Service
7:30 pm
Led by
Rabbi Kort
Music Leader
Debbie Massarano

Saturday,
November 16
Morning Shabbat
Service
10:00 am
Led by
Rabbi Kort
Music Leader
Judy Magison

Friday, November 22
Evening Shabbat
Service
7:30 pm
Led by
Ron Green
Music Leader
Al Friedman



Adult Education Offering: Tools to Fight Antisemitism with Rabbi Rachel

Sunday, November 10, 10:00 -11:00 am

Education is empowerment. We'll use our Puget Sound Jewish Community Statement on Antisemitism as a learning tool and brainstorm best practices when confronted with speech and behavior that perpetuates antisemitism or is blatantly antisemitic.

Our Rabbi
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Our B'nei Mitzvah Class!



Our vibrant b'nei mitzvah class has ten students.
We will celebrate a record number of b'nei mitzvot this year!

Fund of the Month

While the Temple appreciates all donations, those made to the General Fund contribute to our annual budget and/or unexpected expenses. In addition, should you choose to direct your donation, the fund below is in the most need:

Religious School Scholarship Fund

Thank you for your generosity.

Our Rabbi

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Torah

Avodah

Tzedakah/

Tikkun

Olam

Leadership

Social Action

Tzedakah Box Recipient

We had a special guest speaker on Sukkot, Natalia Lopez, the Senior Program Officer, Volunteers & AmeriCorps, International Rescue Committee (IRC). Natalia oversees volunteer operations and AmeriCorps programming for Resettlement, Asylum and Integration at the International Rescue Committee, Inc. She spoke to us about the challenges and barriers to refugees and those seeking asylum in the United States. In honor of Ms. Lopez and in keeping with the URJ Religious Action Center's emphasis on Jewish ideals of welcoming the stranger, our *Tzedakah* Box recipient for October, November, and December is the **International Rescue Committee, Local Office**.



Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice Northwest

Temple Beth Or has recently joined the Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice Northwest (JCIJ-NW), a coalition of Jews and Jewish organizations who have combined their efforts to create a strong Jewish voice on immigration justice by raising the level of activism and advocacy.

JCIJ-NW was formed about 18 months ago. It currently boasts over 250 supporters with 75 core activists from the eight Jewish congregations with whom they are partnered. TBO will be the ninth. The coalition's efforts are focused on U.S. policy toward immigrants and refugees coming to and/or living in the U.S.

The coalition works closely with the Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN), Church Council of Greater Seattle, and the Faith Action Network.

One of their projects is the creation of a fund to help immigrants detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma post a bond to be released.

When ICE detains immigrants, they're held in prison-like conditions for months unless they can post a bond for up to \$25,000. This creates a hardship for families and communities. Many detained immigrants just give up and allow themselves to be deported, even if they have a good chance to win their cases.

The Fair Fight Immigrant Bond Fund gives them a fighting chance. Your help will allow detained immigrants to go back to their lives and their families while their cases are pending.

All donations received will go towards paying bonds for eligible detainees. The current goal is to raise \$100,000 to seed the Fund and provide a select amount of bonds for detainees around the holidays. An estimated 250 people remain in detention annually because they're unable to pay their bond.

Go to <https://fairfightbondfund.org> to find out more about JCIJ-NW and how you can donate to the Fair Fight Immigrant Bond Fund.

Temple Leadership

Rabbi

Rachel Kort

Governing Board

President

Vicky Romero

VP of Finance & Facilities Management

Steve Center

VP of Community & Engagement

Tim Douglass

VP of Jewish Life

Heidi Piel

Assist. VP's of Finance ...

Bob Goodmark
Robyn Klarman

Assist. VP's of Community...

Janis Warner
Wanda Bresnick

Assist. VP's of Jewish Life

Beth Burstein Fine
David Gross

Board Secretary

JonaRose Feinberg

Immediate Past President

Mark Bresnick

Committees

Adult Education

Heidi Piel

Bereavement

Susan Cross

Calendar

Janis Warner

Communications

Al Friedman

Financial Administrator

Norm Black

High Holy Days

Carolyn Henri

Mitzvah Corps

Vicki Schwartz

Next Chapter

Sonia Siegel Vexler

ORacle

Vicky Romero

ORbits

Lori Wolff

Religious Practices

Phyllis Busch

Social Action

Naomi Katsh

Staff

Religious School Principal

Amy Paquette

Office Administrator

Sarah Davis

Leadership Nus

Nus from the Governing Board

In addition to regular monthly business, the Governing Board is undergoing a review of all policies currently in the record. Many are several years old. This review, which is anticipated to take a number of months, will determine which policies are no longer current, which need to be modified, and which can be reaffirmed. In some cases this will result in new policies that will reflect our current practice and culture. These policies will be available for review in the near future.

At the October Governing Board meeting the following business occurred and information shared:

1. The Expenditure Approval Policy was reviewed and modified to include notification of the Board for any expenditures over \$1,000.
2. Two bleeding kits have been assembled for the Temple. Training will be scheduled soon.
3. The Board was told that neighbors are concerned about parking. Steps are being taken to communicate with them.
4. Sarah Davis has begun her work as office administrator.
5. The Board agreed by consensus to add our logo to support the Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice. The Rabbi will make a donation in our name through her Discretionary Fund.
6. There was a discussion regarding Board member responsibilities and realistic expectations. Further discussion to occur.
7. There was a discussion regarding security. Further discussion to occur.
8. The Board discussed forming a task force to look at options for the large sanctuary window which now faces the apartment complex on Broadway.
9. Duplex issues: the Board agreed to hire a lawyer with property expertise to handle the insurance issues related to the duplex. Koby Wexler, who has experience with this type of issue, agreed to take the lead on this for the Temple.

Opt-Out

Reminder: Opt-Out Forms are available in the Temple office for those who chose not to have their or their children's photos published.

Board Nominations and Development Committee

The Board Nominations and Development Committee is looking for members to serve on the Board. Consider nominating yourself or someone in the congregation. If you have questions please contact one of the following: Sonia Siegel Vexler, Dan Paquette, Debbie Halliday or Jennifer Cail.



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Strategic Planning

A Strategic Plan Committee has been meeting since June this year under the chairmanship of Paul Vexler. The Committee's goal is to create a strategic plan for Temple Beth Or to ensure the long term viability of the synagogue that the membership can embrace.

The committee has met five times. So far, those meetings have been used to:

- Clarify the committee's purpose, vision and goals, and understanding what strategic planning is and what is contained in a strategic plan;
- Develop a strategy for moving forward, including establishing rules for how the committee will conduct its business;
- Develop a process for gathering information, including how to best reach out for congregants' input; and
- Understand the things Temple Beth Or currently does well.

Committee members are Vinaya Chepuri, Harold Dash, Michele Douglass, Michele Goodmark, Carolyn Henri, Mila Lowery, Julie Mackoff, Glen Pickus, Vicki Schwartz, Eldon Wexler, and Peter Zieve.

Initial efforts have focused on identifying Temple Beth Or's strengths. To do that the committee has created four subcommittees with specified areas to analyze. Those subcommittee's areas of study are:

- Facilities;
- Jewish life and learning;
- Financial management and fund raising; and
- Communications/membership/staffing and operations/governance and leadership.

A next step will include developing an understanding of the synagogue's opportunities for growth with a broad understanding of growth as in building on what we already do well and not necessarily about growing the size of the congregation.

A key step in the committee's efforts will be reaching out to members to find out what our aspirations are; to ask, "What would we like to be?" and then developing a way to determine whether we've achieved our desired results.

This process is not expected to be easy or quick. Be on the lookout for opportunities to provide your input. The committee's progress will be reported regularly in the *ORacle* and through other means.

November 2019

Cheshvan — Kislev 5780

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Family Shabbat Service 7:00pm	2 Shalom Tots 10:00am BOTY Event
3 Religious School Governing Board Mtg. 10:15am- 12:00pm at the PUD	4 Finance Committee Mtg. TBO Oneg Rm. 6:30-8:30pm	5	6	7	8 Evening Shabbat Service 7:30pm	9
10 Religious School Tools to Fight Antisemitism 10:00am	11 Membership Committee mtg. 4:30-6:00pm	12	13	14	15 NFTY NW Fall <i>Kallah</i>	16 Morning Shabbat Service 10:00am NFTY NW Fall <i>Kallah</i>
17 Religious School Book Club 10:00-12:00 <i>Offsite</i> NFTY NW Fall <i>Kallah</i>	18	19	20 <i>Atidaynu</i> 5:30 dinner 6-9:00pm class (invitation only)	21	22 Evening Shabbat Service 7:30pm	23
24 Religious School	25	26	27	28	29	30

Please note: In order to inform our membership and prevent scheduling conflicts, please email our calendar guru at calendar@TempleBethOr.org to place a meeting or event on the official TBO calendar.



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).