

March 2020 / Adar I — Adar II 5780

Volume 31, Issue 3



Purim Evening at Temple Beth Or Monday, March 9, 7 pm

It's a mitzvah on Purim to *hear* the Megillah, the Book of Esther. This year, Rabbi Kort and song leader extraordinaire, Neil Weinstein, will present the Megillah as a Purim Playlist. They

have selected 8 songs inspired by the 8 chapters of the Book of Esther to help tell the story of Purim. Some songs are silly, some are more serious.

Great for all ages!



House of Light

3215 Lombard Ave, Everett, WA 98201

425.259.7125

Founded 1985

TempleBethOr.org



Our Rabbi

*K'hilah/
Mishpachah
Torah
Avodah
Tzedakah/
Tikkun Olam
Leadership*

Women of the Wall

The space of the Temple Mount has looked very different throughout our people's history. It is a physical symbol of change and continuity among our Jewish People. The ancient Temple in Jerusalem was a place of pilgrimage, gathering, and worship through sacrifice. Today, we too make sacred journeys to Jerusalem and gather at the *Kotel*. *Kotel* simply means 'wall' in Hebrew, referencing the last remnant of the Temple, a giant retaining wall. We are drawn to this place where our People have gathered for thousands of years to worship. But while the *Kotel* is the principal symbol of Jewish peoplehood and sovereignty, Israeli authorities do not allow all Jews to express themselves freely through prayer at this most sacred site.

Many of you are already familiar with the work of Women of the Wall. This group of Jewish women from

Israel and around the world, representing all denominations and political spectrums, strive to achieve the right for women to wear *tallit* and *teffilin*, pray, and read from the Torah collectively and out loud at the *Kotel*. Over the past 30 years the group has made strides through legal activism and nonviolent protest to achieve the right for women to wear ritual garments and pray as a collective. But it still remains illegal for women to read from the Torah at the *Kotel*.

I'm incredibly proud that our 2019 Board of Trustees voted unanimously to partner with Women of the Wall and offer our community's strength to their efforts. This Shavuot (May 28, 2020), the holiday on which the Jewish people received the Torah, Women of the Wall is organizing a march to the *Kotel* and we at Temple Beth Or will participate in a special way. Women will march holding



Torah mantles as a symbol of what women have been denied. Our Board has gifted our community's Torah mantles that we no longer use. Our sacred objects like prayer books, Torah scrolls, and Torah mantles are traditionally buried after deemed non-functioning. Our mantles will be respectfully retired in Israel, eternally connecting our Snohomish county Jewish community to our People's most sacred place, Jerusalem.

L'shalom,
Rabbi Rachel Kort
she/her/hers

See the photo we sent along with the mantels to WOW on page 5.

Women of the Wall Update:

The Torah mantels have been received by WOW in Jerusalem! Temple Beth Or will proudly play a small roll in the nonviolent protest to gain the right of all Jews to read from the Torah at the Western Wall!

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."



It's never too early to plan for Passover. This year, **2 for Seder** (<https://2forseder.org>) is supporting our efforts to fight anti-Semitism while building bridges to your neighbors.

2 for Seder was born out of tragedy and *tikkun olam*. Joyce Fienberg, may her memory be a blessing, one of their founders' mother-in-law, was murdered at the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh, PA on October 27, 2018. February 6 should have been Joyce's 77th birthday.

The Pittsburgh Interfaith Evolution is dedicating 2 for Seder to her memory. She believed in the values of bridge building and love and was endlessly generous to her family, friends, and

everyone she met throughout her life.

Together let's work to repair the break in the world for her and everyone who has been lost through mindless hate and violence. **This year consider inviting 2 NEW people to join you for their first Seder in your home.**

Never forget - and never stop trying for a better world.

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AED and CPR Training

Temple members Rennie and Janet Karr generously donated an AED device to Temple Beth Or. It is now located on the landing adjacent to the bulletin board. Along with the AED we will receive training in its use and CPR training for the Governing Board. There will be additional spaces for the training available to TBO members at a cost of \$40 per person. This training will not include certification but will include all the basics of CPR and AED use.

However, space is limited and must be reserved and paid for in advance of the class.

This offer is on a first come/first serve basis and there will be no walk-ins. If you are interested, contact the office and send your check to 3215 Lombard Ave, Everett, WA 98201.

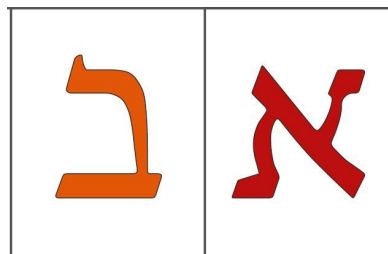
Explore Israel with Rabbi Kort!

Our cohort is coming together, but there is still an opportunity for you to participate. For more information, please contact Carolyn or Eldon Wexler, or Rabbi Rachel Kort. Visit <http://makorjourneys.com/journey/temple-Beth-or> for a full itinerary and pricing. Perhaps you will get to see where our mantels marched!



Adult Biblical Hebrew

Ever wish you had the opportunity to learn Hebrew? Or...paid more attention while attending Hebrew school as a child? TBO member, Roland Roth, is graciously offering to teach an Adult Biblical Hebrew class at Temple Beth Or during Religious School hours! All levels of Hebrew welcome, Sundays at 10:15 am during Religious School hours. The class is free to members. Participants need only to purchase The First Hebrew Primer (Simon Resnikoff Motzkin).



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WZC Elections

Why vote?



Five years ago, Reform Jews in the state of Washington cast 210 votes in the World Zionist Congress election. We can do better. ***We must do better if we want our Reform Jewish values to be represented in Israel.*** A vote for the Reform/ARZA slate (number two on the ballot), is a vote for equality, pluralism and democracy.

There are 16 URJ congregations in Washington with a combined membership of 4088 households. Only 5.14% of those households voted in the last election and still, more than \$20 million were distributed to Reform causes in the past five years, new Reform synagogues were established in Israel and leaders were elected who were able to influence Israeli policy and procedure. Successful collaborations with Israeli political parties were forged to influence Israeli society in matters of conversion, marriage and divorce, religious pluralism, gender rights and combatting racism.

Imagine what we can do if we triple or quadruple the vote in every state!

Voting in the World Zionist Election is the only way that American Jews can weigh in democratically about issues in Israel. The more votes for the Reform/ARZA slate, the more delegates we can send to the congress this Fall.

Voting ends March 11, 2020. For more information go to www.zionistelection.org.

Hopefully everyone has had a chance to participate in the URJ Congregational Benchmarking and Assessment Project survey. We look forward to using this for strategic planning, learning more about ourselves, best practices, and setting goals. Your opportunity to participate will end March 17, so please don't delay. Results will be shared with the congregation, too!

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

Please contact Rabbi Kort (425-259-7125, option 2) or one of the Bereavement Coordinators listed below. If you don't talk to someone, continue down the list of contact people until you reach someone.

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
Amy Paquette
Melanie Bober
Lori Wolff

Service Schedule For March

Monday, March 9
Purim Evening
7:00 pm
Led by
Rabbi Kort
Music Leader
Neil Weinstein

Friday, March 13
Evening Shabbat
Service
7:30 pm
Led by
Rabbi Kort
Music Leader
Bernie Busch

Saturday, March 21
Morning Shabbat
Service and Lilly
Jarol Bat Mitzvah
10:00 am
Led by
Rabbi Kort and Lilly
Jarol
Music Leader
Shoshana
Strombaugh

Friday, March 27
Evening Shabbat
Service
7:30 pm
Led by
Ron Green
Music Leader
Bernie Busch

Social Action

Tzedakah Box Recipient:

Continuing our water theme from Tu BiShvat, the Tzedakah Box recipient for January through March is

Northwest Stream Center and

Adopt a Stream Foundation. Their mission is to teach people how to become stewards of our watershed and ensure that PNW streams continue to provide healthy habitats for wildlife, clean drinking water, and offer environmental education.



Volunteer Opportunity

You have a chance to do a mitzvah by preparing and serving a meal at the Interfaith Family Shelter. Families and individuals are welcome to volunteer to help the homeless in our community. Please contact Naomi Katsh Barger if you are interested.

Temple Beth Or's Contribution to Women of the Wall

Some of the members of TBO who attended the 2019 URJ Biennial in December and learned of the Women of the Wall March are shown below, holding the two Torah Mantels we sent to Jerusalem to be carried in the march. We proudly support efforts to promote gender equality in Israel.



Left to right:

Vicky Romero, Rabbi Rachel Kort, Sonia Siegel Vexler, and Melanie Field

Our Rabbi

*K'hilah/
Mishpachah*

Torah

Avodah

Tzedakah/

Tikkun

Olam

Leadership

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Leadership

Leadership Nus

Nus from the Governing Board (GB)

At the **February Governing Board** meeting the following business occurred and information was shared:

1. Emergency training is now scheduled: Stop the Bleed was held on February 16; AED and CPR to be held on March 1. Congregants are invited by RSVP ONLY to the AED/CPR class for \$40 charge.
2. Benchmarking started on February 18. Ends March 17.
3. Melanie and Vicky will work on a policy regarding the distribution of directories.
4. We will begin the search for a Religious School principal soon, looking outside the congregation.
5. There was continuing discussion regarding building security.
6. New silent alarms have been installed in various places around the building.
7. We will investigate putting a security screen downstairs.
8. The annual budget process will begin next month..

Of note: Neil Fishman has generously offered to upgrade our security system to a network based system and will donate all the hardware. This will not only enhance our security system, but will also allow us to stream services for those unable to come to the Temple. **Thank you, Neil!**

TBO Leadership Attends Scheidt Seminar

Each year the URJ hosts a leadership development program underwritten by the Scheidt family for Presidents and Presidents-Elect. In February, Vicky Romero and Melanie Field attended the Scheidt Seminar in California. For four days they immersed themselves in sessions aimed at helping to improve our synagogue community. Topics included finances and philanthropy, forming Sacred Partnerships, social action programming, becoming more inclusive, and many others. Along with approximately 70 other congregational Presidents and Presidents-Elect, Vicky and Melanie participated in workshops, Shabbat services and Torah study that ran from 7:00 am to after 10:00 pm most days - it was exhausting and overwhelming! URJ staff, Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion faculty (HUC-JIR), and outside experts lead the sessions. Services were lead by Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the URJ and Cantor Rosalie Will, close friend and colleague of our own beloved Ellen Dreskin. Prepare yourselves for all the great ideas that these two have brought back to share with our community!

Temple Leadership

Rabbi

Rachel Kort

Governing Board

President

Vicky Romero

VP of Finance & Facilities
Management

Bob Goodmark

VP of Community & Engagement
Tim Douglass

VP of Jewish Life

Jennifer Cail

Assist. VP of Finance ...

Ken Moses

Assist. VP of Community...

Wanda Bresnick

Assist. VP of Jewish Life

David Gross

Board Secretary

Tina Roth

Members-At-Large

Beth Burstein Fine
Janis Warner
Deb Henry

President-Elect

Melanie Field

Committees

Adult Education Heidi Piel

Bereavement Susan Cross

Calendar Janis Warner

Communications Al Friedman

Financial Administrator

Norm Black

First Chapter Michelle Douglass

Fundraising

Michele Goodmark

High Holy Days Debra Lawson

Membership

Leslie Elsemore

Mitzvah Corps Vicki Schwartz

Next Chapter Sonia Siegel Vexler

ORacle

Vicky Romero

ORbits

Lori Wolff

Religious Practices

Vacant

Social Action

Naomi Katsh

Website

JonaRose Feinberg

Youth Education

Jessica Hill

Staff

Religious School Principal

Amy Paquette

Office Administrator

Sarah Davis

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Religious School and Adult Biblical Hebrew Executive Board Mtg. 11:00, Location TBD AED/CPR Training 12:30 at TBO by	2 Finance Committee Mtg., 6:30pm	3	4	5	6	7
8 Religious School Purim Celebration Book Club 10:00am <i>Offsite</i> Governing Board Mtg. 10:15am-12:15pm PUD Bldg.	9 Membership Committee Mtg. 4:30pm Purim Service 7:30pm	10	11 Atidaynu Leadership Program 5:30 dinner 6-9:00pm class <i>(invitation only)</i> WZC voting opportunity ends	12 LIFE & LEGACY Mtg. 2:00pm	13 Evening Shabbat Service 7:30pm	14
15 Religious School and Adult Biblical Hebrew	16	17 Benchmarking Survey Opportunity Ends	18	19	20	21 Morning Shabbat Service and Lilly Jarol Bat Mitzvah 10:00am
22 Religious School and Adult Biblical Hebrew	23	24	25	26	27 Evening Shabbat Service 7:30pm	28
29 Religious School and Adult Biblical Hebrew	30	31				

During times of inclement weather, the Temple will put a message on the answering machine (425.259.7125) and send an ORbits notification regarding weather-related closures. As weather patterns vary widely in our region, please also use your own judgement in deciding the safety of traveling to Temple.



Temple Beth Or
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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).