



Tu BiSh'vat Winter Garden Work Party and Celebration

The Tu BiSh'vat event at the Eagle Ridge Community Garden in Lake Stevens was a success! As a joint effort of the Social Action Committee and the Religious School, we had approximately 45 people in attendance with a great mix of religious school families, older congregation members, and prospective new members.

Rabbi Kort started us with a "guess what fruit I am?" icebreaker as we all got checked in. She then led us with an opening lesson followed by the *Shehecheyanu*

blessing. Terry Bockovich, of Down To Earth Community Gardens, then introduced us to the garden and the ways in which it is used to benefit the local community. With no chemicals used, three composting areas, ADA accessible raised garden beds, recycled, reclaimed, and donated materials to build the garden beds, and help from volunteers like us over 20,000 pounds of food have been donated to the food bank from this garden space alone! We then split into different groups, while Rabbi Kort, Terry Bockovich, Eian Snyder and the Religious School madrachim provided a variety of learning opportunities for adults and kids alike, all while serious weeding and clean up efforts took place in the gardens.

For more information regarding the community gardens program throughout Snohomish, Skagit, and King Counties, or for assistance with starting your own garden, please check out Terry's website downtoearthcommunitygardens.com.

Thanks to everyone who joined us in this *tikkun olam* opportunity!

Melissa VonAschen-Cook (she/her)



Struggling with Our Sacred Language



The name Israel, *Yisrael*, means “the one who wrestles with God.” In addition to being a people who wrestles with God, for thousands of years, we have wrestled with our sacred language Hebrew too.

The first account we have of a public Torah reading is in the Book of Nehemiah. After fifty years of exile in Babylonia when Ezra the Scribe led the Jewish people back to Jerusalem, he gathered the community and read aloud from Torah. There is a detail given about this first public Torah reading that I find comforting. “They read from the scroll of the Teaching of God, **translating** it and giving the sense; so they understood the reading” (8:8). Yes, just like today, the Jewish community that built the Second Temple struggled to understand Hebrew.

The Jewish people have always lived in a dynamic relationship with the Hebrew language. Hebrew was utilized for religious purposes only until the Zionist movement and Eliezer Ben-Yehuda revived it as a spoken language in the late 19th century. The Hebrew language is ever evolving to respond to the modern world. There is even a special academy (founded by Eliezer Ben-Yehuda) that helps create new Hebrew words. Perhaps my favorite is *pele-phone*, “cellphone,” which literally translates as ‘miracle phone.’

Other Hebrew words are more difficult to decide upon. Hebrew is a gendered language and until the 1980’s there was no feminine for the word rabbi (*rav* in Hebrew). Some women rabbis use the title *rabbah* which is a feminized version of *rav*. Others, like myself, prefer simply using *rav* as a title, citing the precedent that the titles Doctor and Professor are used in Israel without gendered distinction.

Just as American English is changing and adapting to be better inclusive of non-binary gender identity, Hebrew is working to be more inclusive too. Gender inclusive Hebrew linguists have created a third non-gendered tense. For example, a student could be a *talmid* (masculine), *talmidah* (feminine), or *talmideh* (gender non-binary).

Eyal Rivlin, one of the scholars trailblazing the work of gender inclusive Hebrew shared why this is an important project for him as a cisgender male: “I bristle at the idea that a language is for some people and not for others; for us, not them. Language is a major part of identity, and for centuries Jews fought to hold on to Hebrew, often at the expense of their lives. It is strange to claim that Hebrew is only for non-minorities when Jews have long been the world’s ultimate minority.”

Our tradition teaches that God spoke and the world was created. While adapting language can be difficult, I am proud that our TBO leadership is exploring best practices with regard to gender non-binary language. The language we choose to use, whether Hebrew or English, has the ability to build sacred, inclusive community.

Rabbi Rachel Kort
(she/her)

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.

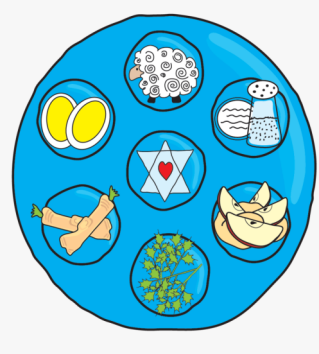
Phone: (425)954-1223; Email: RabbiKort@TempleBethOr.org

Rabbi Kort’s sermons and writings can be found on the TBO website under “About Us/Our Rabbi.”

Adult Education Opportunities

Build Your Own Seder with Rabbi Kort

Wednesdays, February 9 & 16, 7:00 - 8:30 pm (Zoom)



Passover is beloved and is the most celebrated Jewish holiday in America. While the first night seder isn't until Friday, April 15, it is not too early to think about Pesach. Learn how to build and personalize a Passover seder. If you are hosting a seder or thinking about hosting a seder this year, this class is a must. Rabbi Kort will share resources that will work for in-person or online, small or large, families with children or just adults. Even if you aren't hosting, this class is a great opportunity to spend time learning in sacred community and learning more about Passover.

Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/diysedertbo>



Adult *B'nei Mitzvah* and Covenant Renewal

B'nei mitzvah can be a meaningful experience beyond thirteen. We hope to begin an adult *b'nei mitzvah* class beginning in March with a ceremony taking place in spring/ summer 2023. The experience will be an opportunity to engage in deep Jewish learning, be a part of a learning community, and participate in a *b'nei mitzvah* ceremony at Temple Beth Or. This course is not limited to first time Torah readers. If you had a bar, bat, or *b'nei mitzvah* at an earlier age, you are welcome to participate and "renew your covenant." **Contact Rabbi Kort if you are interested in participating: rabbikort@templebethor.org.**

Cycles of Rest, Release and Liberation: Antiracism and *Sh'mita* as Spiritual Practice

This four part online learning series from the Institute for Jewish Spirituality and Yavilah McCoy combines Jewish text, anti-racism teachings and opportunities to reflect. The emphasis is on the sabbatical year that invites us to participate in ensuring an equitable, just and healthy society for all.



The first session of the series was January 12. However, the program can be joined at any time. The next sessions are February 16, March 30, May 11, and a final gathering on June 15. To sign up please visit: tinyurl.com/shmita2022

The Institute for Jewish Spirituality has many additional offerings throughout the year. Please visit www.jewishspirituality.org for more information.

Goals for 2022



Last year I shared my goals for the year ahead in the February issue of the *ORacle*, so I figured I would do that again this year. When I agreed to take this position, back before we had ever heard of COVID-19, and before the duplex fire, I had lofty goals that included big ideas. Now I am much more pragmatic - basically, I just hope that we stay intact and afloat. Slightly more specifically, I have four primary goals as president for this year.

1. Find more ways to gather and engage that are COVID-19 safe and satisfying for the community.

Many have had it with Zoom and virtual activities and are craving in-person opportunities. Others are still uncomfortable being with people outside of their immediate household in-person indoors, even in small groups. Finding meaningful ways to connect that draw people together, whether in-person or virtually, continues to be a challenge. I hope that as we continue to wrestle with this challenge we will get better at finding multiple ways to connect that work for more and more members of our community.

2. Move the remodel project forward.

Now that the results of the facilities vote are in, I am anxious to see us move forward. We need to complete the financial feasibility assessment and launch our capital campaign in the coming year. We will need to revisit the construction plan and create a design whose construction costs match the estimate of the funds we can raise. This is also a golden opportunity to begin to lean into the neighborhood and really be a part of the solution. I look forward to robust conversations with the congregation as to how we'd like to do that. (See the article on next page to learn more about What's Next and how to get involved.)

3. Inspire and empower new leaders in the congregation.

Looking at our new Board it is fantastic to see so many fresh faces, newer members and younger members and even some longer-term members who are stepping into leadership for the first time or after a hiatus. All this wonderful new energy and the varied perspectives are so exciting! A big thanks to the Nominations Committee for putting together such an inspiring new Board. This is a great trend that I want to see continued. There are still many opportunities for members who want to get more involved. I hope that we continue to recruit and engage more and more new leaders from among our membership. If you are interested in stepping up and joining in, please reach out to me and I will help you find the perfect spot for your interests and talents in our active and vibrant volunteer community.

4. Be more welcoming and inclusive.

Our DEI (Diversity Equity and Inclusion) Task Force has been folded into our Social Action Committee and will continue to help our congregation find ways to be more inclusive and welcoming. It is important to make all our members feel comfortable and valued. We want everyone at TBO to feel that they have a place and truly belong here.

I appreciate your suggestions about ways to advance the efforts to reach any of these goals (or other goals too). Feel free to share your ideas with me.

Here's to reaching our goals in 2022!
Melanie (she/her)
President



Facilities - What's Next?

Now that the congregational vote has given the Board direction, TBO leadership is focused on implementing the steps to accomplish that choice, staying at our current location and remodeling. We have signed a contract with Stewardship for Us to begin our financial feasibility assessment for a remodel of our building to better meet our needs - including adding an elevator and improving accessibility, upgrading security measures, and providing additional restrooms and classrooms. This process will generate an estimate of the amount of funds that the congregation is likely to raise during a capital campaign.

The consultant will be interviewing Temple leadership and a cross section of the congregation to generate this estimate. The initial meeting with the Board will be held on February 13, followed by meetings with various committees. There will be an informational meeting for the congregation, tentatively set for March 27, during which the process will be described and explained to the entire community. Collecting and analyzing all this information will take approximately 3 - 5 months and we expect to have the consultant's report ready for our review later in the spring.

After the financial feasibility assessment, the next steps will be launching the capital campaign and preparing the actual building design, based on the master plan and the estimated available resources. This is a once in a generation opportunity to shape the Jewish presence in Snohomish County and your generosity will be the key to that future.

A parallel effort will be underway to address any residual concerns of the congregation to help ensure that we can move forward together to support this plan. We will continue to update the congregation regularly through our various platforms as to the status of the project and what will be happening next. There will be lots of opportunities for congregants to participate in this effort. If you are interested in joining the team, please let Melanie Field know your area of interest. In particular, the Capital Campaign Task Force needs additional members at this time.

If you have questions about the financial feasibility assessment or want to join the Capital Campaign Task Force, please contact Norm Black. If you have questions about features of the building design, reach out to Paul Vexler. Questions about the process in general can be directed to Melanie Field.

***Note:** Specific information about the voting results can be found on the TBO website/facilities webpage. Please contact the office if you need the password. templebethor.org/facilities-planning/

Meet Rachel Maxwell Our Capital Campaign Consultant

Stewardship Consultant Rachel Maxwell of Stewardship For Us has been hired to consult on our upcoming Capital Campaign. She is currently working with the Capital Campaign Task Force to gather data and get to know our congregation. In the coming months she will also be meeting with Rabbi and leadership to get a better sense of our community and needs.



Please get to know Rachel better by visiting her website stewardshipforus.com/rachel-maxwell/ or by watching her TED Talk: tinyurl.com/rachelmaxwell. The QR code provided will take you directly to her TED Talk on You Tube.



Updated COVID-19 Protocols



The Combined COVID-19 Task Force met on January 12 and updated the TBO COVID-19 protocols to reflect the availability of new vaccines for younger children and of boosters. Below are the current (January 12, 2022) protocols. The Task Force will be meeting again in early February to revisit our protocols and make any other necessary changes as the situation continues to evolve.

In-Person Services and Activities COVID-19 Protocol

- We continue to encourage all who are eligible to be vaccinated and receive booster shots to do so.
- We encourage everyone who is already vaccinated to get their booster shot(s).
- Everyone who is eligible for vaccination and booster(s) must be fully vaccinated and have received a booster(s) to attend in-person events. Those who are not yet eligible are also welcome to attend. Those who are choosing not to be vaccinated and those who do not feel well are welcome to participate virtually.
- All attending in-person services and activities will be required to properly wear an appropriate mask. Appropriate masks include one of the following; KN-95; KF-94; N-95; double surgical masks; or surgical masks doubled with a cloth mask.
- All attending indoor in-person services and activities will be required to observe social distancing.
- Singing is allowed while masked.
- Eating together will only be allowed under very specific circumstances outdoors with adequate spacing (e.g. at Camp Kalsman).
- Our procedures include requiring advanced reservations for guests to attend any services and other in-person events. For smaller events reservations are recommended for members. For larger events, where we anticipate that we may reach our capacity limits, advance reservations will also be required for members to attend in-person services and activities.
- At this time, we are limiting attendance in the sanctuary to 55 people to ensure that we can achieve social distancing.
- We will continue to use contact tracing protocols and have hand sanitizer readily available.
- We continue to ask health-related self-attestation questions upon entry.
- In-person services will be live-streamed.
- Proof of vaccination will not be required at this time. However, vaccination (including boosters) of those eligible will be required based on the honor system.
- Members are encouraged to provide their vaccine status at templebethor.org/vaccine-reporting.
- Non-members will need to confirm that they are vaccinated and have received their booster(s) at the time of registration. Proof of vaccination (including boosters) will be required from non-members prior to the event.
- We will continue to update our protocols based on recommendations and guidelines from federal, state, and local authorities.

Specific protocols for Religious School and BOTY have also been created. This will be shared directly with pertinent families. For copies of these protocols please visit: tinyurl.com/tbocovid19



Please update your
vaccination status at:

[https://tinyurl.com/
vaccinereporting](https://tinyurl.com/vaccinereporting)



L'Dor V'Dor

Alex Klarman Becomes A Bar Mitzvah

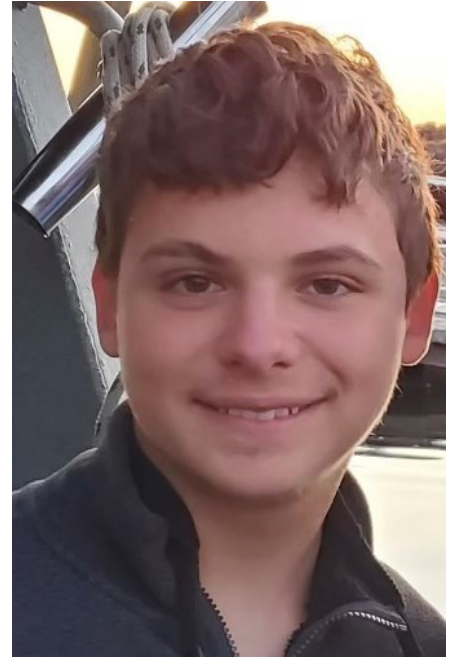
Alex Klarman (he/him) will become the newest member of our adult TBO community when he is called to the Torah on February 19.

Alex is an 8th grader at Brier Terrace Middle School where he enjoys band and social studies. In his spare time Alex likes to play his saxophone and go rowing. He enjoys spending time at Camp Kalsman in the summer and cooking traditional Jewish foods such as matzah ball soup, challah, and bagels.

For his *Tikkun Olam* project, Alex focused on community building. "I am collecting the story of the creation of TBO by interviewing all of the founding members. I will put together a presentation to show everyone later this year. I have also learned to blow the shofar and make a lot of different Jewish foods."

Alex has been supported in this journey by parents Barry and Robyn Klarman and sister Elyse Klarman. He would like to thank Bernie and Phyllis Busch, and Carolyn Wexler for tutoring and keeping him on track, the founding members for sharing their wisdom and assisting with his project, Rabbi Kort for helping with his *d'var Torah*, and his *b'nei mitzvah* classmates for making it fun.

When asked what this process has taught him about himself, Alex said, "It has taught me that I can make connections with other people and the value of learning from other generations."



Welcome Webster Family!

The Membership Committee is pleased to welcome the Webster family of Lake Stevens who are recent transplants from Florida. They joined TBO this past year and are looking to become involved in our Jewish community.

Dad, Phil, is a Chaplain in the Navy. Mom, Kiah, homeschools Liam 16, Phillip 14, Caris 13, and Amelia 10. Amelia and Caris also attend Hebrew School at TBO and would like to get to know other kids.

The Websters are a busy, active family who enjoy crafts, drama, sports, and being outdoors. They enjoy celebrating Shabbat every week and have their own tradition of "dancing for their dessert"!



FYI - Year End Donations receipts
were sent out with your January statements.

Please contact the office if you have misplaced yours and need a new copy.

Greening Congregations





Temple Beth Or has an exciting opportunity to become a Greening Congregations Partner with Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power and Light (WAIPL)! Earth Ministry/WAIPL is the local branch of an inter-denominational/multi-faith organization that encourages faith-based environmental stewardship and sustainability. Becoming a Greening Congregations Partner would help us engage in the vital work of environmental action as a congregation.



This collaboration helps us live our Jewish values of sustainability and leaving behind a better world for those who will come after us, *L'dor v'dor*, from generation to generation. In addition we can make connections with other faith groups who are doing good work. Our congregation gets to decide our primary areas of interest in this endeavor and may include worship, education, building and grounds, community engagement, and/or advocacy.

We are looking to form a Green Team, made of 2 or 3 individuals, who would be our contact with Earth Ministry/WAIPL and would formulate a plan to move forward with the greening of Temple Beth Or. To express your interest or for more information please contact Melissa VonAschen-Cook or Naomi Katsh Barger.

The Freedom to Vote Act will protect our right to vote.

-  Expands no-excuse vote by mail for all eligible voters
-  Gets rid of long lines at the polls (and end unjust bans on food + water being distributed!)
-  Curbs discriminatory voter purges
-  Restores voting rights to people formerly incarcerated



Voting Rights

The Social Action Committee would like to remind everyone to contact your U.S. Senators and emphasize your support of the **Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act**. Our Senators are backing this act, but your voice lets them know that this is the kind of legislation their constituents value.

Our U.S. Senators:

Maria Cantwell
www.cantwell.senate.gov



 Patty Murray
www.murray.senate.gov

Safety and Security Resources

Temple Beth Or leadership and staff regularly participate in safety and security trainings. These trainings are sponsored by Secure Community Network (SCN), Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), Anti-Defamation League (ADL), and other Jewish community organizations. Trainings are free and open to anyone in our community who would like to participate. We will also be organizing voluntary training opportunities in the coming months. For more information please contact the office.



Why Pronouns are So Important - and Why Using the Right Ones is So Jewish

By Chaim Ezra Harrison



Perhaps you've been to a Shabbat service where you heard someone include their pronouns while introducing themselves, i.e., "Hello, my name is Rachel, and my pronouns are she, her, and hers." You may have also seen instances of people including their pronouns on their email signatures, badges, and name tags at communal functions.

You might wonder, "Why is including my pronouns important? Won't people know my pronouns just by looking at me?"

Individuals who are cisgender (cis) – that is to say, those who identify with the gender they were assigned at birth – rarely have to think about their pronouns. However, individuals who, are transgender, gender non-conforming, and gender non-binary are often addressed with incorrect pronouns, both intentionally and accidentally, which contributes to their invalidation and erasure of their identities and further perpetuates cis/heteronormative societal structures.

Sharing our pronouns showcases part of our identities, especially when it comes to our gender identities. Our communities include people of varying gender identities, and they all have their own sets of pronouns. Referring to individuals using their correct pronouns conveys respect and validation to everyone in our communities – part of the Jewish imperative to treat others' the way we wish to be treated.

Might the Jewish imperative to treat others as we wish to be treated apply to gender identity, as well? After all, if each of us wishes to be treated with respect for our own authentic identities, surely it is in alignment with our Jewish values to respect others' identities, as well.

When we introduce ourselves by sharing our pronouns, we more equally share responsibility for building these relationships with people who are different from us. Such actions are a powerful demonstration of allyship and a recognition of those most marginalized in our communities and the issues they face.

There is precedence for Judaism acknowledging different gender identities. Jewish scholars in ancient times acknowledged a wider diversity of gender than the male/female binary. In fact, Jewish texts contain more than 1,600 references to people outside of the gender binary.

The next time you introduce yourself, consider sharing your gender pronouns too. Whether verbally, in an email signature, or on a nametag, adding she/her/hers, he/him/his, or they/them/theirs (a common gender-neutral pronoun) to your introductions helps balance your relationships by creating a way for everyone to share an expression of their gender identity.

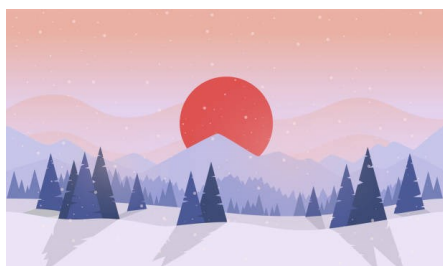
Doing so also communicates your awareness of the variety and fluidity of gender identity, even if you are not currently aware of any trans, non-binary, or gender non-conforming people in your community. Your actions can provide them a safe way to articulate their identity – one that others already understand.

This practice not only provides a warm welcome but also helps create a comfortable environment in which people can be their true selves in authentic relationship with others.

To read the full article/links/video go to: <https://tinyurl.com/jewishpronounsinfo>



February Service Schedule



All regular Shabbat services are now accessed using the same Zoom link.
We will still use unique links for *b'nei mitzvah* and special events.

Shabbat Zoom: tinyurl.com/tboshabbatzoom

For Dial In Users: (253) 215-8782

Meeting ID: 837 4187 0594 Passcode: 531760

If you have issues with the above link please type link in instead of clicking on the link, or sign in through Zoom and enter ID/Passcode



Friday, February 4, 7:30 pm

Shabbat Service & Board Installation Blessing with Rabbi Kort and Shoshana Stombaugh (Zoom)

Join Rabbi Kort 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 our *b'nei mitzvah* student community and will last just over an hour.

CANCELLED Friday, February 11, 5:45 pm

***K'hilah*--Community Shabbat**

This service was cancelled to accommodate Jonathan Hill's bar mitzvah which was rescheduled from 1/15 to 2/12. *Yahrzeits* originally scheduled to be read at this service will be read on 2/12.



Saturday, February 12, 10:00 am

Shabbat Morning Service and Bar Mitzvah of Jonathan Hill with Rabbi Kort and Noah Zeichner (Zoom)

Join us for our morning service led by Rabbi Kort and Jonathan Hill. We 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*. Bar mitzvah rescheduled from 1/15 - Torah reading will be *B'shalach*.



Saturday, February 19, 10:00 am

Shabbat Morning Service and Bar Mitzvah of Alex Klarman with Rabbi Kort and Noah Zeichner (In-person and Zoom)

Join us for our morning service led by Rabbi Kort and Alex Klarman. We 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*.



Pre-registration is required for in-person attendance. Registration for families with *yahrzeits* opens 2/11, general registration on 2/15. Registration closes at 3:00 pm on 2/18. *Please note, due to COVID-19 related attendance limits, b'nei mitzvah guests are given priority registration. Space for non-guests will be very limited and the number of seats available will depend on the size of the guest list.* templebethor.org/service-registration/ Zoom: Check your ORbits for Zoom link.



Shabbat Candle Lighting with Ellis Engbar

Friday, February 25, 5:45 pm

(Zoom)

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

Special Events

House Dedication and *Havdalah*

Saturday, February 5, 4:00 pm

Zoom from Ellis Engbar's new home



Join Rabbi Kort and Ellis for a special evening. All are invited to help dedicate and bless Ellis Engbar's new home. Together, over Zoom, we'll enjoy the ritual of *Havdalah* and help them affix their mezuzah.



Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/engbarhousededication>

Bystander Intervention Training

Sunday, February 27, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

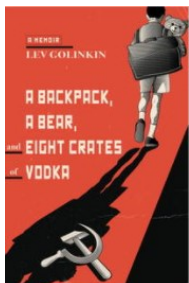
Zoom



Have you ever wondered what should you do if you witness public instances of racist, anti-Black, anti-Asian, anti-Muslim, antisemitic, anti-trans, or another form of oppressive interpersonal violence or harassment?

If so, please join to learn about the 5 D's of Bystander Intervention and how to stand up to racism, harassment, and hate. We will

learn about the bystander effect, intervention basics, and how to feel empowered through scenarios. The training is facilitated by Tabitha Baty, President of the Snohomish for Equity, and sponsored by the TBO Social Action Committee. Questions can be directed to Sonia Siegel Vexler.



Book Club Selection for February

The TBO Book Club will be meeting next on Sunday, February 20 at 10:00 am.

If you would like more information please contact Julie Maltos.

February Book Selection:

A Backpack, a Bear, and Eight Crates of Vodka: A Memoir by Lev Golinkin

Rather Pay Your Sacred Commitment Online?

The easiest way to pay your Sacred Commitment, donate for a *yahrzeit*, support the community through *tzedakah*, or make a donation of any kind is to pay online. Our website uses PayPal so there is a small fee for transactions. If you have any questions please contact the office. templebethor.org/donate/



Tzedakah Box

The *Tzedakah* Box Fund recipient for January - March is
Refugee and Immigrant Services Northwest.

Refugee & Immigrant Services Northwest (RISNW) is a refugee-led, multi-ethnic, and multicultural organization. The mission is to empower refugees, immigrants, and their families to become self-sufficient, and healthy contributing members of society. Based at Everett Community College, this non-profit organization serves refugees and immigrants living in Snohomish, Whatcom, Skagit, San Juan, and Island Counties. RISNW needs help to provide necessary services. Help can be financial or by volunteering to help resettle refugees.



**REFUGEE & IMMIGRANT
SERVICES NORTHWEST**
Serving refugees and immigrants since 1977.

Ways to help:

- Mail a check or Target gift card directly to RISNW (not accepting online donations)
- Mail a check to TBO so we can keep track of donations by our generous congregation members
- Offer your time and volunteer - call (425) 388-9307 for more information

RISNW
2000 Tower St.
Rainier Building 228, M/S 41
Everett, WA 98201
RISNW.org

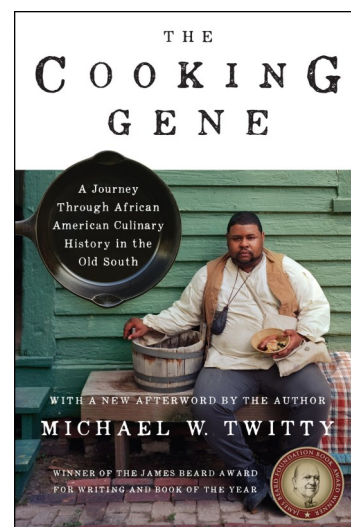


Sarah's Schtick: Meet Michael Tweedy ***Notes from your friendly local Office Administrator***

Hi TBO *mishpachah*! It has been awhile since I contributed anything other than office related notes to the *ORacle*. In honor of Black History Month, I wanted to take a moment to introduce all of you to one of my favorite authors, Michael Twitty.

Michael is a Black and Jewish culinary historian and writes extensively about cooking in the South, how black Americans (particularly slaves) have impacted American cuisine, his experience as a Jew of color, and American culinary history in general. Last year I read sixty books as part of my Goodreads book challenge and *The Cooking Gene* was in my top five. Not only is it a highly readable book, but it won the James Beard Award for Writing and Book of the Year.

I am excited for Michael's new book *Koshersoul* which will be released this August. In addition to his book he also has a great Instagram with lots of recipes and musings (IG: @thecookinggene). Please let me know if you check out his work. I'd love to know what you think!



Community Greeter Help Needed

Want to help your TBO community and get a guaranteed reservation for services? Ready to get out and see friends in a safe environment where everyone is masked and fully vaccinated? Please join us and serve as a Community Greeter. No additional training needed and no long term commitment. Please contact the office for more information.



Hebrew Free Loan Association Can Help You Pay for College!

HFLA offers interest-free, no fee loans of up to \$7,500 for students seeking post-secondary education for bachelors, masters, vocational, technical and community college degrees through our Student Access Fund (SAF). The SAF loan program offers \$7,500 for post-secondary education with no interest and fees. It is managed by a nonprofit and doesn't influence credit ratings in any way.

Mark your calendars - applications open May 1, 2022.

In addition to college assistance, HFLA can help with the following:

www.hflawa.org/saf

- Medical Expenses
- Food Security
- Rent & Utilities
- Making Ends Meet
- Childcare Expenses
- Disability & Special Needs
- Education
- Transportation
- Appliance failures
- Purchasing a first home
- and so much more...



Camp Kalsman

Camperships

There is no experience as powerful, thrilling or transformative than Jewish overnight summer camp. There is no question that camp creates life-long friendships and unbreakable bonds to Judaism and the Jewish community. There is no question it is expensive to send your child(ren).



Thanks to the generosity of Billy and Mary Sturman's children and additional donors we have camperships available for those who need financial 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 is posted on the website. **Applications are due by Monday, February 28.**

First-time Campers

If you have a child who is attending a Jewish overnight summer camp for the first-time, please fill out the Campership Form. There is First-time Camper section. Temple Beth Or, through the Campership Fund, will pay the first \$100. **The deadline is Monday, February 28.**



TBO Campership Form: tinyurl.com/tbocampership2022

For questions regarding Camp Kalsman, please contact Sonia Siegel Vexler.

Camp Kalsman Information Sessions

Attend a virtual zoom session and learn more about Camp Kalsman and get ready for the best summer ever!

Information sessions are on:

- Wednesday, January 26 at 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, February 2 at 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, February 9 at 7:00 pm

Register for one of these information sessions by going to:
campkalsman.org/year-round/events/



Leadership News

During the January 9 Board meeting and associated email Board meetings the following happened:

1. The previously approved corrected minutes from the December 5 meeting were shared. The minutes from the associated email Board meetings were approved.
2. One policy was deleted - Responding to Temple Members; One policy failed to pass - Sanctuary Seating Capacity; Two policies were deferred for further discussion in the future - Facilities Rental Policy and Advertising Events Involving Food.
3. The system for correcting and approving minutes going forward was presented.
4. There was a discussion about logging in for services and suggestions were made about updating the virtual greeter instructions.
5. Upcoming meeting dates were reviewed.
6. Melanie Field presented expectations for Board behavior/conduct in the coming year, related to confidentiality, valuing and respecting work of committees and task forces and making sure to include the VPs in the communication loop.
7. The Board was introduced to the Social Action Committee by Naomi Katsh Barger, co-chair.
8. Melissa VonAschen-Cook presented the Greening Congregations initiative. The Board voted to support this effort.
9. Melanie Field presented an update about the facilities work, specifically information about the work being done by the consultant on the financial feasibility assessment. Most of the next Board meeting will be spent with her. We also talked about leaning into the neighborhood and using this occasion to explore social justice opportunities.
10. The Board approved the new Campership Policy prepared by the Campership Committee.
11. Wanda Bresnick presented the results of exit interviews done with recent members who have left TBO.
12. James Feinberg presented the results of the annual financial audit and summarized the monthly financial reports.
13. We agreed to table the discussion about public versus private events, due to time constraints. Jeff Napp will have additional information from the Communications Committee when we revisit this topic at a future meeting.
14. Melanie Field highlighted that the attached Committee and President's Reports presented goals for the year ahead.
15. Following the Board meeting, Melissa VonAschen-Cook provided training on the Shabbat Tracker to new Board members and those wanting a refresher course. She will be checking the tracker regularly to make sure that we have necessary Board greeters signed up. In the event of a gap, Melissa will be reaching out to Board members to fill the gaps.

Temple Leadership

Rabbi

Rachel Kort

Governing Board

President

Melanie Field

VP of Community & Engagement
Jeff Napp

VP of Finance & Facilities Management
James Feinberg

VP of Jewish Life
Jennifer Cail

Assist. VP of Community & Engagement
Will Burgamy

Assist. VP of Finance & Facilities Management
Tom Elsemore

Assist. VP of Jewish Life
Melissa VonAschen-Cook

Board Secretary
Nancy Rosen

Members-At-Large
Eric Elsemore
Mila Lowery
Michael Tarr

President-Elect
Wanda Bresnick

Committees & Task Forces

Adult Education: Vacant

Bereavement: Susan Cross

Book Club: Julie Maltos

Building: Jeff St. George

Building Design: Paul Vexler

Calendar: Sarah Davis

Campership: Sonia Siegel Vexler

College and Military Outreach: Sarah Davis

Capital Campaign: Norm Black

Combined COVID-19: Melanie Field

Communications: JonaRose Feinberg

Facebook: Deb Henry

Financial Administrator: Norm Black

First Chapter: Dana Sanders

Fundraising: Vacant

High Holy Days: Vacant

Life & Legacy/Endowment: Harold Dash

Library: Melissa VonAschen-Cook

Membership: Leslie Elsemore

Mitzvah Corps: Carolyn Wexler

Next Chapter: Sonia Siegel Vexler

Nominations: Sonia Siegel Vexler

ORacle: Sarah Davis

ORbits: Lori Wolff

Ruach and Ritual: Ellis Rose Engbar

Safety and Security: Mirs VonAschen-Cook

Social Action: Naomi Katsh and

Melissa VonAschen-Cook

Technology: James Feinberg

Website: JonaRose Feinberg

Youth Education: Mila Lowery and Tina Roth

Staff

Office Administrator: Sarah Davis

Youth Group: Eian Snyder



February 2022

Sh'vat - Adar I 5782

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Hebrew School - Aleph 5:15 pm	2 (Adar I 1, 5782) Executive Board Mtg 7 pm	3	4 Liaison Mtg 10 am Shabbat Service & Board Installation 7:30 pm (Online)	5 Ellis Engbar House Dedication & <i>Havdalah</i> (Online) 4:00 pm
6 Religious School	7 Hebrew School - Bet 4:30 pm Finance Committee Mtg 7 pm Combined COVID- 19 TF Mtg 7 pm	8 Hebrew School - Aleph 5:15 pm Social Action Committee 7 pm	9 Build Your Own Seder 7pm	10	11	12 Shabbat Morning & J. Hill Bar Mitzvah 10 am (Online)
13 Religious School Governing Board Mtg 9 am	14 Hebrew School - Bet 4:30 pm Communications Committee Mtg 7pm	15 <i>ORacle</i> Submissions Due Hebrew School - Aleph 5:15 pm	16 Build Your Own Seder 7pm	17 Office Closed	18	19 Shabbat Morning & A. Klarman Bar Mitzvah 10 am (Online/In-Person w/registration)
20 No Religious School (Teacher In Service) Book Club 10 am	21 No Hebrew School President's Day	22 No Hebrew School	23 Membership Committee Mtg 7pm	24	25 Shabbat Candle Lighting 5:45 pm (Online)	26
27 Religious School Bystander Intervention Training 4pm	28 Hebrew School - Bet 4:30 pm					

Fill out the **Calendar/Event Submission** form to add an item to the calendar &/or set up a Zoom meeting. This includes all committee meetings.
Please submit a form even if you are using a private Zoom. Thanks.
templebethor.org/calendar-submission



Reminder: Appointments are still required to access the Temple to assist with contact tracing and limit the number of people in the building at one time. We are also requiring those who enter to sign in and self-attest to the COVID-19 health questions.

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



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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).