



## Union for Reform Judaism Biennial 2019!

Seven members proudly represented Temple Beth Or at this year's Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) Biennial 2019 in Chicago last month. Thousands of Jews from across North America and around the world gathered to learn, pray, share ideas, dance and sing, hear from inspiring speakers and the leaders of our Movement, reunite with old friends, create new connections, and make decisions about the policies of the Reform Movement. We even enjoyed hearing Cantor Ellen Dreskin's music group, So Is Life! See page 6 for a list of the Resolutions passed at the Biennial. To hear some of the offerings, go to: <https://www.urjbiennial.org/>.



*Members of our "delegation": Julie Makoff, Rabbi Kort, Carolyn Wexler, Eldon Wexler, Melanie Field, Vicky Romero, and Sonia Siegel Vexler. Not shown: Rabbi Fine, who was working at the Biennial.*



*Participating congregations each had a leaf on one of four large boards.*



*Shown here is Sonia with Temple Beth Or's leaf.*



**House of Light**

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

**Founded 1985**

**425.259.7125**

**TempleBethOr.org**



## Our Rabbi

*K'hilah/*

*Mishpachah*

*Torah*

*Avodah*

*Tzedakah/*

*Tikkun Olam*

*Leadership*

## Add Your Voice and Values to the Jewish Nature of Israel

While there seem to be a lot more Jewish folk in the north end of Seattle these days, when I was a kid growing up, I felt lonely being one of few Jewish kids at school. I remember being enthralled by Israel. I learned in religious school that in Israel the supermarket clerks greet everyone with, "Shabbat Shalom" on Fridays and you can ride your bike in the middle of the road on Yom Kippur because no one drives out of respect for the holy day.

As a grown-up and Jewish leader, I now understand the Jewish nature of the State of Israel to be complicated and nuanced. It is not simply our historical attachment and informal things like "Shabbat Shalom" greetings that make Israel Jewish. There are formal ways that Israel is a Jewish State. For example, government funding supports things like Jewish education in Israel and abroad, conversion classes, and rabbis' salaries.

Something special is happening this year that only happens every five years. The World Zionist Congress (WZC) elections are an opportunity for **you**, along with Jews from all around the world, to help shape the Jewish nature of Israel through a democratic process of elections. Theodor Herzl founded the WZC in 1897. The first meeting in Switzerland was an opportunity for Jews from all over the world to not only dream about a Jewish homeland, but to have a say in its building, creation, and Jewish nature. These current elections are a big deal because they help shape the budgets of hundreds of millions of dollars that affect the Jewish character of Israel.

WZC voting is a simple online process and is open between **January 21-March 11, 2020**. Voting for our Reform Movement's Zionist slate through the Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA) means that you are



supporting values of religious pluralism, egalitarianism, environmental sustainability, democracy and peace. To learn more and to vote, visit <https://arza.org/who-we-are/world-zionist-congress-elections/>

I think it is powerful that even though we live so far away, we are invited to engage with Israel in this impactful way. Theodor Herzl had a famous saying: 'If you will it, it is no dream; and if you do not will it, a dream it is and a dream it will stay.' In other words, take advantage of voting in these important elections!

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



### WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

- VOTERS IN THE WZC ELECTIONS MUST:
- Be 18 years of age or older (by June 30, 2020)
  - Self-identify as Jewish
  - Agree to the Jerusalem Program\*, the official platform of the WZO and the Zionist Movement
  - Agree to pay a minimal processing fee.

\*The Jerusalem Program is the platform of the World Zionist Organization. It does not favor any specific organizational or political platform. It does not encourage Settlement activity across the Green line and simply tries to espouse the central principles of Zionism today. We are asking all those who vote to simply acknowledge that this is the platform of the World Zionist Organization.

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](mailto:RabbiKort@TempleBethOr.org)

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

## “Spotlight on a TBO Family” Beth and Rabbi David Fine



Naomi, Erin, Avi, David, and Beth

I first joined Beth Or when my spouse, David, became the Rabbi in the early '90s. We were new in town, and the Beth Or community welcomed us like family. David moved on to other positions, I taught at the Jewish Day School in Bellevue for over 20 years, and our two children, Avi and Naomi, grew up. We wandered from congregation to congregation for quite a few years, and are thrilled to have rejoined the Temple several years ago.

We always loved the warm, homey feeling of Beth Or, and were pulled back to becoming members by the strong leadership of Rabbi Kort and Canter Dreskin. I have never enjoyed High Holiday services as much as when they are leading together.

I love Shabbat — I love setting that time apart to share leisurely meals with friends and family, to walk outside, to feel grateful for my good fortune. I am a happy camper!

I have become a TBO Board member and am involved in re-forming the Youth Education Committee under the leadership of Amy Paquette and Jessica Hill.

*Beth Burstein Fine*

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



### **Like to Sing? Join our Shabbat Shira Singers with Rabbi Kort & Noah Zeichner**

We'll work together on a few special selections to enhance our **Shabbat Shira** (Shabbat of Song) and **Tu BiShvat Celebration on Friday, February 7, 7:00 pm**. We'll rehearse together on **Sunday, January 26, 9-9:45 am** and we'll send recordings to help learn music too. Please let me know if you would like to participate in this special multi-generational musical group!

Rabbi Rachel Kort  
[rabbikort@templebethor.org](mailto:rabbikort@templebethor.org)

### **Summer Campership Scholarships**

Temple Beth Or supports our children having formative Jewish experiences through the Billy and Mary Sturman Campership Fund. We are greatly indebted to Billy's and Mary's children for establishing this generous fund supporting our youth in honor of their parents. Letters have been sent to all Religious School families. If you have not received this letter, please contact the office.



To apply for needs-based Temple Beth Or campership funds, parents/guardians of children wishing to attend camp should fill out the application (one per child) and **return it to the Temple by Thursday, February 27, 2020**.

It is important to note that the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle also has needs-based campership funds. You must **apply first to Temple Beth Or's** campership. Applications that come in **after the 27<sup>th</sup> of February will not be eligible** for a campership scholarship. If you have questions, please contact Sonia Siegel Vexler.

*Our Rabbi*

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## Explore Israel with Rabbi Kort!

Rabbi Kort, in conjunction with Makor Educational Journeys, will be leading a TBO trip to Israel, **November 1-11, 2020**. We will visit the most significant places in Israel and engage with the people of Israel, too. The itinerary includes time with a Progressive Jewish community, leaders of the LGBTQ community, and folks representing the diverse expressions of Israeli and Palestinian politics and peoplehood.

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.



## This and That....

### Community Greeting:

We are asking all adult members to sign up to be community greeters on our Shabbat Volunteer Google Sheet. As a community greeter you will join the Board greeter at the doors prior to services to help welcome members and guests. You will also be an extra set of eyes and ears which will enhance security. To sign up, email Sarah — [Office@TempleBethOr.org](mailto:Office@TempleBethOr.org) — and she will add you. She can also help you navigate the Google sheet. Thank you!

### Israel Bonds:

Do you have matured Israel Bonds that you can't figure out how to cash in? (Maybe grandma gave them to you for your graduation or b'nei mitzvah.) Are you interested in supporting Israel through making an investment in Israel Bonds or interested to learn how Israel Bonds have changed in recent years? Either way, there is a new Israel Bonds office located in Oakland, CA that oversees the Pacific Northwest. You can contact Daniel Klein at [Daniel.Klein@Israelbonds.com](mailto:Daniel.Klein@Israelbonds.com) for more information.

### Just a Few Friendly Reminders...

- Please do NOT borrow supplies from the Temple.
- The Temple directory is for personal use of our members only — not for business or commercial use.
- Please do not leave food in the refrigerator.
- **Please do not use any tape except blue tape to hang items on the walls or doors, as other tapes damage the paint.**

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation.

## Service Schedule For January

**Friday, January 3**  
**Family Shabbat Service**  
**7:00 pm**  
**Led by**  
**Rabbi Kort**  
**Music Leader**  
**Noah Zeichner**

**Friday, January 10**  
**Evening Shabbat Service**  
**7:30 pm**  
**Led by**  
**Rabbi Kort**  
**Music Leader**  
**Al Friedman**

**Saturday, January 18**  
**Morning Shabbat Service**  
**10:00 am**  
**Led by**  
**Doug Wallis**  
**Music Leader**  
**Judy Magison**

**Friday, January 24**  
**Evening Shabbat Service**  
**7:30 pm**  
**Led by**  
**Rabbi Kort**  
**Music Leader**  
**Neil Weinstein**



## Social Action



Temple Beth Or is the proud recipient of the 2019 Community Organization Award presented by the Snohomish County Human Rights Commission. Rabbi Kort and several Temple members attended the awards ceremony December 8 at Everett Community College. The award is one of several awards given to organizations and individuals who promote the advancement of human rights in Snohomish County.

Rabbi Kort and the Social Action Committee are working together to plan our **Tu B'Shvat service which will be Friday, February 7, at 7:00 pm.** (See p. 3 regarding musical participation.) This service coincides with **Shabbat Shira** and the Song of the Sea *parashah*, which inspires us to consider the sea and water's importance to life.

Our next Tzedakah Box recipient will continue the theme of water. We will be raising money for the Northwest Stream Center/Adopt a Stream Foundation. Each year, in thousands of rivers and streams, the Pacific Northwest witnesses a remarkable natural phenomenon as millions of salmon return to their place of birth to spawn future generations...



The Adopt A Stream Foundation (AASF), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, was established to ensure that Pacific Northwest streams continue to provide healthy spawning and rearing habitat for salmon, trout, steelhead, and other wildlife. At the same time, it serves our growing population by providing clean drinking water, applicable knowledge via environmental education, and beautiful places for rest and relaxation.

The mission of Adopt A Stream Foundation:  
**"TO TEACH PEOPLE HOW TO BECOME STEWARDS OF THEIR WATERSHEDS"**

### Immigrant Justice

Several members of the Temple attended the Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice Northwest annual fundraiser on November 16. Our synagogue was one of the co-sponsors for this event which raises money for the Fair Fight Immigrant Bond Fund. This fund provides money to low income immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers so they can be released on bond. When out of the detention facility and released on bond individuals can hire legal representation, access other resources and compile evidence so they can have quality legal defense. Being released on bond also allows people to keep their jobs and be reunited with families. For more information go to <https://fairfightbondfund.org>.

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# Leadership Nus

## Nus from the Governing Board (GB)

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

1. The GB approved the 2020 slate of Board member candidates.
2. The GB approved the removal of the trees in front of the building which are getting too large for the space and threatening the underground water lines.
3. Discussions continue regarding the Food Policy.
4. The current Yahrzeit/Yizkor policy, approved previously by the Bereavement Committee, has been approved by the Religious Practices Committee, and now reaffirmed by the Board.
5. The Elections policy and Membership policies were approved.
6. Options for the sanctuary and Rabbi's office windows were discussed and are still in the exploratory stage.
7. Duplex issues were discussed and presented at the General Semi-Annual Membership Meeting (see below).

At the **December Semi-Annual General Membership Meeting** the following business occurred and information was shared:

1. With a large number of members in attendance, we began with a nosh and lovely *Havdalah*, led by Rabbi Kort.
2. Elections occurred and the full slate of candidates was elected.
3. The parking spaces auction was quite successful.
4. Several members were recognized for their volunteerism.
5. Mark Bresnick and Bob Goodmark were named as the two Volunteers of the Year.
6. A discussion regarding the disposition of the duplex property occurred. Members were given preliminary information regarding the options for the property, depending on insurance reimbursement and how the use of the property would fit into our strategic plan going forward. At this point there are few hard facts known about the costs of various options but the option to move was estimated to be prohibitively expensive. Focus groups will be announced as more information becomes available.

## URJ Biennial Resolutions

The following four **resolutions**, submitted by congregations and commissions of the **URJ were adopted: Resolution** on Private Prisons; **Resolution** on the Study and Development of Reparations for Slavery and Systemic Racism in the U.S.; **Resolution** on Supporting Those Affected by the Opioid Crisis; and **Resolution** on US labor in the 21st Century. For more information, go to <https://templemanuelmd.org/2019-urj-resolutions/>.

## Explanation of the President-Elect position:

During the first year of a president's term the immediate past president (IPP) remains on the board. The second year, the president-elect serves in place of the IPP. This person is elected the year prior to taking the presidency, as they are elected to step into the president position at the end of the current president's term. This system serves to give the current president the support of the previous president, and for the next president to work with the current president, making the transition as smooth as possible.

<b>Temple Leadership</b>	
<b>Rabbi</b>	Rachel Kort
<b>Governing Board</b>	
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
<b>Committees</b>	
Adult Education	Heidi Piel
Bereavement	Susan Cross
Calendar	Janis Warner
Communications	Al Friedman
Financial Administrator	Norm Black
First Chapter	Michelle Douglass
High Holy Days	Debra Lawson
Mitzvah Corps	Vicki Schwartz
Next Chapter	Sonia Siegel Vexler
<i>ORacle</i>	Vicky Romero
ORbits	Lori Wolff
Religious Practices	Phyllis Busch
Social Action	Naomi Katsh
Website	JonaRose Feinberg
Youth Education	Jessica Hill
<b>Staff</b>	
Religious School Principal	Amy Paquette
Office Administrator	Sarah Davis

# January 2020

## Tevet — Sh’vat 5780

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Family Shabbat Service 7:00pm	4
5	6 Finance Committee Mtg. 6:30pm	7	8 <i>Atidaynu</i> Leadership Program 5:30 dinner 6-9:00pm class <i>(invitation only)</i>	9 LIFE & LEGACY Mtg. 2:00pm	10 Evening Shabbat Service 7:30pm	11
12 Religious School Book Club 10:00am <i>Offsite</i>	13 Membership Committee Mtg. 4:30pm	14	15	16	17	18 Morning Shabbat Service 10:00am
19 Religious School Governing Board Mtg. 10:15am-12:15pm location TBD	20	21 WZC voting begins	22	23	24 Evening Shabbat Service 7:30pm	25
26 Religious School Shabbat Shira rehearsal 9-9:45am	27	28	29	30	31	

**Please note: In order to inform our membership and prevent scheduling conflicts, please email our calendar guru at [calendar@TempleBethOr.org](mailto: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).