

April 2023

Nisan/Iyar 5783

Founded 1985

Volume 34, Issue 3

Happy Passover!

Simply Seder for TBO Adults

**Saturday, April 8, 2:00 pm (offsite and fully ADA accessible, in-person only)
with Rabbi Rachel Kort**

Are you looking for a simple seder experience with community? Rabbi Kort and a few of our Religious School families will host a seder at one of our local Everett senior living facilities. This will include traditional seder ritual, singing, and Passover desserts (a full meal will not be served). The program will last about an hour.

Registration (for all attendees): Address will be shared upon RSVP. Registration will close April 3, 9:00 pm.

Registration Link: templebethor.org/service-registration

Why Is This Night Different?

Women's Seder at Temple Beth Or

Saturday, April 8, 4:00 pm

After a three-year hiatus we are once again hosting a women's seder! Please join the women of Temple Beth Or as we celebrate Pesach through a female lens. The story we tell does not diminish the role of our forefathers. Rather it includes the often ignored experiences, intelligence, bravery, and forethought of our foremothers. Join us as we retell our story and support one another. Our discussions around the seder table will address our heritage as women and how we are responding to the issues impacting women in the world today. We will share resources and ideas that amplify women and give us hope. It will be a time to rejoice in each other!

Registration for all attendees: This event will make space for women's experiences in the context of this holiday. It is limited to any member who identifies as a woman and any of their family (current members or not) who identify the same. Please register in advance so we can plan accordingly. Registration will close April 3, 9:00 pm. Members who have not registered in time are still welcome to attend.

Suggested Donation: \$10

Registration Link: templebethor.org/service-registration

Note: This event is potluck style. On Passover we do not have *chameitz*. *Chameitz* is any food product made from wheat, barley, rye, oats or spelt that has come into contact with water and been allowed to ferment and rise. This does not include matzo that is kosher for Passover or items made with it. TBO policy maintains a no mixing meat/poultry with dairy at any Temple event. For the seder please do not use any dairy (butter, milk products) in any food. Dairy substitutes are fine. If you have any questions regarding food please contact the Temple office.





Experience Passover Project

We Need Your Help Spreading the Word

Help us grow our Religious School! We are hosting a Passover event on **Sunday, April 2, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm** at TBO and we need YOU to help bring in families who may be interested in our wonderful school!

This outreach can be a personal invitation to join you at the event, or a posting for your online groups to generate interest (copy and paste info below):

Be our guest at Temple Beth Or's Experience Passover Project! Please join us on Sunday, April 2, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm at Temple Beth Or in Everett. On Passover it is traditional to invite guests to your seder, so we want to welcome you to our home (synagogue) to have some Passover fun and get a taste of what learning is like at Temple Beth Or. There will be interactive experiences centered around the Passover story for Tots - seventh grade. Visiting friends are welcome with a parent. This event is open to the community. Pre-registration required for non-members. Please email religious.school@templebethor.org by March 29 to attend.

Bittersweet Chocolate Dipped Macaroons

from Sonia Siegel Vexler

4 ounces butter, softened
3/4 cup sugar
1/8 teaspoon salt
3 eggs
24 ounce sweetened coconut
10 ounces bittersweet chocolate, melted



Cream butter, sugar, and salt. Add eggs one at a time, then coconut. Mix well and drop 1 ounce of batter on a parchment lined cookie sheet. Bake at 325 degrees for 15-20 minutes - turn after the first 10 minutes to bake evenly. Cookies should be nicely toasted when done. Let macaroons cool on the cookie sheet. Drizzle melted chocolate on top, then dip the bottom of the cookie in chocolate. Set upside down on sides and chill until set.



5783 Pesach Supplement Springtime Seder Ritual: Connecting with Nature

Rabbi Kort has prepared a seder supplement to accompany your at-home Pesach celebration. Please see the loose leaflet enclosed with this mailing.

Passover: Rich in Tradition and a Time of New Growth

For many of us, Pesach is our favorite Jewish holiday. We love coming together with family and friends to tell the story of freedom from enslavement, to eat yummy food, sing songs, ask questions, and enjoy each other's company.

I attended my first seder as a teenager when a friend invited me to her house for Passover. Everything about the seder was new and different for me and I loved every minute of it. I asked lots of questions as I wanted to understand the rituals and the symbolism of the seder plate. I was awed to learn that in Jewish households around the world Passover was being celebrated in the same way. The Haggadah used and the foods served varied from country to country and household to household, but the rituals and the order of the evening have remained the same for centuries. I love traditions and Passover is steeped in traditions passed down from generation to generation so it was my perfect introduction to Judaism.

Over the years I have been to and hosted many seders and used a variety of Haggadot. I have continued to ask questions and as a result have a deeper understanding of Pesach. Passover occurs in spring during the month of Nisan, a time of growth and when new life begins. It celebrates life and the Jewish people's ability to persevere and adapt, moving from slavery to freedom, from exile to self-determination in a new land. Passover represents our strong spirit and our ability to grow, change, and move forward. These themes of Passover resonate with our community at this time.

Here at Temple Beth Or, we are a tight knit community steeped in years of tradition and our TBO way of doing things. Yet, we are currently in the midst of change and new growth. It is an exciting time for our community. Our remodel project is moving forward which will lead to our building being more accessible, welcoming, and secure for all. The Capital Campaign's theme, *L'dor vador*, means from generation to generation. TBO is preparing for and embracing that shift to the next generation. Our founding members have raised their children and they bring their wisdom and experience to our new generation of families. These younger families are, in turn, creating their own connections and memories with their children. We are seeing new twists to old traditions and new ideas being incorporated. This year at Passover, please take a moment to appreciate our ability to grow and change that keeps our community vibrant and relevant.

From our household to yours,
Happy Passover!

Wanda Bresnick, President (she/her)



Purim 5783

Be Happy It's Adar!

Purim Celebrated by TBO Religious School



Be happy, it's Adar! The Talmud teaches us that we should be happier in the Hebrew month of Adar, than any other month. "When Adar begins joy increases." (Talmud, *Taanit* 29a). The TBO Religious School took that to heart with our Purim Celebration Sunday, March 5th. Students came wearing costumes ranging from an inflatable T-Rex to adorable pirates. Everyone enjoyed a "Very MadLib Purimspiel" made even more fun with hysterical random word selections by our Religious School students. The festivities continued with an amazing parent-led carnival complete with skeeball, face painting, Purim pong, sack races, and a prize table to end all prize tables!

On Purim there are four *mitzvot*. Our students performed all four:

1. Read the *Megillah* - students listened (and booed and cheered) the Purim story.
2. Gave treats to friends - students were given two *Mishloach Manot* bags, one to keep and one to gift to someone of their choosing.
3. Ate a festive meal - hamantaschen was sent home to brighten everyone's Sunday dinner.
4. Helped the poor - Although we weren't able to check this mitzvah off our list the Sunday of our Purim celebration, we did tackle it the following Sunday during our *Kehillah* and brainstormed ways we can each fulfill this mitzvah BEFORE the month of Adar is over.

Yasher Koach Religious School! You did ALL FOUR PURIM MITZVOT! Thanks to Morah Jessica's class for making treat bags, Tina Roth and Dana Sanders for baking hamantaschen, and to all the volunteers who made the day a success!



Hamanhattan or Vashtini?

TBO Adults Celebrated Purim with a 21+ Party

Our youth were not the only ones to have fun celebrating Purim. The adults joined in the revelry of Purim at an adults-only party on Saturday, March 4. We began the evening with some time to schmooze and nosh on appetizers. We ate yummy hamantaschen with a variety of fillings and partook of one of the signature cocktails - the sweet Vashtini, the spicy Hamanhattan, or the non-alcoholic Esterito. We followed that with *Havdalah* before our evening activities of karaoke and poker. Tim Hill was our MC for karaoke where brave people sang solos and duos and then festive groups clustered around the mics with great enthusiasm and joy belting out popular tunes and old favorites! Even those seated in the "audience" joined in. Mark Bresnick got poker going for our "experienced players" who actively raised

the stakes on each other with lots of laughter and good fun. At a second table, Mark taught the basics of poker to some newbies. Proceeds from poker went towards our January - March *Tzedakah* box recipient, Cocoon House. All present enjoyed this time to be light and playful with others.



Membership Committee Update

A big thank you and shout out to our teens, Karis Webster and Adina Paquette, for designing this year's Passover cards.

We are delighted to welcome two families to Temple Beth Or: Karen Mars and her son, Oren Tate, and Kayla Mohrbacher and her children, Charlie, Brennan, and Oswin.

As we return to in-person activities at TBO, we're looking forward to getting reacquainted, rekindling old friendships, and meeting and establishing relationships with newer members.

The Membership Committee will be sending out a survey asking you to share what kinds of activities you'd like to see and be a part of in the coming months at TBO. Please consider joining our Membership Committee or another committee that interests you. For more information or to join one of our meetings, please contact Leslie Elsemore.



Building our Future:

Capital Campaign Wraps Up General Congregation Pledge Phase



This is a very exciting time for the congregation and our future. The Campaign has raised almost \$1.7 M for the major renovation of our Temple building thanks to the generosity of members, their family and friends, staff, and our Religious School students. TODAH RABAH! This sum puts us just shy of the lower end of what our fundraising consultant estimated we could raise. Approximately 66% of our member households have pledged; it is not too late for the remaining households to join the effort. A high percentage of participation will help us in our next phases of fund raising when we go to former members and the outside community. Please help us to meet our \$2.5M goal and raise sufficient funds for major improvements to the campus!

Credit for success also goes to those members who have tirelessly served on the Capital Campaign Committee, helped to organize events, and coordinate publicity. Special thanks to: Norm Black, Wanda Bresnick, Leslie Elsemore, Melanie Field, JonaRose Feinberg, Adam Goldstein, Bob Goodmark, Deb Henry, Sheryl Shapiro, Sonia Siegel Vexler, Janis Warner, Carolyn Wexler, Eldon Wexler, Lori Wolff and our consultant, Rachel Maxwell.

A future acknowledgement will be published for all of those who made phone calls, met with members to solicit pledges, or performed other volunteer duties. Our TBO community is blessed with members who step up when needed.

See the other articles on these next two pages to learn more about the next phase of the campaign, our celebration on May 7, and progress made by the Remodel Team to obtain architectural drawings and permits necessary for the renovation.

Jess Burgamy and Jeff Napp
Capital Campaign Co-Chairs

Looking for Capital Campaign Donors

As our Capital Campaign starts its next phase (reaching out to past members and Snohomish County at large) we would like to reach out to adults who were once youth members of TBO. If you have a grown child who attended Religious School, had a b'nei mitzvah, and/or grew up in TBO and you think they would be interested in learning more about our Capital Campaign, please share their contact information (name, mailing address, cellphone number and email address) with Adam Goldstein and Sonia Siegel Vexler.

We are also looking for members of our community who like having a Reform Jewish congregation in the neighborhood even though they are not members. If you know someone who would like to contribute to the Capital Campaign, please send their contact information to Adam Goldstein or Sonia Siegel Vexler. Thanks in advance for your help. Together we can make our dreams come true.

L'dor vador

Remodel Team Update

The Remodel Team (co-chairs Harold Dash and Melanie Field, and members Norm Black, Wanda Bresnick, Michael Cross, James Feinberg, Bob Goodmark, Ken Lowery, Glen Pickus, Vicki Schwartz, Rich Spitzer, and Eldon Wexler) has been busy moving the project along through the next phases. All the fieldwork from the end of last year and the beginning of this year has been completed. Soils analysis was conducted, a new site survey prepared, and drainage/stormwater information generated. Reports from those efforts have been shared with our architect to be used in preparing our Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application and building plans. The CUP is a land use entitlement permit required for places of worship that is needed before any building permits can be issued. We are working with the architect and the engineer to file the CUP application with the City of Everett as soon as possible. We will be pursuing a regular building permit later in the year.

Meanwhile, we have also applied for and received another extension on our claim with our insurance company. This time we were able to submit copies of the several reports that resulted from the fieldwork completed over the last few months and proved that we are making a good faith effort. We have been granted an additional six months on our claim. Other work in progress includes starting to solicit estimates for preliminary demolition and collecting information about potential general contractors. We are also working on options for managing, removing, or relocating the portable classrooms.

Questions about this information should be directed to Harold Dash and Melanie Field.

Save The Date: Capital Campaign

Lag BaOmer Celebration

Sunday, May 7, 11:00 - 1:00 pm, TBO

Please join us on May 7 to celebrate the success of our Capital Campaign and the holiday Lag BaOmer. There will be a bonfire, music with Noah Zeichner, a catered lunch, a speaker, and activities for the kids. All members are welcome to attend. Those who have pledged to the campaign will receive a gift – a beautiful commemorative mezuzah designed by Paul Vexler (z"l) and made by Paul and TBO members from the trees that once stood in front of the Temple. Our guest speaker will be Jim Dean, Executive Director of the Interfaith Association of Northwest Washington. He will speak about our congregation's value in the greater Everett/Snohomish County community. Stay tuned for more details. If you have any questions please contact Leslie Elsemore.



Tzedakah Box



The April - June *Tzedakah Box* recipient is Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund. This is an independent, non-partisan 501(c)(3) organization that seeks to improve our understanding of the causes of gun violence and help to reduce it by conducting groundbreaking original research, developing evidence-based policies, and communicating gun safety knowledge to the American public. Two of their programs are:

- Everytown for Safer Cities - provides grants and training for community-based violence intervention programs aimed at reducing gun violence in cities; and
- Be SMART - a public education campaign which educates parents and other caregivers on secure gun storage to prevent children from accessing a gun.

Please Volunteer

TBO continues to work with Refugee and Immigrant Services Northwest (RISNW) to really make a difference in the lives of Ukrainian refugees. RISNW is in need of volunteers in several areas.

- Volunteers are needed to help distribute household items on Fridays from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm at the Carl Gipson Everett Senior Center. No training is required. Please contact Vicki Schwartz or Naomi Katsh Barger by email or phone for more information. Please visit tinyurl.com/gipsonvolunteer to sign-up to volunteer on Fridays.
- New: Talk Time! Conversational English practice will be offered on Friday mornings at the Carl Gipson Everett Senior Center 9:30 am to 11:00 am. This program is free and open to all English language learners in our community. To volunteer for this new program through Volunteers of America, please visit tinyurl.com/voatalktime.



Meet Our New Building Committee Chair: Koby Wexler

Over the past year and a half, Koby Wexler has been our “go to” person for many of our facility needs. From changing light bulbs, to fixing computer issues, scheduling repairs on our heating system, and dealing with security issues, Koby has been the one to call. We are thrilled and grateful that he has agreed to officially step up to chair our Building Committee which deals with our facility needs.

Koby is married to Aileen and they have an active son, Ethan who will be turning two in May. That will be an exciting time for their family as they also welcome a daughter who is due at the end of the month. Koby runs his family’s property management company and Aileen is a physical therapist so they are indeed a busy family! Koby is not new to TBO, he’s been a member his whole life as the son of long time members, Eldon and Carolyn Wexler. Koby has many fond memories of growing up in our community, including various Purim parties, BOTY events, and most memorable his b’nei mitzvah. Please welcome and offer your support to Koby as he steps into his new role.

April Services and Events

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

Meeting ID: 837 4187 0594 Passcode: 531760 For Dial In Users: (253) 215-8782

In the event of Zoom link errors, please join the meeting by manually entering the Meeting ID and Passcode into the Zoom app or website.

Pre-registration for in-person services: Pre-registration is required for in-person attendance for nonmembers only unless otherwise specified.

To register, please visit: templebethor.org/service-registration.



Simply Seder for TBO Adults

**Saturday, April 8, 2:00 pm (offsite and fully ADA accessible, in-person only)
with Rabbi Rachel Kort**

Registration required. Please see front page for more information.



Women's Seder

Saturday, April 8, 4:00 pm (in-person only)

Registration required. Please see front page for more information.



Shabbat Morning and Yizkor Memorial Service

Saturday, April 15, 10:00 am (in-person and streamed via Zoom)

with Rabbi Kort and Shoshana Stombaugh

Join our community Shabbat worship service using our prayerbook *Mishkan T'filah*. This Shabbat service will include a *drash* (sermon), and an opportunity to remember loved ones with our *Kaddish*. It is customary to conclude the Passover holiday with memorial blessings. Rabbi Kort will incorporate themes of remembrance into the service and recite *El Malei Rachamim*, our prayer for our departed. This service is geared towards our adult and our *b'nei mitzvah* student community and will last just over an hour.

Registration: Members do not need to register in order to attend. Guests - to attend in person please register at: templebethor.org/service-registration. Registration ends April 14, 3:00 pm. Guests are welcome to attend on Zoom without registration.



K'hillah--Community Shabbat

Friday, April 21, 7:30 pm

with Rabbi Rachel Kort and Noah Zeichner (in-person and online)

Join us for a multi-generational, musical Shabbat worship experience that includes both creative and traditional prayers and opportunities for the entire community to engage with our Shabbat rituals. There will be an opportunity to remember loved ones with our *Kaddish*—mourner's prayer. We will use our prayer book *Mishkan T'filah*. This service is great for all ages and will last about an hour.

Registration: Members do not need to register in order to attend. Guests - to attend in person please register at: templebethor.org/service-registration. Registration ends April 21, 3:00 pm. Guests are welcome to attend on Zoom without registration.

Leadership News

During the Governing Board Meeting on February 12, 2023 the Board did the following:

1. Approved the minutes from the January 8, 2023 Governing Board meeting.
2. Approved the email voting minutes to approve the latest recommendations from the Combined COVID-19 Task Force.
3. Heard a presentation from the Communications Chair, JonaRose Feinberg.
4. Melanie Field shared an update from the Bereavement Committee regarding some changes taking place at the G.A.R. cemetery.
5. Heard updates about both the Capital Campaign and the Remodel Task Force.
6. Passed a motion from the Membership Committee that greeters at services have the option to have pronouns listed on their name tags. This will be in place for the whole community by Rosh HaShanah.
7. Was updated on the HHD Cantor Search Task Force. Melanie Field is heading up the task force which includes Bernie Busch, Beth Fine, and Carolyn Wexler, with Rabbi Kort in a consulting and advising role.
8. Approved a motion authorizing the Remodel Task Force to spend up to \$50,000 from the Capital Facilities Project Restricted Fund for permit fees and studies necessary for the project.
9. Discussed possible fundraising options. Agreed to support a Donor Dinner in July.
10. Reviewed Finance, Committee, and President's reports.

During the Governing Board Meeting on March 12, 2023 the Board did the following:

1. Approved the minutes from the February 12, 2023 Governing Board meeting.
2. This month our Meet the Committee was Finance. James Feinberg shared the structure and responsibilities of our Finance Committee.
3. Heard an update from Capital Campaign Co-Chair Jeff Napp.
4. Was updated on the HHD Cantor Search Task Force. We have received resumes from several excellent candidates and the task force is in the process of scheduling interviews with the top four candidates.
5. Received an update on the permitting process related to the Remodel Task Force.
6. Wanda Bresnick talked about the Membership Committee's efforts to reach out to new and less engaged members. The Board looked at ways to support those efforts. A small group from the Board will be looking at ways to make the *oneg* space warmer and more functional to encourage connections and conversations at Temple events.
7. Reviewed Finance, Committee, and President's reports.

Temple Leadership

Rabbi

Rachel Kort

Governing Board

President

Wanda Bresnick

Past- 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
Dana Sanders

Assist. VP of Finance & Facilities Management
Tom Elmore

Assist. VP of Jewish Life
Pattipeg Harjo

Board Secretary
Nancy Rosen

Members-At-Large
Michael Gorlick
Julie Mackoff
Rich Spitzer

Committees & Task Forces

Atidaynu: Sheryl Shapiro

Adult Education: Vacant

Bereavement: Susan Cross

Book Club: Nancy Rosen

Building: Koby Wexler

Calendar: Sarah Davis

Campership: Sonia Siegel Vexler

College and Military Outreach: Sarah Davis

Capital Campaign: Jessica Burgamy & Jeff Napp

Combined COVID-19: Adam Goldstein

Communications: JonaRose Feinberg

Facebook: Deb Henry

Financial Administrator: Norm Black

First Chapter: Dana Sanders

Fundraising: Vacant

High Holy Days: TBD

Life & Legacy/Endowment: Harold Dash

Library: Melissa VonAschen-Cook

Membership: Leslie Elmore

Mitzvah Corps: Carolyn Wexler

Next Chapter: Sonia Siegel Vexler

Nominations: Sonia Siegel Vexler

Oneg Coordinator: Janet Karr

ORacle Editor: Kathie Roon

ORacle Publisher: Sarah Davis

ORbits: Lori Wolff

Remodel: Harold Dash & Melanie Field

Ruach and Ritual: Vacant

Safety and Security: Mirs VonAschen-Cook

Social Action: Naomi Katsh &

Melissa VonAschen-Cook

Technology: James Feinberg

Website: JonaRose Feinberg

Youth Education: Mila Lowery & Kiah Webster

Staff

Office Administrator: Sarah Davis

Director of Youth Education: Stefanie Somers



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1 Teen MASSA Program 11:30 am
2 Religious School Tots 10:00 am Experience Pesach Project 11:00 am	3 Finance Committee Meeting 7:00 pm	4 Adult BMZ Class 6:30 pm	5	6 Passover (First Day) Office Closed	7 Liaison Mtg 10:00 am	8 Simply Seder 2:00 pm Women's Seder 4:00 pm
9 No Religious School	10 Communications Committee Meeting 7:00 pm	11 Adult BMZ Class 7:15 pm	12 Executive Board 7:00 pm	13	14	15 Shabbat Morning and Yizkor Memorial Service 10:00 am
16 Religious School Gov Board Meeting 9:00 am Atidaynu 4:00 pm	17 <i>ORacle</i> Submission Deadline Membership Committee Meeting 7:00 pm	18 Yom HaShoah Adult BMZ Class 6:30 pm	19	20	21 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm	22 (1 Iyar)
23 Religious School 30 Religious School, MASSA, & Tots 10:00 am Atidaynu 4:00 pm	24 Rabbi Away 4/24-4/28	25 Yom HaZikaron	26 Yom HaAtzmaut Safety & Security Committee Meeting 7:00 pm	27	28	29

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

Note: Appointments are no longer required for visiting the building. During office hours, advanced notification of building access is requested for safety and security reasons. Please contact the office prior to entering the building (425-259-7125 x1). Office Hours are Tuesday - Friday from 9:00 am - 4:30 pm.

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



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If you prefer to read the *ORacle* online only, please contact the Temple Beth Or office to be removed from the postal mailing list.

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).