

Mark Your Calendars!

Semi-Annual Membership Meeting on December 10, 4:00 pm

Join us for the December Membership meeting on Zoom Saturday, December 10, at 4:00 pm. We will start with *Havdalah* and then move on to the business meeting which will include, as required by our bylaws, a vote to approve the slate of candidates for the 2023 Governing Board. We will also be voting on the disposition of our building at 3217 Lombard Avenue. Other items on the agenda include updates on the Capital Campaign and building remodel project, auctioning off the two reserved parking spaces in our parking lot, reviewing our financial status, and announcing the Volunteer of the Year Award recipient(s).

While the meeting will be recorded and available for watching after the fact, voting on the slate of candidates and bidding on the parking spot will only be available to those participating in real time. (If you cannot attend, you can ask a friend to bid on the parking spot for you. Notify the office before December 8 if you plan to do this.) Voting on the disposition of our rental building will be conducted electronically over the week following the meeting. A complete packet of the relevant information is being sent via email to all members.

Zoom: tinyurl.com/tbomembershipdecember2022 **Meeting ID:** 851 1275 0875 **Passcode:** 834547

Why the Capital Campaign Is Important

Pledges from the first 40 families have raised over \$1.4 M toward our goal of \$2.5 M. If you haven't pledged yet please respond to the volunteer who contacted you. Below is Debra Henry's story of why Temple Beth Or is important to her.

"I first attended Temple Beth Or in 2001 after the unexpected death of my younger brother. I was not a member, and I attended several services from the back row grieving in silence. Although I was not ready to socialize because of my sorrow, I was always invited to attend *oneg* after the service. Eventually the grief lessened and I was drawn to continue attending and growing my participation as a caring community member. During my 20+ years as a member, I've served on the Board (more than once) and various committees. My daughter is grown and living her own life yet remains connected to this Temple as the foundation for developing her spiritual roots.

One of the most meaningful Hebrew phrases is *I'dor vador* (generation to generation). For me, it represents the continuous thread of Judaism that connects me to all my generations of ancestors, through me, to my daughter, and perhaps future generations. Join me in envisioning a healthy future for Temple Beth Or; let's treasure and protect our beloved House of Light." (edited for brevity)



My daughter and me at her 2011 bat mitzvah service. It is one of my happiest memories of a service at Temple Beth Or, one where my Temple community, my family and friends all came together to celebrate this truly special occasion for our family.



Dispelling the Darkness

“A little light dispels a lot of darkness.” (Hassidic Teaching)

I know I am not the only one who finds winter difficult. My energy and motivation begins to wane with the diminishing hours of daylight. My favorite personal tool to lift up my mood in winter is my full spectrum light. But, as your rabbi, I want to share Jewish ways to lift your spirits during the dark winter too.

This year, Hanukkah begins on Sunday night, December 18 and coincides with the winter solstice on Wednesday, December 21. Hanukkah candles will infuse light and encourage celebration during eight of the darkest days of winter. Unfortunately, we have more months of dark evenings to endure here in the Pacific Northwest.

Hanukkah is not the only opportunity we have to kindle light in our tradition. Each week we are encouraged to light candles to begin and end Shabbat. The Sages of the Talmud explain differences in lighting the different types of candles.

We light Hanukkah candles to remember a specific time in our people's history. Hanukkah commemorates the victory of a small group of Jewish rebels, the Maccabees, who in 165 BCE led a successful revolt against Hellenistic rule in the Land of Israel. Hanukkah, which means dedication, celebrates the Temple in Jerusalem's reconsecration and rededication. Because Hanukkah candles serve the specific purpose of remembering a specific event, they are not meant to be used for practical use, for example reading. We are asked to simply enjoy the light of the Hanukkah flames. It is customary to spend time with friends and family, sing songs, play silly games (like dreidel), and eat delicious foods while the *hanukkiah* (Hanukkah menorah) is lit. Shabbat and *Havdalah* candles are also tools that mark time, but not specific historical dates. Unlike Hanukkah candles, we are allowed to use the light emitted from Shabbat and *Havdalah* candles for practical purposes.

In these dark days of winter I want to suggest that we leverage Shabbat candle lighting and *Havdalah* for the practical purpose of uplifting our spirits. While Hanukkah is simply eight days, each week throughout the year we have two opportunities to light candles and bring a little more light into our lives. Just like on Hanukkah, Shabbat candle lighting and *Havdalah* are opportunities to be intentional about enjoying life.

Below are a few ways I like to take advantage of the rituals of Shabbat and *Havdalah* during the winter to uplift my spirits. How might you ritualize light on an ongoing basis to uplift your soul during this dark season?

- Light candles and celebrate Shabbat with my Beth Or family
- Wind down and watch the Shabbat candles gutter. Dan and Galit go to bed super early on Fridays. When I get home from Everett I enjoy some alone time with the Shabbat candles (and some television).
- Make *Havdalah* and eat pizza. A friend who also struggles in the winter hosts *Havdalah*, pizza, and game night each Saturday during Standard time.

Rabbi Rachel Kort (she/her)

My Last Hurrah

As my Presidency is wrapping up I would like to highlight some of the accomplishments of the last two years of which I am most proud. Note I did not necessarily do all of these things (in fact, many were completed by others) they just happened during my time as President. In David Letterman style here are the top 10:



10. Implemented a more formal orientation program for Governing Board Members and Committee Chairs, which included detailed training exercises, manuals and programs.

9. Upgraded our communications. We have an updated website and newsletter, a new platform for our email communications, and a rebranded "look." We have also improved our streaming. A second camera has been added that is moveable and can capture individual speakers at events such as b'nei mitzvah. We are committed to continuing having virtual access to as many of our services and programs as possible.

8. Built a functioning Safety and Security Committee that meets regularly and implements recommendations relevant to Safety and Security measures at TBO. This group applied for Homeland Security Grants that paid for our fence. They also run our Governing Board Greeter Safety and Security training and address concerns as they arise.

7. Led a thought provoking Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) series that changed the way many members saw these issues in society and in our own community. We also have conducted a number of other Social Action initiatives such as our support of Ukrainian refugees through RISNW (Refugee and Immigrant Services Northwest).

6. Maintained financial health and membership size. TBO continues to stay out of debt. While our fundraising efforts were limited by the pandemic, we nonetheless have continued to operate within our budget. We even finished our last fiscal year with a modest surplus. Further, many organizations, particularly religious entities, have struggled to keep members over these last few years. We have held our own, lost a few and gained a few, and came out just about even.

5. Rebooted our youth programming. This includes reinvigorating Religious School, hiring an Education Director, restarting the Tots class, the rebirth of BOTY, and launching a teen educational program - MASSA.

4. Launched/conducted a Capital Campaign. It may be premature to call the campaign a success, but all indications are that we are headed in the right direction and will likely raise enough pledged funds to remodel our building.

3. Led our congregation through the COVID-19 pandemic precautions process; managed varying comfort levels, expectations, needs, requirements, protocols, priorities and other divisive aspects of the pandemic without extensive long term damage to the fabric of our community. We were able to find a pathway to staying safe AND connected.

2. Conducted a robust, thoughtful, and respectful decision-making process to determine whether we should stay on Lombard Avenue and remodel our building or relocate our congregation. This effort included extensive communication in varied ways with the congregation, a series of facilitated Town Hall Meetings and Information Sessions, revising the bylaws to accommodate electronic voting, and launching extended electronic voting. This process resulted in increased congregational engagement, better listening, opportunities to feel heard and more understanding of people's positions and opinions. While the topic was divisive, in the end it made the congregation stronger and most of those who disagreed with the decision could still support it.

Drum roll please - 1. Hosted engaging services, programming, events and activities in modified situations, virtually, outdoors, and in person in creative and re-imagined ways that allowed our community to come through the isolation of the pandemic, a little worse for wear, but still intact. Our members were able to support each other in powerful and meaningful ways that helped many get through the worst parts of the isolation and even enhanced some connections. We were able to celebrate *simchahs* and grieve losses in ways that were safe and comfortable. Not only did we survive, in many ways, we thrived.

Happy Hanukkah to all!
Melanie Field, President (she/her)



Capital Campaign Kick-Off Event Was a Crowded Success

Did you miss it? Over 70 members (adults and children) attended the fun-filled Capital Campaign kickoff event on November 6. The building was bursting at the seams as members enjoyed an Israeli-style lunch, folk dancing, and a TBO trivia scavenger hunt that had our students scrambling all over the building to find answers (e.g. At what holiday did Billy Sturman (z.l.) from the original Montefiore Synagogue give his annual *drash* on apple trees? Where did TBO members plant an apple tree to honor him?).

The event concluded with an explanation of the campaign (co-chair, Jeff Napp), stories about TBO's first Religious School (founding member and former teacher, Vicky Romero), and a challenge from the Honorary Campaign Chair (Rennie Karr), to support our community and future (*I'dor vador*) by generously giving to the Campaign.

Many thanks to Janis Warner, Leslie Elsemore, and Carolyn Wexler for organizing the event and to all those who helped with food, activities, and set up, and takedown.



Photos by Maggie Feinberg

Mezuzot Making for the Capital Campaign

TBO members gathered on Sunday, October 30 at the home of Paul Vexler and Sonia Siegel Vexler to craft *mezuzot*. 195 *mezuzot* were made! The wood came from the trees that used to line the walkway in front of the Temple. Each TBO community member who donates to the Capital Campaign will receive a *mezuzah*.

Photos by Adelaide Burgamy (daughter of Jessica Vexler Burgamy and Will Burgamy and granddaughter of Paul Vexler and Sonia Siegel Vexler).



Slate of Candidates for Board Positions



Wanda Bresnick, President (she/her)

My husband Mark, our children, Zach and Kelsey, and I joined Temple Beth Or in 1997 because it was warm and welcoming to our interfaith family. Many years later I made the decision to convert. Over the years, I have served on several committees and task forces. For the past three and a half years I have been a member of the Governing Board. As incoming President, I look forward to continuing to help TBO thrive as we move forward with our remodel. I am a family therapist in private practice. My favorite Jewish holiday is Passover because I love coming together with family and friends to share in this tradition and ritual.



Melanie Field, Past President (she/her)

My family and I (Vinaya, Sunita age 30, and Sanjay age 27) joined TBO about 28 years ago. I have served in a number of roles most notably as Vice President, chair of Fundraising Committee, twice on Rabbinic Search Committees, chair of HHD Committee for nearly a decade, member of Bereavement Committee for over two decades, chair of the most recent Bylaws Task Force, and obviously just finishing my term as President. I am a retired Environmental Engineer and now serve as a "professional volunteer" in various ways in the community. My favorite holiday is Passover, as it brings everyone together to celebrate.



Jeffrey (Jeff) Napp, VP of Community & Engagement (he/him)

Sheryl Shapiro and I moved to Seattle from Miami in 1990 and joined the congregation the following year after receiving a very warm welcome from its members (particularly those affiliated with Everett Community College where Sheryl was working at the time). Our daughter Ravenna, now almost 30, had her naming and bat mitzvah at TBO. I previously served on the Board in the late 1990s/early 2000s when Sheryl and I co-chaired the Youth Education Committee. I served on several of the past strategic planning committees and am currently finishing a one-year term on the Board (VP Community & Engagement) by special appointment. I am also helping with the Capital Campaign and COVID-19 Task Force. Once the Capital Campaign ends I'd like to restart the TBO Adult Education Committee and begin planning events. My favorite holiday is Hanukkah. I love the way the house smells of latkes several days after frying them.



Jennifer Cail, VP of Jewish Life (she/her)

I have been a member since 2015. It's been a pleasure to serve on the Board for the past three years and to help make a difference. I am looking forward to another two years and the adult b'nei mitzvah ceremony in May.



Dana Sanders, Assistant VP of Community & Engagement (she/they)

My family joined TBO so our children could grow up in the Jewish community. I am especially excited to foster a welcoming space for families with young children and the LGBTQIA community. I love Purim because we get to make hamentashen!



Tom Elsemore, Assistant VP of Finance and Facilities Management (he/him)

I have been a TBO member for 24 years. Passover is my favorite holiday because the family all gets together for the seder.



Pattipeg Harjo, Assistant VP of Jewish Life (she/her)

I converted in 2022. I am a 73-year-old fabric artist and retired Spanish teacher. My favorite holiday is Shabbat because it creates a safe and holy place in my home.



Michael Gorlick, Member-At-Large (he/him)

My wife Kaye and I, along with our children Josh and Rachel, grew up in the north end of Seattle. We were members of Temple Beth Am. It was there that we were married and all celebrated our b'nei mitzvah. My favorite Jewish holiday is Pesach, with its rich traditions and wonderful family memories. I was an interior designer for twenty-five years, and still do design consulting work.



Julie Mackoff, Member-At-Large (she/her)

My husband John and I were very happy to join TBO in 2018. We have seen time and time again that being a welcoming, inclusive community is in the congregations' DNA. I grew up in Seattle and am a retired attorney. I do some volunteer work for Northwest Immigrants Rights Project and am on the TBO Social Action Committee. My favorite holiday is Passover; our family took the "tell the liberation story" responsibility very seriously and it has always been meaningful.



Rich Spitzer, Member-At-Large (he/him)

I am honored to be asked to join the TBO Board. Although we only joined the shul in August (having moved from the Detroit area) my wife Pam and I already feel incredibly welcomed and we have no doubt that TBO is the right fit for us. I feel I can bring a fresh "outsiders" perspective to the Board, combined with experience as President and Treasurer of Congregation Shir Tikvah (Troy, Michigan), as well as serving on numerous committees including Building, Capital Fundraising, and Nominating. My favorite holiday is Hanukkah because it brings light to the darkest time of the year.

**Note: James Feinberg (VP of Finance and Facilities Management) and Nancy Rosen (Secretary) are not listed. They will be serving the second year of their two-year terms in 2023.*



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

Tzedakah Box

Tzedakah Box Recipient through December 2022 - ***Refugee and Immigrant Services Northwest (RISNW)*** has helped newly arrived refugees and immigrants rebuild their lives and achieve their full potential as contributing citizens in their new homeland for over 40 years. RISNW is a refugee-led, multi-ethnic, and multicultural organization. Donations at this time will support their Ukrainian Project which provides basic household necessities to incoming refugees. The grant money received to purchase these items is coming to an end and RISNW is hoping that faith communities like TBO can help. Please visit risnw.org for more information. Donations can be sent directly to: RISNW, Everett Community College M/S 41, 2000 Tower St, Everett, WA 98201.

Please Volunteer and Donate!

TBO has an amazing opportunity to really make a difference in the lives of Ukrainian refugees. RISNW is in desperate need of volunteers in several different areas.

- If you are a lawyer (practicing or retired) you can help people complete immigration paperwork.
- Volunteers are needed to help distribute household items Friday afternoons at the Carl Gipson Everett Senior Center. No training is required. Please contact Vicki Schwartz, Beth Fine, or Naomi Katsh Barger by email or phone for more information. Please visit tinyurl.com/gipsonvolunteer to sign-up to volunteer on Fridays.
- Please consider donating funds through the ***Tzedakah Box*** or let us know if you prefer to shop for needed household items instead of a financial donation.

There are also opportunities to assist at our local shelter—Interfaith Family Shelter. Please Contact Naomi Katsh Barger for more information.

Free Narcan - Save A Life



Thanks to Sarah Davis our Temple office has ordered Narcan (also known as Naloxone) to be available in case of emergency at our synagogue or in our neighborhood.

Narcan can reverse an opioid overdose and provide critical time for emergency responders to arrive. It can be given in the form of a nasal spray and is safe and easy to use. Narcan has no effect on someone without opioids in their system. Responders are protected from any legal implications of providing assistance under the 911 Good Samaritan Overdose Law.

Please visit the website listed below to order free Narcan (Washington State residents only). A training video and support is provided. phra.org/mail-order-naloxone

College & Military Outreach 2022

If you have kids who are living away from home, either in college, graduate school or the military, you may want to enroll them in TBO's College & Military Outreach Program. Its goal is to help college and/or military kids feel connected to the Temple and *k'hilah* (Jewish community) while they are living away from home. The Temple sends holiday cards and/or gift cards three times a year at: Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah, and Purim/Passover and they can also receive the *ORacle*. There is no charge for this program.

The requirements to participate in the program are:

- Families must be TBO members in good standing,
- Students must be enrolled in a 2- or 4-year college or in the military,
- Students must be living away from home.

If you would like your child to be included please send their mailing address to Sarah in the Temple office at office@templebethor.org. PS: It's not too late to participate for Hanukkah!

Religious School Fund Needs You

The last few years have been hard in a number of ways for our community and we want to make sure we can keep supporting our members. Our Religious School Scholarship Fund has been well used and needs support. In your end-of-the-year giving, please consider a donation to the TBO RS Scholarship Fund (#229) so that we can continue to provide a Jewish education to all children in our community, regardless of their financial situation.

A Few Reminders from the President

1. Be sure to get your Capital Campaign pledges submitted as soon as you can. Not only are we trying to make our financial target, we also would like to have participation, at whatever level is meaningful and feasible for each household, from ALL our members.
2. Plan to attend our Membership Meeting on Saturday, December 10, 4:00 pm. In addition to the regular December business items, including approving the proposed slate of candidates for the Board, you'll have a chance to bid on the very convenient to have parking spaces and get to honor our Volunteer(s?) of the Year.

Information Regarding Our Rental House - 3217 Lombard Avenue

As you may know, the Temple owns the rental house at 3217 Lombard, immediately south of our building. It is in a state of disrepair, and ongoing maintenance uses up most of the rental income. We recently conducted a home inspection to identify the extent of needed repairs to help determine the best course of action for the property. At our upcoming membership meeting, we will share the results of this inspection and will be voting on whether to follow the recommendation of our Finance Committee to remove this structure.

Be sure to join in this decision by participating in the extended electronic voting on this item. The voting period will run from 7:00 pm December 10 through 9:00 pm December 18. A recording of the meeting, including this discussion, will be available if you can't join the meeting on Zoom in real time. Watch your email for information about how to access the recording.

December Service and Event 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

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 non-members only unless otherwise specified. Members who meet vaccine requirements are welcome to attend without registration. To register please visit: templebethor.org/service-registration.

Note: Please keep in mind that COVID-19 related protocols and weekly metrics are subject to change. For the most up-to-date in-person service information please see ORbits or the website calendar. For current COVID-19 protocol information please visit: templebethor.org/covid/



Friday, December 2, 7:30 pm (in person and online)

K'hilah - Community Shabbat

with Rabbi Rachel Kort and Noah Zeichner

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 - please register at: templebethor.org/service-registration. Registration ends December 2, 3:00 pm.



Friday, December 16, 5:45 pm (online only)

Shabbat At Home with Rabbi Kort and Shoshana Stombaugh

Join us for Shabbat from the comfort of your own home. This Shabbat service will include music and a teaching or story. Please consider lighting Shabbat candles with us on screen to help transform the Zoom gallery into a sacred space of Shabbat. This service is great for all ages and was designed especially for folks who may not be able to join us in person in our building, but would like to be a part of our participatory community. This service will last less than an hour.



Saturday, December 17, 10:00 am (in person and online)

Shabbat Morning Service

with Rabbi Kort and Judy Magidson

Join us for a musical Shabbat worship service using our prayerbook *Mishkan T'filah*. This Shabbat service will include Torah reading, a *drash* (sermon), and an opportunity to remember loved ones with our *Kaddish*. This service is geared towards our adult and our b'nei mitzvah student community and will last about 90 minutes.

Registration: Members do not need to register in order to attend. Guests - please register at: templebethor.org/service-registration. Registration ends December 16, 3:00 pm.



Thursday, December 22, 7:00 pm (online only)

Community Hanukkah Candle Lighting

Zoom: tinyurl.com/hanukkahzoom2022 **Meeting ID:** 853 6626 4541 **Passcode:** 327336

You are invited to gather together in the middle of the week and in the middle of Hanukkah to enjoy candle lighting and time together with your Temple Beth Or family.

We'll illuminate our Zoom gallery with our *hanukkiyot* (Hanukkah menorahs) and as the candles burn low, Rabbi Kort will share a story, Dan Steingart will sing songs, and we'll play games together too.



Next Chapter: Whodunnit Experience

Saturday, December 17, 7:00 pm

Home of Tom and Leslie Elsemore



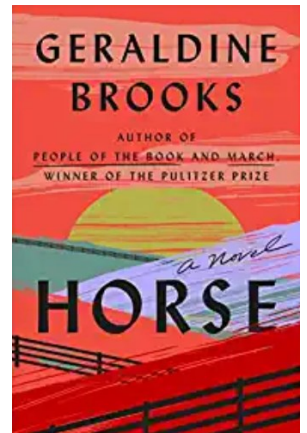
Mark your calendar for a fun evening solving a “Whodunnit Experience” complete with improv actors and everything needed to solve a murder mystery! Space is limited, so sign up early to confirm your spot. The cost is \$30 per person and includes desserts and beverages. For more information please contact Leslie Elsemore.

Book Club

Sunday, December 18, 10:00 am, Temple Beth Or

Please join us for Book Club. Sonia Siegel Vexler will lead a discussion of *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks. This Pulitzer Prize winner braids a sweeping story of spirit, obsession, and injustice across American history set in Kentucky, 1850. An enslaved groom and a bay foal forge a bond of understanding that will carry the horse to record-setting victories across the South.

Please contact Nancy Rosen for more information regarding Book Club. Nancy succeeds Julie Maltos as chair of the group. We thank Julie for her years of service!



ORacle Publisher and Proofreaders Needed

The *ORacle*, the very publication you are reading right now, is in need of a publisher and more proofreaders.

Sarah Davis, Office Administrator, has been acting publisher for the past year. This is typically a lay-led role. Finding a new publisher will help free Sarah up to take care of more pressing Temple business. What's required? The publisher works monthly with editor, Kathie Roon, to layout the *ORacle* based on submissions from the community. Everything is laid out in *Microsoft Publisher* and then sent to a group of proofreaders to edit before publication. Printing and mailing will still be a function of the office. Sounds like fun but you don't know *Microsoft Publisher*? No problem! If you can use *Microsoft Word* and like playing with clip art and graphics then it would be an easy transition. Sarah is more than happy to train and coach anyone interested in the position.

We are also in need of *ORacle* proofreaders. This requires reading the *ORacle* and sending edits to the publisher, editor, and fellow proofreaders once a month when the publisher has completed the first draft and again just before publication and printing.

If you want to be a part of the Communication Committee and contribute your skills to the *ORacle* please contact Sarah Davis in the office or JonaRose Feinberg, Communication Committee chair.



Temple Beth Or
Youth Education Committee

Summer Camp's Lasting Impact on Jewish Identity

Think back to your school days. What lessons had the most impact on you? For me, I cannot remember a single chapter I read from any science textbook but I still smile when I recall the excitement of seeing my classmate successfully cross the shallow fountain “pond” in the cardboard and packing tape boat she and another classmate and I worked hard to engineer as part of our middle school science project. It worked! She didn’t sink! All the late nights in my friend’s garage snacking on chips and slurping down sodas while we tested our various prototypes culminated in a sense of pride and accomplishment that spurred my love of learning to this day. Indeed, there is something powerful about working with others to achieve a common goal and lasting joy when you celebrate that victory together.

A few weeks ago our Religious School (RS) gathered around the computer screen during *k’hilah* as Eian Snyder gave his Camp Kalsman presentation. Images of gaga ball, dancing, Shabbat, ropes courses, and singing flitted across the screen as campers spoke of what Kalsman has meant to them. Tales of new and lifelong friendships, food (oh! the food!), overcoming the fear of being away from home, trying something new, sharing a favorite activity with others who love it too, and being in a safe place with others who understand and support your Jewish identity were some of the things mentioned by the campers or others in our TBO group.

As we were wrapping up our gathering, RS teacher Roland Roth mentioned the factor that MOST influenced a person’s Jewish identity from youth into adulthood was the experience of summer camp. He’s not wrong. According to the Foundation for Jewish Camp, “kids who go to Jewish camp are...21% more likely to feel being Jewish is very important, and 55% more likely to feel emotionally attached to Israel...37% more likely to regularly light Shabbat candles, 45% more likely to attend synagogue at least once a month and 30% more likely to donate to a Jewish Federation.”

As a congregation we are committed to providing all our youth an opportunity to experience summer camp as we understand the valuable impact it has on our current and future generations. And it just so happens that Camp Kalsman registration is open (campkalsman.uriyouth.com). Have questions? Concerned about cost? Let us help! We have camperships and experienced leaders who can answer all your questions and help you give your child the experience of a lifetime. As Youth Education leaders, we can’t think of a better way to help our children continue and deepen their Jewish education.

Kiah Webster
Co-Chair, Youth Education Committee

Come Join the *Ruach* and Ritual Committee!

Have some thoughts on services? Come join the *Ruach* and Ritual Committee as we relaunch in the new year!

- Partner with Rabbi Kort on fulfilling the ritual and spiritual needs of TBO.
- Support lay leaders for monthly services.
- Work with song leaders to fulfill our musical needs at services.
- Create our service schedule.

Please contact Rabbi Kort or Jennifer Cail for more information.



Mitzvah Corps — The “Heart” of Our Congregation

Have you ever really wanted to help with a meal for Mitzvah Corps and been unable to prepare one yourself or perhaps delivery is a challenge? Maybe you live in Seattle and the family lives in Arlington. Here are a few alternative options:

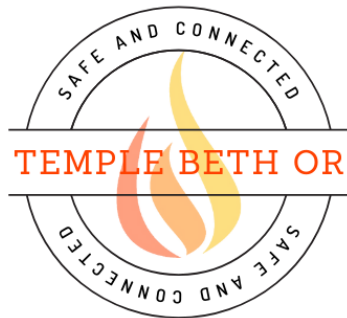
There may be an opportunity to partner with someone by funding food costs while a partner prepares and delivers. You may wish to buy a gift card to the recipient's favorite restaurant for take-out food. Some people like to use a service like www.ubereats.com. There are also gift cards for these services.

I will help facilitate by keeping track of those who would like to fund and connecting those individuals with others who love to cook and deliver. I will learn which restaurants families enjoy frequenting in case the delivery service or gift cards would be appreciated.

We continue to find new and creative ways to be a caring and compassionate community and we are grateful for your volunteerism. Please send more suggestions to mitzvah@templebethor.org. Thank you!

Carolyn Wexler
Chair, Mitzvah Corps

Combined COVID-19 Task Force Update



COVID-19 numbers, including those for new cases and hospitalizations, continue to hover in a pretty steady range within the Green or Low Transmission Zone. The Combined COVID-19 Task Force continues to monitor the numbers. We also monitor the guidance as it is put forward by the various health departments and agencies (Snohomish Health District, Washington State, and the CDC). If we see a change in the transmission rate or the overall guidance, the task force promptly meets and discusses if we need to adapt our TBO strategies. In the meantime, there are a lot of other respiratory illnesses going around including influenza and

RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus). Please get your flu shot and your bivalent COVID-19 booster if you haven't already. As always, please reach out with any questions or concerns.

Adam Goldstein
Chair, Combined COVID-19 Task Force

Support TBO When You Shop on Amazon

If you use Amazon at all you can designate TBO as your Amazon Smile recipient and every time you spend money there TBO gets a percentage. Just go to smile.amazon.com and log into your account. Choose Temple Beth Or Everett, WA as your recipient and then just make sure to buy things from smile.amazon.com. If you use the app on your phone you can also easily change it so that you are automatically donating to TBO. As of the end of March TBO has received \$1,506.55 from Amazon Smile since the start of the program.

Leadership News

During the Governing Board Meeting on November 13, 2022 the Board did the following:

1. Approved the minutes from the October 13, 2022 virtual meeting.
2. Signed up for greeter duties using the Shabbat Tracker.
3. Reviewed the Safe Washington checklist for threats and discussed other safety and security issues.
4. Listened to an update from Jennifer Cail about Religious School, including the transition to and welcome of our new Education Director, Stefanie Somers, and the addition of a Tots class led by Dana Sanders. Also heard about an upcoming BOTY event and learned about the MASSA teen program.
5. Met with the new *Atidaynu* Leader, Sheryl Shapiro, and heard about the plans for the next round of *Atidaynu*, planned to start in February 2023.
6. Discussed the voting on the slate for the 2023 Board. This will be conducted by email during the coming week.
7. Heard an update about the Capital Campaign. Melanie shared the most recent progress slides and that the Board pledged \$319,100. She is very proud that the full Board participated and thanked them for their generosity. Melanie also commented on the great kickoff event on November 6 and thanked everyone who helped make it happen.
8. Approved a motion brought by the Finance Committee to update the authorized TBO credit card administrator to reflect current FC leadership.
9. Approved a measure brought by the Finance Committee creating a restricted fund for the MASSA monies.
10. Heard an update on the Evergreen Unitarian Universalist discussions, including a summary of their site visit on November 11.
11. Reviewed logistics for the upcoming Membership Meeting on December 10, including the parking space auction.
12. Reviewed September Financial Reports.
13. Heard highlights from Committee/Task Force and President's reports, including :
 - the addition of Rich Spitzer to the FC
 - request for input for HHD wrap up meeting on November 22
 - Nancy Rosen taking over from Julie Maltos as chair of Book Club. Thanks for your leadership, Julie.
 - working towards having a donor dinner again in the spring
 - trying to backfill the building position
 - new committee descriptions for the Board manual are ready for final proofing. Thanks to Janet Robertson.
 - return to pre-COVID *oneg*/community greeter system is planned for the beginning of the year. Thanks to Janet Karr.
 - calendar for January - June 2023 is ready for review.

Temple Leadership

Rabbi

Rachel Kort

Governing Board

President

Melanie Field

President-Elect

Wanda Bresnick

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

Committees & Task Forces

Adult Education: Vacant

Bereavement: Susan Cross

Book Club: Nancy Rosen

Building: Vacant

Building Design: Paul Vexler

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 Elsemore

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

Ruach and Ritual: Vacant

Safety and Security: Mark Bresnick &

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	2 Liaison Mtg 10:00 am Shabbat 7:30 pm	3
4 Religious School Governing Board Mtg 9:00 am Tots 10:00 am Teen MASSA Class 12:00 pm	5 Finance Committee Mtg 7:00 pm	6 Adult BMZ Class 6:30 pm	7 Capital Campaign Committee Mtg 7:00 pm	8	9	10 Membership Mtg & Havdalah 4:00 pm
11 Religious School	12 Communications Committee Mtg 7:00 pm	13 Adult BMZ Class 7:15 pm	14 Capital Campaign Committee Mtg 7:00 pm	15	16 Shabbat At Home 5:45 pm	17 Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 am Next Chapter Whodunnit 7:00 pm
18 No Religious School Book Club 10:00 am 1st Night Hanukkah 	19 Membership Committee Mtg 7:00 pm 	20 Adult BMZ Class 6:30 pm 	21 Capital Campaign Committee Mtg 7:00 pm ORacle Submission Deadline 	22 Hanukkah Candle Lighting 7:00 pm 	23 Office Closed 	24 
25 (1 Tevet) No Religious School 	26	27	28 Capital Campaign Committee Mtg 7:00 pm Safety & Security Committee Mtg 7:00 pm	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

Fill out the Calendar/Event Submission form to add an item to the calendar and/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.



Temple Beth Or
3215 Lombard Ave
Everett, WA 98201
425.259.7125



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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).