



Geotech company measuring ability of the soil to absorb water (Left), Drilling to measure weight bearing capacity of soil (Right)

## Remodel Prep Work Is In Progress!

Many of you are familiar with all the great work that the Capital Campaign folks are doing to move our remodel efforts forward. You may recall having heard about the simultaneous parallel paths of the fundraising and building teams and be curious about what's happening on the building path. Here's an update.

We have a new group called the Remodel Task Force that is working to keep the project on track. There are a dozen individuals participating on this task force - overseeing contracts and consultants, facilitating site work, addressing permit application requirements, monitoring invoices and budgets, developing project schedules, and considering next steps. At this time, our focus is on collecting and preparing all the information and materials that are necessary for our permits. Our team, contractors, and consultants have been busy collecting soil samples, surveying our property, and developing information needed for our permit application.

We are also working with our insurance company to make sure that we meet the requirements for the additional insurance monies. The Remodel Task Force and the Capital Campaign Committee work closely together to coordinate efforts so that we can all move forward together.

If you are interested in joining the Remodel Task Force, please reach out to Melanie Field.



## What Will Your Costume Be For Purim This Year?

Galit starts to think about her Halloween costume the day after Halloween. 364 days of dreaming, planning, designing, and make-up testing. For nine-year-old Galit, dress-up is a sacred practice. Not only does she get to be creative, she explores different parts of her personality through costuming too. My daughter is rubbing off on me; while most years I wait until the last minute to decide on my Purim costume, this year I am taking my Purim costume seriously.

You may be surprised to learn that Purim costumes are a relatively new tradition. Dressing up for Purim was inspired by medieval Catholic Mardi Gras and Carnival festivities. Purim costumes are first referenced in Jewish legal texts in Italy in the 15th century.

Albeit late, costumes are the perfect pairing for Purim. The theme of masquerade is central to the Book of Esther.

- Characters hide their identities: Esther hides that she is Jewish and Mordechai wears the king's robes.
- What begins as a tragedy ends as a comedy: Senior officials are made to be fools, Haman is hung on the gallows he built for the Jews, and the Jews become a powerful army at the end of the book.
- The name Esther shares the same root for the Hebrew word "conceal" (*hester*).

Our Rabbinic Sages connect the holidays of Purim and Yom Kippur. Of course, there is the word play, but the Rabbis also argue that there is a spiritual connection between the two holidays. On Yom Kippur we restrict ourselves from the pleasures of this world with hopes of tapping into our most authentic selves. On Yom Kippur we don't eat, we don't drink, we don't shower, and don't wear ostentatious clothes. On Purim, the spiritual goal of self-understanding is the same but the tools are the opposite. On Purim we eat, drink, and dress in costume.

While Jews haven't always dressed up on Purim, masks and costumes can accentuate both the literary and spiritual meaning of Purim. Even if you are not a costume person, I hope you will consider getting creative this Purim and dressing up for Purim at Temple Beth Or. Prizes and bragging rights will be awarded in the following categories at the Adult Purim Party on Saturday, March 4, and Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 5:

- Best Purim character
- Best pun/use of irony
- Most creative
- Best "I'm not a costume person" costume

I can't wait to see your costumes and celebrate Purim with you!

**Rabbi Rachel Kort (she/her)**



**Information on our Adult Purim Party and Purim Carnival can be found on page 6.**

## It Takes a Village

I am both excited and a bit nervous to be serving as the leader of our congregation. In preparing to serve, I reflected on what I hoped to accomplish and developed these three guiding goals:



- To continue to provide more opportunities to come together in person as a community, which will include working to increase attendance at our in-person services.
- To support the efforts of our Capital Campaign and our Remodel Team to move our remodel process forward as thoughtfully and rapidly as possible.
- To reach out to members who may be feeling disconnected or are having a hard time finding their place in our community to help them integrate more fully.

I would like to take this opportunity to talk more about this third goal. Recently, our community came together to grieve and celebrate the life of our beloved founding member, Paul Vexler, and to support his family in their loss. Afterwards, when I thanked a member for all her efforts, she responded with, “What we do really well is the ‘it takes a village thing.’” She is right. Our TBO village comes together to grieve and to celebrate as we did at our Capital Campaign kickoff. At these times, many members step in to help remind us that we do indeed have a vibrant, caring community. Yet, despite our efforts to be inclusive, we have members who feel disconnected and on the periphery of our village.

For many, all the COVID-19 restrictions of the past few years have increased that sense of isolation and left people feeling alienated. In recent months I have watched longtime members who pulled back during the pandemic reengaging in various ways. One shared that she feels so much better now that she is back working with other members on projects. For myself, I have found that the more I engage, the more connected I feel.

Some of you who are less involved may not be in a place in your lives where you have time and energy to do more. I understand, as I remember being a working mom with active kids. Between work, volunteering at their school, shuttling them to after school activities, and maintaining the house, I had little time for anything else. So involvement at TBO fell by the wayside. They got to Religious School and I helped occasionally, but that was all I could muster. I now know that was my loss. And yet I don’t know that I could have done it differently then.

If you are someone with limited time and resources right now, I want you to know that you are still a valued member of our village. If you would like more connection, attend a service and stay for *oneg* so you get to know others, help with a specific project or activity, or join Mitzvah Corps to provide a meal for a family in need. Any effort you make will bring rewards to you. If you are struggling to find your place or would like someone from our TBO village to reach out to you, please let me know and I will do my best to help connect you to our lovely community.

**Wanda Bresnick, President (she/her)**



Do you have a *simcha* to share  
with your TBO community?  
We’d love to include it in the *ORacle*!  
Please email Sarah Davis in the office.



## MLK Day, Hypocrisy, and Unethical Behavior

As these words were penned on the day celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., I can't help but feel a sense of hypocrisy and unethical behavior sometimes, largely due to non-activism. You see, Dr. King was a man who fought for justice, equality, and human rights. He was a man who stood up against the three evils of poverty, racism, and militarism. "Celebration" of Martin Luther King Jr. Day with no ACTION on these evils, in my humble opinion, is hypocritical and unethical. Thanks to my mentor HKW, even secular Jews like Yuval Noah Harari I think would agree.

Dr. King was fiercely anti-poverty and yet today we live in a society where the wealth gap is growing wider and wider, where people are struggling to make ends meet, and where basic necessities like food and shelter are out of reach for so many, specifically for the race/class (Black) of Dr. King and those we celebrate in Black History Month. Reparations for this class and their ancestors have never been paid. Say what?!!! Selah.

So how can we better honor Dr. King's legacy and work toward creating a world that he dreamed of? Here are some concrete steps we can take:

- Educate ourselves about racism and work towards becoming antiracist. One great resource for this is the book *How to Be an Anti-Racist* by Ibram X. Kendi.
- Work toward sustainably breaking the cycle of poverty in someone's life. This could involve volunteering at a food bank, supporting small businesses, or working with organizations that focus on education and economic development.
- Teach others about how over-policing and large-scale wars often generate racism and poverty. This fact remains true regardless if in Snohomish County, New York, or Israel.

Consider the day of Dr. King's passing. At TBO we keep our traditions seriously - enter Tu BiSh'vat and *Kaddish*. We plant seeds for the righteous and say *Kaddish* for the ones we love. Since the Clergyman King was considered righteous, consider this: plant a seed of action. Consider this also: MLK's passing (April 4, 1968) was at the parsha of *Tzav*, a reading in which Torah instructs Israel to keep the home fires burning.

Let us remember the struggles that Dr. King fought for and commit ourselves to continuing his/our work yet to be realized. Together, we can create a world where poverty, materialism, and global over-policing are no longer the norm, but rather a distant memory. By acting to offset the root causes of these issues, we can work towards creating a more peaceful and just world.

**Author: Melech Aggadah**



Dr. King with Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel at Arlington National Cemetery, Feb. 6, 1968.

## February 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](https://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. Members who meet vaccine requirements are welcome to attend without registration. To register, please visit: [templebethor.org/service-registration](https://templebethor.org/service-registration).



### Tu BiSh'vat Service: Planting Seeds of Hope

**Friday, February 3, 7:30 pm (in-person and online)**

**with Rabbi Rachel Kort and Noah Zeichner**

Please join Temple Beth Or in our Tu BiSh'vat celebration! Rabbi Kort will lead us in a service in person and over Zoom. In addition to the service, we will be educating ourselves about efforts in Everett to address homelessness. We will be viewing videos on caring for people experiencing homelessness. This video series was produced by Everett Faith in Action, a network of leaders in the faith community.

**Registration:** Members do not need to register in order to attend. Guests - please register at: [templebethor.org/service-registration](https://templebethor.org/service-registration). Registration ends February 3, 3:00 pm. All are welcome to attend on Zoom without registration.



### Tu BiSh'vat Winter Garden Work Party

**Sunday, February 5, 10:00 am, location in ORbits or contact the office**

The Social Action Committee is hosting the second annual volunteer garden clean up in honor of Tu BiSh'vat. It was a great multigenerational event last year and is a day of service for Religious School students and their families as well as the rest of the congregation. Gardening supplies are provided, though you may want to bring your own gloves if you have them. This community garden donates its produce to a local food bank. Please bring nonperishable items to donate to the food bank.

**Registration:** Members do not need to register in order to attend. Guests - to attend in person, please register at: [templebethor.org/service-registration](https://templebethor.org/service-registration). Registration ends February 3, 3:00 pm.



### Shabbat Service with Guest Speaker Chris Collier

**Friday, February 10, 7:30 pm (online only)**

**with Rabbi Rachel Kort and Neil Weinstein**

We have another important opportunity to learn about what is being done in our community around the issue of homelessness. Please join us at Shabbat services where our guest speaker will be Chris Collier. Mr. Collier is the Alliance for Housing Affordability (AHA) Program Manager at the Housing Authority of Snohomish County, and he will be speaking about the housing imbalance. There is a growing number of people who cannot own houses and struggle to pay rent, even with well-paying jobs.



### Shabbat Morning Service

**Saturday, February 25, 10:00 am (in-person and online)**

**with Doug Wallis and Shoshana Stombaugh**

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 toward 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 - to attend in person please register at: [templebethor.org/service-registration](https://templebethor.org/service-registration). Registration ends February 24, 3:00 pm. All are welcome to attend on Zoom without registration.

## March Services and Events

All regular Shabbat services are now accessed using the same Zoom link. Zoom link and registration information are available under February Services and Events on the previous page.



### Adult Purim Party at Temple Beth Or (in-person only)

**Saturday, March 4, 7:00 pm**

Are you ready to party like pre-pandemic times? Our festive evening at the Temple will include Havdalah, Purim themed karaoke, games, snacks, and libations. Costumes are encouraged, but not required. Must be 21 and over to attend.

**\*\*Please bring an appetizer, dessert, or drink to share and bring small bills for “cocktail/mocktail” donations to support our quarterly Tzedakah Box recipient, Cocoon House.\*\***

**Registration (for all attendees):** Please register in advance so we can plan accordingly.

Registration will close February 27, 5:00 pm. Members who have not registered in time are still welcome to attend. Guests - Guests must register before the deadline and provide a vaccine card in order to attend. No drop ins please.

**Registration Link:** [templebethor.org/service-registration](https://templebethor.org/service-registration)



### Religious School Purim Carnival

**Sunday, March 5, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm During Religious School**

Religious School students and Tots are invited to say “Hooray” for Hamantaschen and “Boo!” Haman at the Religious School Purim Carnival. It will be a festive morning of Purim fun and games! Get those costumes ready!!



### Shabbat Morning Service

**Saturday, March 11, 10:00 am (in-person and online)**

**with Rabbi Rachel 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 toward 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 - to attend in person please register at: [templebethor.org/service-registration](https://templebethor.org/service-registration). Registration ends March 10, 3:00 pm. All are welcome to attend on Zoom without registration.



### Shabbat At Home

**Friday, March 17, 7:00 pm**

**with Rabbi Kort and Shoshana Stombaugh (online only)**

Join us for Shabbat from the comfort of your own home. This Shabbat service will include music and a teaching or story. There will be an opportunity to remember loved ones with our *Kaddish*—mourner's prayer. 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.



### **K'hillah--Community Shabbat**

**Friday, March 24, 7:30 pm**

**with Rabbi Rachel Kort, Music Leader TBD (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](http://templebethor.org/service-registration). Registration ends March 24, 3:00 pm. All are welcome to attend on Zoom without registration.



### **Next Chapter Whodunnit Experience Rescheduled**

**Sunday, March 25, 7:00 pm**

Are you a Sherlock Holmes, Precious Ramotswe, Inspector Clouseau, or Miss Marple? The Next Chapter Murder Mystery is rescheduled on Saturday, March 25, 7:00 pm, at the home of Tom and Leslie Elsemore and space is available. The cost for the evening is \$30/person and includes desserts and beverages. For more information, contact Leslie Elsemore.

The Next Chapter is for TBO members who are approaching the post-middle age stage in their life and experiencing a home without children.

## **April Upcoming Event:**



### **Women's Passover Seder**

**Saturday, April 8, 4:00 pm**

TBO has a tradition of hosting a women's seder. It has been greatly missed over the last three years. We are looking forward to reviving this tradition. More information will be available as we get closer to April. If you are interested in participating in planning or organizing this event, please contact Vicki Schwartz.

**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 (currently members or not) who identify the same. Register in advance so we can plan accordingly. Registration will close March 23, 8:00 am. Members who have not registered in time are still welcome to attend.

**Registration Link:** [templebethor.org/service-registration](http://templebethor.org/service-registration)



## 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 Uber Eats. 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](mailto:mitzvah@templebethor.org). Thank you!

**Carolyn Wexler**  
**Chair, Mitzvah Corps**

## 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](mailto:office@templebethor.org).

## Campership Available

Think camp is out of reach? Think again! Temple Beth Or has camperships to help send your child(ren) to Camp Kalsman.

If you have a first-time camper Temple Beth Or will pay the first \$100. All first-time campers’ parents and/or guardians need to complete the campership application to receive this money.

We are fortunate that Billy and Mary Sturman's children believe in the value of a Jewish overnight summer camp experience as well as recognize that the costs of Jewish camping can be significant. Thanks to their generosity we have the Billy and Mary Sturman Camperships.

If you have questions regarding camperships, please contact Sonia Siegel Vexler. If you need assistance with the online campership form, please contact the office.



**TBO Campership &  
First-Time Camper Application**  
[tinyurl.com/campership2023](https://tinyurl.com/campership2023)  
**Applications due February 28**





## Six Reasons to Send a Child to Camp Kalsman

Jewish summer camps fuse the activities, friendships, and communal life of traditional camps with the Jewish values, role models, and the culture of our shared heritage. This uniquely immersive experience provides a confidence-building opportunity in which campers experience joy and discovery in a communal Jewish setting. Here are six top reasons adults are sending their kids to Jewish camp:

1. **EXPERIENCES FIRST, EXPLANATIONS LATER.** Kids are able to ultimately and immediately contribute to their Jewish community at camp. At camp, they experience it (at meals, during Shabbat, on the ropes course, in the cabin - everywhere), and the explanations come later. This is a uniquely powerful experience they find nowhere else.
2. **CAMP FRIENDSHIPS LAST BEYOND THE SUMMER.** Camp is one easy entry point into a lifelong Jewish community. As kids grow, opportunities increase to connect with Jewish peers through congregational and national youth group, Israel travel, social justice programs, and much, much more. Many alumni of Jewish camps have found that the friends they make during the summer stick with them through college, young adulthood, and beyond.
3. **IMMERSIVE JEWISH COMMUNITY, 24/7.** Campers are exposed to adult Jewish role models, Jewish peers, and Jewish friends from different places. These Jewish connections in every direction are extremely powerful. Campers experience joy in a Jewish community, develop self-confidence as Jews, and forge Jewish connections that stay with them into their lives beyond camp.
4. **CAMP ENDS, BUT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CONTINUES.** Extensive research in recent years has proven that children who attend Jewish summer camp are more likely to identify as Jewish adults and actively engage in the Jewish community.
5. **JEWISH CAMP ADDRESSES THE WHOLE CAMPER.** Children learn confidence, skill-building and socialization by living in a community. They learn how to manage in a diverse group of peers, and they face new situations and overcome challenges on a daily basis. At Jewish camp, adult role models and mentors create safe spaces for campers to grapple with complex ideas based in Jewish values, texts, and traditions - topics that secular schools and camps might not be able to address. Jewish camp is thus able to provide balance by creating space for spiritual, emotional and physical growth for campers.
6. **CAMP HELPS KIDS SUCCEED BEYOND CHILDHOOD.** Camp is all about fun *and* can be an environment for "real-world" learning. Campers who return to camp as staff members can create opportunities to advance themselves professionally.

*Article adapted from the URJ website [6 Powerful Reasons to Send Your Child to Jewish Summer Camp | Reform Judaism](#)*

## Taste of Kalsman is Back: March 17-18

Do you know someone who would love Kalsman but isn't ready to sign up yet? Do you have a 1st time camper who would love to get a one-night overnight taste of camp? All new and prospective campers in 1st-4th grade are invited to join us for a very special Shabbat overnight at camp.

Space is very limited! Priority will be given to families interested in camp but who have not yet registered and registered campers coming to camp for the first time in summer 2023!

[campkalsman.org/taste-of-kalsman](https://campkalsman.org/taste-of-kalsman)

## ***Tzedakah* Box**

The January - March 2023 *Tzedakah* Box recipient is Cocoon House. Cocoon House serves youth ages 13 - 24 who are experiencing housing instability. Initially founded as an emergency shelter for youth in 1991, Cocoon House has now grown to include a continuum of programs with the goals of working with youth and their families to prevent and end youth homelessness. Their mission is to empower young people, families, and the community to break the cycle of homelessness through outreach, housing, and prevention.

Donations can be made to Cocoon House directly or through TBO. For more information or to donate online, go to [cocoonhouse.org](http://cocoonhouse.org). Checks can be mailed to Cocoon House at 3530 Colby Avenue, Everett, WA 98201. Checks can be sent to TBO to be earmarked for *tzedakah*, or cash can be placed in the *Tzedakah* Box. You can also donate on the TBO website and designate *Tzedakah* Box donation.

## ***Tzedakah* Box vs. Community Giving Fund**

There has been some confusion regarding the difference between the *Tzedakah* Box Fund and the Community Giving Fund. For your information:

- The *Tzedakah* Box Fund distributes donations quarterly. The Social Action Committee publishes the name of the recipient in advance.
- The Community Giving Fund distributes donations biannually. Rabbi Kort determines which charitable organization(s) will be the recipient(s) of the fund for the first half of the fiscal year. The Social Action Committee, with the concurrence of the Rabbi, designates recipients for the second half of the fiscal year.
- Please consider donating funds to RISNW, 2000 Tower St (Rainier Hall, Room 228), Everett, WA 28201

For more information on our Social Action Committee and how you can make a difference, please contact Melissa VonAschen-Cook or Naomi Katsh Barger.

## **TBO Now Has a Supply of Narcan - Save a Life**

Narcan (also known as Naloxone) is now available in case of an emergency at our synagogue or in our neighborhood. It can reverse an opioid overdose and provide critical time for emergency responders to arrive.

Narcan 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.

How can I help?

- **Know where to find it at TBO** - The prescription box is located in the first aid kit in the supply/copy closet just off the entryway.
- **Watch a training video** - There is a 6 minute video available at the link below that will show you how to administer Narcan.
- **Get free Narcan to have at home or carry with you** - Narcan is available by mail at no charge to residents of Washington State (link below).



[phra.org/mail-order-naloxone](http://phra.org/mail-order-naloxone)

## Please Volunteer and Donate!

TBO has an amazing opportunity to really make a difference in the lives of Ukrainian refugees. RISNW, which helps refugees arriving in our county, 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 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, Beth Fine, or Naomi Katsh Barger by email or phone for more information. Please visit [tinyurl.com/gipsonvolunteer](https://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, beginning January 20. 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](https://tinyurl.com/voatalktime).

## Hebrew Free Loan Association Can Help You Pay for College!



**HFLA**  
Hebrew Free Loan Association of Washington State  
*Interest-free lending with dignity.*

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.



[www.hflawa.org/saf](https://www.hflawa.org/saf)

**Mark your calendars - applications open May 1, 2023.**

## Safety and Security Committee Information Regarding Doors

Shalom. As we begin to “normalize” with the current stability of COVID-19 in the community and increase the number of services and events at the Temple, we want to remind everyone that we need to stay vigilant around our safety and security protocols.

Here are our community expectations around managing our gates and doors:

- Gates are to remain locked at all times except when they are being monitored by greeters
- Downstairs gate is unlocked prior to services by the Board greeter and relocked when the greeter goes upstairs to services
- Never prop open the gates
- Doors are to remain locked at all times with the exception of at the beginning of services when they are being monitored by greeters
- Never prop open the doors
- During an outdoor event, with the gates locked, the downstairs door may be propped to facilitate the flow of tables and chairs, food and drink, and people as appropriate to the event.
- Board Greeters, Board Members and Committee Chairs have general oversight responsibility when they are on site for services, events, and committee meetings.

All community members share in the responsibility for keeping us all safe and secure. Thanks for your cooperation.

## Showing Up: A Message from Former President Jerry Waldbaum

The following article is reprinted from the July 1998 *ORacle*

As life becomes increasingly complicated and time an ever-precious commodity, I have found myself contemplating the relative importance of showing up. There appears to be an ever-expanding menu of events from which we must choose. There are birthdays, *b'nei mitzvah*, confirmations, graduations, weddings, anniversaries, and the list goes on. Thankfully, most occasions serve to celebrate, honor, or commemorate. Sadly, some occasions we attend are committed to bereavement, serious illness, or support in times of crisis. Is it true that 90% of life is just showing up? Is it really that important that we, as individuals or as family members, show up? The answer to the first question is "probably," while the answer to the second question is a resounding "yes!" Let me share a few thoughts.

About a year ago, a friend's mother died after a long illness. He had periodically appraised me of her failing health, but I had never met the woman. While I had known him for some years, I really knew very little of his family or of him, for that matter, outside the workplace. I considered what I had perceived to be the relative insignificance of my presence at the funeral and, ultimately, decided to attend at the last minute. I will likely not forget the look on his face when I appeared at the grave site. Showing up was not only important to my friend, but it also became very important to me.

While showing up is almost always appreciated, I am often impressed with how one's absence is so deeply felt. The following story was originally published in the Racine Journal Times and later in an issue of Moment Magazine.

*It was grandfather's birthday. He was 79. He got up early, shaved, showered, combed his hair, and put on his Sunday best so he would look nice when they came. He skipped his daily walk to the town cafe where he had coffee with his cronies. He wanted to be home when they came. He put his porch chair on the sidewalk so he could get a better view of the street when they came to celebrate his birthday. At noon he got tired but decided to forgo his nap so he could be there when they came. Most of the rest of the afternoon he spent near the telephone so he could answer it when they called. He has five married children, 13 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren. One son and daughter live within 10 miles of his place. They hadn't visited him for a long time. But today was his birthday and they were sure to come. At supper time he left the cake untouched so they could cut it and have dessert with him. After supper he sat on the porch waiting. At 8:30 he went to his room to prepare for bed. Before retiring he left a note on the door, which read, "Be sure to wake me up when you come." It was grandfather's birthday. He was 79. (Author Unknown)*

In recent years, I have found showing up being an increasingly important part of my life. We are all fortunate to have the opportunity to share special moments in each other's lives. While at times, there is a tendency to feel overwhelmed by seemingly endless commitments and obligations, showing up is not an obligation, it is an opportunity. It is the opportunity to become an integral part of each other's life experience, whether that be joy or sadness, health or illness, celebration or bereavement. Showing up is the most personal and endearing gift we can offer those we care about. If we are not there for others, who will be present for us?

L'shalom,  
Jerry



# Leadership News

During the Governing Board Meeting on January 8, 2022 the Board did the following:

1. Attended 2023 Governing Board Orientation before meeting.
2. Welcomed new Board members: Michael Gorlick, PattiPEG Harjo, Julie Mackoff, Dana Sanders, and Rich Spitzer.
3. Approved the minutes from the December 4, 2022, Governing Board Meeting.
4. Listened to updates regarding the Building Team and Capital Campaign.
5. Reviewed current COVID-19 protocols.
6. Discussed demolition of 3217 Lombard Avenue which was approved by the congregation at the December Membership Meeting.
7. Reviewed and passed banking resolutions to change authorized signers on bank and investment accounts.
8. Reviewed Finance, Committee, and President's reports.

## Office Closed February 18 - March 6

Please note the office will be closed February 18 through March 6. Sarah will be on vacation and will have very limited access. If you have any special needs or projects, please reach out to the office as soon as possible so they can be accommodated prior to her vacation.

If you require assistance while the office is closed and your matter is time-sensitive, please contact the following people. If your matter is not time-sensitive, please email [office@templebethor.org](mailto:office@templebethor.org) and your email will be returned as soon as possible when the office reopens.

If you need urgent assistance while the office is closed please contact the following people:

Financial questions: [vpfinance@templebethor.org](mailto:vpfinance@templebethor.org)

Communications: [communications@templebethor.org](mailto:communications@templebethor.org)

Bereavement: [bereavement@templebethor.org](mailto:bereavement@templebethor.org)

Mitzvah Corps: [mitzvah@templebethor.org](mailto:mitzvah@templebethor.org)

Calendar/Zoom Link requests: <https://templebethor.org/calendar-submission/>

Youth Education/Religious School: [religious.school@templebethor.org](mailto:religious.school@templebethor.org)

Miscellaneous Urgent Needs: [president@templebethor.org](mailto:president@templebethor.org)

### 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: Vacant

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: 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

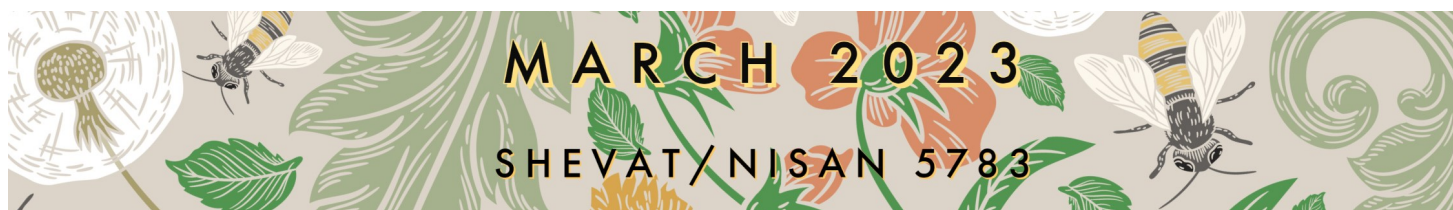


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> Executive Board 7:00 pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Liaison Mtg 10:00 am  <b>Tu BiSh'vat Service 7:30 pm</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Religious School Tots 10:00 am Tu BiSh'vat Work Party 10:00 am	<b>6</b> Finance Committee Meeting 7:00 pm	<b>7</b> Adult BMZ Class 6:30 pm	<b>8</b> Capital Campaign Committee Meeting 7:00 pm	<b>9</b> Remodel Task Force Meeting 7:30 pm	<b>10</b> <b>Shabbat Service with Guest Speaker Chris Collier 7:30 pm</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Religious School Gov Board Meeting 9:00 am Teen MASSA Class 11:30 am Greeter Training 2:00 pm Atidaynu 4:00 pm	<b>13</b> Communications Committee Meeting 7:00 pm	<b>14</b> Adult BMZ Class 6:30 pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Rabbi Kort Away 2/17 - 2/26	<b>18</b> Office Closed 2/18 - 3/6
<b>19</b> No Religious School	<b>20</b> Membership Committee Meeting 7:00 pm	<b>21</b> Adult BMZ Class 7:15 pm	<b>22 (1 Adar)</b> Safety & Security Committee Meeting 7:00 pm  Capital Campaign Committee Meeting 7:00 pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 am</b>
<b>26</b> Religious School  Atidaynu 4:00 pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Campership Applications Due				

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](https://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.**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> Executive Board 7:00 pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Liaison Mtg 10:00 am	<b>4</b> Adult Purim Party (21+) 7:00 pm
<b>5</b> Religious School (Purim Carnival during RS)  Tots 10:00 am	<b>6</b> Finance Committee Mtg 7:00 pm	<b>7</b> Adult BMZ Class 6:30 pm	<b>8</b> Legacy Committee Mtg 10:00 am  Capital Campaign Committee Mtg 7:00 pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 am</b>
<b>12</b> Religious School Gov Board Meeting 9:00 am  Atidaynu 4:00 pm	<b>13</b> Communications Committee Meeting 7:00 pm	<b>14</b> Adult BMZ Class 7:15 pm	<b>15</b> <i>ORacle</i> Submission Deadline	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Shabbat Service 7:00 pm</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Religious School  Teen MASSA Class 10:00 am	<b>20</b> Membership Committee Mtg 7:00 pm	<b>21</b> Adult BMZ Class 6:30 pm	<b>22</b> Safety & Security Committee Meeting 7:00 pm  Capital Campaign Committee Meeting 7:00 pm	<b>23 (1 Nisan)</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Shabbat Service 7:30 pm</b>	<b>25</b> Next Chapter Whodunnit 7:00 pm
<b>26</b> Religious School  Atidaynu 4:00 pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

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Temple Beth Or  
3215 Lombard Ave  
Everett, WA 98201  
425.259.7125

Return Service Requested



**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).