

January 2023

Tevet/Shevat 5783

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Religious School Celebrated Hanukkah

TBO Religious School and Tots celebrated Hanukkah by making edible dreidels, building Hanukkah Lego creations, and participating in a Light The Giant Hanukkiah Relay. A great time was had by all.



Congregation Approves Demolition Plan

The congregation voted overwhelmingly to demolish the structure at 3217 Lombard Avenue. 113 members (58% of the eligible voters) participated in the extended electronic voting. 109 of them supported the motion. This is well above the number of voters required by the bylaws to move forward with the plan.

As directed by the motion and the discussion during the December 10 Semi-Annual Membership Meeting, the project will be scheduled in such a way to be as considerate of our current tenants as possible and fully in keeping with the terms of our lease agreement. Further, this work will be conducted in a manner that will minimize the amount of time that the building will be vacant. For those who want to hear or revisit the discussion a recording of the meeting is available by request.

The Finance/Building team will research companies and timelines for this project. Watch for more information about the next steps and future conversations about what to do with the site.





Rededication

There are two meanings of the word *shamash* in Jewish tradition. The *shamash* on the Hanukkah menorah is the helper candle used to spread its light to the other candles. A helper at the synagogue, a person who is dedicated to supporting the rabbi with Shabbat and holiday services, is also known as the *shamash* because of how they share their light with the community.

While Hanukkah is over, after three years of COVID disruption, we are still in the process of rededicating our community space of Shabbat at TBO. I am grateful to Janet Karr and everyone who has helped bring back our after service *oneg* gathering (more info on page 5). As we transition to more in-person than online services, it is important for me as your rabbi and for our community to invest in our Shabbat and holiday experiences. I am looking for *shamashim* to help infuse your light, energy, and ideas into our Shabbat and holiday gatherings.

I am excited to offer my energy and reboot our *Ruach* (Spirituality) and Ritual Committee on January 21. We will meet at the Temple before Shabbat services from 9:00-10:00 am. In honor of our efforts to infuse more light into Shabbat at TBO, we will work on a simple hands-on project to create Shabbat candle holders that community members can use at the Temple or at home.

The goals of the *Ruach* and Ritual Committee over the next six months are:

- Work in partnership with Rabbi Kort to create meaningful worship and ritual experiences for our TBO community
- Support our 2023 High Holy Day cantor or song leader search
- Help set our service calendar and service times
- Support lay-lead services

I hope that anyone who is interested in strengthening Shabbat and holiday experiences at TBO will join me on January 21 at Temple Beth Or. Please let me know if you plan to attend or if you have any questions.

Thank you in advance for taking a minute to fill out our Shabbat Service Survey.

L'Shalom,
Rabbi Rachel Kort (she/her)

Rededicating Ourselves to Shabbat and Holidays at Temple Beth Or
Ruach (Spirituality) and Ritual Committee Reboot including Hands-On Candle Holder Project
January 21, 9:00 -10:00 am

Shabbat Service Survey

"More than the Jews have kept Shabbat, the Shabbat has kept the Jews." –Ahad Ha'am



As we transition to more in-person services, we want to ask for your help in providing feedback and support regarding Shabbat services at the Temple. We are currently holding two Shabbat services per month in person with streaming and one Shabbat service per month online. We are exploring adding an additional in-person service but need your input and support with this decision. We would also like your input with regard to timing for our monthly Shabbat at Home online service. If you have any questions please contact Rabbi Kort (rabbikort@templebethor.org). **Please respond to the poll before January 16. tinyurl.com/tboshabbatathome**

Rabbi Kort invites you to call upon her for help, support, or just to talk. Please contact Rabbi Kort directly to make an appointment. She's working remotely and is happy to set up a virtual meeting over Zoom or by phone.

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

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

Meet the President - Wanda Bresnick

As part of our transition plan, I offered to write the Meet President Wanda article. I am delighted to introduce you to the next TBO President. (Don't worry this is the last featured article you will see from me for quite a while!)

Wanda was born in Louisiana and grew up in a military family so they moved around quite a bit. She says the places that were the most important to her during her childhood were Japan and Alaska. Eventually Wanda moved from California to the Pacific Northwest in 1975 and attended graduate school at the University of Washington. At the UW she and Mark met and as they say, the rest is history.

In the late 80's, Wanda started her private practice as a licensed psychotherapist. She currently has an office in the Fremont neighborhood and also sees patients virtually. In her practice she supports a range of clients, specializing in strengthening couples' relationships and assisting struggling kids and teens. These therapist skills will be a huge asset in her role as President!



**Past-President Melanie Field (L) &
President Wanda Bresnick (R)**

The Bresnick family (Wanda, Mark, Zach and Kelsey) joined TBO in 1997.

Wanda and Mark found the warm and inclusive feel of TBO to be just the right fit for their family. After joining TBO Wanda chose to convert to Judaism. Both Zach and Kelsey had b'nei mitzvah on our bimah. She has worn quite a few hats at TBO. In addition to just serving as President-Elect most recently, Wanda has been very involved on the Membership Committee, Combined COVID-19 Task Force, and Capital Campaign.

Wanda has a brother and a sister both of whom currently live with their families in California. Most of her extended family is in California, including her son Zach and his new wife, Kelly. Her daughter Kelsey lives and works in our area and is a member of TBO. *L'dor vador!*

When not working or volunteering at TBO, Wanda enjoys ANYTHING outdoors, especially activities involving water, hiking, gardening, and travelling. She also loves reading and has been an active member of the TBO Book Club for years.

Please join me in welcoming Wanda in her new role as President and be sure to make her feel supported in this leadership position.

Melanie Field, Past-President (she/her)

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President. It was an honor and a privilege to take on this responsibility. While this position, like almost everything in life, included moments of frustration and challenge, on balance it was a wonderful experience for me - leading to significant personal growth and a real sense of accomplishment. Thank you for providing me with this rich and rewarding opportunity.

Melanie Field (she/her)

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.

***Tzedakah* Box**

The January - March 2023 *Tzedakah* Box recipient is Cocoon House. Cocoon House serves youth ages 13 - 24 years old 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. 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.

Membership Committee Update

I hope you and your families had a good Hanukkah. A big thank you to TBO members Laila Lowery and Max Young for designing this year's Hanukkah cards.

Please welcome our newest members Karen Mars and her son Oren, and Kayla Mohrbacher and her children Charlie, Brennan, and Oswin.

We're looking forward to the new year and planning activities to engage our TBO community. Please consider joining us and/or sharing your ideas for creating meaningful opportunities to gather and celebrate our community.

Leslie Elsemore, Membership Committee Chair

Capital Campaign Update



There are a pair of triangles painted on the front of our building. The Magen David (Star of David) didn't become a well-known symbol for Jews until the 19th century. The seven-candled menorah and Lion of Judah have historically represented our people. The six-pointed star is a reference to King David and his shield which God gave him for protection. Paul Vexler (z'l), Chair of our Building & Facilities Design Task Group, loved triangles because they are so strong. When you push on their points, the forces are equally distributed among the three sides.

As of December 27 we've raised \$1.6 M through the generous donations of 70 Temple households. We still need more funds before we can fully realize the building design that Paul and our Task Group envisioned. Our community has been through a lot these last couple of years - isolation associated with the pandemic, serious illnesses, and loss of community members. However, like the intersecting triangles of the Magen David, TBO is strong, we lean on each other to distribute the load, and we are committed to raising the necessary funds to see our renovation through to completion.

Important *Oneg* Information

Hello Members of TBO – I hope you all enjoyed a joyful Hanukkah season!

Just a reminder, we have gone back to our normal sign-up to host *onegs* and serve as Community Greeters. It is important each household helps to host an *oneg* and provide a Community Greeter once during the calendar year. Currently, we have three families host *onegs* at each in-person service, so there should be many hands to make light work.

We have given households the opportunity to choose a date rather than be assigned. The sign-up sheet for January – June 2023 came out in *ORbits* mid-December. Thank you to all of you who have signed up. Those who did not sign up before the cut off may be assigned an *oneg* date. I have only filled those spots through the end of March. If you wish to choose your date for hosting rather than be assigned, please visit templebethor.org/oneg and **sign up by January 20**. Any slots open after that date will continue to be filled by assignment.

The schedule for the second half of the year will be available in late April and an email will go out with more information at that time. Please note, it is each family's responsibility to help with these *mitzvot*. If you are unable to help on the date you have chosen or been assigned, it is your responsibility to trade with someone else so the date is covered. Please inform me (Janet Karr) or the TBO office of this change. Thank you so much for all your help in hosting these important events/activities for TBO.

Janet Karr – *Oneg* Coordinator

A Message from the Legacy Committee

One day, Choni the Circlemaker was walking along his path, when he saw a man planting a carob tree. Curious, Choni asked the man, "This tree, how long will it take for it to bear fruit?" And the man responded dutifully and honestly, "70 years." Choni was appalled. 70 years? That's a really long time for a tree to grow. Why would anyone plant a tree that wasn't even going to bear fruit in their lifetime? When Choni asked the planter this question, the man simply responded, "My grandparents planted a carob tree so that I would be able to reap its fruit. Now I shall do the same for my grandchildren."



The Talmud doesn't end Choni's story with the man's response. Choni falls asleep and wakes up 70 years later to see a man harvesting fruit from the mature tree. Choni asks him if he had planted the tree and the man tells Choni that his grandfather had planted it 70 years earlier.

TBO is in the middle of a Capital Campaign to finance a major remodel of its synagogue. For many congregants it may be difficult to think about committing to a legacy gift to support the Temple's endowment when they are being asked to make a substantial financial commitment to the Capital Campaign in addition to contributing to our Sacred Commitment. Our Sacred Commitment funds our Temple operations and is due yearly. Our capital commitment, paid over several years, will fund the remodel. A legacy gift is for the distant future that comes due only after our passing.

We are looking forward to a beautiful, remodeled synagogue. Ten, twenty, thirty years from now, TBO will need income from its endowment to support its operations, maintain the building, and provide a vibrant community for our children and our children's children. Thank you to our congregants who have committed to the LIFE & LEGACY program to sustain TBO's future. If you have not already done so, please contact one of us to learn how you can participate. Walk in the steps of those who have planted carob trees for their descendants. *L'dor vador*.

The Legacy Committee - Harold Dash, Bob Goodmark, Sonia Siegel Vexler, Eldon Wexler

Thank You from the Family of Paul Vexler



Eleven, Jessica and Sonia would like to thank the Temple Beth Or Community for their outpouring of love and support. You made our lives much easier during this difficult time. Our extended family noticed and appreciated the caring Temple community of which we are a part. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

January 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 nonmembers 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, January 6, 7:00 pm (online only)

Shabbat At Home

with Rabbi Kort and Noah Zeichner

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.



Ruach and Ritual Reboot and Activity: Rededicating Ourselves to Shabbat and Holidays at Temple Beth Or
Saturday, January 21, 9:00 -10:00 am (just before Shabbat Service)

In person only (Please note, there will be a Zoom only R&R activity in February)

Join Rabbi Kort for a morning focused on metaphors for light in Jewish tradition and engage in a simple hands-on project to create Shabbat candle holders that community members can use at the Temple or at home. In addition to the activity, we will take time to discuss and support aspects of R&R at the Temple.

Registration: Members do not need to register in order to attend. Guests - to attend in person please register for the 10:00 am Shabbat service at: templebethor.org/service-registration. Registration ends January 20, 3:00 pm.



Saturday, January 21, 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 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. Registration ends January 20, 3:00 pm. Guests are welcome to attend on Zoom without registration.



Friday, January 27, 7:30 pm (in person and online)

K'hilah--Community Shabbat and Board Installation

With Rabbi Kort and Shoshana Stombaugh

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 January 27, 3:00 pm. Guests are welcome to attend on Zoom without registration.

Building Our Future: Capital Campaign Youth Initiative

Sunday, January 8, 10:00 - 11:30 am

It's our goal to involve every member of our congregation in building our future through our Capital Campaign. Our youth are not only our inspiration but we want to give them an opportunity to be invested and involved in our building remodel. Sunday, January 8th will be a special day dedicated to building our future, community building, and building a culture of *tzedakah* (righteous giving).

Religious School, 10:00-11:30 am

Rabbi Kort and Director of Youth Education, Stefanie Somers have created a special Religious School morning with hands-on activities all about *tzedakah* (righteous giving).

Young Adults (8th-12th graders), 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Tzedakah Outside of the Box with Rabbi Kort

All TBO teens are invited to enjoy time together supporting the Temple and learning how to integrate giving back during these busy teen years. Please RSVP to rabbikort@templebethor.org



Social Action Committee Upcoming Events

This quarter the Social Action Committee invites you to join us as we learn about the factors contributing to the homeless crisis in our community. We will be providing multiple learning and hands-on opportunities in conjunction with Tu BiSh'vat as we explore ways to help make a difference in the environment around us.

Tu BiSh'vat Service

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

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.

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 multi-generational 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 non-perishable 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. Registration ends February 3, 3:00 pm.

Shabbat Service with Guest Speaker Chris Collier

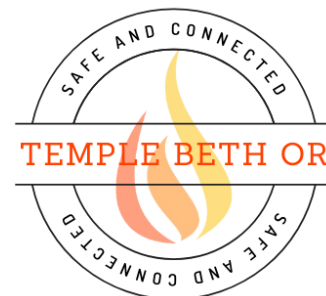
Friday, February 10, 7:30 pm (in person and online)

We have another exciting 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 are a growing number of people who cannot own houses and struggle to pay rent even with well-paying jobs.

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 February 10, 3:00 pm.

Combined COVID-19 Task Force Update

The Combined COVID-19 Task Force (CTF) met on December 15 and with Board approval updated our guidance. As of now the CTF recommends that we follow State and County guidelines with respect to masking, food, and indoor activities. In practice and with the current state and county guidelines, this means that masks are strongly recommended in indoor community environments but are not required. Food and indoor activities are allowed. This is replacing the use of the CDC color codes to guide our protocols. We are meeting again on January 25th and will continue to monitor the situation and adjust our guidance as deemed necessary by the CTF. At this meeting we shall also review the vaccination mandate.



Youth Education Update: MASSA Israel Trip

What are all these teens doing at Religious School?

Every few weeks our religious school welcomes back some familiar faces - post-b'nei mitzvah students who are part of the MASSA Israel trip. But what are they doing there? I'm glad you asked! The trip itself is organized in conjunction with Congregation Beth Israel (CBI) in Bellingham and is scheduled for July 2024. The purpose of the trip is to help these young people deepen their connection with Judaism, allow them to visit important scriptural and geographical landmarks, gain an understanding of the commonalities between American and Israeli Jewish teens, and the important (if complex) role that Israel plays in the lives of Jewish people across the world.

During these gatherings they meet with Rabbi Kort to study Jewish texts, learn about scriptural sites they will visit on the trip, practice conversational Hebrew, and discuss important Israeli historical figures, inventions, and innovations, as well as current events. They will also meet with the CBI teen participants virtually and in-person for shared study and field trips. In short, the goal of these sessions and the trip itself is to prepare these young adults to be informed and engaged Jewish leaders in their communities in the future and establish friendships that will last a lifetime.

We are so thankful for the grant provided by the SAMIS Foundation (which we are sharing with CBI), which is helping make this trip possible by defraying some of the costs. However, our teens are hopeful their fundraising efforts will help ease the financial burden even more and we welcome and encourage your donations and participation in these events.

Presently, we have two ways for you to contribute, though more will be planned in the coming months:

- **Got Gelt?** Check your couch cushions or car cup holders...bring that loose change and drop it in our coin collection bottle at the top of the stairs at TBO. Every penny counts!
- **Sponsor a mitzvah crew** - These teens are willing to work! Yard work, painting, cleaning, etc. Please reach out to Amber Waldbaum and we will find a crew for you.

Kiah Webster
Co-Chair, Youth Education Committee

Anonymous Fund Donations

The Temple has been receiving donations from funds that do not have a member listed. Unfortunately, the funds are unable to tell us the member who has donated.

Please contact the office if you believe your donation may not have been credited to your account. We have recently received donations from **United Way of The Bay Area** and **The Blackbaud Giving Fund/Boeing**. If possible, please let us know ahead of time so we can be on the lookout for your directed donation.

Presidential Awards for Volunteerism

Each December the President has the honor of awarding the President's Award(s) for Volunteerism at our December Membership Meeting. The names of the awardees are displayed on a plaque in the Temple lobby. (Check it out next time you are in the



Leslie Elsemore

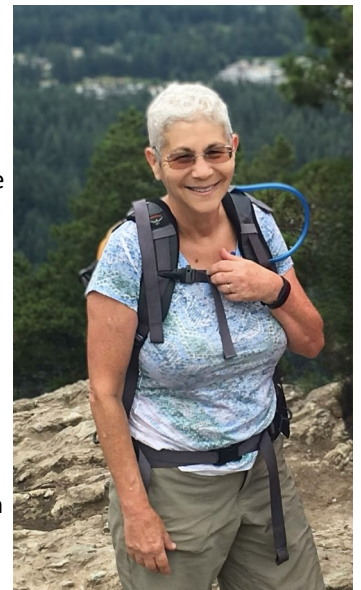
building!) Each year, selecting this volunteer is a difficult task as there are so many worthy candidates. This year was no exception in that there were many great volunteers in our community - the team working on our building remodel and Capital Campaign, those who rebooted Religious School, those guiding our COVID-19 response, the bereavement/mitzvah corps heroes, and many others.

Two volunteers stood head and shoulders above the others for the depth and length of their on-going service to our community. These two individuals make for a neat set of bookends; one dedicated to making the present a vibrant and engaging experience, the other committed to building for the future. Here is a little bit about each of them and their contributions to TBO.

Leslie Elsemore and her family have been members of TBO for over 20 years. She currently is serving as chair of the Membership Committee, which she has done for many years. Leslie sets the tone for our warm and welcoming community by creating an effective and vibrant committee focused on both recruiting new members as well as engaging and retaining current members. Under her leadership the Membership Committee runs several programs to accomplish this including a Sukkot event in the fall and a summer barbecue/picnic. They also send out birthday cards and other holiday greetings and prepare baskets to welcome new

members. Leslie herself is an incredibly kind, warm and caring person - one of the first to drop off a meal or a challah or make a check-in phone call when the occasion warrants it. She encourages multi-generational activities in the community and she and her husband, Tom, host and organize a number of these events. She strives to include everyone in her planning and creates an inclusive environment. Leslie embraces connecting to Jewish culture through food, teaching super yummy and FUN challah baking and hamantaschen classes - even online during the COVID days! The efforts of the Membership Committee, led by Leslie, were critical in keeping the community engaged during the periods of isolation and shut down of COVID. Now they are envisioning new ways for us to be together again, guided by her spirit and enthusiasm. Thanks Leslie for all you do to keep us connected!

Sonia Siegel Vexler and her family are founding members of TBO. Sonia wears a lot of hats. The one factor that ties them all together is creating a pathway forward, into the future for our community. Over the last many years Sonia has launched and led the Next Chapter program and the Atidaynu leadership development class. Next Chapter creates opportunities for older members who are not (or are no longer) connected through their children and Religious School to continue to connect and socialize in a variety of ways. The Atidaynu class facilitates future leadership by identifying emerging leaders in our midst and giving them the tools to become active leaders in the community. This effort comes to fruition using one of Sonia's other hats, chair of the Nominations Committee. Each year Sonia works with her team to craft a diverse, representative and effective board to carry out TBO's mission. Continuing to keep an eye to the future, Sonia works to instill a sense of Jewish identity among our youth by leading the Campership Committee which provides financial assistance and incentives for the TBO kids to attend Jewish summer camp. In addition to inspiring the people who will be our future, Sonia also serves on the Life and Legacy Committee working to make sure that we have the financial resources to support our community in the future. She is also committed to inclusion and led the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Initiative (a year long series of online discussions tailored to open our eyes to issues related to these topics) and co-chairs the General Phase of the Capital Campaign to insure that we are open and welcoming to all and can create a remodeled space that will be accessible to any who wish to participate in person. Like Leslie, Sonia also hosts and organizes activities and is an active participant in the TBO Book Club. Sonia's mantra is that it is all about relationships. Thanks Sonia for building those relationships and connections and keeping your focus on the future of our community.



Sonia Siegel Vexler

If you are interested in upping your volunteer quotient, please check out the website or contact the office to find out what kinds of opportunities are available for you!

Leadership News

During the Governing Board Meeting on December 4, 2022 the Board did the following:

1. Approved the minutes from the November 13, 2022 virtual meeting and the November 17-18, 2022 email meeting.
2. Reviewed sign up for greeter duties, using the Shabbat Tracker.
3. Discussed the Membership Meeting and the corresponding logistics.
4. Were reminded of upcoming important dates (all online only):
 - December 10, 4:00 pm Membership Meeting
 - December 22, 7:00 pm Hanukkah celebration
 - January 8, Combined Board Meeting and Orientation
5. Met the nominated incoming Board members.
6. Listened to an update from Jeff Napp about the Capital Campaign - 57 donors to date, \$1,492,000.
7. Heard a summary of the member termination process.
8. Reviewed October Financial Reports.
9. Heard highlights from Committee/Task Force and President's Reports, including:
 - We mailed a thank you gift (one of our handcrafted mezuzah) to Cantor Dreskin
 - Pam Spitzer has agreed to serve as our new b'nei mitzvah coordinator
 - We signed additional contracts related to the remodel
 - We are rebooting our pre-COVID *oneg*/community greeter program.
10. Listened to President thank the incoming, returning and retiring Board members.

At the December 10, 2022 Semi-Annual Membership meeting the congregation did the following:

1. Participated in *Havdalah* and heard words from the Rabbi.
2. Approved the minutes of the June 12, 2022 Semi- Annual Membership Meeting by consensus.
3. Approved the recommended slate of candidates for the 2023 Board, unanimously.
4. Heard updates on the Capital Campaign and the Remodel Project.
5. Listened to information about the 3217 Lombard Ave property and considered a motion to demolish the building.
6. Information about electronic voting was shared. Extended online voting was open just over one week following the meeting.
7. Heard an update on Youth Education and programming.
8. Listened to a report on our finances.
9. Held an auction for the two reserved parking spaces.
10. Heard an announcement from the Bereavement Committee.
11. Listened to end of year remarks from the outgoing President, including thank yous to the outgoing, continuing and incoming Governing Board Members.
12. Celebrated the recipients of the Presidential Volunteerism Award, Leslie Elsemore and Sonia Siegel Vexler. (See separate article on page 9.)
13. Enjoyed remarks from incoming President, Wanda Bresnick.
14. Reviewed volunteer opportunities and upcoming event information.

This meeting was recorded and the recording can be accessed by contacting the office for the link.

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 Elsemore

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 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 Finance Committee Mtg 7:00 pm	3 Adult BMZ Class 6:30 pm	4 Executive Board 7:00 pm Capital Campaign Committee Mtg 7:00 pm	5	6 Liaison Mtg 10:00 am Shabbat 7:00 pm	7
8 Religious School Governing Board Mtg 9:00 am CC Youth 10:00 am Teen MASSA Class 11:30 am	9	10 Adult BMZ Class 7:15 pm Building Team Meeting 7:30 pm	11 Legacy Committee Mtg 10:00 am Capital Campaign Committee Mtg 7:00 pm	12	13	14
15 Religious School Tots 10:00 am	16 Membership Committee Mtg 7:00 pm	17 Adult BMZ Class 6:30 pm	18 <i>ORacle</i> Submission Deadline (Feb/March Combined Issue) Capital Campaign Committee Mtg 7:00 pm	19	20 Office Closed	21 Ruach & Ritual Reboot 9:00 am Shabbat Morning Service 10:00 am
22 Religious School Teen MASSA Class 10:00 am	23 (1 Tevet)	24	25 CC Committee Mtg, Safety & Security Committee Mtg , COVID-19 Mtg - All 7:00 pm	26	27 Shabbat and Board Installation 7:30 pm	28
29 Religious School	30	31	IMPORTANT: YEAR END TAX STATEMENTS WILL BE MAILED THE FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY IN THE SAME ENVELOPE WITH YOUR JANUARY STATEMENT. WATCH OUT FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CAMPERSHIPS. APPLICATIONS ARE DUE 2/28.			

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.



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).