THE ORACLE



September 2023

Elul/Tishrei 5783

Founded 1985

Volume 34, Issue 7



Attendees must be registered to attend our High Holy Days programming in person or online. The deadline for in-person registration is September 8. There is no deadline for online-only participation. Please see our website for more information:

https://templebethor.org/high-holy-days/.

Refer to your HHD Information and Registration Packet for a complete description of all HHD services and events.





S'lichot service - Saturday, September 9, 7:30 pm *oneg* followed by service 8:15 - 9:15 pm: in-person and online.



Erev Rosh HaShanah service - Friday, September 15, 7:00 - 8:15 pm: online only.





Rosh HaShanah festival (offsite) - Saturday, September 16, all day beginning 10:00 am. Morning service 10:30 am - noon. Lunch. Other activities. Outdoor (indoor if it rains). Morning service will be online.



Cemetery service - GAR Cemetery, Snohomish, Sunday, September 17, 2:00 pm: in-person only. Outdoor.



Family Erev Yom Kippur service - Sunday, September 24, 4:30 - 5:15: in-person only.





Erev Yom Kippur (*Kol Nidrei***) service** - Sunday, September 24, 7:30 - 9:00 pm: in-person and online.





Yom Kippur - Monday, September 25, all day. Morning service 10:00 - noon. *Yizkor* at 12:30 pm. Learning sessions (in-person). Concluding service 4:30 - 6:00 pm. In-person and online.



Rabbi's Corner



The mitzvah of gathering

Some people look forward to pumpkin spice lattes and the colorful foliage of fall, but what I look forward to most this season is spending time with our Temple Beth Or family. Many of us in the Pacific Northwest are back from being on the go during the summer months. Rosh HaShanah seems like the first time we will gather as one big TBO family since the adult *b'nei mitzvah* service in late spring.

Our Jewish people have gathered together at the beginning of the fall season since the time of the Temple in Jerusalem when the High Holy Days culminated with the pilgrimage festival of Sukkot. In addition to making the obligatory offerings at the Temple, archaeologists have found evidence of bustling commerce connected with the pilgrimage holidays. I imagine something like the Washington State Fair celebrating agricultural abundance along with craftsmanship and creativity. The musical headliners for the festival were The Levites singing the greatest hits of the Psalms.

Community gathering is a vital part of our Temple Beth Or fall holiday experience. As important as the work that **Steven Chaitman**, our HHD music leader, and I do to create worship services is all the hard work that goes into bringing our people together at our building in Everett, at our Rosh HaShanah festival, and also over Zoom. Just like our ancient gatherings in Jerusalem, here in Snohomish County we will come together this season to engage in ritual, catch up with old friends, meet new people, sing together, be creative together, and enjoy good food.

Our High Holy Day leadership, TBO Board members, and HHD volunteers have put incredible effort and energy into the details that allow us to come together. I want to invite each of us, as members of our TBO family, to add our individual energy to building and renewing our community during this sacred season. Here are a few ways we can gather with the intention of creating sacred community:

- Take advantage of the opportunities that these two busy Hebrew months of *Elul* and *Tishrei* offer (mid-August through the beginning of October). From worship services, to honey cake baking, or lending a helping hand to clean up our community cemetery or build the TBO sukkah, there are weekly opportunities to gather this fall.
- Reach out to Temple Beth Or members in your neighborhood. We are a geographically diverse community. Folks schlep from as far as Camano Island and North Bend to be together. Call or send a simple New Year's greeting to TBO folks in your neighborhood, or maybe invite them over to enjoy our online Rosh HaShanah evening service together. Contact Sarah if you need a copy of our Membership Directory (office@templebethor.org).
- Schmoozing is sacred. In addition to catching up with old friends when you are at the Temple or at our Rosh HaShanah festival, take time to get to know someone new.
- Notice who you do not see during the High Holy Days and reach out to them with a call or a text message. If you
 learn that someone is going through a difficult time, please feel comfortable reaching out to me, Rabbi Kort, or
 Carolyn Wexler, the head of our TBO Mitzvah Corps.

As essential as engaging in the theological themes of the High Holy Days, like personal renewal and repentance, is the act of gathering together in community. I look forward to being with you this fall in our sanctuary, in our garden, at our Rosh HaShanah festival, and over Zoom. *L'shanah tovah b'yachad* - to a sweet New Year together.

Rabbi Rachel Kort (she/her)

Rausi Rule Kout

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 works 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."

From our President

Many of us are in the process of moving out of summer mode and gearing up for fall. For those with kids in the home, this means the start of school, soccer, music lessons, and the list goes on. At Temple Beth Or, we embrace the start of Religious School and the many activities and services related to the High Holy Days. I can feel the energy in the air, and this is such a rich time for our



community. With Rosh HaShanah approaching, I find myself wanting to bake an apple cake and checking our supply of tasty honey for dipping apples. I am looking forward to our time at our Rosh HaShanah festival, and hope to see many of you there and at services at the Temple. It is your presence and participation that makes us the community that I love.

For me, this is also a time of year for deeper reflection and for renewal. I find myself reviewing my actions and contemplating my relationships. Where have I missed the mark? What could I do differently to act in a kinder, more respectful manner? Whom have I hurt and how can I make amends? As president of TBO, how can I better serve our community? As I reflect on these questions, I remind myself that change is possible. I revel in the knowledge that I can start the year with a blank canvas. I try to focus on one or two specific actions that I can take to move toward who I aspire to be. I then set my intentions to follow through on these actions. I also take time to focus on renewal. What am I already doing well? How do I build on those qualities and actions? As I think about these questions, I renew my commitment to myself to listen carefully and respectfully to others, to be caring and empathetic, to step up when needed, to be a constructive problem solver, and to ask for help when I don't have the answer. I am so fortunate that I am part of a community where I can ask for help and know that my request will be received with support, care, and offers of assistance.

Each of you has your own process for how you welcome in the New Year and make the High Holy Days meaningful. This year, I encourage you to think about renewal, and what you want to create on your blank canvas. As you think about these in relationship to Temple Beth Or, consider what activities bring you joy, are fulfilling, touch you spiritually, and help you feel connected. Renew your commitment to yourself to engage in those activities and to maybe try something new to see how that feels.

L'shanah tovah u'metukah tikateivu. Wishing you a year full of sweetness and joy!

Wanda Bresnick, President (she/her)

Wanda

shanah tovah
a serene new year

Wishing you a sweet and joyous upcoming year!
Wanda and Mark Bresnick

September 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 some special events.

Shabbat Zoom: tinyurl.com/tboshabbatzoom

Meeting ID: 837 4187 0594

Passcode: 531760

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.

eting ID
shabbat zoom link

Pre-registration: Pre-registration is required for in-person attendance for <u>nonmembers only</u> unless otherwise specified. To register, visit: **templebethor.org/service-registration**.

Shabbat at home

Friday, September 8, 6:30 pm (online only). Service leader Sheryl Shapiro with song leader Noah Zeichner

Join us for Shabbat from the comfort of your own home. This Shabbat service will include music and a teaching or story, and 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. It will last about an hour.

S'lichot service

Saturday, September 9, 7:30 pm (7:30 *oneg* followed by 8:15 service) with Rabbi Kort and song leader Shoshana Stombaugh (in-person and online)

Meditate on the themes of renewal and forgiveness while enjoying the softness of candlelight and the special music of our High Holy Day season. This service will also include *Havdalah*, changing of the Torah garment to white and sounding of the shofar.

Guests - Registration required at: <u>templebethor.org/service-registration/.</u> Registration ends September 8, 3:00 pm.

New Year's apple cake baking with Leslie Elsemore

Sunday, September 10, 3:00 - 4:00 pm (online only)

Join longtime member and baker extraordinaire **Leslie Elsemore** to bake for the new year in your very own kitchen via Zoom! The recipe will be supplied, and we'll bake together and schmooze as we make delicious cake to freeze and have for your family Rosh HaShanah celebrations and for your

break the fast on Yom Kippur. Registration is open up until the class start time, but please consider registering in advance to have ingredients and supplies on hand.

Registration: tinyurl.com/hhdbaking

Shabbat Shuvah

Saturday, September 23, 10:00 am with Rabbi Kort and music by Judy Magidson and Angela Riggins (in-person and online)

Traditional Shabbat Morning Service with High Holy Day melodies. This service will include Torah reading, haftarah reading, and an opportunity to remember loved ones with our *Kaddish*—mourner's prayer. This service will last about 90 minutes.

Guests - Registration required at: <u>templebethor.org/service-registration/.</u> Registration ends September 22, 3:00 pm.

High Holy Day (HHD) singers

The HHDs are fast approaching and that means it is time to sign up to join the HHD singers! Our HHD musical leader, **Steven Chaitman**, is very excited to welcome you in his inaugural TBO HHD experience. Recordings of the music selections will be available to all those who sign up. We will be having two in-person rehearsals at TBO on Thursday, September 14, 7 pm - 9 pm and Sunday, September 24, 10 am - noon. No previous experience necessary. You can join in for one song or more or the whole megillah! It is not too late to sign up; you can still join by contacting **Melanie Field**. Steven can't wait to sing with you!

Wishing you a healthy and peaceful new year.
The Chepuri/Field Family



Remodel news



The task force folks are working away. They are finalizing permitting applications, discussing

modifications with an ADA consultant, soliciting additional input from contractor candidates, tweaking the building plans, and working to make the project the best it can be.

We are looking forward to your comments on the updated plans. The new version includes added partitions to create flexible space and modified classrooms. A link to a video with a narrated tour of the most recent plans was circulated to members for review. Please watch this brief video and share any comments/feedback by email to Harold Dash, Melanie Field and/or Glen Pickus. NOTE: the deadline for your input has been extended to September 15.

Please direct any questions about the project to Harold or Melanie, co-chairs of the Remodel Task Force.

From your Social Action committee

The Tzedakah Box recipient for July-September is <u>Faith Action Network</u> (FAN). Temple Beth Or is a member of this multi-faith partnership of over 160 faith communities around Washington State. The members of this nonprofit strive for a "just, compassionate, and sustainable world through community building, education, and courageous public action." A few of the issues FAN has worked on recently include immigration sanctuary, climate justice, and gender/sexuality equality. For more information, please visit Fanwa.org.

High Holy Day Food Drive - Please donate as generously as possible to Volunteers of America Western Washington Food Bank this Yom Kippur. Monetary donations (checks or grocery store gift cards) or non-perishable food and baby items can be brought prior to Erev Yom Kippur service and prior to the Yom Kippur Morning Service. Volunteers will be available in the garage at the edge of the parking lot to receive your donations. Checks can be made payable to the VOAWW Food Bank. Food banks often prefer monetary donations because they can purchase what is most needed, including perishable food such as fruits, vegetables and dairy products. Please help make our fast a feast for those whose daily fast is neither symbolic nor voluntary.

Podcast Recommendation - Social Action Committee hopes to continue education and discussion about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion issues. From time to time we will be recommending books or podcasts on a variety of related topics. This month, **Nancy Wilkinson** recommends: "A Word with Jason Johnson." Mr. Johnson is a professor at Morgan State University. The podcast is about "race, politics, and everything else" and he addresses many interesting issues, not only the typical news cycle.

Meet our new b'nei mitzvah coordinator: Pam Spitzer

Pam Spitzer (along with Rich) has been a member for just about a year now and is so pleased to have found Temple Beth Or!

We are thrilled that Pam has agreed to assume the position of *b'nei mitzvah* coordinator! Pam's primary role will be to work with Rabbi Kort to support the student and family through the months leading up to the *b'nei mitzvah* service. This includes brainstorming their thirteen mitzvot and *tikkun olam* projects, helping to practice prayers and Torah and haftarah readings as needed, and answering questions regarding *b'nei mitzvah* logistics.

Pam brings a wealth of experience to the position. She has a BA in Elementary Education, taught 4th grade Hebrew and Judaica for 27 years (Congregation Shir Tikvah, Troy Michigan), and has over 25 years of experience as a *b'nei*



mitzvah tutor. In 2019, Pam received the Klein/Grinspoon Foundation Award for Excellence in Jewish Education for the Metro Detroit area. Pam's philosophy is simple - each student is special and unique, and the *b'nei mitzvah* process should reflect that individuality.

Putting the mitzvah in b'nei mitzvah

We are in the process of compiling a list of people who would be willing to help with *b'nei mitzvah onegs*. This involves putting out tables, chairs, linens, plates and utensils, arranging and setting out food and drinks, and cleaning up afterwards. Our Temple Beth Or community can help the *b'nei mitzvah* families truly enjoy their special day, and give them one less thing to worry about. No cooking or baking is involved – the families supply the food and beverages. People on the list wouldn't need to help with every *oneg*, most likely one or two a year. The next *b'nei mitzvahs* are:

Tyler Hill (October 14, 2023)
Caris and Amelia Webster (November 4, 2023).

We especially encourage future *b'nei mitzvah* families to participate in this mitzvah! If you are available to help or want to be on the list for the future, please contact **Pam Spitzer** or **Leslie Elsemore**.

Cemetery clean-up: a mitzvah opportunity

Join volunteers on Saturday, September 9, 2:00 - 4:00 pm at GAR Cemetery (8601 Riverview Rd, Snohomish) to clean headstones in the Temple Beth Or section of the cemetery. We are cleaning our section in preparation for the cemetery service Sunday, September 17, 2:00 pm.

If you have them -- bring buckets, soft scrub brushes, dishwasher detergent (not dish detergent), and elbow grease.

We will provide hoses, water, and guidance.

For more information, contact **Susan Cross** (bereavement@templebethor.org).

Membership committee



Your TBO Membership Committee welcomes two new members to our committee: Nancy Sosnove and David Roberts have joined Debbie Halliday, Jackie Spieler, Jeff Napp, Michele Goodmark, Shannon St. George, Wanda Bresnick, and Leslie Elsemore. We're working to plan and organize activities that will engage our members, strengthen and create relationships, and bring us together as a community. We're looking forward to the summer BBQ and are beginning to plan for Sukkot. Please reach out to our members if you have ideas you'd like to share or if you'd like to help.

Adult b'nei mitzvah recording and writings

Thank you again to everyone who supported our adult *b'nei mitzvah* class. Class members were given an opportunity to read their *d'var Torah* and reflections on their experience becoming *b'nei mitzvah*. For those who missed the celebration on May 20, the recording and written reflections are available at:

tinyurl.com/adultbmzreflections tinyurl.com/adultbmzrecording

Passcode: rsTz1#c0

May you and yours have a sweet new year

L'Shanah Tovah Steve and Lori Wolff



Shanah Tovah to our Beth Or family Pam, Rich and Ben Spitzer

May you and yours have a sweet new year

Eldon and Carolyn Wexler and family

What is this 'Massa' we've been hearing about?

Seven of our post-*b'nei mitzvah* students are part of the Massa Experience Israel Program, sponsored by the SAMIS Foundation. We are blessed to have this experience in partnership with Congregation Beth Israel (CBI) in Bellingham. Massa is a two-year learning program that includes a two-week trip to Israel scheduled for July 2024. The purpose of the trip is to help these young people deepen their connection with Judaism and allow them to visit important biblical and geographical landmarks. They will also gain an

understanding of the commonalities between American and Israeli Jewish teens, and the important role that Israel plays in the lives of Jewish people across the world.

During these lessons, the class meets with Rabbi Kort to study biblical texts, learn about biblical 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 also gather 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.

What's that big change jug in the stairwell for?

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. There is a group fundraising commitment as well, and our teens raised almost \$2,000 this past year. Part of our efforts include a jug for collecting your coins to fuel our airplane! Check your pockets and car for that loose change and drop it in the jug for a great cause!

We are planning some upcoming fundraising events that will help ease the financial burden even more. We welcome Temple donations for this fund and encourage participation in our events. Stay tuned!

To help out or for more information, please contact **Amber Waldbaum**.

May you and yours have a sweet new year

Shanah Tovah TBO from Nancy Rosen



From your Social Action Committee

May you and yours have a sweet new year

Temple Beth Or בית אור

BETH ÎSRĂEL

The Glosser Family

Introduction to Judaism Class

The Washington Coalition of Rabbis is offering a 32-session, comprehensive survey of Jewish texts, practices, ideas, and history. This unique class taught by 30 different rabbis (including **Rabbi Kort**) is suitable for all adult learners, including those exploring Judaism personally (including possible conversion), those looking to add depth to their Jewish identity, those partnered with Jews or part of Jewish families, or those just interested in learning more about Judaism. Sliding scale tuition, open to all. For sylabbus, schedule and registration, go to:

WashingtonCoalitionOfRabbis.com



Making strides against breast cancer with Team Temple Beth Or



Please join us to fight breast cancer as a walker/fundraiser, donor, or cheerleader. Our Social Action Committee is sponsoring a Temple Beth Or team for this year's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer 5k. The walk will be Saturday, October 28, at 10:00 am in downtown Everett. Fun costumes and pink gear are encouraged. If you would like to participate, please contact **Naomi Katsh Barger** or **Sarah Davis** in the Temple office. You can also register for Team Temple Beth Or at tinyurl.com/teamtbo.



Shanah Tovah Janis Warner & Norm Black



The Elsemore Family



Blessings for health, connection, and joy! Jeff Napp & Sheryl Shapiro



Leadership News

Updated TBO policies

During the August Governing Board meeting, the Board approved two updated policies - one on taking pictures and videos during services and one on food.

Policy for photographs and video recording during services

In order to maintain the sacred atmosphere at TBO during our services, we accommodate only very limited recording and photography during services. This updated policy clarifies that taking pictures and videos during services is allowed only under certain circumstances and requires pre-approval by the Rabbi or President. The full policy and all the details can be found at:

https://tinyurl.com/photo-policy.

Dietary Policy

The Governing Board revisited the existing dietary policy to align it with our values of respect for Jewish tradition, inclusivity, sensitivity and kindness to others. The policy has been updated to clarify our protocols both on-site and off-site and to support the use of labels. Those with dietary restrictions, allergies, food sensitivities and even preferences will now be able to make informed choices about which foods they enjoy at TBO events. Watch for food labels in use at upcoming TBO activities. The full policy can be found at:

https://tinyurl.com/dietary-policy.

Questions about either of these policies can be directed to Wanda Bresnick.



Sending sweetness to each of you! Shanah Tovah,

TBO Governing Board

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

Staff

Office Administrator: Sarah Davis Director of Youth Education: Stefanie Somers

Committees & Task Forces

Atidaynu: Sheryl Shapiro Adult Education: Vacant

Bereavement: Susan Cross

B'nei Mitzvah Coordinator: Pam Spitzer

Book Club: Nancy Rosen Building: Koby Wexler

Calendar: Sarah Davis Campership: Sonia Siegel Vexler

Capital Campaign: Jessica Burgamy & Jeff Napp

College and Military Outreach: Sarah Davis Communications: JonaRose Feinberg

Facebook: Deb Henry

Financial Administrator: Norm Black

First Chapter: Dana Sanders

Fundraising: Vacant

HHD (Rosh HaShanah): Robyn Klarman

HHD (Yom Kippur): Julie Mackoff

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: Rich Spitzer

ORbits: Janis Warner

Remodel: Harold Dash & Melanie Field

Ruach and Ritual: Vacant

Safety and Security: Nancy Rosen

Social Action: Naomi Katsh &

Melissa VonAschen-Cook

Technology: James Feinberg

Website: JonaRose Feinberg Youth Education: Mila Lowery & Kiah Webster



SEPTEMBER 2023





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	Estate sale to benefit TBO 10 am - 5 pm
Estate sale to benefit TBO 10 am - 5 pm	Finance cmte meeting 7 pm	5	Exec Board 7 pm Capital Cmpgn mtg 7 pm	Remodel team mtg 7:30 pm	Liaison mtg 10 am Shabbat at home (lay led) 6:15 pm	Cemetery cleanup 2 pm S'lichot 7:30 pm
New Year's apple cake bake 3 pm - 4 pm Book club 5 pm Governing board mtg 7 pm	Communications committee mtg 7 pm	ORacle submission deadline	Legacy committee mtg 10 am	HHD singers rehearsal 7 pm	15 Erev Rosh HaShanah 7 pm	Rosh HaShanah festival all day
Cemetery memorial service 2 pm - 3 pm	Membership committee mtg 7 pm	19	20 Capital cmpgn mtg 7 pm	21	22	23 Shabbat Shuvah 10 am
HHD singers rehearsal 10 am Erev YK family service 4:30 pm Erev YK service 7:30 pm	25 Yom Kippur all day	26	Safety & Security cmte meeting 7:30 pm	28	29	30

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.

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.

Return Service Requested

Temple Beth Or Mission Statement

Temple Beth Or is a warm, compassionate, vibrant, spirited, inclusive, and participatory Reform Jewish community.

We are religiously and geographically diverse, serving the northern Puget Sound region of Washington State. As God's covenantal partners in fulfilling mitzvot, our priorities are:

- *K'hilah* (community)/Mishpachah (family) nurturing our interactive, multigenerational extended family;
- · Torah lifelong learning, searching for meaning, and seeking comfort and healing;
- Avodah worship and celebration through the observance of meaningful, creative, and traditional rituals;
- *Tikkun olam* transforming ourselves and our world through *tzedakah* (fairness), social justice, and *g'milut chasadim* (acts of loving kindness).

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