

THE ORACLE



December 2023

Kislev/Tevet 5784

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Volume 34, Issue 10

Join the TBO Community in Eight Nights of Giving



Hanukkah is a time of giving, either to a family member or friend, directly to a cause, or in memory of a loved one. Select one candle, three candles, or all eight candles, and raise money for different areas of our Temple life. Your support will help our community continue to be a vibrant and welcoming one. Contribute to the fund(s) of your choice at the link below, with the QR code, or send a check to the Temple. Questions? Contact **Sonia Siegel Vexler**. Happy Hanukkah! Sending "latkes" love your way.

Night 1 - Capital Campaign

Creating a safe and accessible facility

Night 5 - Membership

Supporting community gatherings & dinners

Night 2- Religious School scholarships

Helping our students attend Religious School

Night 6 - Religious School

Outreach to grow our Religious School

Night 3 - Torah repair

Raising money to repair our elderly Torah

Night 7 - General Fund

Helping with operating costs

Night 4 - MASSA

Helping our teens participate in an Israel learning program

Night 8 - Camperships

Helping our children attend Jewish sleepaway camp

TempleBethOr.org/eight-nights-giving





Rabbi's Corner

Hanukkah: Prayers for light and hope during dark times

The eight-day festival of Hanukkah begins this year on Thursday evening, December 7. Hanukkah is one of our “lighter” holidays. It is not celebrated at the synagogue with solemn prayer services. Instead, we gather with family, friends and community for a simple candle lighting ceremony, typically accompanied by fried potato latkes, donuts, silly games, and gifts for the kids. As we approach Hanukkah, I am struggling with how I will manage to observe a joyous holiday when my heart is heavy with grief from the Israel-Hamas war. While the celebratory energy of Hanukkah seems off for me this year, the history and story of Hanukkah are relevant to the difficult times we find ourselves living through.

The history of Hanukkah is connected with the military victory of a small band of Jewish fighters, the Maccabees, who liberated the Land of Israel from Syrian Greek occupation and religious persecution. In 165 b.c.e., the Maccabees successfully rededicated the Second Temple. The descendants of the Maccabees, the Hasmonean dynasty, would go on to rule for the next one hundred years until the Roman conquest which ended almost 2,000 years of Jewish sovereignty in the Land of Israel. The first celebration of Hanukkah, described in the Second Book of Maccabees, explains the new eight-day holiday in winter as a delayed celebration of the fall festival of Sukkot. Sukkot was impossible to celebrate that year because Jewish militias were still fighting to take back control of the Temple in Jerusalem.

The holiday of Sukkot was desecrated this year, too. At the end of the week-long holiday, on October 7, Hamas terrorists infiltrated southern Israel, brutally murdering 1,200 and taking more than two hundred hostages. Hamas planned the attack to take advantage of the holiday, transforming a trance music festival, the “Supernova Sukkot Gathering,” into a massacre.

During the Maccabean Revolt, the joyous festival of Sukkot was postponed until after the war was won. Today, war is actively raging in the Holy Land. Those abducted by Hamas remain in captivity. Palestinian civilian deaths, humanitarian need and internal displacement in Gaza are devastating. In Israel, 200,000 civilians have been internally displaced. Rocket attacks continue in Israel, not only from Gaza, but from militants in Lebanon, Syria and Yemen. Both Jewish and Muslim sacred texts teach: To save one life is to save the entire world. For all those who believe this teaching to be sacred, our hearts are heavy with grief for all innocent people affected by this conflict and war.

Six hundred years after the Maccabees, the Sages introduced a new story about Hanukkah that resonates with me more at this moment than a celebration of military victory. In the story of Hanukkah in the Talmud, oil was needed for the sacred menorah in the Temple, which was supposed to burn throughout the day and night. When the Temple was taken back, only enough oil was found for one day. Miraculously, it lasted for eight days, until more oil was secured.

While it will be hard for me to hold onto joy this Hanukkah season, the story of the oil reminds me to hold onto hope. Though we may struggle to find the energy needed to cast light during these dark times, like my Jewish ancestors have done for two thousand years, I will light my Hanukkah candles each night, and pray that the light and hope they represent will grow and not gutter.

Rabbi Rachel Kort

Rabbi Rachel Kort (she/her)

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 is happy to set up a virtual meeting over Zoom, by phone, or to meet in person.

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.”



Membership meeting
details on page 5



Reflections on serving as a TBO leader

As we approach the end of the secular year, it is traditional to look back on the past twelve months and consider our successes and disappointments. What are we proud of and where did we fall short? For me, this December will mark my departure from the TBO Board after several years of service, and I am drawn to reflect on that in particular.

I joined the board informally as a visitor during **Vicky Romero's** first year as President (for the second time – thanks, Vicky!) in 2019. This marked a fresh era for Temple Beth Or as **Rabbi Kort** became our new Rabbi. In 2020, I served officially on the board as President-Elect, then the next two years as President and this year as Past President, under **Wanda Bresnick's** steady hand.

When looking back over these years, while there were certainly many trying moments, particularly as we navigated COVID-19, on balance the experience was incredibly rich and rewarding. There are two areas that stand out to me.

Personal growth – This experience pushed me in a myriad of ways and increased my abilities and confidence in numerous areas, including but not limited to:

- being able to stand on the bimah and speak to the congregation without being completely overcome by nerves
- coming up with ideas, and writing a monthly column, for the *ORacle*
- getting more comfortable with my understanding of my connection to Judaism
- learning more about how to lead meetings, build consensus and use decision-making tools
- conquering/mastering Zoom
- appreciating and capitalizing on the amazing talents and expertise of our members and contacts
- tapping into creativity I didn't even know I had
- being able to prepare and deliver remarks to the congregation
- learning more about Jewish customs/traditions/holidays and Israel

Connections – As I got involved in different aspects of the congregation and joined more committees/activities/events and met with more people, I started to build more connections. Relationships that were years old were strengthened and new friendships emerged. These connections are vital for me. They helped get me through the lonely, isolating times during COVID-19, they carry me through tough days, and they make my happy moments even more celebratory. These people are an absolutely amazing support network. Many of these relationships have been forged over time shared in the kitchen, or moving chairs, or planning events, or sorting out logistics, or developing a strategy, or comforting and supporting the bereaved/troubled/struggling, or singing or celebrating together. These friendships come about from working together, sharing pain and delighting in joys. I am most grateful for this dividend of being involved in Temple leadership. These connections will remain in place well beyond my time on the board, a lasting gift to myself.

I am proud of what we have accomplished during my time on the board. While we didn't get everything done I had hoped, and not everything went as smoothly as I would have liked, in the end, we came through a very rough time relatively intact and continued to move forward. We made it through the worst of COVID-19 without a significant decrease in membership, have returned to robust activity (check out the calendar!), adopted more inclusive and flexible approaches to our services and programming, and made lots of progress on our remodel project.

Like so many things in life, what you get out of an experience depends on what you put into it. I tried to give it my all, and as a result I feel I have gained a lot. Thanks to you all for giving me the opportunity to serve and for helping me to grow and learn as I faced new challenges. I'd like to extend special thanks to those who were encouraging and supportive throughout, in particular my husband **Vinaya Chepuri**. I hope that some of you may be inspired to try something new, and maybe a little bit out of your comfort zone, so that you can reap the same kinds of benefits that I did.

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and fulfilling 2024.

Melanie Field

Melanie Field, Past President

December services and events



All regular Shabbat services are accessed using the same Zoom link. We will use unique links for *b'nei mitzvah* and some special events.

Shabbat Zoom: tinyurl.com/tboshabbatzoom
In the event of Zoom link errors, join by manually entering the meeting ID and passcode into the Zoom app or website.

Meeting ID: 837 4187 0594
Passcode: 531760
Dial-in users: 253-215-8782



IN-PERSON



ONLINE



OUTDOOR

Registration: Prior registration is required for in-person attendance for nonmembers and guests only unless otherwise specified. To register, visit templebethor.org/service-registration.

Shabbat service



Friday, December 1, 7:30 pm, with Rabbi Kort (in-person and online)

Join us for a musical worship service using our prayer book *Mishkan T'filah*. This Shabbat service will include a *drash* (sermon), and an opportunity to remember loved ones with our *Kaddish* prayer. It will last about an hour.



Guests - Register at templebethor.org/service-registration. Registration ends December 1, 3:00 pm.

Shabbat morning service



Saturday, December 16, 10:00 am, with Rabbi Kort and musicians Judy Magidson and Angela Riggins (in-person and online)

Join our community Shabbat worship service using our prayer book *Mishkan T'filah*. This service will include a Torah reading, a *drash* (sermon), and an opportunity to remember loved ones with our *Kaddish* prayer. It is geared toward our adult and *b'nei mitzvah* student community, and will last just over an hour.



Guests - Register at templebethor.org/service-registration. Registration ends December 15, 3:00 pm.

Ruach and Ritual workshop



Thursday, December 21, 7:00 pm, with Rabbi Kort and Janis Warner (online only)

We will gather over Zoom for a hands-on *Ruach* and Ritual workshop and learn about a central theme in Jewish spirituality by weaving traditional texts with creative practice. Our winter workshop and service will be dedicated to the theme of "*ruach*," meaning "wind, breath and spirit" in Hebrew. This workshop will be followed by a creative service on the theme of "*ruach*" on Friday, January 5. No artistic ability or talent is necessary to participate in our *Ruach* and Ritual workshops or creative services. *B'reshit*, our Jewish creation story, teaches that creativity is essential to being human. Together, we will tap into our creativity and discover new facets of Jewish tradition.

Registration - RSVP to Janis Warner or Rabbi Kort if you plan to attend. Zoom link will be provided.

Shabbat at home



Friday, December 22, 7:00 pm, lay led with Ron Green (online only)

Join us for Shabbat from the comfort of your own home. This service will include songs, prayers and a teaching or story, and an opportunity to remember loved ones with our *Kaddish* prayer. Consider lighting 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 is designed especially for folks who may not be able to join us in person. It will last under an hour.



Come to our TBO Saturday evening Hanukkah party! Enjoy jelly donut filling, olive oil tasting, and latke making with a latke toppings bar. Bring your own *hanukkiyah* and candles to light. During this festival of light, we bring light into our dark world through gifts of *zedakah*; consider bringing new warm winter socks which we will donate to Cocoon House (CocoonHouse.org). Must be 21 or older to attend. All attendees - please register so we have a head count for refreshments. Registration: <https://templebethor.org/service-registration/>. Registration ends December 6, 3:00 pm.

5th Avenue is coming to Temple Beth Or! Join us Saturday, December 2, at 7:00 pm for an evening of three 10-minute Jewish plays. We will have time for conversation and refreshments (provided by our MASSA teens) in between plays. All are welcome.

Registration: The evening is free to all Temple members, guests of members, and prospective members. For security reasons, nonmembers must register to attend. Please register at: <https://templebethor.org/service-registration/>. Registration ends December 1, 3:00 pm.



Per our bylaws, we gather every December to vote on the slate of candidates for the new board and conduct other business as needed. Join us for hors d'oeuvres and schmoozing at 3:45 pm for those joining us in person, followed by Havdalah and our meeting (both in-person and online) at 4:10 pm.

Note that this meeting will be recorded and available for viewing after the live meeting. The slate of candidates is on page 6 in this *ORacle*.

Please direct any questions to **Wanda Bresnick**.

Zoom link: tinyurl.com/tbodecember2023membership

**Membership meeting
Saturday, December 16**

Word fun!

See if you can decipher this cryptoquote. One letter stands for another. Hint: it's a classic joke from an old-time Jewish comedian. Answer is on page 10.

DN VOYT QFR O VTFZ ZG Q IGZTS VITKT VT UGZ
Q VQZTKWTR. DN VOYT EQSSTR OZ ZIT RTQR LTQ.

- ITFFN NGXFUDQF

If you're not familiar with cryptoquotes, here's an example:

YBSZEEBY

is HANUKKAH

Y is used for the H's, E for the K's, etc. (The code letters are different in the actual puzzle.) And look for single letter words.

Nominations slate for 2024 TBO Board

Nancy Rosen (she/her), President-Elect

A newer member of the congregation, I have felt connected to TBO through my child, **Mirs**. They and my grandsons Alex and Aaron Cook finally brought me to the PNW. In Tulsa, OK, I was chair of Temple Israel's Social Justice Committee and a member of the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation. When I lived in Florida, I was Director of the Florida-Israel Institute. I taught French and English in schools for many years. In Israel, I lived on Kibbutz Ayelet Hashahar. My favorite holiday is Pesach because it brings family together and celebrates new beginnings.



James Feinberg (he/him), VP of Finance & Facilities Management

James and his family joined TBO in 2012, after moving from California. At TBO, James was previously the Assistant VP of Finance & Facilities Management, and is a graduate of the Atidaynu program. He's excited to serve on the board and give back to the community. James is a systems engineer at Boeing, and his two children became *b'nei mitzvah* at TBO in 2019. His favorite Jewish holiday is Passover when relatives from both sides of the family celebrate together. And also for the Gefilte Fish movie, even though he doesn't actually like gefilte fish.



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

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



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

I have been a TBO member for 26 years. Passover is my favorite holiday because the family all gets together for the seder.



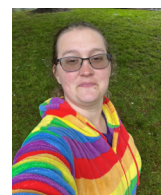
Pattipeg Harjo (she/her), Assistant VP of Jewish Life

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



Melissa VonAschen-Cook (she/her), Secretary

Melissa VonAschen-Cook has been a member of Temple Beth Or since she moved to Washington from Oklahoma in 2017. Having served on the board previously, she returns now to serve as secretary. Melissa works for Snohomish County Public Works in the Engineering Services department as the materials engineer. She is an avid weaver and also has her own business specializing in handwoven pride flag accessories. She now lives in Marysville with her dog Maggie and a handful of roommates. Her proudest moment was when she recently read from the Torah at her bat mitzvah in June.



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

My name is Michael Gorlick, and my wife **Kaye** and I, along with our children, Josh and **Rachel**, grew up in the north end of Seattle. We were members of Temple Beth Am. It was there that we were married, and all celebrated our *b'nei mitzvah*. My favorite Jewish holiday is Pesach, with its rich traditions and wonderful family memories. I was an interior designer for 25 years, and still do design consulting work.



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

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



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

I am honored to be asked to continue to serve on the TBO Board. In the year and four months since joining the shul, I have met many of our wonderful, dedicated members. I've enjoyed contributing to the Finance Committee, Remodel Task Force, and Contractor Selection Subcommittee. I especially appreciate your trust in me as the new *ORacle* publisher; my goal is for it to be fun, informative, factual, and in full color! My favorite holiday is Hanukkah because it brings light to the darkest time of the year.



Team TBO raises big money to fight breast cancer

Thank you to our fundraising dream team and to everyone who donated to Team Temple Beth Or for our Making Strides Against Breast Cancer 5K walk on October 28. With your help, we raised over \$6,000 and ranked fifth out of 58 teams for fundraising!

The American Cancer Society uses donations to fund research nationally as well as support those with breast cancer in Snohomish County. This includes arranging rides to appointments, covering medical bills, and providing counseling and financial support for daily needs.

We had a great time, and we hope you will join us for Making Strides next October.

Sarah Davis and Naomi Katsh Barger, Team Captains



*Front row: Jennifer Noar, Raphael Noar, Sarah Davis, Sheryl Shapiro, Sonia Siegel Vexler, Naomi Katsh Barger, Will Burgamy
Rear row: Jess Burgamy, Adelaide Burgamy, Melanie Field, Vicki Schwartz, Wanda Bresnick. Not pictured: Lucie Burgamy*



Rabbi Kort with Congressman Rick Larsen



A creative Shabbat for peace
November 10, 2023

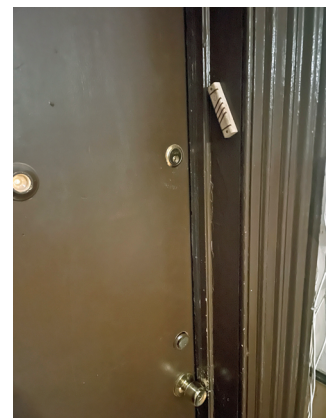


A huge thank you to everyone who contributed treats for the Everett Police Department for watching out for us!



Lots of fun at the Next Chapter event
hosted by **Mike and Marilyn Glosser**

A TBO mezuzah
in NYC!
(Dylan Pickus)



Tzedakah Box: Washington Women in Need

The October - December Tzedakah Box recipient is Washington Women in Need. WWIN provides scholarships and other aid to Washington women who face barriers to opportunity. WWIN helps them succeed in college and careers, so they, their families and our communities can thrive. For more information, please visit wwin.org.



Through a **STOP THE BLEED®** course, you will learn to recognize life-threatening bleeding and how to intervene effectively. The Temple owns two Stop the Bleed kits, and the board has been trained. If you also would like some training with this life-saving equipment, please email **Nancy Wilkinson**. If we have enough interest, she will request a class for us. Thanks!



New Israel Fund (NIF) is a leading nonprofit organization advancing democracy and equality in Israel. During these difficult times, NIF's Emergency Safety Net is working in the following areas:

- Humanitarian aid and basic needs
- Safeguarding human and civil rights
- Bolstering Jewish-Arab relations
- Providing an alternative vision for Israel's future

For more information, go to NIF.org.

הקרן החדשה לישראל
New Israel Fund
الصندوق الجديد لإسرائيل

We have entered the indoor months here in the PNW. This is also a time when we typically see an increase in sickness throughout our area. As we move into the winter months, we would like to remind everyone to receive any vaccinations they are eligible for. In terms of public vaccination, this is the first year that we are treating COVID-19 in a manner similar to the flu.

Current CDC and Washington State Department of Health vaccination recommendations are:

- COVID-19 - Everyone 6 months and older
- Flu - Everyone 6 months and older
- RSV - Adults 60 years and older

We are hoping with an increased level of vaccination, this will be a lighter year in terms of illness.



Are we team Chanukah or team Hanukkah?

Whether it's the *ORacle*, *ORbits*, flyers, Religious School handouts, or other documents, we want all our Temple Beth Or written communications to be consistent. Because we're a Jewish institution, that means we need a special dictionary to get the correct spelling, capitalization and use of italics.

URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) leads the Reform Jewish movement in North America. CCAR (Central Conference of American Rabbis) is the professional leadership organization for Reform rabbis in North America. The two organizations obviously work closely together. You would think they would have a single master word list. But just as in the adage "if you have two Jews, you have three opinions," the American Reform movement has two master word lists, one published by URJ and one by CCAR.

While the lists are mostly the same, there are significant differences. One that definitely stands out is our Festival of Lights this month. While CCAR calls it Chanukah, URJ uses Hanukkah! Oy vey! The problem, of course, is that the first letter of the Hebrew spelling is the guttural letter ח (chet, as in chutzpah), which does not have an English equivalent. And conversely, the English CH sound (as in choose) does not have a Hebrew equivalent. So assuming that American Jews would know that CH is the guttural ח, CCAR goes with Chanukah. But URJ decided that it's best to just accept the Americanized version of the word. Regardless, both spellings assure that there are eight letters in the word, in recognition of the eight nights.

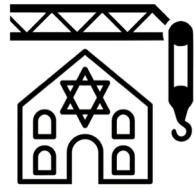
So which dictionary are we using at TBO? Let's just put it this way: **HAPPY HANUKKAH!**



December Yahrzeits



12/1	Patricia Ledbetter	Temple Beth Or Family
12/1	Harold Siegel	Uncle of Carolyn Wexler
12/1	Barry Tepfer	Temple Beth Or Family
12/2	Carrie Voit	Grandmother of Sandy Voit
12/3	Joan Cecilian	Mother of Kathy Pickus
12/6	Aaron Bell	Temple Beth Or Family
12/6	Martha Emily Field	Sister of Melanie Field
12/6	Lila Fishman	Temple Beth Or Family
12/6	Walter H McPherson	Father of Kathie Roon
12/6	Anne Raymond	Grandmother of Steven Russakoff
12/8	Sidney Baldwin	Uncle of Nancy Sosnove
12/8	Mannie Voit	Grandfather of Sandy Voit
12/9	Risa Eger	Grandmother of Julie Mackoff
12/13	Rubin Dayan	Uncle of Barb Ingram
12/14	Murray Fishman	Temple Beth Or Family
12/14	Paul Vexler	Husband of Sonia Siegel Vexler, Father of Jess Burgamy
12/15	Ruth K. Blank	Temple Beth Or Family
12/15	Esther Blatt Blustein	Mother of Marvin Blustein
12/16	Rashel Alfi	Temple Beth Or Family
12/16	Lena Cohen	Grandmother of Mim Edelstein
12/17	Charlotte Green	Aunt of Ron Green
12/17	Terry Miller	Mother of Rand Miller
12/18	Gilda Wexler	Mother of Eldon Wexler, Grandmother of Koby Wexler
12/19	Ben Gross	Father of David Gross
12/19	Rachel Mahaney	Grandmother of Janet Karr
12/19	Marguerite Nathan	Temple Beth Or Family
12/20	Aliza Shemesh	Mother of Aviva Goodwin
12/20	Armand Siegel	Father of Andy Siegel
12/21	Berthilde Horowitz	Mother of Judy Magidson
12/21	Morris Lichtman	Grandfather of Helen Grossman
12/22	Joyce Rubatino	Friend of Rosalie Kosher
12/22	Irwin Schoenfeld	Father of Howard Schoenfeld
12/24	Lillian Pickus	Grandmother of Glen Pickus
12/24	Stanley Rosen	Father of Mirs VonAschen-Cook
12/24	Jacquelyn Schoenfeld	Stepmother of Howard Schoenfeld
12/24	Michael Weight	Husband of Cheryl Weight
12/25	Rita Cohen	Mother of Phyllis Busch
12/25	John McAfee	Father of Angela Riggins
12/29	Bradley Fischer	Father of Wendy Heiman
12/29	Morris Shapiro	Father of Sheryl Shapiro
12/30	William Schoenwolf	Father of Pat Azus
12/31	Frances Finkelstein	Grandmother of Michael Glosser
12/31	Charles Halber	Grandfather of Sheryl Shapiro



Remodel news

Since last month, here's what's happened related to the building remodel project:

- Pre-construction contract signed with CPM construction firm
- Design meetings held with Rabbi, Office Administrator, Director of Youth Education, and YE Committee co-chairs; feasible input and suggestions incorporated into designs
- Design elements shared with architect; work on construction drawings has begun
- Accessibility consultant (Studio Pacifica) preliminary review completed, received and shared with architect
- Grant application submitted to the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, initial application review completed, additional information requested has been submitted
- Coordination between the contractor, architect and subcontractors has begun
- Information prepared for membership meeting
- We welcome **Jonathan Roselle** to our Task Force. Jonathan will add more "young family" perspective to the Task Force and also provide input as a resident of Everett.

The Task Force will be sharing an update with the congregation at the December Membership Meeting.

If you have any questions related to the work of the Remodel Task Force, please reach out to **Harold Dash** or **Melanie Field**, co-chairs.



The Safety & Security Committee helps TBO identify potential risks to the people and property of the Temple, and works to prevent, mitigate and respond to those risks. The committee makes recommendations to the Religious School, the Temple Board, and other groups as needed. Also, the committee seeks to establish working relationships with local law enforcement, first responders and Jewish organizations such as the Secure Community Network, the Anti-Defamation League, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle.

The committee meets once a month, usually online, and stays connected via email between meetings. At this time, we are seeking new members, especially doctors and nurses, people with a background in emergency response, former law enforcement officers and military veterans, and people with a knowledge of cyber security. But just an interest in this important work is sufficient to become a valued committee member. Please email the TBO office if you are interested, and we will contact you.

Nancy Rosen, committee chair



Leadership News

During the Governing Board meeting on
November 5, 2023, the board did the following:

1. The board approved the appointment by President **Wanda Bresnick** of **Ellis Engbar** as VP of Jewish Life. **Jennifer Cail**, our current VP of Jewish Life, will be stepping off the board at the end of December, and Ellis will complete the second year of Jennifer's term.
2. **Sonia Siegel Vexler**, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of candidates for 2024. The board unanimously approved the slate. The board thanked Sonia and her committee (**Mark Bresnick** and **Debbie Halliday**) for their efforts to fill each board position.
3. Sonia presented her idea for a Hanukkah fundraiser, "Eight Nights of Giving." In this fundraiser, each night/candle represents a specific area of need for our Temple. Temple members can make a donation to as many areas of need as they choose. Some discussion ensued about which funds to include in this fundraiser. The board enthusiastically approved the fundraiser and thanked Sonia for bringing this idea to our Temple and for her work to set it up.
4. **Melanie Field** provided an update on the estate. Now that the house has been cleaned out, many issues with the house are evident. Most notable is a sewer leak that is causing the black mold on the wall. **Kathy Pickus**, our realtor for the house, has been getting bids to complete the work necessary for the house to be sold. The total for the identified work is \$30,000 - \$35,000. The estate has about \$25,000 that can be put toward the repairs, which means it would likely need to borrow about \$10,000 from Temple reserves, to be paid back upon sale of the house.
5. Melanie presented an update from the Remodel Task Force. We have signed a pre-construction contract with CPM to begin work with the architect to better estimate costs and look at ways to reduce them. Task Force members met with Religious School parents, **Stefanie Somers**, Youth Ed co-chairs **Kiah Webster** and **Meghan Lefrancois-Hanson**, **Rabbi Kort**, and **Sarah Davis**, to review the plans and get helpful input.
6. **Jeff Napp** provided a Capital Campaign update. The group has begun meeting again to assess the amount we will actually need for this remodel, and to look at ways to close the gap.
7. **James Feinberg** provided a financial report. We are on track for our sacred commitments and capital assessments. Fundraising is also on track, and with a Hanukkah fundraiser, we should meet our goal.
8. Melanie shared committee report highlights which included: Safety and Security took treats to thank the Everett Police Department for the ongoing support of TBO; campership families are beginning the application process for next summer; and an enjoyable Next Chapter event at the home of **Michael and Marilyn Glosser** occurred.

Cryptoquote answer

My wife and I went to a hotel where we got a waterbed. My wife called it the Dead Sea.
- Henry Youngman

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: Janis Warner

Safety and Security: Nancy Rosen

Social Action: Naomi Katsh Barger &

Melissa VonAschen-Cook

Technology: James Feinberg

Website: JonaRose Feinberg

Youth Education: Meghan Lefrancois-Hanson









& Kiah Webster



DECEMBER 2023

Kislev/Tevet 5784



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Shabbat service 7:30 pm	2 5th Ave Comes to Temple Beth Or 7:00 pm
3 Governing Board meeting 9:00 am Adult Ed for RS parents 9:45 am MASSA 11:15 am	4 Finance Committee meeting 7:00 pm	5 Social Action Committee meeting 7:00 pm	6	7 	8 Office closes at noon Liaison mtg 10:00 am 	9 Adult Hanukkah celebration 7:30 pm 
10 RS Hanukkahpalooza TBO Tots 	11 Communications Committee mtg 7:00 pm 	12 	1 Tevet 13 	14 	15 ORacle submission deadline	16 Shabbat morning service 10:00 am General membership mtg (see pg. 5)
17 NO Religious School	18 Membership Committee meeting 7:00 pm	19	20 Capital Campaign meeting 7:00 pm	21 Ruach & Ritual workshop 7:00 pm	22 Shabbat at home 7:00 pm	23
24 NO Religious School	25	26	27 Safety & Security Committee meeting 7:00 pm	28	29 Office closed	30
31 NO Religious School						

Fill out the Calendar/Event Submission Form to add an item to the calendar and/or set up a Zoom meeting; this includes all committee meetings. Please submit a form even if you are using a private Zoom.

templebethor.org/calendar-submission

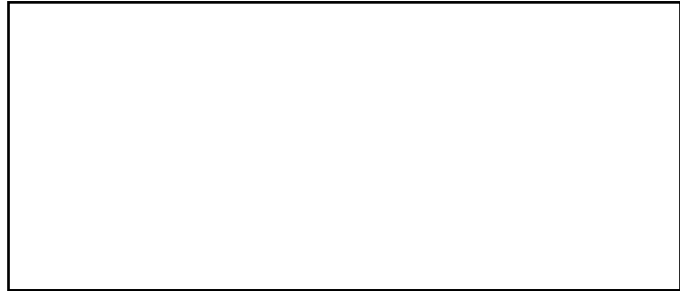
Note: Appointments are no longer required for visiting the building. During office hours, advanced notification of building access is requested for safety and security reasons. Please contact the office prior to entering the building (425-259-7125 x1). Office Hours are Tuesday - Friday from 9:00 am -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



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.