

THE ORACLE



January 2024

Tevet/Sh'vat 5784

Founded 1985

Volume 35, Issue 1

Tu B'Shvat Winter Garden Work Party and Celebration

The holiday of Tu B'Shvat, our New Year for Trees, helps connect us to agriculture, ecology and anticipation of spring. The Social Action Committee and Religious School community invite you to join us at a Snohomish County community garden to clean up beds in preparation for spring planting. The garden's produce helps support a local food bank. In addition to gardening, we'll celebrate Tu B'Shvat with a creative service. Please join us!

Sunday, January 28, 11:00 am - 12:45 pm

Venue will be provided upon registration

This event is open to both members and non-members. Religious School students and parents do not need to pre-register. A parent must attend the field trip with their child(ren). Any siblings not registered in school, additional family members, other TBO members, and friends or non-members need to pre-register at

<https://templebethor.org/service-registration/>.

Registration ends January 26, 3:00 pm.

Save the date
Tu B'Shvat seder
Friday evening
February 2





Tu BiShvat: Trees, the Land of Israel and human rights

Like the holiday of Hanukkah, Tu BiShvat isn't mentioned in the Torah. Early Rabbinic texts note the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Sh'vat (Tu BiShvat) as the New Year for the Trees and the day used to mark tithing. In the seventeenth century, the Jewish mystical master, Rabbi Isaac Luria created a seder ritual with symbolic foods that emphasized the Jewish idea of "*b'tzelem Elohim*," that humans are created "in God's image." Luria taught that just as fruit and nuts from trees contain seeds of new life and potential growth, so does each person. At the founding of the State of Israel, Tu BiShvat became a holiday that focused on renewal and growth of the Land of Israel. Tree planting projects became a way for Jews in the diaspora to help "make the desert bloom." Tu BiShvat is a hopeful holiday that focuses on potential: the potential of the spring season, the potential of people, and the potential of the Land of Israel.

I, like so many of you, have been experiencing feelings of hopelessness since October 7. We are overwhelmed by images of war and the defilement of and disregard for human life. Despite the bleakness of the situation, there are Israeli and Palestinian human rights activists who refuse to forsake the idea that their neighbors are created in the Divine Image.

For decades, I have supported the work of human rights activist Rabbi Arik Ascherman. Originally from Pennsylvania, after receiving rabbinic ordination from Hebrew Union College, he made *aliyah* (became an Israeli citizen) and led the organization Rabbis for Human Rights for more than twenty years. Rabbi Ascherman now heads a group he founded in 2017, Torat Tzedek (Torah for Justice) and works to raise awareness about illegal Jewish Settlement expansion in the West Bank through tactics of intimidation, violence and land appropriation. He leads "protective presence" efforts in an attempt to shield farmers and safeguard their right to land that has been farmed by their families for hundreds of years. Rabbi Ascherman believes in coexistence between Israeli and Palestinians, and has an unwavering commitment to our Sage Rabbi Akiva's charge: "do not forsake your neighbor."

Throughout our history, the Jewish community has held onto a diversity of beliefs with regard to our connection to the Land of Israel and vision for the State of Israel. The current government of Israel is the most extreme right in Israel's history, but it is important to note that much of Israeli society does not support this type of Zionism. Progressive Zionists, like Rabbi Ascherman, believe in a different vision for the State of Israel that includes both a Jewish State and Palestinian State in the historical land of our ancestors. While some may see the work of Israeli human rights activists and peace activists as insignificant during these hard times of war, I believe Rabbi Ascherman and others are planting seeds for peaceful coexistence.

Below are articles that highlight the issue of Jewish Settler violence in the West Bank and Rabbi Ascherman's work. If you share the values that [Torat Tzedek's](https://www.torat-tzedek.org) (torat-tzedek.org) work upholds, I hope you will offer support through *tzedakah*.

Rabbi Rachel Kort
Rabbi Rachel Kort (she/her)

- Video shows Israeli extremists assaulting Palestinians <https://tinyurl.com/TBOJan-article1>
- 'We will choose a new path': Peace activists responding to the war in Gaza <https://tinyurl.com/TBOJan-article2>
- The tangled grief of Israel's anti-occupation activists <https://tinyurl.com/TBOJan-article3>
- Settler extremists sowing terror, Huwara riot was a 'pogrom' <https://tinyurl.com/TBOJan-article4>
- How a U.S.-born Rabbi became the nemesis of radical West Bank settlers <https://tinyurl.com/TBOJan-article5>

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."

From our President

With a little help from my friends

Recently while taking a rainy walk with Mark, we were talking about our day and I told him I was excited and relieved because **Jonathan Roselle** had agreed to coordinate the painting of the inside of the house bequeathed to TBO. Finding someone to take on this task had been weighing on my mind. In agreeing to take this on, Jonathan said, “We each need to do our part to help our community. It can’t just be a few people doing it all.”



As Mark and I continued our walk, I felt such a sense of gratitude and I began reflecting on this past year as president. When I stepped up to the presidency, I was concerned about how I would balance my psychotherapy practice with the responsibilities of being president, especially since I knew this would be a pivotal year in our remodel plans. What I know now is that I can manage because of the strong support I have received from our community. So many people have had my back. Each time I have expressed a TBO need, someone has volunteered to fill that need. I am incredibly grateful to the many who have stepped up:

- **Harold Dash** and **Melanie Field** agreed to co-chair our Remodel Task Force and formed a skilled group who has done incredible work this past year.
- Tots teacher and board member **Dana Sanders** took on chairing our First Chapter Committee and has infused wonderful creativity and energy into involving our younger families.
- **Koby Wexler** took on chairing our Building Committee and has been so helpful.
- **Pam Spitzer** agreed to use her immense skills and become our *B'nei Mitzvah* Coordinator.
- **Melanie Field** also stepped up to chair our search for a High Holy Day song leader.
- **Robyn Klarman** and **Julie Mackoff** skillfully coordinated our HHD services.
- **Janis Warner** not only became our *ORbits* editor but also took on the vital role of chairing *Ruach* and Ritual, a position unfilled for some time.
- **Rich Spitzer** became our *ORacle* publisher and along with editor **Kathie Roan** has enthusiastically embraced this task.
- **Kathy Pickus** has competently coordinated the many repairs needed on the estate house.
- **Jeff Napp** and **Sheryl Shapiro** and **Tom and Leslie Elsemore** have time and time again been there to fill in wherever needed.
- **Meghan Lefrancois-Hanson** agreed to join **Kiah Webster** in co-chairing our Youth Education Committee.
- **Sonia Siegel Vexler** has continued to wear so many hats and regularly brings new ideas.
- **Sarah Davis** has kept me on track in countless ways with patience and good humor.
- **Rabbi Kort** has provided guidance and been my perfect sacred partner.
- The board, those who chair and serve on committees, and our lay leaders.

My list could go on and on and I apologize to anyone I have not named here. I so appreciate each of you.

On a personal note, as many of you know, my sister recently passed away. My family and I have felt so supported by our TBO community as we grieve her loss. Rabbi Kort has been there for me and led a meaningful service organized by our amazing Bereavement Committee. The kind words, hugs, numerous cards and offers of food really helped, and we have felt such care. It's hard to put into words the depth of my gratitude for this beautiful community. A heartfelt “Thank you!” to all of you.

Wanda

Wanda Bresnick, President (she/her)

January 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

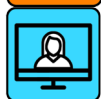
Registration: Prior registration is required for in-person attendance for nonmembers and guests only unless otherwise specified. To register, visit templebethor.org/service-registration.

Creative Shabbat service



Friday, January 5, 7:30 pm, with Rabbi Kort and Rabbi C.B. Souther (in-person and online)

Our second TBO Creative Shabbat will be dedicated to the theme of *ruach*, meaning “wind, breath and spirit” in Hebrew. This special service will uplift our theme with traditional prayers, and also poetry, meditation, contemporary music and creative practices. The service will include an opportunity to remember loved ones with our *Kaddish* prayer.



Guests - Register at templebethor.org/service-registration/. Registration ends January 5, 3:00 pm.

Family Shabbat with TBO Religious School



Friday, January 12, 7:00 pm, with Rabbi Kort and musician Shoshana Stombaugh (in-person and online)

Our entire Temple Beth Or community is invited to our Family Shabbat service especially designed to nurture and engage our children and Religious School community. The evening will include songs, prayers and a story. There will be an opportunity to remember loved ones with our *Kaddish* prayer and we will use our prayer book *Mishkan T'filah*. The service will last less than an hour.



Guests - Register at templebethor.org/service-registration/. Registration ends January 12, 3:00 pm.

Shabbat at home



Friday, January 19, 7:00 pm, lay led with musician Noah Zeichner (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.

Shabbat morning service and board installation



Saturday, January 27, 10:00 am, with Rabbi Kort and musicians Judy Magidson & Angela Riggins (in-person and online)

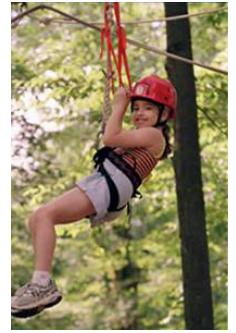
Join Rabbi Kort for a more formal Shabbat worship experience using our prayer book *Mishkan T'filah*. In addition, we will welcome and install the Temple Beth Or 2024 Governing Board. The service will include a *drash* (sermon) and an opportunity to remember loved ones with our *Kaddish* prayer. It is geared towards our adult and *b'nei mitzvah* student communities, and will last just over an hour.



Guests - Register at templebethor.org/service-registration/. Registration ends January 26, 3:00 pm.

Camperships

There is no experience more thrilling or transformative than Jewish overnight summer camp. Camp creates life-long friendships and unbreakable bonds to Judaism and the Jewish community. Studies have shown that Jewish camping is one of the most powerful ways to build strong Jewish identity and commitment in young people. Teens who have attended residential camp as a child tend to stay connected to their Jewish communities as adults.



Think about sending your child to Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) Camp Kalsman. Campers from across the Pacific Northwest - Oregon, British Columbia, Alaska, Montana, Idaho and Washington - call Camp Kalsman home. Your child's camp experience is based on six core values: friendship, *k'hilah K'dushah* (sacred community), Reform Jewish identity, *chesed* (kindness), connection to Israel, and our relationship to *tevah* (nature). Camp Kalsman's 300 beautiful acres offer a great balance of education and recreation. Camp features active Jewish education, which incorporates Judaism into many different activities. Campers learn new skills and hone existing ones in athletic, aquatic, artistic and nature programs.

Camp Kalsman is the premiere Jewish camp in the Pacific Northwest. For a summer of fun, friendships of a lifetime, and an unparalleled Jewish experience, attend Camp Kalsman as a camper or as a staff member.

All Temple Beth Or first-time campers qualify for \$100 off tuition. You will need to apply for this discount when you fill out the TBO campership application. TBO will then pay the camp the first \$100.

If you need financial assistance, send in the Camp Kalsman application now and let them know you will be applying for both a Temple Beth Or and Jewish Federation campership. If you did not receive campership information, please contact the TBO office. TBO campership applications are due February 29, 2024. There are no extensions to this date.



MASSA textile drive

The Massa families would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to everyone who contributed clothing and other household goods to the textile drive fundraiser this past fall. With your help, we gathered 3,845 pounds of clothing and raised \$961.25!

Due to the ongoing war in the region, it is not safe to travel to Israel. Therefore, after polling both Temple Beth Or and Congregation Beth Israel families, the group decided to travel to Spain and Portugal this summer, where they will have the opportunity to learn about the Sephardic Jewish community. The money raised from the clothing drive will go directly toward our TBO travelers.

We appreciate your generous support of our TBO teens. *Todah Rabah!*



Meet Raphael Noar

Please welcome Raphael Noar (they/them) to our TBO Community. Raphael chose to join TBO; they liked the feel of our inclusive community and appreciated being able to gradually become a part through attending services on Zoom.

Raphael lives in the Sand Point area of Seattle, works as a health information tech at the UW, and has a sister living in Seattle. Their parents moved to Florida.

Growing up in Anacortes, Raphael's favorite Jewish holiday was Passover. They felt a connection to Judaism through their father and wanted to learn more after doing an ancestry project at school.

Raphael met Rabbi Kort while taking an Intro to Judaism class. Following the class, the Rabbi invited Raphael to join the *b'nei mitzvah* class. Becoming a *b'nei mitzvah* is their favorite TBO memory so far.

Writing poetry, going on nature walks, learning new things, and playing with their cat take up Raphael's spare time. They recently helped with the fused glass class at TBO, and may participate in Adult Education and *Ruach* and Ritual.



The January - March *tzedakah* box recipient is Cocoon House. Cocoon House provides services for teens and young adults experiencing housing instability and homelessness. Their mission is "To empower young people, families and the community to break the cycle of homelessness through Outreach, Housing and Prevention." For more information go to cocoonhouse.org.



On Saturday, December 2, Temple Beth Or members watched three delightful 10-minute plays written by **David Farkas**, a friend of the Temple. The plays captured a cultural glimpse into David and Jean's life or was an updated story. Refreshments were served by MASSA. The fun evening saw MASSA raise \$225.

Actors included: **Leslie Elsemore, Kiah Webster, Amelia Webster, Jonathon Hill, Nancy Rosen, Sheryl Shapiro, Melanie Field, Mark Bresnick** and **Sherri Cooper**. Our stage manager was **Jean Farkas** and "producer" was **Sonia Siegel Vexler**.

You can relive the performances or watch them for the first time. Here are links to the three plays:

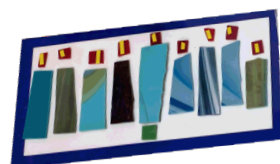
The Rabbi and the Banker <http://tinyurl.com/TBOplay1>

Proof of God <http://tinyurl.com/TBOplay2>

She's a Runner <http://tinyurl.com/TBOplay3>



Hanukkah Happenings at TBO



MLK Day - hypocrisy and unethical behavior

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

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

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

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

Consider the day of Dr. King's "passing." At TBO we keep our traditions seriously. Enter Tu BiShvat and *Kaddish*. For the first; we plant seeds for the righteous and say *Kaddish* for the ones we love. Since the Clergyman King was considered righteous, righteous, for the second, consider this... He "passed" April 4, 1968. Plant some kinda seed of action. Consider this also: MLK's passing was at the *parashah* of *Tzav*, a reading in which Torah instructs Israel to keep the home fires burning. Not telling readers what to do, but at least consider these things and potential future actions.

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

Reginald Melech Aggadah Gillins, Sr.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is January 15, 2024. In the spirit of solidarity, consider attending one of these community events:

- Sunday service, January 14, 3:00 - 5:00 pm, at First Presbyterian Church in Everett, 2936 Rockefeller Ave.
- Monday march and rally, January 15, 11:00 am - 2:30 pm, from Everett Memorial Stadium to Carl Gipson Senior Center

There are also opportunities through Snohomish County YMCAs. Visit <https://www.ymca-snoco.org/mlk/> for more information.

It would be great if we could get a group from Temple Beth Or to volunteer either for the March rally or through the Everett YMCA. Please contact **Naomi Katsh Barger** if you are interested.

Caring Community

Temple Beth Or's Mitzvah Corps (Caring Community) has been a hallmark of our congregation. We are the support system for Temple families in times of need. It takes a village to provide a safety net when something turns your life in unexpected directions due to injury, accidents, health issues or family upsets, to name just a few. The Mitzvah Corps also works closely with the Bereavement Committee and our Rabbi during times of need.

We all find ourselves in need of support sometime. You don't need to know the people you are helping, and your first introduction to them can be when you are reaching out to provide support. Sometimes, these strangers will later become close friends. As a volunteer for the Mitzvah Corps, you will never be expected to do more than you can. Many people volunteer once or twice a year and that's it. Here are a few examples of how the Mitzvah Corps has offered help in the past:

- Preparing meals and deliveries
- Sending cards and making phone visits
- Visitations in homes, hospitals or care facilities
- Working closely with the Bereavement Committee

How to join: Please visit <http://tinyurl.com/TBOmitzvahcorps> and click on "Join This Community." You will be asked to fill out a short form. You'll then receive a welcome email that will request that you confirm your participation by clicking on a confirmation link. Once confirmed, you will automatically receive occasional emails notifying you of Mitzvah Corps needs.

Please contact **Carolyn Wexler** if you have any difficulties with how to join, or if you have needs or questions. Thank you.



January Yahrzeits



1/1/24 Nathan Busch
1/1/24 Carl Sanche
1/1/24 Phillip Wexler
1/3/24 Louis Rosenzweig
1/4/24 LaVera Barbour

1/4/24 Jacob Ephross
1/4/24 Rosalie Gross
1/4/24 Mark Israel
1/5/24 Sylvia Hochman
1/5/24 Jennie Merkadeau
1/5/24 Stan Wasser
1/6/24 Ralph Barger
1/6/24 Lena Abromovitz Friend Miller
1/6/24 Melvin Tatel
1/7/24 Annette Block
1/7/24 Homer Clinton Smith
1/8/24 Naomi Fishman
1/8/24 Julius Katsh
1/8/24 Joshua Landow
1/8/24 Gerald Otto Lechner
1/9/24 Jim Roberts
1/9/24 Barbara Ticho
1/10/24 Gloria Black

1/10/24 Ludwig Klein
1/10/24 Jack Safran
1/10/24 Dorothy Trenor
1/14/24 Pauline Corotas
1/14/24 Harland W. "Sonny" Fine
1/14/24 Portia Kaufmann
1/14/24 James Chris Wilkinson
1/14/24 Jack Wolff
1/15/24 Miriam Waldbaum

1/16/24 D. Leonard Cohen
1/16/24 David Sebel
1/18/24 Martin Friedman
1/18/24 Ellie Gurian
1/19/24 Minnie Morris
1/21/24 Sarah Bockerman
1/21/24 Paul Gardsbane
1/22/24 Barney Gorenstein
1/22/24 Manfred Halle
1/22/24 Joseph Kelly
1/22/24 Albert Kessel
1/24/24 Leslie Mackoff
1/25/24 David Schwartz
1/26/24 Lazarus Haet
1/26/24 Sophie Ramos
1/26/24 Alexander Roon
1/27/24 George Adler
1/28/24 Hugh Downie
1/28/24 Beverly Lemchen
1/31/24 Grace Katsh
1/31/24 Edward Resnick

Father of Bernie Busch
Grandfather of Brian Yenna
Grandfather of Eldon Wexler
Grandfather of Tony Roon
Mother of Kaye Gorlick
Grandmother of Joshua Gorlick
Grandmother of Rachel Gorlick
Father of Mim Edelstein
Wife of David Gross
Cousin of Suzan Halle
Mother of Ellie Hochman
Grandmother of Steve Wolff
Father of Barb Ingram
Father-in-Law of Naomi Katsh Barger
Grandmother of Geraldine Friend
Father of Harvey Tatel
Friend of Hanna Schwarz
Grandfather of Jane Blustein
Mother of Selma Balk
Grandfather of Naomi Katsh Barger
Grandfather of Harold Dash
Temple Beth Or Family
Brother of David Roberts
Grandmother of Rand Miller
Mother of Norm Black
Grandmother of Cece Black
Brother of Hanna Schwarz
Grandfather of Marla Phippen
Step-Mother of Mel Trenor
Grandmother of Alexia Halle
Father of Rabbi David Fine
Mother of David Roberts
Husband of Nancy Wilkinson
Grandfather of Steve Wolff
Mother of Jerry Waldbaum
Grandmother of Amber Waldbaum
Father of Janet Robertson
Grandfather of Howard Schoenfeld
Father-In-Law of Vicki Schwartz
Grandfather of Anne Gurian
Grandmother of Ron Green
Mother-in-Law of David Gross
Father of Susan Cross
Life Partner of Pamela Lonergan
Father of Suzan Halle
Cousin of Sarah Davis
Father of Cheryl Weight
Father of Julie Mackoff
Father of Vicki Schwartz
Temple Beth Or Family

December membership meeting highlights

If you missed any of the December 16 Membership Meeting, or want to see it again, a link to a recording of the meeting will be shared with members via email.

Items presented include:

- Updates on the remodel, capital campaign and the estate bequest
- Presentations about the board nominees, the volunteer of the year and TBO finances
- Remarks by the Rabbi and the President



Capital Campaign – where is your *kesher* (connection)?

I recently visited the Seattle area JCC for a Hanukkah concert. The building was alive with Jews ready to celebrate. What struck me, however, was all the young families with children greeting and hugging each other. The connection (*kesher*) among these families was palpable. But what happens to our *kesher* as our families grow and change?

You don't necessarily need a huge building like the JCC to promote connection, but just like a Pacific Northwest rain drop, you need a mote, a seed. Will our newly remodeled building and post COVID-19 programming help to provide TBO families with that seed? Our dream is that the remodeled building will provide easy access, with many learning and gathering spaces so that multiple groups will use the building at the same time. The more we are together as a community (*k'hilah*), the stronger those bonds grow. Our hope is that - kids or no kids - your connection to Temple Beth Or is growing every single month so that as you and your household change, here is where you feel you belong.

Todah rabah for your generosity!

Jeff Napp & Your TBO Capital Campaign



Leadership News

During the Governing Board meeting on December 3, 2023, the board did the following:

1. Heard a presentation from Rachel Maxwell, consultant to our Capital Campaign. She spoke about how to close the gap between what we have raised and what we need to raise for our remodel project. Board members asked questions to gain further understanding.
2. A remodel finance discussion occurred. The Finance Committee, Capital Campaign Task Force, Remodel Task Force, and board are all in agreement that the temple cannot afford to take on a mortgage at this time. While we have a ROM (Rough Order of Magnitude), we do not yet have a more definitive sense of actual cost of this project.
3. In other Remodel TF news, **Melanie Field** shared that **Jonathan Roselle** has joined the task force and will bring representation from families with young children. Melanie also shared that work has begun to figure out alternative locations for our temple to use during the remodel. Various needs (RS, HHD's, *b'nei mitzvahs*, regular services) have been identified.
4. **Jeff Napp** shared that the Capital Campaign first heard Rachel Maxwell's presentation and decided to have her also share it with the board so that we all have the same understanding of what we as a community can potentially raise. The Capital Campaign will not move forward on a second ask until we have a more solid cost estimate which will be several months from now.
5. **Wanda Bresnick** gave an update on the estate house. Multiple issues with the house have cropped up and much work has been done on it. **Kathy Pickus**, who will be our realtor, has been coordinating all of this work. The house is close to being ready for the congregation to paint the interior. Jonathan Roselle has agreed to coordinate the painting of the house.
6. The estate account will need additional funds to complete the necessary work on the house. The board approved a loan to the estate of Emanuel Gordon of \$15,000 from our reserve fund which will be repaid upon sale of the house.
7. Plans for the General Membership meeting were reviewed. Board members will meet at the temple no later than 3:00 pm on December 16 to set up for the meeting.
8. **Tom Elsemore** provided a financial report. There was nothing significant to report.
9. Wanda thanked our outgoing board members, **Jennifer Cail** and **Melanie Field** for their years of service.
10. Jennifer Cail reported that the MASSA trip has been changed from Israel to Spain, where our youth will explore their Sephardic roots.

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



JANUARY 2024

Tevet / Sh'vat 5784



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Finance Committee meeting 7:00 pm	2 Legacy Committee meeting 11:00 am	3 Safety & security assessment 2:00 pm Exec Board meeting 7:00 pm	4	5 Liaison meeting 11:00 am Creative Shabbat service 7:30 pm	6
7 Governing Board meeting 9:30 am at TBO TBO Tots	8 Communications Committee meeting 7:00 pm	9 Remodel Task Force 7:30 pm	10	1 Sh'vat 11	12 RS Shabbat service 7:00 pm	13
14 NO Religious School	15 Membership Committee meeting 7:00 pm	16	17 Capital Campaign meeting 7:00 pm	18 Ruach & Ritual workshop 7:00 pm	19 Office closed Shabbat at home 7:00 pm	20
21 Book club 10:00 am MASSA 1:00 pm	22	23	24 Safety & Security Committee meeting 7:30 pm	25	26	27 Shabbat morning service 10:00 am
28 Tu BiShvat garden cleanup 11:00 am RS and TBO Tots offsite	29	30	31 Capital Campaign meeting 7:00 pm Exec Board meeting 7:00 pm			

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.

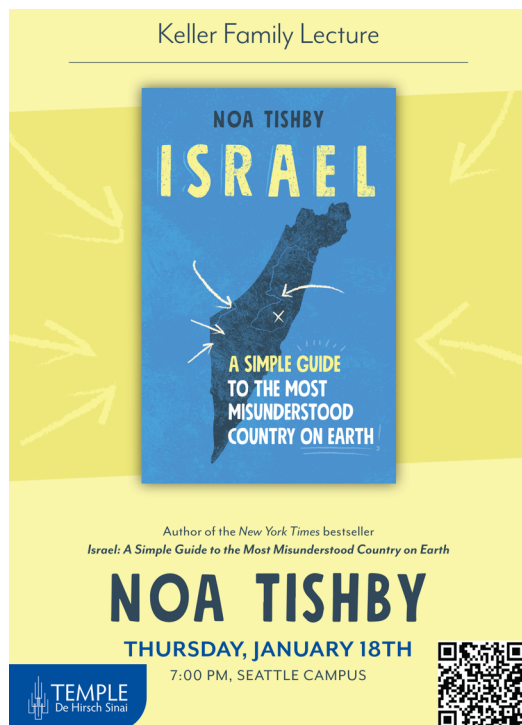


Temple Beth Or
3215 Lombard Ave
Everett, WA 98201
425-259-7125

Return Service Requested



Temple DeHirsch Sinai is hosting author Noa Tishby for a lecture in January. You can attend in person, or participate via streaming. Scan the QR in the poster below to get all the details, or go to templedehirschsinaï.org and type Tishby into the search bar.



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.