

THE ORACLE



September 2024

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The High Holy Days are right around the corner! Temple Beth Or offers a full slate of programming, both in-person and online, but you must register to participate. Registration instructions and a detailed description of all services and activities can be found here:

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

Registration for all in-person programming ends September 26. For online activities, you can register up until (or after) the starting time.



***Selichot* service**

Saturday, September 28, 7:30 pm *oneg* before service, 8:15-9:15 pm service (see also page 4). In-person only.



Erev Rosh HaShanah service

Wednesday, October 2, 7:30-8:45 pm. In-person and online.



Rosh HaShanah festival (offsite)

Thursday, October 3, all day, beginning at 10:00 am. Outdoor, offsite and online. Morning service 10:30 am-noon. Lunch and other activities. Outdoor (indoor if it rains). Only the morning service will be online.



Cemetery service at GAR Cemetery, Snohomish

Sunday, October 6, 2:00 pm: in-person only. Outdoor and offsite.



Erev Yom Kippur services

Friday, October 11, family service (geared toward children) 4:30-5:15 pm, *Kol Nidrei* 7:30-9:00 pm. In-person and online.



Yom Kippur observance

Saturday, October 12, all day, beginning at 10:00 am. In-person and online. Morning service 10:00 am-12:30 pm. Learning opportunity 1:00-2:00 pm (in-person only). Creative healing service 2:30-3:30 pm. *Yizkor* 4:00-5:00 pm. Concluding service 5:00-6:15 pm.



AT TBO



ONLINE



OUTDOOR



OFFSITE



Sweetness and sorrow

Rabbi's Corner

Rituals can help us create order in a world that is often chaotic and confusing. Rabbi Rani Jaeger is one of the founders of Beit Tefilah Israeli, a secular synagogue in the heart of Tel Aviv. I heard Rabbi Jaeger speak this summer while I was spending time in Israel. He shared how a simple, secular ritual helped give him the strength he needed to care for others after the October 7 terrorist attacks.

Rabbi Jaeger found himself totally disoriented with grief on the morning of October 7. He had gone to sleep around 1:00 am after leading a thousand people in singing and dancing with Torah scrolls at the famous Dizengoff Square to begin the holiday of Simchat Torah. His elderly father called and woke him up around 6:30 am with the news that the Israeli communities around the Gaza strip had been infiltrated by Hamas terrorists. He immediately drove to check on his father, who was alone and barricaded in a safe room. The streets were totally empty. He drove past Dizengoff Square and listened to the news on the radio: "Hundreds of casualties expected." The grief was unbearable next to the feelings of joy he had experienced with his community the night before. He pulled his car over, uncertain if he could carry on to his father's apartment. And then something gave him the strength to keep going.

Each morning at 7:00 am, the Israeli radio station Rabbi Jaeger listens to, religiously reports the number of babies born in the country in the past twenty-four hours. On October 7 at 7:00 am, the radio station, just like it did every morning, reported the number of babies born. A simple radio ritual reminded Rabbi Jaeger that life and death, good and bad, exist simultaneously in our world and in our lives.

Our challenge, especially in the midst of loss and grief, is to make space to recognize both the difficulties and the blessings of life. The Israeli poet, Yehudah Amichai (1924-2000), articulated life's demand to simultaneously hold onto conflicting emotions in his poem "A Man In His Life."

A man doesn't have time for everything in his life to have time for everything.
He doesn't have seasons enough to have a season for every purpose.
Ecclesiastes was wrong about that.

A man needs to love and to hate at the same moment,
to laugh and cry with the same eyes,
with the same hands to throw stones and to gather them,
to make love in war and war in love.

Each year, the special rituals and prayers of the High Holy Days offer us tools to process the diversity of experiences we bring with us into the new year. Of course, during our High Holy Days, we will take time to mourn and mark the one-year anniversary of the October 7 terrorist attacks that will fall during the *Yamim Noraim*, the ten "Days of Awe" between Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. Even in the midst of war and grief, the High Holy Days will offer rituals and space for us to reflect, grow, and celebrate. The world, our Jewish people, and many of us in our individual lives, have experienced great difficulties this past year. The High Holy Days and its ritual provide opportunities for us to exercise resilience by helping us hold onto feelings of sweetness and sorrow simultaneously.

Rabbi Rachel Kort
Rabbi Rachel Kort (she/her)

Jewish "Soul" Music for the High Holy Days
Spiritual Preparation for the High Holy Days with Cantor Ellen Dreskin
Sunday, September 22, 10:00-11:30 am (online only)

Who on Earth do I think I am, and what in heaven's name do I think I'm doing here? Come explore and reflect on the ways in which our texts, melodies and metaphors might help us to prepare for and deepen our experience of the High Holy Days and the year ahead.

Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/elulprogram2024>

From our President

Being Jewish in troubled times

As we head into Elul, a time for introspection, I find myself looking back over this past year and thinking about what it has meant to be Jewish post-October 7 when so much changed. As Reform Jews, we have faced a series of complex challenges that reverberate deeply within our community. These challenges stem from increasing antisemitism, questions regarding our Jewish identity, political polarization, and tensions within the Jewish community itself.

The rise of antisemitism since October 7 has become one of the most pressing concerns facing Jews around the world. The resurgence of hate has left many feeling vulnerable and scared, especially those on college campuses. Some people have responded by trying to “hide” their identity by not wearing jewelry or clothing that identifies them as Jews. Others have responded by becoming more invested in their Jewish identity and are looking for ways to connect as they find comfort and strength in that connection. At TBO, the past several months we have had several new individuals and families come to services. Many have shared that they are wanting to become more connected to a Jewish community. The rise of antisemitism takes a toll on our mental health and creates a sense of unease. We work to calm that unease by reaching out to others and by taking reasonable steps to keep ourselves safe.

Another significant challenge lies in managing what it means to be a Reform Jew in America. Reform Judaism, known for its progressive values and inclusive interpretation of Jewish law, often finds itself in a tension between tradition and contemporary values. Post-October 7, this balancing act has become even more delicate. We must navigate our spiritual lives while addressing societal and political issues that are polarizing and contentious. I find myself grappling with the right response to Jewish suffering and the attack on Israel, my anger and sadness at the loss of lives, the plight of the Palestinians in Gaza, my firm belief in the existence of Israel, and my strong belief in social justice and the sanctity of life.

My internal conflict is amplified by the political landscape that is characterized by divisiveness, and issues related to Israel and Jewish identity often become points of contention. Reform Jews, who may lean towards progressive politics, find themselves having to articulate their positions carefully amid accusations from both the left and the right. On one end, they may encounter criticisms for perceived insufficient support of Israel; on the other, they may face challenges due to their progressive views that might contrast with some mainstream Jewish opinions. Straddling these different viewpoints can be exhausting, requiring nuanced dialogue and creating internal angst.

As I reflect on the struggles of being Jewish today, I realize this is not a new struggle for Jews. Throughout history, Jews have responded to challenges with resiliency and a commitment to stay true to our core values. We manage better through difficult times when we come together with compassion and understanding. As we enter Elul and then head into the High Holy Days, let us come together as a community to celebrate our Jewishness, to worship together, and to pray for peace.



Wanda

Wanda Bresnick, President (she/her)

Todah rabah



Wow, what an amazing community we have at Temple Beth Or! At the June Semiannual Membership Meeting, our Finance Committee reported that we had a significant deficit of \$31,000 last year and anticipate a \$17,000 deficit this year. At that meeting, I made an appeal to the congregation to help “Close the Gap” created by our deficit.

I am thrilled to report that thanks to the generosity of so many of you, we have raised **\$15,702**. Additionally, some members voluntarily increased their sacred commitment above the 5% increase already implemented for this year. A huge “thank you!” to each of you. This money will greatly help reduce our deficit, and means we will need to transfer less from our reserve funds. I am so appreciative of our supportive TBO community.

With much gratitude, Wanda

September Shabbat services



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



AT TBO



ONLINE



OUTDOOR



OFFSITE

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, September 6, 7:30 pm, with Vicki Schwartz and musician Shoshana Stombaugh (in-person and online)



Join us for a musical Shabbat worship service using our prayerbook *Mishkan T'filah*. This service will be led by TBO member Vicki Schwartz. There will be an opportunity to remember loved ones with our *Kaddish* prayer and will last about an hour.

Guests - Register at templebethor.org/service-registration/. Registration ends Friday, September 6, 3:00 pm.

Outdoor Shabbat



Saturday, September 14, 10:00 am, with Rabbi Rachel Kort and musician Shoshana Stombaugh (in-person only)



Join us for a multigenerational, musical Shabbat worship experience outside in our yard, where there is plenty of space to dance, play and pray. There will be an opportunity to remember loved ones with our *Kaddish* prayer. We will use our prayer book *Mishkan T'filah*. This service is great for all ages and will last about an hour. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on (we'll have some extras, too).

Guests - Register at templebethor.org/service-registration/. Registration ends Friday, September 13, noon.

Family Shabbat service



Friday, September 20, 7:00 pm, with Rabbi Rachel Kort and musician Ken DeRoche (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 Friday, September 20, 3:00 pm.

Selichot



Saturday, September 28, 7:30 pm *oneg* before service, 8:15 pm service, with Rabbi Rachel Kort and musician Shoshana Stombaugh (in-person only)

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 - Register at templebethor.org/service-registration/. Registration ends Friday, September 27, 3:00 pm.

Special membership meeting - September 8 at 1:00 pm

Per the Temple Beth Or bylaws, the President is authorized to call special membership meetings as needed. President **Wanda Bresnick** is calling for such a meeting on Sunday, September 8, at 1:00 pm, related to the remodel project. Light refreshments will be available at 12:45 pm for those attending in person.

The time has come when we need to spend funds on the remodel project that require a congregational vote. At this meeting, members of the Remodel Task Force will share updates about the project and explain why these monies are needed now. The congregation will be asked to vote on a motion approving the authorization of these resources. We are NOT asking for approval of the entire project at this time; it is premature to do so. We are requesting approval to use limited additional money to cover the expenses of the coming months until we are ready to present the complete project for final congregational approval.

The meeting will be held in-person at TBO and virtually over Zoom. As this is an extremely important vote and we want all to be able to participate, we will be conducting voting electronically, with an extended voting period. The meeting will be recorded, and those who are not able to join live will be able to watch the recording and vote after the fact. The voting period will be one week. Specific voting information will be going out via email to TBO members in good standing prior to the meeting. The link to the recording will be shared via email following the meeting. The link to join the September 8 meeting is <https://tinyurl.com/TBO-special-meeting>.

For a brief update about the remodel project, see the article below.

Questions about the voting logistics can be sent to communications@templebethor.org. Questions about the meeting and vote can be directed to **Wanda Bresnick, Harold Dash, Melanie Field** or **Glen Pickus**.



Remodel news

During the summer, significant progress has been made on our remodel project. On July 8, we received updated plans (70%) from the architect. We immediately forwarded these plans to CPM, our contractor. CPM is preparing a more refined cost estimate using this information. At the time of this writing, we are anticipating receiving this cost estimate by the end of August. We are also working with the contractor and architect to use these plans to submit our applications to the City of Everett for both our building permit and our public works permit.

The cost estimate is a key step in that this information can identify whether we have raised sufficient funds to build the project we have planned. If not, the cost information will allow us to assess the extent of value engineering required to make the project affordable. "Value engineering" is the term used for cost saving measures employed to reduce the project cost, such as eliminating some of the "nice to haves" or choosing a less expensive flooring material. After receiving the updated cost estimate, the value engineering work can begin; this will help determine the need for and scope of a second round of the Capital Campaign.

At this point in our process, we need to begin spending additional monies to pay the architect fees and the remaining permitting fees, and to order/purchase some expensive long lead items such as the elevator. Per our bylaws, these expenditures will require congregational approval. See the article above about the upcoming special membership meeting on September 8, to update the congregation on the status of the remodel project and to seek approval to spend these funds.

Religious School is back!

Welcome back to a new beautiful year ahead, with our first day of Religious School on Sunday, September 8. Let's work as a community to be on time with *K'hilah*, being mindful of the 9:30 am start time and keeping valuable classroom learning on schedule. Parents, it would be so lovely if you can stay to participate in *K'hilah*. The new Sunday schedule is below. Note the break is now 11:00-11:15 am, which allows our dismissal to be at 12:30 pm.

- 9:30-9:45** *K'hilah* (community gathering time)
- 9:45-11:00** Jewish studies
- 11:00-11:15** break/snack (BYO)
- 11:15-12:30** Hebrew

Parents, stick around for a dessert potluck on the first day of school, after *K'hilah*. Can't wait to see you there! There is so much in store in Religious School; we have several new faces to welcome this year, including new students and faculty.

Mark your calendars for our Rosh HaShanah festival (offsite) on October 3. It's a family-friendly, engaging and meaningful way to start the new year. See page 1 for more info.

Enjoy this picture of TBO at Camp Kalsman this summer!

Rani Linarelli and Meghan Lefrancois-Hanson
Youth Ed Co-Chairs



Membership Committee news

Attention all TBO artists

Hello all creative people! The Membership Committee is looking for artwork from the community to use for cards that are sent out throughout the year. Please contact **Judy Wallis** if you have designs, drawings, or paintings you would like to contribute. We will use them to make cards. It would be special and meaningful to enjoy the abundant talent that lies among us.

Thank you,
On behalf of Membership
Judy Wallis

Happy TBO Anniversary! We appreciate you being a part of our TBO community:

- Carolyn and Eldon Wexler - 35 years
- Susan and Michael Cross - 35 years
- Janis Warner and Norm Black - 32 years
- Glen and Kathy Pickus - 32 years
- Nancy Adler-Jones - 25 years
- Bernie and Phyllis Busch - 23 years
- Anne Gurian - 23 years
- Steve Cohn and Carol McCready-Cohn - 15 years
- Eric and Shelley Elsemore - 6 years
- Kelsey Bresnick - 6 years
- Adam Mendelzon and Cari Goldman - 5 years
- Kendra Waldman - 5 years
- Cecelia Black - 4 years
- Jonathan Roselle and Suzanne Powell - 2 years



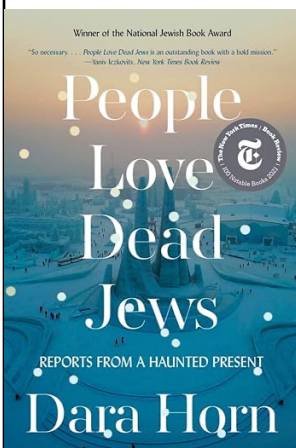
Meet our award-winning assistive listening solution, Listen EVERYWHERE. Stream audio over our Temple's existing WiFi network straight to your smartphone. With the free Apple or Android app, you can use your own device to listen to the service while in the building, wherever you are.

There are posters and cards at the Temple with the login information to connect a smartphone to the app. If you don't have a smartphone or hearing aids, we have two different devices (earphones and a neck lanyard) you can use to connect to the system to improve your ability to hear whoever is on the bimah or playing music.

Vicki Schwartz

Moadon Kriya Book Club

Our next Book Club meeting is Sept 15, 10:00 am-noon at Temple Beth Or.



People Love Dead Jews: Reports from a Haunted Present is a 2021 nonfiction book by author and academic Dara Horn exploring the exploitation of Jewish history, particularly focusing on the fascination with Jewish deaths rather than respecting the lives and culture of the living Jewish community.

The book, a collection of essays, covers various topics including the global veneration and universalization of Anne Frank, the commercialization of Jewish history in places like Harbin, China, and indifference to rising antisemitism. Horn critically analyzes the subtle dehumanization embedded in the public reverence given to past atrocities, arguing that this benign reverence is a significant affront to human dignity.

Wyndi Russakoff



Next Chapter: art, culture and food

Next Chapter will be visiting Cascadia Art Museum in Edmonds on September 8. **Phyllis Busch**, Temple Beth Or member and Art Ambassador for the museum, will provide a tour beginning at 3:00 pm of the featured current exhibit “Building a Dream: Z. Vanessa Helder and Artists of the Inland Northwest.” This exhibit features the watercolors completed by Ms. Helder of the building of Grand Coulee Dam. The tour will take no more than 45 minutes, and you will have ample time to explore other exhibits, one of which is “A Legacy Rediscovered: Northwest Women Artists 1920-1960.” Admission is \$9 (purchase at the museum when you arrive). The museum store is an added bonus. After the tour, we will eat at a local restaurant.

To allow for appropriate reservations, please let Phyllis know by September 3 if you will joining this activity for the tour, dinner, or both. To learn more about the museum, go to www.cascadiaartmuseum.org.

Teiglach baking with TBO member Carolyn Wexler

Sunday, September 29, 10:30 am-12:30 pm
Online only

Bake for the new year in your very own kitchen via Zoom! Teiglach is a honey-boiled pastry popular with Lithuanian Jews, and a recipe enjoyed by Carolyn’s grandparents from neighboring Russia. The recipe will be supplied and we’ll bake together and schmooze as we make delicious honey-drenched teiglach for a sweet new year.

Any age can join in. Please register in advance at tinyurl.com/teiglachwithcarolyn so we can provide the recipe. No closing date to register.



Next Chapter - dinner at Ivar's after the Mukilteo Garden & Quilt Tour



From our Social Action Committee

Every quarter, the Social Action Committee chooses a nonprofit organization to be the recipient of donations generously given by TBO congregants.

This quarter, we have chosen Domestic Violence Services of Snohomish County (DVS) as our *Tzedakah* Box recipient. DVS is a nonprofit organization serving Snohomish County since 1976. It is the only program in Snohomish County providing emergency shelter and comprehensive, confidential services to victims of domestic abuse. DVS also provides individual and community awareness programs which can affect the social change necessary to eliminate domestic violence throughout Snohomish County. For more information about the organization, go to this link <https://dvs-snoco.org/>.



Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice Picnic

Everyone is invited to learn how to get involved in immigration advocacy. There will be food and music and information. Also, JCIJ is supporting the WA Immigrant Solidarity Network in gathering supplies for welcome packages. You are encouraged to bring or order supplies listed here: tinyurl.com/WAISN-Care-P.

For more info, visit tinyurl.com/jcijpicnic.

November 5 is Election Day

There are many ways to get involved in the causes you believe in. We encourage everyone to take part in the democratic process by voting, encouraging others to vote, writing postcards or phone banking, or volunteering with an organization such as Common Power, as **Sandy Voit** and **Rabbi David Fine** are doing. Please see their article below for more information about Common Power.

Here is a link to the URJ Every Voice, Every Vote campaign: <https://rac.org/take-action/every-voice-every-vote>.

What do we do with fears for our democracy?

There are many actions to take. **Sandy Voit** and I went to the heart of the action - Columbus, Ohio. We went under the auspices of Common Power. Common Power works to foster, support and amplify a democracy that is just and inclusive.

What's Jewish about this? How is this important as a Jew in America? Isn't this a secular activity?

The Jews are a bellwether for health in a country. While antisemitism is a focused evil, Jewish life depends on a thriving democracy. Our Jewishness fuels our commitment to engaging with societal problems.

While in Columbus, we met with Professor Hasan Jeffries of The Ohio State University (brother of U.S. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries) to learn about history and context. We learned about how crucial certain states and even districts are and how what happens in these districts can have an impact on the entire country. The core action was knocking on doors. We set out as part of a team, which split up and met with residents in Columbus in pairs or solo. We listened to voters, exchanging our concerns with each other. Ultimately, over the course of four days in April, our group of 27 people knocked on over 1,000 doors and either met with Columbus residents or provided literature for them.

Why did we do this? Because we care. This is about hope. While the optimistic person sits back and waits for the good to occur, the hopeful person acts - even in the face of uncertain odds.



Overall, we have been struck by the way that Common Power brings together a wonderfully diverse set of participants, varying in age, race and political experience. Based in Seattle, founded by the inimitable Professor David Domke, Common Power is working in numerous states. For more information about Common Power, visit CommonPower.org. Care to join Sandy? He's returning to Columbus in November.

David Fine



September *Yahrzeits*



9/1	Dorothy Falconer	Mother of Nancy Wilkinson
9/2	Armand Weiss	Father of Randi Weiss
9/3	E. Lillian Michelson	Temple Beth Or Family
9/4	Estelle Summer	Mother of Pam Pintus
9/5	Jack Barbour	Father of Kaye Gorlick
		Grandfather of Joshua & Rachel Gorlick
9/5	Celia Goralnick	Mother of Mark Goralnick
9/6	Mathilde Lichtman	Grandmother of Helen Grossman
9/7	Sam Siegel	Father of Sonia Siegel Vexler
9/8	Ted Burgamy	Father of Will Burgamy
9/9	Laura Mackoff	Mother of Julie Mackoff
9/9	Aleksandris Rokulis	Father of Anita Goralnick
9/10	Rena Shevick Kessler	Temple Beth Or Family
9/10	Marilyn Tucker	Sister of Andrea Tucker
9/11	Phyllis Rubin	Wife of Solly Rubin
9/12	Regina Litvinoff	Grandmother of Jennifer Cail
9/13	Leonard Merkadeau	Grandfather of Steve Wolff
9/13	Jean Robinson Pickus	Mother of Glen Pickus
9/14	Theodore Baldwin	Uncle of Nancy Sosnove
9/15	Morris Cohen	Grandfather of Mim Edelstein
9/15	Effraim Kaplan	Temple Beth Or Family
9/18	Lil Reid	Aunt of Melech Gillins
9/18	Sidney Silverstone	Temple Beth Or Family
9/19	Allen David Friedman	Uncle of Gerry Friend
9/20	Alice Maltos	Mother of Dave Maltos
9/21	Rachel Silverstone	Temple Beth Or Family
9/22	Julius Schwarz	Father-in-law of Hanna Schwarz
9/23	Larry Abramson	Cousin of Nancy Rosen
		Cousin of Mirs VonAschen-Cook
9/23	Rita Glosser	Mother of Michael Glosser
9/23	Neil Russakoff	Brother of Steven Russakoff
9/24	Elsie Dobowitz Bisen Reiter	Grandmother of Melanie Field
9/24	Hyman Blustein	Grandfather of Marvin Blustein
9/24	Gerta Nussbaum	Aunt of Hanna Schwarz
9/25	Seymour Katsh	Father of Naomi Katsh Barger
9/25	Eugene Krantz	Grandfather of Eldon Wexler
9/25	Evelyn Safran	Grandmother of Marla Phippen
9/26	Jay Bisen	Uncle of Melanie Field
9/26	Gussie Gevirtz Blustein	Grandmother of Marvin Blustein
9/26	Mitchell Snider	Cousin of Stan Sussman
9/27	Estelle Tucker	Mother of Andrea Tucker
9/28	Ruth Friedenber	Aunt of Nancy Sosnove
9/28	Rose Landow	Grandmother of Harold Dash
9/30	Leon McDuff	Leon McDuff

Remembering our loved ones

“In the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember them...”

*When we have joys we yearn to share, we remember them...
So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us, as we remember them.”*

(From Yom Kippur memorial service liturgy)

In keeping with Jewish tradition, we observe the anniversary of a loved one’s death. *Yahrzeit* plaques are a permanent memorial to those we remember and to the place they held in our lives.

Have you noticed the *yahrzeit* boards in Temple Beth Or’s sanctuary? Brass *yahrzeit* plaques are displayed throughout the year on these beautiful wooden boards. When a member dies, a *yahrzeit* plaque is added to our boards to honor their memory at no charge. During the *yahrzeit* month, stars are mounted next to the plaque.



You may also purchase a *yahrzeit* plaque for close family members; the contribution is \$250. For more information, or to purchase a plaque, members should contact **Amber Waldbaum**.

TBO Lost & Found



Did you know TBO has a Lost & Found box? It’s located on the stairwell landing. There are nice things in there that might be yours. Please make sure to check it next time you are here.



ORacle High Holy Days greetings

If you would like to send a warm New Year’s greeting to your Temple family

and friends, visit: templebethor.org/HHD-greetings/.

Greetings are \$18. The deadline for greetings is September 15.





Leadership News

During the Governing Board meeting on August 4, 2024, the Board did the following:

1. Approved the minutes from last month’s Board meeting.
2. Heard a Religious School update: RS will start on Sunday, September 8. A new teacher has been hired. **Rani Linarelli** is the new co-chair for Youth Education. Additionally, **Sam Fuchs** is the new BOTY advisor and is planning the first teen activity for Rosh HaShanah.
3. HHD planning is in process. **Pattipeg Harjo**, Rosh HaShanah coordinator, and **Julie Mackoff**, Yom Kippur coordinator, updated the Board on plans. They reminded the Board to sign up to greet and to help in other areas.
4. **Rich Spitzer** provided the Board with a Remodel Team update. We have received the 70% architectural drawings. We will not break ground before the end of the year.
5. Rich Spitzer made a motion to approve an increase in allowed expenses for the building project up to an additional \$149,000. Pattipeg Harjo seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the Board. In the near future, we will need to have a congregational vote to approve additional funds. **Wanda Bresnick** will work with the Remodel Team to arrange this meeting.
6. The Finance Committee has been asked to give the Board a recommendation regarding allocation of the estate funds. Once that motion is received, the Board will have an emergency board meeting to vote on the motion.
7. Wanda Bresnick shared that the “Close the Gap” fundraiser did well. We have received \$15,684 in pledges. Wanda expressed appreciation for the generosity of our community.
8. **Tom Elsemore** gave our Finance Committee report.

Board and leadership positions open!

Are you interested in joining Temple Beth Or’s Board? The Board is responsible for the Temple’s governance, establishing and upholding Beth Or’s mission and vision, and preparing for its successful future. The Board meets monthly.

The Nominating Committee is responsible for proposing a diverse and engaged slate of candidates to the community prior to our semiannual meeting in December. The Nominating Committee is looking for strategic thinkers and leaders with the following skills: financial management, marketing, collaborative skills, and communicating with respect. We are looking for people who are enthusiastic about serving on the Board and can bring forth new ideas. Please contact **Sonia Siegel Vexler** before September 15 if you would like to learn more.

And if you review the side panel, you’ll notice that some committee leadership positions are vacant. If you’re interested in these, contact **Sarah Davis** in the office.

Temple Leadership

Rabbi
Rachel Kort

Governing Board

President
Wanda Bresnick

President Elect
Nancy Rosen

VP of Community & Engagement
Jeff Napp

VP of Finance & Facilities Management
James Feinberg

VP of Jewish Life
Ellis Engbar

Assist. VP of Community & Engagement
Dana Sanders

Assist. VP of Finance & Facilities Management
Tom Elsemore

Assist. VP of Jewish Life
Pattipeg Harjo

Board Secretary
Melissa VonAschen-Cook

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: Wyndi Russakoff
Building: Vacant
Calendar: Sarah Davis
Campership: Sonia Siegel Vexler
Capital Campaign: Jessica Burgamy & Jeff Napp
College & Military Outreach: Marilyn & Mike Glosser
Communications: JonaRose Feinberg
Facebook: Deb Henry
Financial Administrator: Norm Black
First Chapter: Dana Sanders
Fundraising: Dana Sanders
HHD (Rosh HaShanah): Pattipeg Harjo
HHD (Yom Kippur): Julie Mackoff
Life & Legacy: Sonia Siegel Vexler
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
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Technology: James Feinberg
Website: JonaRose Feinberg
Youth Education: Meghan Lefrancois-Hanson & Rani Linarelli



SEPTEMBER 2024

Av / Elul 5784



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Finance Committee meeting 7:00 pm	3	1 Elul 4 Executive Board meeting 7:00 pm	5	6 Liaison meeting 10:00 am Shabbat service 7:30 pm	7
8 RS first day TBO Tot's Governing Board meeting 9:00 am Special membership mtg 1:00 pm Next Chapter 3:00 pm	9 Communications Committee meeting 7:00 pm	10 Calendar planning meeting 7:30 pm	11 <i>Ruach</i> and Ritual Committee meeting 7:30 pm	12	13 Office closes at 1:00 pm	14 Outdoor Shabbat service 10:00 am
15 <i>ORacle</i> deadline Book club 10:00 am	16 Membership Committee meeting 7:00 pm	17 Life & Legacy Committee meeting 11:00 am	18 Office closed <i>D'var Torah</i> workshop 7:00 pm	19	20 Family Shabbat 7:00 pm	21
22 No RS Elul programming 10:00 am	23	24	25 Safety & Security Committee meeting 7:00 pm	26	27	28 Selichot 7:30 pm
29 Teiglach baking 10:30 am	30					

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

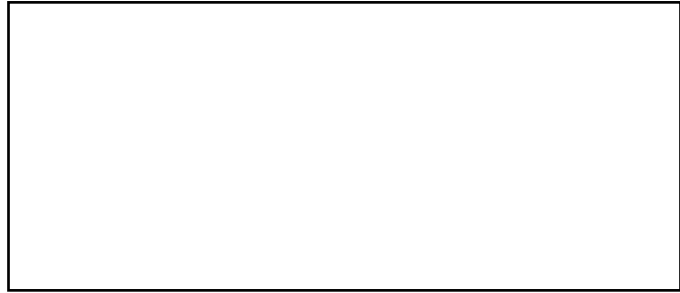
Note: Appointments are no longer required for visiting the building. During office hours, advanced notification of building access is requested for safety and security reasons. Please contact the office prior to entering the building (425-259-7125 x1). Office Hours are Tuesday - Friday from 9:00 am-4:30 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



**Special
membership meeting
September 8
See page 5**

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.