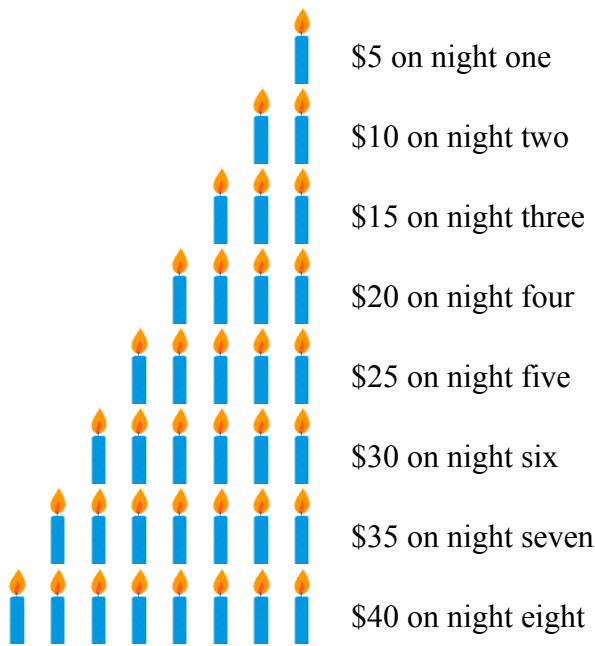


# THE ORACLE



December 2024 Cheshvan/Kislev 5785 Founded 1985 Volume 35, Issue 11

## Bring light to our House of Light!



**A gift that totals \$180**

As the days grow colder and darkness comes earlier, we appreciate the sources of warmth and light in our lives. We hope that Temple Beth Or is a source of warmth and light for you - the warmth of community and the light of spirituality, education and *tikkun olam*. The Hanukkah appeal is a vital component of our fundraising efforts, and an opportunity for each of us to show our appreciation for all that TBO brings to our lives. Please consider giving each night of Hanukkah, for a total gift of \$180. You may also wish to give selectively to individual nights, for a total gift of your choosing. With your support, we can do our part to keep the lights on at our House of Light, literally and spiritually.

**All proceeds will go to the General Fund.**

**[TempleBethOr.org/hanukkah-giving](http://TempleBethOr.org/hanukkah-giving)**

**Semiannual Membership Meeting**  
See page 10

**Hanukkah Shabbat and  
Traveler's Prayer for Rabbi Kort**  
See page 5



**Traditional  
Jewish  
Hanukkah &  
Christmas Dinner  
at TBO!**

See page 8





### Sabbatical: A time to regenerate and grow

The concept of sabbatical is discussed in the Torah. The Book of Exodus teaches: “For six years you are to sow your land and to gather in its produce, but in the seventh, you are to let it go and to let it be” (23:10-11). In order for the land to regenerate and continue to grow, it needs to lay fallow. Back in ancient Israel, all of our ancestors were subsistence farmers. In addition to the land resting, our ancestors would have enjoyed time off from tending their fields. I wonder how they used the extra time in their seventh year?

This is my seventh year serving as rabbi at Temple Beth Or. I am incredibly grateful to my Temple Beth Or community for supporting my six-month sabbatical beginning in January. Just like the agricultural sabbatical described in the Torah, growth and rejuvenation are my core goals for my seventh year as your rabbi.

As many of you know, my daughter Galit and I will live in Jerusalem. I look forward to sharing a taste of my time there with you, once a month on Shabbat over Zoom. But before I leave, I want to share seven things I hope to accomplish during my sabbatical.

- 1 **Refill my “box” of Jewish texts.** I am looking forward to reading Jewish books I’ve been meaning to read, like Rabbi Shai Held’s *Judaism is About Love* and Rabbi Sharon Brous’ *The Amen Effect*. I’ll also take drop-in classes at the Shalom Hartman Institute, where I studied this summer.
- 2 **Add my energy to movements that promote shared society between Jews and Arabs.** If all goes according to plan, Galit will attend one of two “mixed” schools in Jerusalem. She will attend school with Jews, Muslims and Christians. Classes are instructed in Hebrew, but she will take Arabic classes and learn about both Israeli and Palestinian culture. I look forward to getting involved as a parent at her school (if Galit lets me).
- 3 **Add my energy to movements in Israel that promote religious pluralism.** The progressive Judaism that we practice at TBO is not sanctioned or funded by the Israeli government. We will attend Shabbat services at Kol HaNeshama, the premier Reform congregation in Jerusalem. We will also wake up early once a month to attend Rosh Chodesh services at the Kotel led by Women of the Wall. I am hoping to read Torah at one of their services, too.
- 4 **Help my daughter build her own unique relationship with Israel.** I know Galit will make her own friends while we are there, but I am grateful to have a network of Israeli friends and their children who are excited to meet Galit and who represent the diversity of Israel’s population: Jewish-Israelis, Palestinian-Israelis, folks who support a bi-national state in Israel, others who support West Bank settlement expansion, staunchly secular Jews, and Orthodox Jews, too. It is important to me to expose Galit to a variety of perspectives.
- 5 **Enjoy living life on Jewish time.** Shabbat and Jewish holidays in Israel are just so special. Even the cashier at the grocery store wishes you “Shabbat shalom.”
- 6 **Nourish my soul through creativity.** I plan to work on my drawing and photography. I already have a membership pass to the Israel Museum and hope to explore all the art galleries in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.
- 7 **Reset and relax.** While I have many things I hope to accomplish over my sabbatical, I also plan to enjoy some downtime. I strategically rented an apartment due to its close proximity to my favorite farm-to-table brunch. You can literally see the restaurant from my balcony.

*Chodesh Habah m’Yerushalayim* – Next month from Jerusalem!

L’shalom,

*Rabbi Rachel Kort*  
Rabbi Rachel Kort (she/her)

## From our President

### Reflections



Three and a half years ago, **Sonia Siegel Vexler**, chair of our Nominating Committee, reached out to me and asked me to become president-elect. My first thought was, “Why is she asking me? I am not a leader.” As an introvert, I am someone who likes to stay in the background. I am happy to be actively involved on committees but not in a leadership role. Yet Sonia believed I was the right person at that time to become the next president. After talking with then President **Melanie Field**, **Rabbi Kort**, and my husband, **Mark**, I made the decision to stretch myself and move outside my comfort zone. With much trepidation, I agreed to take on the role of president-elect. At that time, I had no idea of the growth that would come from that decision.

In any community, varying opinions exist and disagreements occur. As president, I was able to use my listening skills to hear differing opinions and to work toward compromise. Consensus was not always easy to find, but I learned to slow down, take time to look at the big picture, and to recognize that it was my role to make a thoughtful decision. I frequently reminded myself that we all want the best for Temple Beth Or. At the start of my presidency, I dreaded getting up in front of groups. Yet that was part of my role, so I pushed myself, and over time I have become much more comfortable in the spotlight. I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to grow in that area.

Each president has their strengths and weaknesses and their own style. And each president faces different challenges. With the Capital Campaign underway, when I became president it was time to focus on the actual remodel. So the Remodel Task Force, competently headed by Melanie Field and **Harold Dash**, was formed. In the spring, Temple Beth Or became the beneficiary of an estate which included a house in great disrepair. Along with the remodel, dealing with that house became a major focus of my first year. Thanks to **Kathy Pickus**, our real estate agent, and those of you who helped with the house, the estate resulted in a significant boost to our Capital Campaign. Throughout my presidency, what I found was that time and time again when I needed help, someone stepped up. I am incredibly thankful to be part of such a caring, hard-working community. I cherish the new relationships and friendships I have developed over my presidency.

It's not possible to thank everyone who has helped, but know that I appreciate you. I do want to thank the Governing Board and particularly, the Executive Board for your ongoing support and wisdom. A huge thank you to Melanie Field for your fantastic mentoring, and **Sarah Davis**, who kept me organized and on track. I can't imagine being president without all of you by my side. Words cannot express my gratitude for my sacred partnership with Rabbi Kort. Working with you has been a blessing. And last but definitely not least, thank you to Mark, my husband, for your patience when I was tied up with Temple business, the many meals you made so I could eat between getting home from work and heading into a meeting, and for your ongoing care.

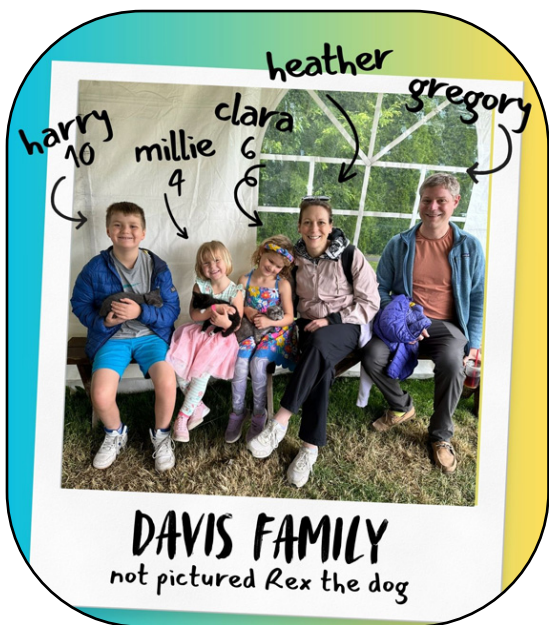
Being president of Temple Beth Or has been an honor and a privilege. I hope each of you finds the right place to volunteer because the rewards from engaging are immense. I look forward to supporting **Nancy Rosen** as she steps into her presidency. She brings so many gifts that will help our TBO community to continue to thrive.

*Wanda*

Wanda Bresnick, President (she/her)

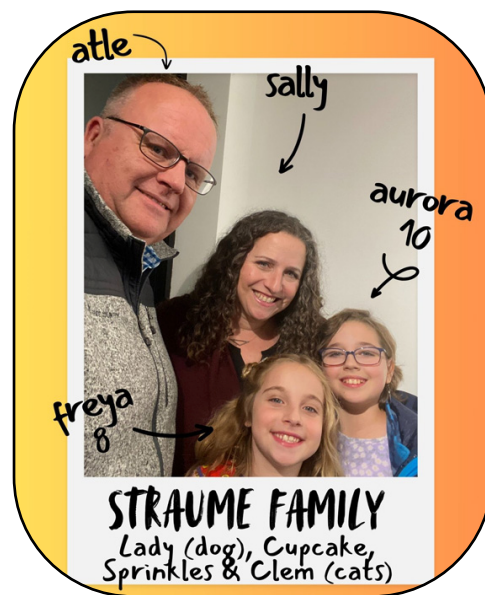
# From our Director of Youth Education

Bruchim habayim, welcome to our new Religious School families



- Q: Where do you live?  
A: Mukilteo. We moved here a few years ago from Calgary, Alberta.
- Q: What made you want to join Temple Beth Or Religious School?  
A: The obligation (and joy) of teaching our children.
- Q: What is your family's favorite Jewish value and why?  
A: *Tikkun olam* - because we can and we are brave enough to do it.
- Q: Is there a favorite family activity you all enjoy?  
A: Exploration - we love to learn, travel, see new or old things in new ways.
- Q: Does your family have a favorite movie?  
A: Are we allowed to say Home Alone? Wrong holiday but well loved!
- Q: If your family were superheroes, what would your name be and what superpower would you have?  
A: I thought we were? Haven't you heard of the Incredible Flying Davises? ;-)

- Q: Where do you live?  
A: Camano Island.
- Q: What was the first thing you noticed about Temple Beth Or Religious School?  
A: We noticed that everyone was very welcoming.
- Q: Does your family have a favorite Jewish food and why?  
A: Challah, because it's delicious and it's one of the few foods we can all agree on!
- Q: Is there a favorite family activity you all enjoy?  
A: Beachcombing here on Camano.
- Q: What are some of your family's favorite books?  
A: Anything, we love reading together!
- Q: Are you a car singing family?  
A: YES! We love AJR, and just saw them in concert when they came to Seattle.



- Q: Where do you live?  
A: Silver Firs, Snohomish.
- Q: What drew you to Temple Beth Or Religious School?  
A: TBO reminds us of the Temple we grew up in, Temple Beth Hatfiloh in Olympia, WA.
- Q: What is your family's favorite Jewish holiday and why?  
A: Jeremy, Henry and Evelyn love Hanukkah, especially the candles.  
Anna - Passover! We always have a big extended family seder.
- Q: Is there a favorite family activity you all enjoy?  
A: Family movie night!
- Q: Does your family have a favorite song?  
A: Our House, Crosby, Stills and Nash, OR The Snake Song, Steve Schroeder.
- Q: Is a burrito a sandwich? Why or why not?  
A: It's not a sandwich because it is enclosed on all sides. If anything, it's a calzone.



More new member profiles to come!

*Stefanie*  
Stefanie Somers (she/her)

## December services

Shabbat Zoom: [tinyurl.com/tboshabbatzoom](https://tinyurl.com/tboshabbatzoom)  
Meeting ID: 837 4187 0594 Passcode: 531760  
Dial-in users: 253-215-8782



AT TBO



ONLINE



OUTDOOR



OFFSITE

### Shabbat services

**Saturday, December 7, with Rabbi Rachel Kort and musician Noah Zeichner**

**Tot Shabbat, 9:00 am.** This service is geared toward preschoolers, babies and young elementary kids. There will be singing and a story. Bring a special lovey/stuffy/plush toy to join them for Shabbat.



**Bat mitzvah of Laurel Brown, 10:00 am**

Our morning service will be led by Rabbi Kort and Laurel Brown. It will include a Torah reading and a Torah teaching by Laurel.



**Special Zoom info:** <https://tinyurl.com/TBOLaurel>  
Meeting ID: 817 1894 7136 Passcode: 610905

**Guests** - Register at [templebethor.org/service-registration/](https://templebethor.org/service-registration/).  
Registration ends Friday, December 6, 3:00 pm.

### Family Shabbat

**Friday, December 13, 7:00 pm, with Rabbi Rachel Kort and musician Shoshana Stombaugh**



This service is especially designed to nurture and engage our children and Religious School community. The evening will include songs, prayers and a story. The service will last less than an hour.

**Guests** - Register at [templebethor.org/service-registration/](https://templebethor.org/service-registration/).  
Registration ends Friday, December 13, 3:00 pm.

### Shabbat at home

**Friday, December 20, 7:00 pm, lay led, with musician Shoshana Stombaugh**




Join us for a musical Shabbat worship experience from the comfort of your own home, lasting about an hour.

### Shabbat Hanukkah

**Friday, December 27, 7:00 pm, with Rabbi Rachel Kort and Rabbi CB Souther**



See details on this page. 

**Guests** - Register at [templebethor.org/service-registration/](https://templebethor.org/service-registration/).  
Registration ends Friday, December 27, 3:00 pm.

## Ruach & Ritual Committee

Most members are aware that **Rabbi Kort** will be away from TBO January through June 2025, on sabbatical. While we will need to adjust to TBO programs without her wise input and counsel, we will also benefit in many ways during her absence. Rabbi Kort is working diligently to ensure that we are prepared for leading services and programs while she is gone. Rabbi Kort, **Ron Green** and **Pam Spitzer** have already conducted workshops with TBO congregants to help us prepare to lead services and provide teachings. It is impressive how many members are willing to step up to the bimah and take on a leadership role!

Rabbi Kort will lead Shabbat services from afar one Friday per month. Almost immediately, we will benefit from what she is experiencing and learning while away.

At least one time per month, the congregants of TBO will step up to the plate to provide Shabbat service leadership. From opening prayers to *d'var* Torah teachings, our members will bring new perspectives, new voices and fresh ideas to Shabbat.

At least once per month, we will be joined by professional music leaders and rabbinate. All are familiar names and faces, taking on new roles.

And at least one time per month, TBO will be “dark,” no Shabbat services provided either via Zoom or at a location. Shabbat still happens, though, even without a formal prepared service. The *Ruach & Ritual Committee* encourages you to have Shabbat on your own. Invite others to join you in lighting candles, discussing the week’s Torah portion and singing songs. On these “dark” dates, we will provide a link to the week’s Torah portion through the URJ website. This will include adult learning as well as how to engage tots. Challenge your family and friends to jump in, learn and celebrate Shabbat even without a formal gathering at TBO!

If you have questions or ideas, please feel welcome to contact any of us on the *Ruach & Ritual Committee*.

**Ellis Engbar, Vicki Schwartz, Pam Spitzer, Judy Wallis, Janis Warner**



### A special Hanukkah Shabbat service



Join us for Shabbat and the third night of Hanukkah. Our evening will include Hanukkah and Shabbat candle lightings and Hanukkah songs. We’ll pray together and play together with a few games. In addition, we will offer **Rabbi Kort** the Traveler’s Prayer as she gets ready to go on her sabbatical.

# Nominations slate for 2025 TBO Board

## **President: Nancy Rosen (she/her)**

I have felt connected to TBO through my family, who brought Don and me to the PNW from Tulsa in 2020. We joined TBO right away, and I have been on the Board for three years. In Tulsa, I was chair of Temple Israel's Social Justice Committee, a member of the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation, a tutor for Reading Partners, and volunteer with Meals on Wheels. I also taught 4th grade in a French language immersion elementary school. Previously, I was Director of the Florida-Israel Institute and taught college French and English. Kibbutz Ayelet HaShahar was home for three years. My favorite holiday is Pesach because it brings family together and celebrates new beginnings.



## **Past-president: Wanda Bresnick (she/her)**

My husband Mark, our children, Zach and Kelsey, and I joined Temple Beth Or in 1997 because it was warm and welcoming to our interfaith family. Many years later, I made the decision to convert. Over the years, I have served on several committees and task forces. For the past five and a half years, I have been a member of the Governing Board, most recently as president. As the immediate past-president, I look forward to continuing to help TBO thrive as we move forward with our remodel. I am a part-time family therapist in private practice, and a grandmother. My favorite Jewish holiday is Passover because I love coming together with family and friends to share in this tradition and ritual.



## **VP of Community & Engagement: Jeffrey (Jeff) Napp (he/him)**

Sheryl Shapiro and I moved to Seattle from Miami in 1990 and joined the congregation the following year after receiving a very warm welcome from its members. Our daughter Ravenna, now 31, had her naming and bat mitzvah at TBO. I previously served on the Board in the late 1990s/early 2000s when Sheryl and I co-chaired the Youth Education Committee. I served on several of the past strategic planning committees, the COVID-19 Task Force, and now the Capital Campaign. My favorite holiday is Purim; I love that the holiday has both a fun and serious side to it.



## **VP of Jewish Life: Ron Green (he/him)**

I am honored to serve our wonderful TBO community as VP of Jewish Life. I grew up in New York. My wife, Carolyn, and I moved to Snohomish County in 1997 and shortly thereafter joined TBO. In 2022, Carolyn and I moved to Belize for Carolyn's work in natural resource economics and sustainable development. Thanks to Zoom, I am able to participate with, and serve, TBO virtually from Belize. I have been president, past-president, VP of Membership, annual appeal co-chair (with Carolyn), chair of the Events Committee, chair of the COVID-19 Task Force, and most recently co-led the *d'var* Torah workshop with Rabbi Kort. I have also led religious services and music. Passover has always been my favorite Jewish holiday because it is our origin story as a people, and it ties us to our ancestors.



## **Assistant VP of Community & Engagement: Dana Sanders (they/them)**

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



## **Assistant VP of Finance & Facilities Management: Robert (Bob) Goodmark (he/him)**

I was born in Florida and am a graduate of the University of Florida and the University of Houston. I am a chemical engineer and am retired from Shell Oil Company. Michele and I moved from Houston to Mill Creek in 2013 to be close to our son and daughter-in-law. We joined TBO in 2013 and have been active members since joining. I joined the Finance Committee shortly after joining, and have since served as VP-Finance, Assistant VP-Finance, and VP-Finance and Facilities Management. I am currently active on the Finance Committee, Capital Campaign Committee, and the Remodel Task Force.



## **Assistant VP of Jewish Life: Pattipeg Harjo (she/her)**

I converted to Judaism in 2022. I am a 75-year-old fabric artist and a retired Spanish teacher. My favorite holiday is Shabbat, which creates a safe and holy place in my home.



## **Member-at-large: Gwen Campbell (she/her)**

I joined Temple Beth Or in 2022 after launching my daughters, retiring, and moving back to the Puget Sound area from a sojourn in Minneapolis. I felt immediately welcomed by the TBO community, and I look forward to contributing to the health and vitality of the Temple as a member of the Board. My career included positions in communications, human resource management, and nonprofit management. I enjoy volunteering for several nonprofits, including the Stanwood-Camano Food Bank. My favorite prayer is the Kaddish.



## Nominations slate for 2025 TBO Board (cont.)

### Member-at-large: Rich Spitzer (he/him)

I am honored to be asked to continue to serve on the TBO Board. In the two and a half years since joining the shul, I have met many of our wonderful, dedicated members. I have enjoyed contributing to the Remodel Task Force and its Contractor Selection Subcommittee. I especially appreciate your trust in me as the *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.



### Member-at-large: Rani Linarelli (she/her)

My name is Rani Linarelli, mother of three, wife, physical therapist, fitness enthusiast and knitter! I have been a member of TBO for one year and aspire to grow this Jewish community...to make it a home for all of our children and generations to come! My favorite holiday is Rosh HaShanah, because it represents a new opportunity for growth and change.



Note: **James Feinberg** (VP of Finance and Facilities Management) and **Melissa VonAschen-Cook** (Secretary) are not listed. They will be serving the second year of their two-year terms in 2025.

## From our Social Action Committee

The *Tzedakah* Box recipient for October-December is Women Wage Peace (WWP). This is a large, grassroots, nonpartisan peace movement in Israel. WWP “empowers women from diverse communities to build trust across divides, leading in turn to a unified demand for diplomatic negotiation, with full representation of women, to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.”



The selection of this organization is made in memory of Vivian Silver, a peace activist and friend of **Paul Vexler (z”l)** and **Sonia Siegel Vexler**. For more information, please go to the website <https://www.womenwagepeace.org.il/en/>.

Save the date

Greater Everett Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. community celebration  
January 19, 2025 - Sunday service at First Presbyterian Church in Everett. 3:30 pm  
January 20, 2025 - march and rally, starting at 11:00 am

More details  
in January

Civic engagement is more important than ever. We know that many members of our Temple work or volunteer with other nonprofit organizations for the good of the community. We would love to hear what types of community involvement people are engaged in and highlight some of these efforts in future editions of *ORbits* and *ORacle*. This may inspire others to become active. If you are willing to share, please contact **Naomi Katsh Barger** or **Melissa VonAschen-Cook**.

Kids know about unfairness, inequality and injustice. They feel it in their own lives and see its effects in the larger world as well. As families, we search for ways to communicate to our children the beliefs that we hold dear. We show up, speak out, resist and persist against things that contradict our values. Activism combats feelings of despair and powerlessness. Whether we and our kids are thinking globally or acting locally, we can make a difference in the lives of others while strengthening our own sense of personal pride and power.

Below are some books about activism that might serve as springboards for family discussions. Many of these titles are available at the public library or read aloud online.

*A Little Book About Activism* by Courtney Ahn - ages 0-6

*Stand Up! Speak Up!* by Andrew Joyner - ages 4-10

*What Can a Citizen Do?* by Dave Eggers - ages 5-12

*Start Now!: You Can make a Difference* by Chelsea Clinton - ages 7-13

*The Sum of Us (Adapted for Young Readers): How Racism Hurts Everyone* by Heather McGhee - ages 11-18

The Social Action Committee is considering joining an organization called Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action. This group encourages political action about the climate crisis, ending financial backing for the fossil fuel industry, and pressing candidates and elected officials to advance a comprehensive climate plan.

We would like to determine if there is interest at Temple Beth Or in pursuing this. Please see [dayenu.org](http://dayenu.org) for more information, and contact **Melissa VonAschen-Cook** or **Naomi Katsh Barger** if you might be interested in joining this cause.



## Traditional Jewish Hanukkah & Christmas Dinner at TBO

December 25, 5:00 pm



Light the menorah, spin the dreidel, fry the latkes, eat Chinese food! It's Hanukkah and Christmas!

Start the evening with a latke fry-off. Share a favorite recipe and technique. Prizes will be given for the best-looking and best-flavored latke.

Bring a menorah; we will gather to welcome the festival of lights with prayer and celebration.

Take-in Chinese from a local restaurant. Variety of traditional Chinese food (no *treif*) with rice, hot tea, wine and fortune cookies.

A variety of board games and dreidels will be supplied, or bring your own to share.

**Cost is \$15 per person (bring cash or check)**

The evening is sponsored by the TBO Membership and *Ruach* & Ritual Committees.

This event is only open to TBO members. Register to attend at <https://templebethor.org/service-registration/>.

Registration ends Friday, December 20, 3:00 pm. For more info, contact **Janis Warner** or **Leslie Elsemore**.

## Hanukkah Bazaar

Sunday, December 8

3:00 – 7:00 pm

Temple Beth Or

Join Temple Beth Or and local artisans and vendors for some seasonal shopping! Raffle tickets will be available for exciting one-of-a-kind items! This event is open to the public. For more information, please contact Dana Sanders at [fundraising@templebethor.org](mailto:fundraising@templebethor.org).

## Laurel Brown is becoming bat mitzvah!

**Laurel Brown** (she/her), daughter of **Rani Linarelli** and **Aaron Brown**, sister to **Lucas** and **Julian**, will be called to the Torah on December 7.

Laurel is in 8th grade at Centennial Middle School, where her favorite subject is math. She also enjoys cross country and track and field. Her favorite Temple activities are Friday night Shabbat services.



Studying for her bat mitzvah has taught Laurel that, "I can do hard things, that I can get things accomplished when I am consistent with my studies."

Laurel's *tikkun olam* project focused on animal welfare. She volunteered at the Everett Animal Shelter, assisting animals in need. She also helped take care of the family pets at home. Another mitzvah she performed was cleaning graves at a cemetery.

*Todah rabah*

Laurel would like to thank **Rabbi Kort**, **Roland Roth**, and **Danielle Price** (a former Religious School teacher and Laurel's tutor) for their help during this process.

Mazel tov, Laurel!

## Membership Committee news

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

- Carl and Helen Grossman - 30 years
- James and JonaRose Feinberg - 12 years
- Steve and Wyndi Russakoff - 12 years
- Shannon St. George - 9 years
- Josh Gorlick - 7 years
- Randi Weiss - 5 years
- Kayla Mohrbacher - 2 years



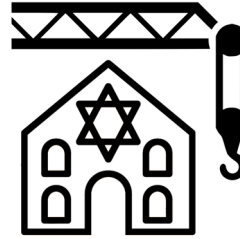




## December *yahrzeits*



12/1/24	Patricia Ledbetter	Temple Beth Or Family
12/1/24	Harold Siegel	Uncle of Carolyn Wexler
12/1/24	Barry Tepfer	Temple Beth Or Family
12/2/24	Carrie Voit	Grandmother of Sandy Voit
12/3/24	Joan Cecilian	Mother of Kathy Pickus
12/6/24	Aaron Bell	Temple Beth Or Family
12/6/24	Aaron Fineberg	Great-uncle of Nancy Sosnove
12/6/24	Lila Fishman	Temple Beth Or Family
12/6/24	Walter H. McPherson	Father of Kathie Roon
12/6/24	Anne Raymond	Grandmother of Steven Russakoff
12/8/24	Mannie Voit	Grandfather of Sandy Voit
12/9/24	Risa Eger	Grandmother of Julie Mackoff
12/13/24	Rubin Dayan	Uncle of Barb Ingram
12/14/24	Murray Fishman	Temple Beth Or Family
12/14/24	Paul Vexler	Husband of Sonia Siegel Vexler Father of Jess Burgamy
12/15/24	Ruth K. Blank	Temple Beth Or Family
12/15/24	Esther Blatt Blustein	Mother of Marvin Blustein
12/16/24	Rashel Alfi	Temple Beth Or Family
12/16/24	Lena Cohen	Grandmother of Mim Edelstein
12/16/24	Jonathan Field	Nephew of Melanie Field
12/17/24	Charlotte Green	Aunt of Ron Green
12/17/24	Terry Miller	Mother of Rand Miller
12/18/24	Gilda Wexler	Mother of Eldon Wexler Grandmother of Koby Wexler
12/19/24	Ben Gross	Father of David Gross
12/19/24	Rachel Mahaney	Grandmother of Janet Karr
12/19/24	Marguerite Nathan	Temple Beth Or Family
12/20/24	Aliza Shemesh	Mother of Aviva Goodwin
12/20/24	Armand Siegel	Father of Andy Siegel
12/21/24	Berthilde Horowitz	Mother of Judy Magidson
12/24/24	Martha Emily Field	Sister of Melanie Field
12/24/24	Lillian Pickus	Grandmother of Glen Pickus
12/24/24	Stanley Rosen	Father of Mirs VonAschen-Cook
12/25/24	Rita Cohen	Mother of Phyllis Busch
12/25/24	John McAfee	Father of Angela Riggins
12/26/24	Sidney Baldwin	Uncle of Nancy Sosnove
12/29/24	Morris Shapiro	Father of Sheryl Shapiro
12/30/24	William Schoenwolf	Father of Pat Azus
12/31/24	Frances Finkelstein	Grandmother of Michael Glosser
12/31/24	Charles Halber	Grandfather of Sheryl Shapiro



## Remodel news

Here's the latest:

- We have received our demolition permit from the City of Everett. We have also received partial initial comments on our building permit application.
- We are expecting to receive our building permit and our public works permit later this winter/spring.
- The insurance claim deadline has been extended to April 16, 2025.
- As of this writing, the Task Force is awaiting an updated project cost estimate from the contractor that would reflect some cost savings modifications to our plan, including using a less expensive roofing material and removing the overhang by the entrance. Additional value engineering efforts may be able to further reduce costs.
- The Task Force discussed the presentation to be given at the December Semiannual Membership Meeting.
- We are preparing for a congregational vote on the project, authorizing the signing of a contract with the contractor, in early 2025.

Questions about the remodel can be sent to **Harold Dash**, **Melanie Field** or **Glen Pickus** at [remodel@templebethor.org](mailto:remodel@templebethor.org).



## Safety & Security Committee

There was a minor security incident at the synagogue recently during an outdoor event. A person who was in search of food tailgated someone through the downstairs locked gate during lunch. We found the visitor at the buffet table helping themselves to cookies. The person was treated kindly, and then escorted out of the gated area.

Tailgating (also known as piggybacking) is the act of sneaking into a prohibited place behind a person who is authorized to enter. This is often accomplished by closely following the authorized person as they enter a building or restricted area. Please remember to check behind you whenever entering TBO's gated area to ensure that only members and their guests pass through the gate. Thank you for your help in keeping the TBO community safe.



# Leadership News

During the Governing Board meeting on November 3, 2024, the Board did the following:

1. **Nancy Rosen**, president-elect, led the meeting in President **Wanda Bresnick's** absence.
2. **Sonia Siegel-Vexler** presented the 2025 slate of officers on behalf of the Nominations Committee, and the Board unanimously approved it.
3. **James Feinberg** gave the Finance report. We continue to be on track financially for this year.
4. Plans were made for the Semiannual Membership Meeting that will take place in person and virtually on Saturday, December 14, at 4:10 pm. The meeting will be preceded by refreshments and *Havdalah*. Sonia will present the slate of officers for 2025 and a vote will be taken in person and electronically for those attending virtually. The Remodel Task Force and the Capital Campaign Committee will make presentations. As is our tradition, service to TBO will be recognized and gifts will be presented.
5. Plans for **Rabbi Kort's** sabbatical, taking shape under the leadership of the Rabbi and the *Ruach* & Ritual Committee and others, were discussed. All is going smoothly.
6. Task Force reports were reviewed. The Social Action Committee requested that we consider participating in Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action and recommended that we review their website.

## SEMIANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, December 14, 4:10  
Snacks and schmoozing at 3:45

Join us in person or on Zoom for our Semiannual Membership Meeting on Saturday, December 14. Come early for light snacks and schmoozing.

At our membership meeting, we will be voting to approve our 2025 slate of officers and thanking our members who will be leaving the Board.

The full agenda, committee year-end summaries, and minutes from our last semiannual meeting will be sent out to each of you at the beginning of December. Bios for our incoming Board are included herein on pages 6-7.

[tinyurl.com/tbomembership2024](http://tinyurl.com/tbomembership2024)

Meeting ID: 870 6982 0032

Passcode: 941233

Dial in: (253) 215 8782

### 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 and 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

HHH (Rosh HaShanah): Pattipeg Harjo

HHH (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

*ORacle* Publisher: Rich Spitzer

*ORbits*: Janis Warner

Remodel: Harold Dash & Melanie Field

*Ruach* & Ritual: Janis Warner

Safety & Security: Mark Bresnick

Social Action: Naomi Katsh Barger &

Melissa VonAschen-Cook

Technology: James Feinberg

Website: JonaRose Feinberg

Youth Education: Meghan Lefrancois-Hanson &








Rani Linarelli



# DECEMBER 2024

Cheshvan / Kislev 5785



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 TBO Tots RS	1 Kislev 2 Finance Committee meeting 7:00 pm	3	4 Executive Board meeting 7:00 pm	5	6 Liaison meeting 10:00 am	7 Tot Shabbat 9:00 am Shabbat service and bat mitzvah of Laurel Brown 10:00 am
8 Governing Board meeting 9:00 am Hanukkah bazaar 3:00 pm RS	9 Communications Committee meeting 7:00 pm	10	11	12 Remodel Task Force meeting 7:30 pm	13 Family Shabbat 7:00 pm	14 General membership meeting 4:10 pm Snacks and schmoozing 3:45 pm
15 TBO Tots RS	16 ORacle deadline Membership Committee meeting 7:00 pm	17 Life & Legacy Committee meeting 11:00 am	18	19	20 Shabbat at home 7:00 pm	21
22 No RS	23	24 Office closed	25 Hanukkah & Christmas dinner 5:00 pm 	26 	27 Shabbat Hanukkah service 7:00 pm 	28 
29 No RS 	30 	31 				

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](https://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.