

# THE ORACLE



February 2025

Sh'vat 5785

Founded 1985

Volume 36, Issue 2

## It's time to VOTE & TOTE!

Special meeting of the  
Congregation to present the  
remodel plan and financial details,  
and to ask the Congregation to  
authorize construction

Sunday, February 2, 4:00 pm  
In-person and online

Electronic voting to follow

See also page 2

Zoom link: [tinyurl.com/remodel-meeting](https://tinyurl.com/remodel-meeting)

Meeting ID: 826 5058 7692

Passcode: 820694

Important information on  
preparing for construction,  
purging and packing,  
and volunteering

See pages 2-3



CEREMONIAL  
GROUNDBREAKING  
MARCH 23!

More info to follow



Ride the light rail to the museum

Sunday, February 23

Details on page 7



Tu BiShvat events

See page 4



## From our President

### An exciting new beginning, built on an old foundation of love

We are at a very exciting point in the life of Temple Beth Or. On Sunday, January 12, 2025, the TBO Governing Board passed the following motion: *"I move that we ask the Congregation to accept the recommendation of the Remodel Task Force, in consultation with the Capital Campaign and the Executive Board, to sign a contract with contractor CPM for the remodel of the TBO building at a cost not to exceed \$3,300,000."* To move forward, we need to conduct a vote of the entire Congregation asking for authorization to proceed. For that purpose, we will hold a special meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, February 2, 4:00 pm, at TBO. It will be accessible online. A letter explaining the process and inviting members to the meeting was sent out in an email blast on January 16. Voting will take place electronically from Sunday, February 2, until midnight, Sunday, February 9. Groundbreaking is tentatively set for March 23, organized by Past President **Wanda Bresnick**.



This is truly a community effort, and I want to thank all those involved. On a committee level, thanks to the members of the Remodel Task Force and the Capital Campaign. There will be many volunteers taking on numerous tasks in the next few weeks, and I plan to thank you by name in the future.

The old foundation of love that I am referring to in my title is the physical history of our building, which was constructed in 1913 and is the oldest continuously occupied religious site in Washington State (except for those of Indigenous communities, no doubt). The old foundation of love also refers to our relationships with each other. As we plan to be out of our physical home for six to ten months, it will be especially important to maintain our friendships and commitments to one another and our traditions in a "synagogue without walls." Ironically, it was an awful event that gave us some practice: the pandemic. Fortunately, this time, our reason is a happy one. I personally have plans to organize "Edmonds Shabbatot Together" on the Shabbatot when we don't have an official TBO Shabbat service. I hope that many of you will also come up with some new traditions. There will still be Religious School, and hopefully many of the children will go to Jewish summer camp. First Chapter, Book Club and all committees will still function.

I hope that you will do what you can to keep us all close as we go through this transformation. May we navigate this exciting time together in peace and good health.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy".

Nancy Rosen, President (she/her)



### Preparing for construction: Remodel volunteering is fun!

The time has come for us to get ready for construction, provided that the congregation votes to support the project. We have to empty out all our stuff and figure out where to put it until we move back in. To this end, we are having a series of packing parties, and have a few special coordinators to keep us on track.

#### Packing events:

- The first step is to sort through things and set aside what we don't need. **Deb Henry** will be coordinating our big yard sale to get rid of extra stuff we have acquired. Watch for more details about this effort. (Note, this is NOT an opportunity for you to bring your stuff to TBO to sell; it's to process what we already have on site.)
- **Melissa VonAschen-Cook**, our librarian, will be conducting our first packing party on Sunday, February 16, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, to pack up the library and extra prayer books. There is a small group led by **Judy Wallis** already working on culling our library collection. If you are interested in helping with that work, contact Melissa.
- **Leslie Elsemore** will be spearheading the sorting and emptying of the kitchen and supplies closet. Watch for the date(s) of those work parties.

If you can help with any of these efforts, please let the coordinators know. Join us in getting the building ready for construction. And hanging out with other TBO members doing good work can be satisfying, and yes, even fun!



## Rabbi's Corner - Sabbatical coverage

### Mitzvah Corps and Mi Shebeirach list updates

Temple Beth Or's Mitzvah Corps (Caring Community) has been a hallmark of our congregation. We can provide care and comfort during an illness, accident, or after a hospitalization. During **Rabbi Kort's** sabbatical, please reach out to me if you think we can be of assistance for the following:

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

Our *Mi Shebeirach* list is one way our community becomes aware of others' needs. We will keep your loved one's name on the list for 60 days unless you ask us to remove the name earlier. Please reach out to the Temple office at [office@templebethor.org](mailto:office@templebethor.org) or to me to add a loved one's name or change the timing.

If you would like to be part of the Mitzvah Corps, please let me know. There are no requirements, and your help, even once a year, will be a mitzvah!

**Carolyn Wexler** - chairperson

### Bereavement contacts

Because Rabbi Kort will be on sabbatical for the first half of 2025, arrangements have been made with other clergy to cover for her, as needed. In the event of a bereavement situation, members of the Bereavement Committee, **Susan Cross**, **Melanie Field** and **Carolyn Wexler**, are prepared to provide appropriate assistance to our membership. We can be reached on our cell phones as shown in the TBO directory.

Leaving a time-sensitive bereavement message on the Temple phone line is not recommended, as we may not get the information for several days. We suggest that you put our cell number information in your phone or in another easy-to-access place so that you will have it available should you need it. We hope that none of you will experience a loss, but if you do, it is wise to have the necessary information conveniently located.

Susan, Melanie and Carolyn

### Let's get movin'!



Here are some other ways you can pitch in:

- If you have left anything in the building that should not be stored/moved, please remove it.
- If you have extra packing materials at home - moving cartons, craft paper, bubble wrap, packing tape, etc., that you can donate to the cause - save it for this work.
- If you have space in your home or office where you could store boxes, chairs, or furniture for about a year, please contact **Rich Spitzer**. If you have any storage space available, even if it is only for five boxes, that could be helpful.
- If you have access to a truck that we can use to help transport boxes and items to storage, let Rich know.
- Additional opportunities to help will be publicized in *ORbits*, on the members FB page and in other TBO communications.

If you have any questions or ideas related to sorting, purging, packing, storage, or transportation of items to be stored, please contact Rich Spitzer.

Joining in this work is a wonderful way to contribute to the remodel project. It is a great opportunity to meet new TBO members and build community. This is how lasting bonds and connections are formed.

## February services

### Tot Shabbat

**Saturday, February 8, 9:00 am, with service leader Stefanie Somers and musician Neil Weinstein**

This service is geared toward preschoolers, babies and young elementary kids. There will be singing and a story. Bring along a special lovey/stuffy/plush toy.



**Shabbat morning service and Board installation**  
**Saturday, February 8, 10:00 am, with service leader and musician Neil Weinstein**

Our community worship service will include a Torah reading and *drash* (sermon). This service is geared toward our adult and *b'nei mitzvah* student community, and will last around 90 minutes.



**Guests** - Register at [templebethor.org/service-registration/](https://templebethor.org/service-registration/). Registration ends Friday, February 7, 3:00 pm.

### Tu BiShvat celebration

**Friday, February 21, 7:30 pm, with musician Shoshana Stombaugh**

Join our special Tu BiShvat seder, sponsored by the TBO Social Action Committee. See article on this page for details.



**Guests** - Register at [templebethor.org/service-registration/](https://templebethor.org/service-registration/). Registration ends Friday, February 20, 3:00 pm.

### Shabbat from Israel

**Friday, February 28, 7:30 pm, with Rabbi Rachel Kort**

Join us from the comfort of your own home as Rabbi Kort leads an abbreviated Shabbat worship experience. The focus of this evening together online will be Rabbi Kort sharing a taste of her experience in Jerusalem, where she is currently on sabbatical.



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



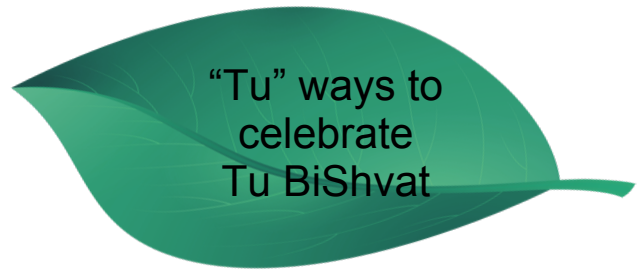
OUTDOOR



OFFSITE



ADULT EDUCATION



### Community garden work party

**Sunday, February 9, 10:30 am - noon**

Rain or shine, we will be helping prepare a garden for spring planting. This has been great fun in past years and a good way to get to know other TBO members.

Everyone is welcome. Register at [templebethor.org/service-registration/](https://templebethor.org/service-registration/). Registration ends Friday, February 7, 3:00 pm.

Location will be given at the time of registration.

If you have them, please bring gardening gloves and hand tools.



### Tu BiShvat seder

**Friday, February 21, 7:30 PM**  
**(in person and online)**

Barak Gale, a climate activist and educator from Olympia, will help lead us in a seder with spiritual readings and symbolic foods. **Shoshana Stombaugh** will further enrich the experience with her beautiful music.

Everyone is welcome. For in person attendance, see registration info to the left.



**Israel During War:**  
**three weeks, two missions,**  
**one people**



Saturday, February 15,  
3:00 - 6:00 pm at TBO

TBO member **Barry Klarman** will share his pictures and experiences from his three weeks in Israel. The focus will be on explaining the Israeli experience and society at this time during war on multiple fronts.

Havdalah to follow the discussion and Q&A.

### Save the Date: March 7, 6:30 pm: Learn about immigrant rights

Membership Committee and Social Action Committee are co-sponsoring a membership dinner and speaker. Andrea Soroko Naar, the Executive Director of Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice NW, will share information about the conditions for immigrants in our community and ways we can help the work toward immigrant justice.



JEWISH COALITION *for*  
IMMIGRANT JUSTICE NW







## From our Director of Youth Education

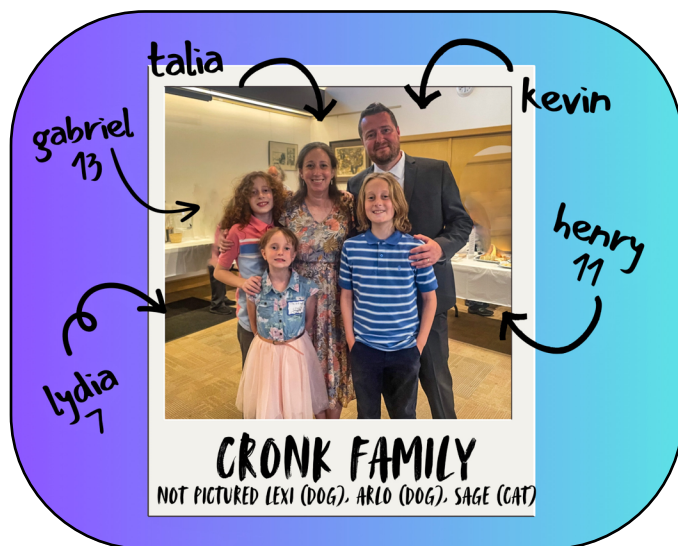
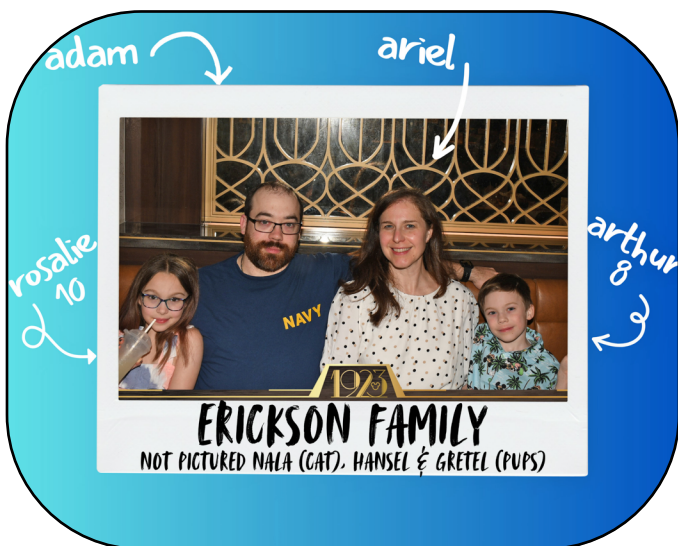
*Bruchim habayim*, welcome to our new Religious School families

### Q&A with the Ericksons

- Q: Where do you live?  
A: In unincorporated Snohomish, near Willis Tucker Park
- Q: What was the first thing you noticed about Temple Beth Or Religious School?  
A: We noticed how nice everyone was!
- Q: What is your family's favorite Jewish value and why?  
A: Acts of kindness (and not just to humans), because it's mutually beneficial to all, and is the first step to a happier existence for all of Earth's creatures.
- Q: Is there a favorite family activity you all enjoy?  
A: Our favorite family activity is playing board games and video games.
- Q: What is the last show your family binge-watched together?  
A: The last family show we binge-watched was Delicious in Dungeon.
- Q: What is your best idea for a new invention?  
A: We'd invent an anti-gravity belt so we could float... could be especially useful for walking on icy days.

### Q&A with the Cronks

- Q: Where do you live?  
A: We live in Snohomish.
- Q: What made you want to join Temple Beth Or Religious School?  
A: We decided to join Religious School to make meaningful connections to other Jewish families.
- Q: What is your family's favorite Jewish holiday and why?  
A: Our favorite Jewish holiday is Hanukkah because of the presents, latkes and time spent together as a family.
- Q: Is there a favorite family activity you all enjoy?  
A: We enjoy vacationing in Seabrook together, where we bike ride, go for walks, play in the arcade, play on the beach, swim, and eat delicious food.
- Q: What movie do you think everyone should watch?  
A: We think everyone should watch The Wild Robot.
- Q: What comes first, the cereal or the milk? Why?  
A: Cereal should come first so that you know how much milk to put in without drenching the cereal.

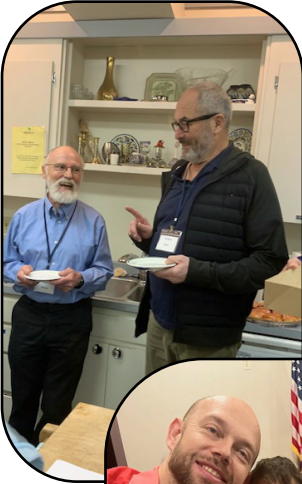


We are so blessed to have a school that is continuing to grow. Word of mouth is our biggest marketing tool, and our new growth shows just that. I'm proud to say that we started the year with 28 students (including Tots) and we are now up to 37! Next time you are at a synagogue event, look for some of these new Religious School faces and give them a big, warm TBO welcome!

*Stefanie*  
Stefanie Somers (she/her)

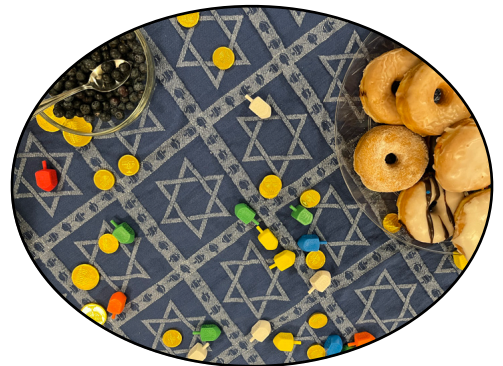


## TBO celebrates Hanukkah ...



with Christmas dinner of latkes and Chinese takeout ...

and Shabbat with the Traveler's Blessing for Rabbi Kort





## Next Chapter: Come be mesmerized!



Ride the light rail downtown (\$1 for 65+ in each direction) and discover the latest museum in Seattle, the Museum of Illusions. You will see perspective-changing rooms, spellbinding images and enthralling installations. (If you prefer, you can drive and meet us there.)

We'll have a late lunch at Purple Café and Wine Bar. Indicate on the reservation form if you will be joining us for lunch. Both the café and the rail station (Westlake) are easy five-minute walks from the museum.

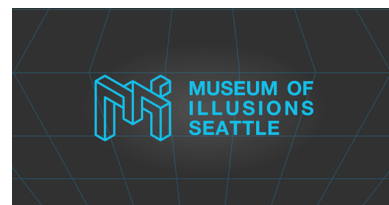
**Sunday, February 23, 11:00 am (meet at Lynnwood Light Rail Station)**

**12:00 pm museum reservations, 2:00 pm lunch reservations**

### REGISTRATION:

- Register at [tinyurl.com/illusionsTBO](http://tinyurl.com/illusionsTBO). The registration deadline is Monday, February 10. Space is limited, so please sign up as soon as possible.
- Payment: Send \$22 per person payable to Temple Beth Or. You may also pay online at [templebethor.org/donate](http://templebethor.org/donate), select the option for general donations, and note the name of the event in the additional notes. Tickets will be purchased for you based on your registration. If you fail to attend, your TBO account will still be charged.

Questions can be posed to **Sonia Siegel Vexler**.



### TBO Family *Havdalah*, dessert and movie night

**Saturday, February 1, 6:30 - 10:00 pm**  
(in-person only)



Come be part of our TBO community as we celebrate the end of Shabbat with *Havdalah* led by **Sheryl Shapiro**. Then enjoy popcorn and dessert while watching the movie, *Fiddler on the Roof*. For more information, contact **Leslie Elsemore**.

Registration: Please register in advance to attend so we can plan for refreshments. Registration ends Thursday, January 30, 3:00 pm.

Note: This is a members only event.

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



### BOTY *Havdalah*, movie and pizza evening

**Saturday, February 22, 5:30 pm**

This event is designed for BOTY (Beth Or Temple Youth) and TBO teens in grades 6-12. The event will consist of a *Havdalah* service followed by pizza and a movie (the Pixar film *Cars*). Please email **Sam Fuchs** ([boty@templebethor.org](mailto:boty@templebethor.org)) by February 15 to RSVP.



## Membership Committee news



Please welcome **Sarah Zinamon** and **Yueyang Zheng** to our TBO community. Currently, they live in Lynnwood, having moved from the east coast. Yueyang's job as a computer programmer brought them to Washington from the other Washington, where Sarah worked for a healthcare law firm.

They've lived in big cities for their adult lives, and Sarah grew up in a large synagogue; this is their first foray into suburban life. Their families live in New Jersey and China. Hobbies include snowboarding, skiing, hiking, RVing and travel. Most recently, they traveled to China, Japan, New York and New Jersey. They enjoy watching and playing sports, and Yueyang is also into cars. Sarah and Yueyang are excited to welcome their first child in April.



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

- Amy and Daniel Paquette - 22 years
- Howard Schoenfeld - 12 years
- Elias Kass - 1 year

## The Social Action Committee needs you!

*Tikkun olam*, repairing the world, is a special Jewish tradition. The Social Action Committee is where we work on that. We volunteer, we raise money, and we organize responses on issues that matter.

We want to get Temple Beth Or involved in all aspects of this important work. Please join us. We meet once a month in the evening to plan our activities. We look forward to seeing you. If you are interested, please contact **Naomi Katsh Barger** or **Melissa VonAschen-Cook**.

The *Tzedakah* Box recipient for January-March is Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice Northwest (JCIJ-NW). An "immigrant justice movement grounded in Jewish values, traditions, and community," JCIJ-NW works to raise awareness, educate and advocate for a more just immigration system.



JEWISH COALITION *for*  
IMMIGRANT JUSTICE NW

You can donate through the *Tzedakah* Box in the foyer of TBO, on the TBO website, or directly to the organization. For more information, go to [jewishcoalition.org](http://jewishcoalition.org).

February is Black History Month. We know that Black history is American history. And we can point to civil rights activists and human rights icons like Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, Ruby Bridges and John Lewis to prove the point. In countless ways, contributions of Black Americans have shaped and improved the world we live in today. Scientists, inventors, cooks and artists - some of whose names we know and others we have never known - have left a legacy for us to inherit. Here are some books where you can read about their contributions:

- *I'm Going to Be a Princess* by Stephanie Taylor (ages 3+)
- *Have you Thanked an Inventor Today?* by Patrice McLaurin (ages 3+)
- *Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History* by Vashti Harrison (ages 6+)
- *Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History* by Vashti Harrison (ages 6+)
- *28 Days: Moments in Black History That Changed the World* by Charles R. Smith Jr. (ages 8+)

## Help with sending your children to camp

Temple Beth Or is fortunate that the Sturman family recognized that a Jewish camping experience can be expensive, and established the "Billy and Mary Sturman Campership Fund." We are indebted to Billy and Mary's children for establishing this fund in honor of their parents, and thank them for their generosity.

### FIRST-TIME CAMPERS

Temple Beth Or will pay the first \$100 for any first-time camper. This is open to all TBO families, regardless of your financial need.

### CAMPERSHIPS

Camperships are based on financial need, and preference will be given to children who wish to attend Camp Kalsman.

The link for submitting your TBO campership and First-Time Camper application is [tinyurl.com/campership2025](http://tinyurl.com/campership2025). A separate form must be completed for each child requesting a campership. All applications are due in the Temple office by **Friday, February 28, 2025. Applications that come in after the deadline will not be accepted.**

Need-based camperships are also available through the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle. **The deadline is March 7.** For more information, visit The Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle ([jewishinseattle.org/camp-scholarships](http://jewishinseattle.org/camp-scholarships)) or contact Alana Gross at [alanag@jewishinseattle.org](mailto:alanag@jewishinseattle.org) or 206-774-2247. The Federation also manages the One Happy Camper First-Time Camper Incentive Grants for first-time campers. Use these same contacts.

Camp Kalsman has limited funds available for families in financial need. Contact the camp office at 425-284-4484.

It is important that if you are applying for financial aid from the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle or from Camp Kalsman, you must first apply to Temple Beth Or's campership before the Friday, February 28, deadline.

We are excited about being able to help your child have an experience of a lifetime. Any questions you have may be directed to the Temple office. For a paper copy of the application mailed to your home, contact [office@templebethor.org](mailto:office@templebethor.org).





2/1	Mabel Massin	Mother of Michele Goodmark
2/2	Portia Kaufmann	Mother of David Roberts
2/3	Ruth Busch	Mother of Bernie Busch
2/4	Joyce Edward	Grandmother of Dana Sanders
2/4	David Sebel	Grandfather of Howard Schoenfeld
2/4	Floyd Les Warner	Father of Janis Warner
		Grandfather of Cece Black
2/7	Isadore Goralnick	Father of Mark Goralnick
2/8	Benjamin Hull	Father of Rebecca Hicks
2/8	Jerry Schwartz	Mother of Marilyn Glosser
2/8	Phillip Webster	Father of Phil Webster
2/9	Paul Gardsbane	Father of Susan Cross
2/9	Jesse Roon	Uncle of Tony Roon
2/10	Albert Kessel	Father of Cheryl Weight
2/10	Luz Marina Navarrete	Mother of Patrigna Murphy
2/12	Birdie Dash	Mother of Harold Dash
2/13	Murray Moshe Lev Quartin	Father of Nancy Rosen
		Grandfather of Mrs VonAschen-Cook
2/14	Preva Gurian	Grandmother of Anne Gurian
2/14	Joseph "Sonny" Narkier	Brother-in-law of Robert Goodmark
2/15	Lloyd Taplin	Temple Beth Or Family
2/16	Jane Sable	Grandmother of Debra Henry
2/16	Arlene Carol Taplin	Temple Beth Or Family
2/17	Remy Jaffe	Father of JonaRose Feinberg
2/17	Dora Robinson	Grandmother of Glen Pickus
2/17	Nan Sarb	Temple Beth Or Family
2/17	Gertrude "Gari" Silverstone	Temple Beth Or Family
2/19	James David	Brother-in-law of Pamela Spitzer
2/19	Lillian Poliakowsky Kessel	Mother of Cheryl Weight
2/20	Anna Poliakowsky	Grandmother of Cheryl Weight
2/21	Sam Engbar	Grandfather of Amy Paquette
		Grandfather of Ellis Engbar
2/21	Raymond Krantz	Uncle of Eldon Wexler
2/22	Leonard Gurian	Father of Anne Gurian
2/22	Mary Michelson	Temple Beth Or Family
2/23	Jack Heller	Temple Beth Or Family
2/25	Frank Anker	Father of Leslie Elsemore
2/25	Alan Bresnick	Father of Mark Bresnick
		Grandfather of Kelsey Bresnick
2/25	James V. Cecilian	Father of Kathy Pickus
2/25	Daniel Goodmark	Father of Robert Goodmark
2/26	Esta Spitzer	Mother of Richard Spitzer
2/27	Ray Keith Henry	Father of Debra Henry
2/28	Fannie Cohen	Grandmother of Carolyn Wexler
2/28	Ted Horowitz	Stepfather of Judy Magidson
2/28	Robert Klein	Brother of Hanna Schwarz
2/28	Rebecca Napelbaum	Grandmother of Jeff Napp
2/28	Kathryn Romero	Mother of Vicky Romero
2/28	A. David Russakoff	Father of Steven Russakoff



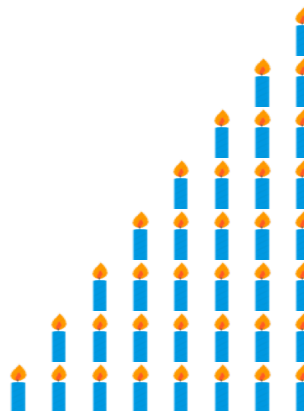
## Remodel news

- We received updated bid information from CPM (our contractor) in early January that reflected the most recent cycle of value engineering. CPM was able to bring the cost down by about \$500,000, which gets the project close to what we believe we can afford.
- The new figures were presented to the Governing Board, which voted to approve the project and to present it to the Congregation for a vote per Article V of the bylaws. A meeting is scheduled for February 2. See pages 1 and 2 for details about the meeting.
- The storage/space subgroup is busy putting together information about storage and space options, including anticipated costs. In addition, this group is working with committee chairs and other leaders to coordinate the packing parties and related events to help empty out the building in preparation for construction. See articles on pages 2-3 for more information about how you can help.
- We received comments from the City of Everett on our building and public works permit applications in early January. At the time of this writing, our architect is preparing responses to the comments, and we anticipate receiving our permits in March.
- The Remodel TF is preparing materials to present to the congregation at the special meeting on February 2. Following the meeting, the congregation will have the opportunity to vote to support the remodel project.
- Information about the remodel project, including floorplans and drawings, can be found on the TBO website at [templebethor.org/building](http://templebethor.org/building).

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

## 2024 Donation Receipts

Donation receipts for 2024 were mailed along with statements on January 9. If you have not received these, please contact the office - [office@templebethor.org](mailto:office@templebethor.org). Thank you for your support!



Thank you for donating to our Hanukkah appeal or buying items at the Hanukkah bazaar. Together, these events raised almost \$2,300 for Temple Beth Or.



# Leadership News

During the Governing Board meeting on January 12, 2025, the Board did the following:

1. Voted to proceed with the remodel project. Plans were made to hold a special membership meeting on Sunday, February 2, at 4:00 pm, to present the remodel case and financial details, and ask members to vote via email between February 2 and midnight February 9.
2. As a result of changed leadership, the Board authorized various signers on all TBO bank and investment accounts, effective January 1.
3. **Jeff Napp** gave an update from the Capital Campaign. They are continuing to meet with leadership donors. See article below.
4. **Bob Goodmark** gave an update from the Remodel Task Force. See page 9.
5. **James Feinberg** presented the financial report. We are currently on budget.
6. Voted to charge a *b'nei mitzvah* fee starting in 2026. Details to be worked out.
7. Voted to put the TBO Membership Directory on the TBO website through a locked Google Drive that will be accessible to members only.
8. **Gwen Campbell** agreed to organize TBO's policies to make sure that the current policies are easily accessible.
9. **Wanda Bresnick** reported on preliminary plans for a groundbreaking ceremony that she will coordinate.
10. High Holiday 2025 plans were confirmed: Wanda Bresnick will be the overall coordinator, **Steven Chaitman** will be the song leader, **Robyn Klarman** will coordinate Rosh HaShanah, and **Gwen Campbell** will coordinate Yom Kippur.
11. The Governing Board meeting was followed by a Board orientation, during which **Sonia Siegel Vexler** conducted a leadership training about "An Abundance Mindset."

## Capital Campaign update: Let's do this!

Congratulations, TBO members and friends! Our initial fundraising efforts were highly successful, and produced over \$2.9 million for the project. *Todah rabah!*

TBO will need an additional sum of at least \$600,000 to close the funding gap between the project price and what we expect to have by the end of 2025. The Campaign has begun meetings with leadership donors, including founding members, for supplemental pledges to help close this gap. We will report our progress at the special membership meeting on February 2, prior to the congregational vote whether to proceed with construction.

Assuming the congregation votes to proceed, we will seek additional pledges from TBO members after groundbreaking to completely close the funding gap. Additional pledges can be paid in two tax years, 2025 or 2026. All donors will be recognized on a donor wall in the remodeled Temple.

Please help us close the gap! Imagine how awesome it will be to have an ADA accessible building with more space for TBO activities. When approached, donate an amount that makes you feel good. Want to help in other ways? Get involved in the remodel project. Volunteers will be needed for many tasks; see the articles on pages 2 and 3. Stay tuned to future *ORbits* and *ORacle* articles for volunteer opportunities.

Thank you for your continued support. We can do this!

**Jeff Napp & Jess Burgamy**, Capital Campaign co-chairs

## Temple Leadership

### Rabbi

Rachel Kort

### Governing Board

#### President

Nancy Rosen

#### Immediate Past President

Wanda Bresnick

#### VP of Community & Engagement

Jeff Napp

#### VP of Finance & Facilities Management

James Feinberg

#### VP of Jewish Life

Ron Green

#### Assist. VP of Community & Engagement

Dana Sanders

#### Assist. VP of Finance & Facilities Management

Bob Goodmark

#### Assist. VP of Jewish Life

Pattipeg Harjo

#### Board Secretary

Melissa VonAschen-Cook

#### Members-At-Large

Gwen Campbell

Rani Linarelli

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: Vacant

Fundraising: Dana Sanders

High Holy Days Coordinator: Wanda Bresnick

HHD (Rosh HaShanah): Robyn Klarman

HHD (Yom Kippur): Gwen Campbell

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

*Oreg* 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

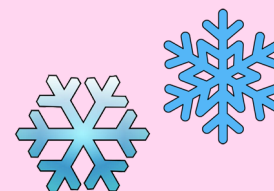


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# FEBRUARY 2025

Sh'vat 5785



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> TBO family <i>Havdalah</i> , dessert and movie night 6:30 pm
<b>2</b> Governing Board meeting 10:00 am Special meeting - remodel update and vote 4:00 pm RS	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Remodel Task Force mtg 7:30 pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Tot Shabbat 9:00 am Shabbat morning service and Board installation 10:00 am
<b>9</b> TBO Tots Tu BiShvat community garden work party 10:30 am RS offsite	<b>10</b> Communications Committee meeting 7:00 pm	<b>11</b> Life & Legacy Committee meeting 11:00 am	<b>12</b> Capital Campaign meeting 7:00 pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Office closed Shabbat on your own - <i>parashah Yitro</i>	<b>15</b> <i>ORacle</i> deadline
<b>16</b> Library packing 10:00 am No RS	<b>17</b> Membership Committee meeting 7:00 pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Capital Campaign meeting 7:00 pm <i>Ruach</i> & Ritual meeting 7:30 pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Tu BiShvat seder 7:30 pm	<b>22</b> BOTY <i>Havdalah</i> , movie and pizza 5:30 pm
<b>23</b> Next Chapter: Come be mesmerized 11:00 am RS	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Exec Board meeting 7:00 pm Safety & Security Committee mtg 7:00 pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Shabbat from Israel 7:30 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](https://templebethor.org/calendar-submission)

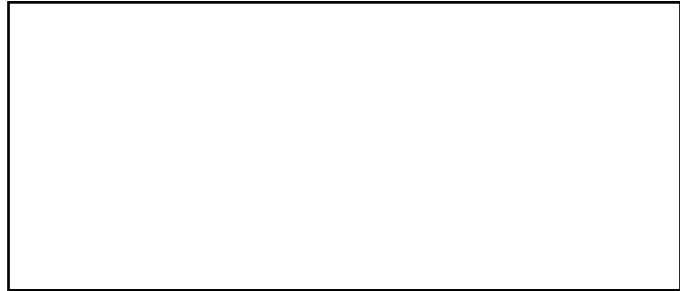
Note: Appointments are no longer required for visiting the building. During office hours, advanced notification of building access is requested for safety and security reasons. Please contact the office (425-259-7125 x1) prior to entering the building. Office Hours are Tuesday - Friday from 9:00 am-4:30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



A reminder to our members on social media that Temple Beth Or encourages you to engage in multiple ways.



You can "Like" and follow our public page: Temple Beth Or Everett  
<https://www.facebook.com/TempleBethOrEverett>

You can join the community and discussions in our private Members only group: Temple Beth Or Members  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/43865771400>

### 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.