

Capital Campaign – let's finish strong!

Every relay race ends with a sprint to the finish, and our TBO Capital Campaign is no different. Each part of our Congregation has contributed to this team effort - from the initial leadership ask to the general membership ask, then the second leadership ask that enabled us to sign the construction contract. Now we're in the final stretch: the second general membership ask, including new members.

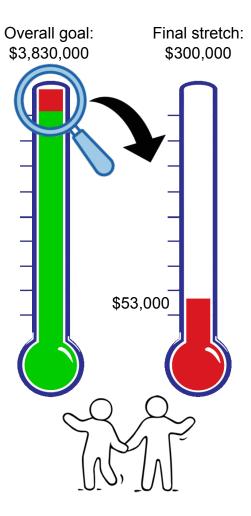
Our goal now is to raise the final \$300,000. About \$35,000 is needed to complete payment for the construction contract, while the rest will fund essential items not in the original plan, like kitchen appliances, cabinetry, security film for windows, and an east awning. If we exceed \$300,000, we could replace furniture, upgrade electronics, and enhance security features.

So far, we've raised \$53,000. For those yet to participate in the second ask, please respond when contacted by a Capital Campaign team member. Meetings are brief (around 30 minutes) and simply informational - no need to decide anything on the spot.

Let's finish strong, TBO! Together, we're making our dream a reality. Stay updated on construction progress via the *ORacle*, *ORbits*, our website and Facebook.



TempleBethOr.org 3215 Lombard Ave, Everett, WA 98201





From our President

"Hine ha stav avar" - winter is gone!



As I write this, we are in the middle of Passover 2025. I celebrated the first seder at my home with family and friends, and the second seder with my Temple Beth Or family. **Vicki Schwartz** masterfully organized the TBO seder that included music with **Noah Zeichner**, and TBO members made sure that "*shulchan aruch*" - dinner - was plentiful and delicious.

The seder took place at the Carl Gipson Center in Everett because the TBO building is mostly empty for the remodel, thanks to Melanie Field, Michael Cross, Rich Spitzer, Leslie Elsemore, Mirs VonAschen-Cook and Alex and Aaron Cook, Janis Warner, Deb Henry, Glen Pickus, Sarah Davis, Michael and Kaye Gorlick, Gwen Campbell, Naomi Katsh Barger, Religious School volunteers, and ... if I left you out, please accept my apology! So many people pitched in.

I hope that you also enjoyed your seder. **Sheryl Shapiro** is continuing to celebrate by counting the Omer with a group online every day. You can email her if you would like to join the daily practice. Counting the Omer - "*sefirat ha'omer*" - spans 49 days from the second night of Passover to the eve of Shavuot. It's a time of spiritual preparation and growth, connecting the commemoration of the Exodus with the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai. The days of the Omer for the Hebrew year 5785 began on Sunday, April 13, and will end at nightfall on Sunday, June 1. For all you gardeners and nature lovers out there, you can think of it as a time to count from the first plantings to the first harvests, as many people did on the kibbutz where I once lived.

And speaking of plants, aren't we lucky to live in northwestern Washington? I can still see snow on the mountains to my east and to my west, and yellow and white daffodils and purple and pink azaleas seem to be everywhere, highlighted among the dark green trees. It is so beautiful.

Yet, as we celebrate the glorious arrival of spring and the literal movement from slavery to freedom and say that "no one is truly free until we are all free," we know that we are on a continuing journey that has its highs and its lows. I have noticed that we don't directly address "divisive issues" and deeply disturbing realities at TBO events and in our communications, and not because we don't think about them. I have wondered why. I think the answer is that when we experience general sadness or ennui or worry, it is good to gather personally or virtually in a place where we just know and feel mutual support, respect and caring. We give and get actual and virtual hugs. We can see the snow on the mountains and also smell the flowers along our walk at the same time. "*Hine ha stav avar*," so enjoy the glorious weather, and I wish you health and happiness.

lancy

Nancy Rosen, President (she/her)



Construction security fencing



Letter to the Congregation

It has been an immense privilege and pleasure to serve the Temple Beth Or community for the last five and a half years. I have made so many wonderful connections and shared both in your *simchahs* and in the hard times. As you can imagine, my role is complex and keeps me very busy. Unfortunately, it has also led to some burnout, and I am ready to make a change.

What does this mean for TBO? I have no intention of leaving the community in a difficult situation during our remodel. I will be leaving my position when the remodel has been completed and we are back in the building. In addition, I will stay several weeks past this time to get the office set up and assist in training my replacement. In the meantime, I will be cutting back office hours to 15 set hours a week, plus additional flexible hours as needed. To aid in the transition, committee chairs have already taken on some of the work that was originally filled by volunteers and has gradually become office work.



I thank you all for your support and I look forward to making this transition as smooth as possible.

Sarah Davis

From our Membership Committee



Member-hosted Shabbat dinners

WHAT: Monthly Shabbat dinners in people's homes to celebrate Shabbat on the weeks there is no TBO service.

WHY: To build community, keep members engaged and connected during construction, and to create and strengthen relationships.

WHO: All TBO members are invited to be a host and/or a guest with the goal of each Shabbat being an independent event, having different hosts and guests and different

combinations of guests per home. This is intended to be flexible and informal, not a *chavurah*.

The host will choose how many people to invite (adults only, families, multi-generational) and whether the meal is provided by the host, potluck, bring-your-own, or get take-out. Guests will be assigned to start based on host and guest meal and configuration preferences, taking into consideration allergies and food restrictions.

Please click on the link below to sign up to participate.

https://tinyurl.com/tboshabbatdinner

For more information or if you have any comments, contact Leslie Elsemore or Stacey Seidman.

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

- Ron Green and Carolyn Henri 27 years
- Stan Sussman and Gerry Friend 19 years
- Pattipeg Harjo 3 years



May services

Shabbat from Israel

Friday, May 2, 7:30 pm, with Rabbi Rachel Kort

Join us from the comfort of your own home as



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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 morning services with service leader and music

Unity in Lynnwood

with service leader and musician Neil Weinstein

Saturday, May 10, 9:00 am. 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.

Saturday, May 10, 10:00 am. 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 about 90 minutes.

Guests - Register at <u>templebethor.org/service-registration/</u>. Registration ends Friday, May 9, 3:00 pm.

Shabbat service

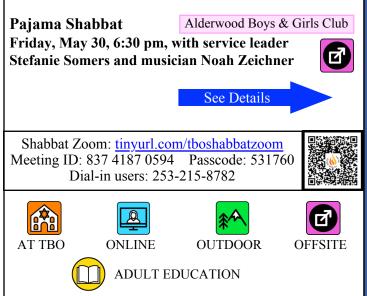
Unity in Lynnwood



Friday, May 16, 7:30 pm, with service leaders Mirs VonAschen-Cook and Nancy Rosen, and musician Shoshana Stombaugh

Join us for a Shabbat worship experience, including a Torah reading and a *drash* (sermon). This service is geared toward our adult and *b'nei mitzvah* student community, and will last about 90 minutes.

Guests - Register at <u>templebethor.org/service-registration/</u>. Registration ends Friday, May 16, 3:00 pm.



We're honoring Noah Zeichner's retirement as RS music leader

Hard to believe that our beloved Religious School music leader, **Noah Zeichner**, will be retiring at the end of this year after 25 years of service. (Note, he will only be retiring from his RS duties; he will still be with us as a service music leader, thank goodness!)

The entire TBO community is invited to celebrate Noah on May 18, the last day of Religious School. Our celebration will begin after RS at 12:30 pm. Watch for an email with more details in the coming days. Contact **Melanie Field** or **Debbie Halliday** if you would like to help.



Help share fond memories of Noah's musical *ruach* at TBO. We are making a photo montage of Noah's many years at TBO and need your help. Please email photos of Noah at TBO events and with your kids to **Ron Green** at <u>vpjewishlife@templebethor.org</u>. Also, <u>short</u> video testimonials (20-30 seconds) can be shared for use in the montage using Google Photos and sending the link to Ron. Spread the word to families who are no longer TBO members to send their photos as well.



Pajamas at synagogue? Yep! On Shavout, it's traditional to stay up all night studying Torah AND eating dairy such as ice cream.

Guests - Register at templebethor.org/service-registration/. Registration ends Friday, May 30, 3:00 pm.



From our Director of Youth Education

"The message of Passover remains as powerful as ever. Freedom is won not on the battlefield but in the classroom and the home. Teach your children the history of freedom if you want them never to lose it." - Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

This quote is at the heart of our Experience Passover Project. At this program, Religious School students put themselves in the *Magid*, the Passover story, to retell the story of the Exodus and see themselves *"lirot et atzmo,"* as though they personally came from Egypt. *Todah rabah* to **Tina Roth** for stepping up as parent lead, my faculty, and all the parent volunteers that made this wonderful morning of Passover learning possible.

Attifaiue Stefanie Somers (she/her)

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL'S EXPERIENCE PASSOVER PROJECT 2025 STEM: **PYRAMID BUILD** WHAT WOULD YOU **ESCAPE** BRING? EGYPT TOTS PESACH BANDZ



Remodel news - ready for construction to begin!

- After heroic efforts by many people (see **Nancy Rosen's** article on page 2), our building is completely emptied out and ready for construction to begin. All of our stuff is in storage until we are ready to move back into the remodeled space. Thanks to everyone who pitched in and helped with this enormous task! A walk through with CPM, our contractor, took place on April 16 to review all the final transition details (such as utilities, security, fencing, etc.).
- **Deb Henry** organized a giveaway event of our surplus items that many in the neighborhood attended. See article on page 9 for more information about that effort. **Carolyn Wexler** coordinated a plant giveaway to salvage as many of our lovely plants as possible. Several members and friends of members took advantage of the opportunity to harvest some of the TBO plants for use at their own homes.
- A fence has been put up around the property and we no longer have access to the building. You are welcome to drive or walk by the site and see what is happening, but you can no longer enter the site or building. To show what is happening, we plan to post photos/videos of construction on our website and have pictures in the *ORacle*.
- At the time of this writing, CPM anticipates mobilizing on site the first week of May. The next steps will involve surveying the property and beginning demolition activities.
- Permits At the time of this writing, our permit applications are still awaiting final approval by the City of Everett. We anticipate receiving these permits any day now.
- Religious School has started in their new temporary location and things are running smoothly.
- Services have already been held in two different alternate locations The Everett Unity Center for Positive Living and Unity in Lynwood. The staff and volunteers have been warm and welcoming at both locations, and we have received positive feedback from members about their experiences at these locations.
- Our Design Group, co-chaired by Leslie Elsemore and Michael Gorlick, has begun meeting with CPM to start identifying materials to be selected for the interior.

Our public/press groundbreaking is scheduled for Monday, May 5, 10:00 am, with various politicians, representatives from CPM and our architect, and other guests. TBO members are also welcome to attend.



A Next Chapter event

Trusted local news matters: Find out why, and the role you play

May 31, 7:00 pm, private residence, location provided upon registration

The State of Washington has lost more than 20% of its local newspapers since 2008. Now, millions of Washingtonians have fewer places to turn for accurate information about what's happening in their communities, less information about how their government works, and what they can do to make sure it works well.

Together, we'll take a look at the decline of local news and its impact on our communities – plus the actions we each can take to make a difference.

Brenda Mann Harrison will be leading the conversation. Brenda grew up in a small town in Minnesota where she worked for her hometown weekly newspaper during summers while in high school and college. She went on to study and practice journalism, along with many other careers. She retired last year from her position as the Journalism Development Director at The Daily Herald. She currently serves on the Local News and Democracy Education and Advocacy Committee for the League of Women Voters of Washington.

Register at <u>https://tinyurl.com/nextchapternews</u>. Details will be sent later. **Sonia Siegel Vexler** will be happy to answer any questions.

Next Chapter is a *chavurah* (Hebrew for friendship group) for adults who are past middle age, who have a home without children, and who seek to form a social community with others. The group comes together to learn, socialize and have fun.

Ready for construction!



Kory Kanter and Jonathan Roselle help load a truck

Moving the Torah Norm Black and Rabbi David Fine



You need WHAT retrieved from storage?!







Final pre-construction walk-through, April 16 Rich Spitzer, Leslie Elsemore, Michael Cross, Glen Pickus, Sean Rankin (CPM), Melanie Field and Nancy Rosen







Social Action Committee news

The Tzedakah Box recipient for April-June is the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, America's premier legal organization fighting for racial justice. Last year, in preparation for Passover, Rabbi Kort and TBO member Reggie Melech Gillins led a discussion about reparations for African Americans as a first step in repairing the devastation inflicted by slavery and

ongoing racial discrimination. In Reggie's words, "Reparations are tangible offerings of Shalom. Peace offerings, That is exactly what reparartions are." Until there is a systematic way of providing reparations, consider a symbolic donation to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. Donations can be made online through the Temple Beth Or website or directly at www.naacpldf.org. (We may have a portable *Tzedakah* Box in our off-site location.) If you have questions about reparations, Reggie has said he is open to being contacted through email or phone.

Podcast recommendation

From time to time, the Social Action Committee recommends books or podcasts pertaining to social justice issues. This month, we strongly recommend "Diaspora Dialogues." (Thank you to Rabbi David Fine for sharing the info about this amazing podcast.) This podcast "delves into Jewish communal relationships to Israel and the necessity of nuanced conversations within the community. Episodes include discussions on the role of Diaspora Jews in political movements, the importance of inclusivity in Jewish spaces, and maintaining relationships amidst differing perspectives."

https://www.inthediaspora.com/p/building-inclusive-jewish-community

Learning opportunity

On Wednesday, May 7, 7:00 pm at Congregation Beth Shalom, we have the opportunity to hear a presentation by Raghad Jaraisy. Ms. Jaraisy is a human rights attorney who will speak on Arab-Jewish partnership in a time of war. In the words of Hannah Berg with the New Israel Fund, "At a time when those in power seek to divide us ... it is especially important to hear from those who bring people together, speak truth to power and promote shared society." Congregation Beth Shalom's address is 6800 35th Ave. NE, Seattle, Register at https://secure.nif.org/a/raghad-jaraisy-seattle, and please contact Naomi Katsh Barger if you are interested in carpooling.

WZO impacts you - VOTE!

Voting in the U.S. World Zionist Congress elections is open until May 4. URJ recommends we vote for slate #3 -VOTE REFORM. This is about having Reform Jewish voices heard and reclaiming Zionism as a movement that champions equality, justice, freedom and peace. Learn more about this recommendation at vote4reform.org.

We ask that you take one minute to vote for this slate. Every vote matters! Your vote will help us secure a strong voice, power, influence and key funding. Let's take back Zionism for our movement and the future.

Go to AZM.org to vote. Voting is online and costs \$5. There is also a quick exit survey. Please complete it.



ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION





Tri-temple spring social action Shul-In

May 3, noon - May 4, 9:00 am at Congregation Beth Israel, Bellingham, WA

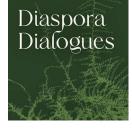
Calling all TBO teens, grades 6-12! It's time to come together with Congregation Beth Israel and Temple Beth Am for an epic night of community, connection and giving back at our tri-temple spring social action Shul-In.

We'll kick off the event with a social action program to help the local community, followed at night with a beautiful camp-style Havdalah service to close out Shabbat. Then we'll have a jam-packed evening full of games, food, laughter and big fun with new and old friends from across our temple communities.

Let's come together to celebrate spring, take action for good, and make memories that will last way longer than just one night. You won't want to miss it!

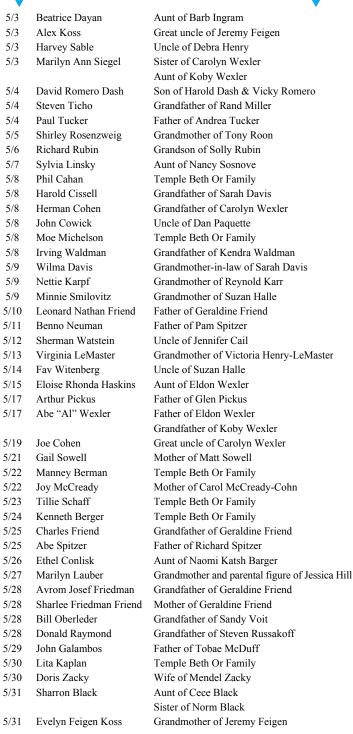
If interested, please contact BOTY advisor Sam Fuchs at boty@templebethor.org.







May yahrzeits





What is LIFE & LEGACY?

LIFE & LEGACY® is a partnership program which helps communities such as TBO build endowments to provide long-term stability and support to sustain Jewish life. LIFE & LEGACY encourages individuals to plan for afterlifetime giving. Periodically, we'll answer some questions about LIFE & LEGACY.

What if I am unable to make a commitment now?

Unlike more common fundraising activities, with LIFE & LEGACY there is no impact to your current budget. What we ask is for your agreement to give a donation you choose to TBO after your death (after-lifetime).

What if at the end of my life, I am unable to fulfill my commitment?

The LIFE & LEGACY agreement starts with a Letter of Intent and is followed by a Letter of Commitment. If desired, the commitment may be changed in the future. After you die, if there are insufficient funds to cover your earlier donation commitment, there is no penalty and there is no debt outstanding.

I would love to make a large gift, but I want to make sure my children are provided for.

When planning for what happens after life, you are in charge of how your estate's proceeds will be distributed. An estate plan can ensure your heirs receive an inheritance at the same time your personal charitable values are honored.

Do I have to promise to give money right now?

LIFE & LEGACY asks that you make a commitment now for the future. You don't have to specify a specific amount; you are just saying you will include TBO in your planning. What you choose to give is private and totally up to you.

Please contact a committee member to learn more...

Bob Goodmark Debbie Halliday Deb Henry Eldon Wexler Sonia Siegel Vexler



Remodel giveaway event - a big success!

The success of the giveaway event is a direct result of the hard work and support of all the member volunteers. We had customers most of the day, many of them families with small children, and the toys and games were very well received. Most customers were visibly amazed and excited that we were gifting items to the community. Items such as dishes, microwaves, candles and more all went to homes and individuals who appreciated them greatly. Donations ranged from \$100 for the fridge, to \$2 from a family who lives in an apartment near the Temple. I explained to this family that the donation was not a requirement, but they said they wanted to show their appreciation to the Temple. I believe the goodwill from the event was worth more than any financial gain we might have achieved. It ended up as a mitzvah to all who benefited from our surplus items and to those of us who interacted with the customers. **Deb Henry**



Leadership news

During the Governing Board meeting on April 6, 2025, the Board did the following:

- Guest speaker Everett Police Chief John DeRousse discussed the ongoing good relationship Everett PD has with TBO and how we can best mutually support one another.
- Guest speaker and member Sonia Siegel Vexler continued training on a "mindset of abundance."
- Bob Goodmark presented a preliminary 2025-26 budget for discussion.
- James Feinberg reported on TBO's financial position.
- Rani Linarelli and Dana Sanders reported that the Religious School had its first meeting off-site and it went well.

You can still send checks to TBO!

We asked you to not send any payments to TBO via overnight, FedEx, or UPS. This does NOT apply to regular mail. You can still send any regular mail, including checks, to the building. The mailbox is across the street on Lombard, and is not affected by the remodel closure.



To **bold** or not to **bold** - that is the question

Our custom in the *ORacle* is that whenever a member's name first appears in an article, we put it in bold type. This has not always been the case. In ancient times (2020), names were in regular font just like the rest of the text. Somewhere along the line, a decision was made to bold members' names the first time they appear in an article, but not thereafter. This is to draw recognition to the many congregants who contribute so much to our community.

Five years later, we're reviewing this policy. The choices are:

- Continue the current policy of bolding the first time
- Bold names in all cases, even if repeated in an article
- Go back to the old policy of using regular font

Do you have an opinion? Let me know at oracle@templebethor.org.

Rich Spitzer

Temple Leadership

Rabbi Rachel Kort

Director of Youth Education Stefanie Somers

> Office Administrator Sarah Davis

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**

Committees and Task Forces

Atidaynu: Sheryl Shapiro Adult Education: Pattipeg Harjo 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 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



MAY 2025

Iyar / Sivan 5785



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				Israel Independence Day 1 Remodel Task Force meeting 7:30 pm	2 Liaison Committee meeting 10:00 am Shabbat from Israel 7:30 pm	3 BOTY overnight noon
4 BOTY overnight ends 9:00 am Governing Board meeting 10:00 am	5 Public/press groundbreaking 10:00 am Finance Committee meeting 7:00 pm	6	7 Executive Board meeting 7:00 pm	8	9	10 Tot Shabbat 9:00 am Shabbat morning service 10:00 am
11 Fundraising committee meeting 6:30 pm No RS	12	13 Life & Legacy Committee meeting 7:00 pm	14 Capital Campaign meeting 7:00 pm	15	16 Shabbat service 7:30 pm	17
18 TBO Tots ORacle deadline RS last day	19 Membership Committee meeting 7:00 pm	20	21 <i>Ruach</i> & Ritual Committee mtg. 7:30 pm	22	23 Shabbat on parasha B'chu	h B'har
25	26	27 Office closed	1 Sivan 28 Capital Campaign meeting 7:00 pm Safety & Security Committee mtg. 7:00 pm	29 Executive Board meeting 7:00 pm	30 Pajama Shabbat 6:30 pm	31 Next Chapter 7:00 pm

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

templebethor.org/calendar-submission

The Temple office is now closed for all in-person business. Sarah Davis is working offsite and can assist you Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 am-noon and Friday, 9:00 am-4:30 pm. The Temple mailing address, phone and office email (<u>office@templebethor.org</u>) remain the same. Please do not have packages (UPS/FedEx) or overnight mail sent to the Temple. No one will be on site to accept deliveries.

Check ORbits, the 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).