

THE ORACLE



July 2025

Tammuz/Av 5785

Founded 1985

Volume 36, Issue 7

Welcome back, Rabbi Kort!

After Rabbi Kort's six-month sabbatical in Israel, let's welcome her home at these upcoming Shabbat services (more details on page 4).

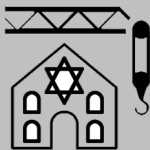
Shabbat at home
Friday, July 11



Outdoor family Shabbat
Saturday, July 19



Evening Shabbat service
Friday, July 25



Construction photos
pages 6-7 and at
templebethor.org/building

Save the date
Tishah B'Av programming
Sunday, August 3



Sunday, August 10, 4:00 pm

Annual TBO Summer
BBQ



Come to our TBO Summer BBQ sponsored by the Membership Committee. There will be burgers, dogs (vegan friendly, too) and all the fixings. Please bring a side or dessert to share.

All participants must register to attend. Registration closes Thursday, August 7, noon. Get all the details, including what to bring, at <https://tinyurl.com/tbobbbq2025>.

From our President

Finding joy this summer

A couple of months ago, I wrote an article that began with “*hine ha stav avar*,” winter has gone. When I sang with my kibbutz choir years ago, that was one of my favorite songs: “*ki hine ha stav avar lo...Hanitsanim nir'u ba'aretz*,” which means “Winter has gone and buds appear in the land.” But here in the Pacific Northwest, that was a bit premature! Finally, though, winter has indeed gone and now the strawberries taste like cotton candy, fresh corn is for sale, it's still light when we leave Friday night services, and we can walk along the water and enjoy the warmth of the sun. On June 20 we celebrated the summer solstice; it's no wonder that early cultures celebrated the day, the longest of the year. The turn of the year is an important event in the life of our planet.

Even as we bask in the joys of summer, we are all too aware of the fragility of it all. Israel is at war on two fronts, Gaza and Iran, (not to mention the West Bank, Hezbollah in Lebanon, and the Houthis). We hope for victory, yet just as we remove some wine from our cups to symbolically diminish the joy of our victory on Passover, we grieve the loss of all life in the conflicts. And in the U.S., there is also turmoil, antisemitism, bad trouble and “good trouble.” We are not unaware of the seriousness, the existential seriousness, of it all, but that doesn't mean that we can't also experience pleasure and joy and do so without feeling guilt. If you check **Rabbi Kort's** Facebook page, you will see that when they could leave their shelter for a bit on Shabbat, they went to pet goats who evidently share their neighborhood. How typical of our dear Rabbi to find a way to bring joy to herself and her daughter in that fraught moment. Let's learn from her, whether she is here or thousands of miles away.

On Shabbat, it has become our *minhag*, our tradition, to recite the blessing “*Nisim b'chol yom* - for Daily Miracles” found on pages 200-202 of our *Mishkan Tefillah* at the beginning of the service. The blessing begins with thanks for the ability to distinguish day from night, and continues to enumerate and express thanks for what is so easy to take for granted. That prayer always helps me feel centered and ready to celebrate Shabbat. You may also find it helpful to turn to it for support as it reminds us of the simple things that aren't so simple at all.

I hope that you are enjoying your summer with all it offers. Many TBO families have the opportunity to visit out-of-town family, some enjoy their gardens, some celebrate graduations and weddings, some just bask in the long sunny days “when the livin' is easy,” as the song goes. And of course, many of the children get to go to camp.

Please stay safe, healthy and joyful, and I look forward to seeing you soon.



Nancy Rosen, President (she/her)



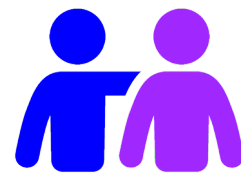
Annual donor dinner



Good friends, fine food, fun conversations, all for a great cause. This year's donor dinner raised \$9,000 for Temple Beth Or.



Membership news



Kvell Korner is coming

Do you have a *simchah* to share? Maybe you have a major anniversary coming up, or a family member got a new job, or there's a new child or grandchild. Send us a few sentences (maximum 50 words), and we'll publish the good news. No photos, please. Send items to **Leslie Elsemore** or use this form: <https://tinyurl.com/kvellkorner>.

Please welcome new(ish) member, Batsheva (Sheila) Decora

Batsheva moved to Granite Falls in 2019 to be near her son and granddaughter. She grew up in Arizona and most recently lived in California, where she was involved in a chavurah and enjoyed celebrating Passover with her community. Batsheva's resume is long and varied; she's been an elementary school teacher, a journeyman painter, and a massage therapist. She also taught a comprehensive massage therapy course, which then inspired her to become a chiropractor. She is also a certified clinical nutritionist.



Batsheva enjoys rock hunting and writing. She is working on a book about highly sensitive people titled *The Practical Empath*.

She enjoys writing and talking with people on the phone. She'd like to become involved in our TBO community by sharing her writing skills and becoming involved with the Social Action Committee. Please make her feel welcome in our community.

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



- Dave and Julie Maltos - 29 years
- Marla Phippen - 23 years
- Andrew Siegel and Ann Wennerstrom - 23 years
- Cheryl Weight - 23 years
- Suzan Halle - 10 years
- Adam and Nyda Goldstein - 6 years
- Jessica and Will Burgamy - 5 years

Mazel tov to our successful TBO high school and college graduates!

Erica Elsemore graduated with honors from Mt. Si High School in Snoqualmie. Erica will be attending Central Washington University in the fall.

Jonathan Hill graduated from Arlington High School and was in the National Honor Society. Jonathan will be attending the Chemistry Scholars Program at Western Washington University this fall.

Adina Paquette graduated from Legacy High School in Marysville and was the valedictorian. Adina will be attending the Honors College at Western Washington University in Bellingham in the fall.

Max Waldbaum graduated from the Edmonds eLearning Academy and will be attending the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Maya Green graduated from Stanford University with a B.S. in Biology with Honors in Notation in Science Communication. Maya will be starting a PhD graduate program in Marine Ecology at the Biodiversity Research Centre at the University of British Columbia.



July services

Shabbat at home

Friday, July 11, 7:00 pm, with Rabbi Rachel Kort and musician Shoshana Stombaugh



Join us for a musical Shabbat worship experience from the comfort of your own home, lasting about an hour. Light Shabbat candles with us on screen to help transform the Zoom gallery into a sacred space of Shabbat. This service is great for all ages and was designed especially for folks who may not be able to join us in person.

Outdoor family Shabbat

Saturday, July 19, 10:00 am, with Rabbi Rachel Kort and musician Shoshana Stombaugh

Langus Riverfront Park, Everett



Join us for a multigenerational, musical Shabbat worship experience on the river at Langus Riverfront Park, where there is plenty of space to dance, play and pray. This service is great for all ages and will last about an hour. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on.

Guests - Register at templebethor.org/service-registration/. Registration ends Friday, July 18, 3:00 pm.

Shabbat service

Friday, July 25, 7:30 pm, with Rabbi Rachel Kort and musician Shoshana Stombaugh

Unity in Lynnwood



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 communities, and will last about 90 minutes.

Guests - Register at templebethor.org/service-registration/. Registration ends Friday, July 25, 3:00 pm.

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



AT TBO



ONLINE



OUTDOOR



OFFSITE



ADULT EDUCATION

Shabbat at home

Member-hosted Shabbat dinners provide the perfect opportunity to connect with other TBO members and create community.



TBO has no scheduled services for some upcoming Shabbats. Consider hosting a Shabbat dinner or brunch and inviting other TBO members. The Shabbat dates are: July 4, August 8, September 19, October 3 and 31, November 28 and December 26.

If you'd like help coordinating with members other than your regular "friend group," contact **Leslie Elsemore** or **Stacey Seidman**.

Where is the Ner Tamid?

When we cleared out the building for the remodel, one of the last responsibilities was to safeguard and respect the Ner Tamid (eternal light). **Michael Cross** disconnected it from its home above the ark and brought it to **Carolyn and Eldon Wexler's** house. He took down their entry chandelier and installed the Ner Tamid. It will remain there, always glowing, until the sanctuary is ready to receive it back.





From our Director of Youth Education

While you're enjoying summer, please keep in mind these important dates for Religious School:

REGISTER NOW for fall 2025

- August 1 - Final day to submit registration
- August 1 - Final day for scholarship submissions



Mark your calendars for the first day of Religious School

- K-7 Sunday, September 7
- Tots Sunday, September 14

Miss your TBO friends? Top three places to find RS friends this summer:

- Outdoor family Shabbats - Saturday, July 19 and Friday, August 15
- Camp Kalsman! Say hi to Stefanie July 13-20
- Annual TBO summer BBQ - August 10

Stefanie

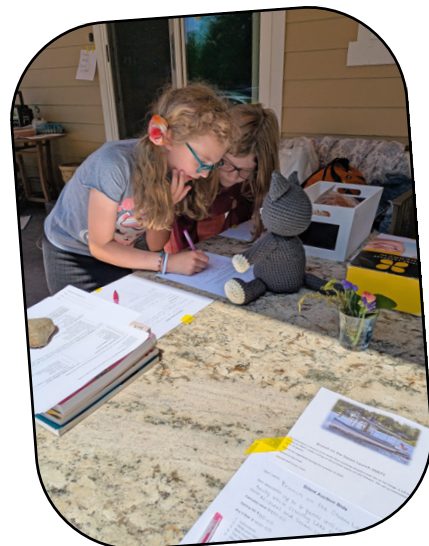
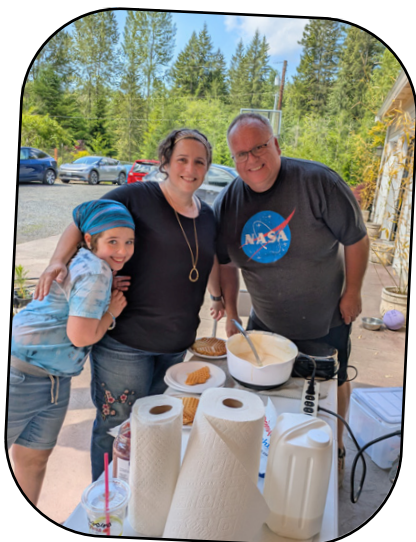
Stefanie Somers (she/her)

Fundraising fun

Waffle brunch, gorgeous day with great company, delicious food, and amazing silent auction items!

We raised roughly \$2,000 and created a wonderful space for community. Thanks to all who attended, the Linarelli family for hosting, and all those who donated to the silent auction.

Dana Sanders





Remodel news

Demolition and exterior excavation are under way



Here's the latest on the remodel:

- Surveying work and most interior demolition have been completed.
- The site has been cleared of all vegetation and grading work has started.
- Excavation for footings has begun.
- Once the stormwater detention vault excavation is completed, forms will be built for the bottom and sides of the vault in preparation for concrete. Concrete work on the vault is expected to be completed by early July.
- We have begun to work with the bank on our bridge loan. Current estimates indicate that we should have enough cash to cover invoices through October.
- The design group is working with Sean Rankin of CPM. They are currently looking at flooring, working on the kitchen design, and researching appliances, cabinets and countertops.
- The insurance company has been notified of our progress.

You can follow the progress on our website at templebethor.org/building. Check it out to see more photos!



June 11

Stormwater detention vault



June 26

Landscaping update

The hydrangeas that were designated for “rescue” have been successfully removed and replanted in a TBO member’s yard for safekeeping. When it’s time to bring them back, they will be replanted on site.

Unfortunately, Billy’s apple tree was in fragile condition, and expert analysis indicated that it was unlikely to survive relocation/transplant. When it is time to redo the landscaping, we will determine an appropriate way to honor Billy Sturman’s memory.

Building addition foundation



Our remodel is under way!



Sanctuary - Lombard entrance



Sarah's office



Library - plumbing for new bathrooms



Lower level - looking north



Kitchen and storage area



Stairwell - looking down



Stairwell - looking up

Social Action Committee news

The *Tzedakah* Box recipient for July-September 2025 is the ACLU of Washington Foundation. The ACLU is the nation's premier civil rights and civil liberties organization that works tirelessly for justice in the areas of:

- Reproductive, youth and LGBTQ rights
- Mass incarceration and racial justice
- Privacy, surveillance and technology
- Immigrant rights, freedom from religious interference and more



ACLU of Washington is our state's affiliate of the ACLU, and its foundation is primarily involved in civil liberties litigation, research and communications activities. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Donations to the *Tzedakah* Box can be made in person at services or through the TBO website, or directly to the ACLU of Washington Foundation at <https://www.aclu-wa.org/give>.

Jewish Earth Alliance lobby day

We have a chance to speak up in support of environmental concerns. On July 23, Jewish Earth Alliance will arrange virtual meetings with staffers for our federal legislators. Lobby training will occur on Tuesday, July 15, 5:00 pm. Click here to register: <https://www.jewishearthalliance.org/events-1/save-the-date-pre-tisha-bav-virtual-lobby-day>.

Speak up and speak out booklist

How familiar is this? You're out in public and you see someone trip and fall, drop something, or struggle, with arms full of bundles, to open a door. You instinctively lend a hand to help out. And is this equally familiar? You're out in public and you see someone being harassed, mistreated, or disrespected. You have the urge to intervene, but instead you look away uncomfortably. The action passes, but your feelings don't. You wanted to say or do something, but didn't know what or how.

It might be reassuring to know that both the urge to help and the "freeze" of uncertainty are equally natural human reactions. One leaves you with a feeling of pride in having met the moment, the other with a feeling of shame at having failed the moment.

So, how can we overcome the natural tendency to remain quiet when faced with uncertainty? Sometimes a path is revealed by imagining how we'd want others to stand up for us, or how we'd expect them to stand up for any person who is being intimidated. Picture books can be windows through which we view both victims and upstanders - the heroes who stand up with victims when that can make all the difference in the world. Archbishop Desmond Tutu teaches, "If you are going to be compassionate, be prepared for action."

Below are titles of some picture books that might open doors for family discussions that help us add upstander skills to our own social skill toolkits. Most of these books are available at independent bookstores or as free audiobooks.

Desmond and the Very Mean Word by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Douglas Carlton Abrams (ages 8+)

Say Something by Peggy Moss (all ages - a simple story & illustrations depicting older children)

Speak Up by Miranda Paul (ages 3+)

Say Something! by Peter H. Reynolds (ages 5+)

I Walk with Vanessa: A Picture Book Story About a Simple Act of Kindness by Kerascoët (ages 6+)

Speak Up, Molly Lou Melon by Patty Lovell (ages 5+)

Here's a nonfiction book:

Stand Up! Be an Upstander and Make a Difference by Wendy L. Moss (for older kids)

For more recommendations for readers at all levels, visit Teaching for Change's curated list of books on a variety of topics at <https://socialjusticebooks.org/booklists/>.



July *yahrzeits*



7/1	Doris Sinclair	Temple Beth Or Family
7/3	Dorothy Lawson	Mother of Scott Lawson
7/3	Louise Sosnove	Mother of Nancy Sosnove
7/4	Eugene Arfin	Father of Julie Maltos
7/6	Louie Schwartz	Father of Marilyn Glosser
7/8	Jane Crine	Stepmother of Deborah Nedelman
7/8	James McCready	Father of Carol McCready-Cohn
7/9	Blanche Bisen	Aunt of Melanie Field
7/9	Clementine Goldman	Mother of Cari Goldman
7/11	Mabel Lyons	Grandmother of Janet Karr
7/15	Eron Maltos	Father of Dave Maltos
7/15	Abram Archie Nedelman	Father of Deborah Nedelman
7/17	Samuel Dash	Grandfather of Harold Dash
7/17	Rindall Jones	Husband of Nancy Adler-Jones
7/17	Estelle Roon	Aunt of Tony Roon
7/18	Evelyn Molotch	Cousin of Howard Schoenfeld
7/18	Goldie Russakoff	Grandmother of Steven Russakoff
7/18	Christi Schifferle	Sister of Vicky Romero
7/19	Lacey Erin Phippen	Daughter of Marla Phippen
7/19	John Welch	Father of Wanda Bresnick
		Grandfather of Kelsey Bresnick
7/20	Louis Finkelstein	Grandfather of Michael Glosser
7/21	Jeffrey St. George	Husband of Shannon St. George
7/22	John Hiltzman	Father of Amy Paquette
7/25	Bernice Grossman	Mother of Carl Grossman
7/26	Bernie Friedenber	Uncle of Nancy Sosnove
7/26	William Sosnove	Father of Nancy Sosnove
7/27	Lillian Witenberg	Aunt of Suzan Halle
7/29	Marilyn Cordovi	Sister of Judy Magidson
7/31	Peter Jacobson	Cousin of Jess Burgamy
7/31	Jean LaBoff	Cousin of Stan Sussman

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 after-lifetime giving. Periodically, we'll answer some questions about LIFE & LEGACY.

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.

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).

Please contact a committee member to learn more...

Bob Goodmark
Debbie Halliday
Deb Henry
Eldon Wexler
Sonia Siegel Vexler

Life & Legacy
ASSURE JEWISH TOMORROWS

Results of U.S. voting in the World Zionist Congress elections (press release extract from URJ)



The Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) and Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA) proudly announce an historic win in the 2025 World Zionist Congress (WZC) elections. The Vote Reform slate received more votes than any other slate - not only in this election, but in the entire history of the WZC.

With 47,887 votes, Vote Reform emerged as the leading voice of American Jewry, reaffirming the Reform Movement's central role in shaping the future of Zionism, democracy, and pluralism in Israel and around the world.

"This is more than just a win for our slate - it is a resounding mandate for the values we champion," said Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism. "In a moment of global uncertainty and rising antisemitism, our community stepped forward with clarity and courage to say: we will lead, we will protect democracy, and we will build a more just and inclusive future for Jews everywhere."

The 152 U.S. delegates elected will join representatives from across the globe at the 39th World Zionist Congress in Jerusalem this October, helping shape the allocation of more than \$1 billion in annual support for Israel and world Jewry.

Vote Reform's victory ensures that the Reform Movement will continue to:

- Promote religious pluralism, equality, and justice in Israel
- Secure critical funding for Reform institutions in Israel and worldwide
- Defend democratic values in the face of rising extremism
- Advocate for the safety and dignity of all Jews amid increasing antisemitic threats
- Fight for the release of all hostages still held in Gaza and a peaceful future for the region



Leadership news

During the Governing Board meeting on June 1, 2025, the Board did the following:

- **Jeff Napp** provided a Capital Campaign update.
- **Bob Goodmark** provided a Remodel Task Force update. Billy's apple tree was removed because no option could be found to transplant it and then move it safely back. The Board discussed other ways to honor Billy's memory once the remodel is complete.
- **James Feinberg** provided a report from the Finance Committee.
- The Board approved a motion that a donor wall naming all members who contributed to the Capital Campaign will be constructed in the remodeled building. No amounts will be listed. All members who have not contributed to the Capital Campaign will be contacted personally about the planned donor wall; they will be given the opportunity to contribute up until the time the donor wall is constructed. Those who have contributed will be contacted to verify how they want their names to appear.



Next Chapter attendees came together to learn about the value of local newspapers and the role these papers play in keeping our democracy strong.

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: Gwen Campbell

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: Vacant

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

JULY 2025

Tammuz / Av 5785

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Office closed	4 Office closed 	5
6	7 Finance Committee meeting 7:00 pm	8 Life & Legacy Committee meeting 7:00 pm	9 Capital Campaign meeting 7:00 pm	10 Liaison Committee meeting 7:00 pm Remodel Task Force meeting 7:30 pm	11 Shabbat at home 7:00 pm	12
13 Fundraising meeting 6:30 pm	14	15	16	17	18	19 Outdoor family Shabbat 10:00 am ORacle deadline
20	21	22	23 Capital Campaign meeting 7:00 pm Safety & Security Cmte mtg 7:00 pm	24	25 Shabbat service 7:30 pm	1 Av 26
27	28	29	30	31		

You can access this or older issues of the *ORacle* at templebethor.org/oracle.

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 (office@templebethor.org) 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).