

THE ORACLE



September 2025

Elul/Tishrei 5785-86

Founded 1985

Volume 36, Issue 9

Special 16-page issue!



Service and activities
schedule on page 4

The High Holy Days are fast approaching

By now, you should have received your High Holy Days information and your tickets. If not, call the office. Members don't need to register to attend services, but do need to sign up for children's Rosh HaShanah programming, the catered lunch and more. If you have nonmember family or friends who want to attend, direct them to the website to register. Volunteers are still needed to help make all of our amazing services and events happen smoothly.

All the information and sign-ups are at

templebethor.org/HHD.

We look forward to having you join
us for these meaningful services.

High Holy Days (HHD) singers

It's time to sign up to join the HHD singers! All singers and musicians are welcome - no previous experience needed. You do not need to know how to read music or Hebrew to be part of the group.

Recordings of the musical selections will be available to those who sign up, to help you learn your part. We will be having two in-person rehearsals at Unity Lynnwood: Sunday, September 21, 3:00-5:00 pm and Tuesday, September 30, 7:00-9:00 pm. You can join in for one song, the whole megillah or something in between. For more information or to sign up, contact **Melanie Field**, the TBO office or **Rabbi Kort**. The more the merrier. **Steven Chaitman**, our HHD musical leader, is looking forward to singing with you!

Important deadlines

September 8

Deadline for Yizkor list changes
and Rosh HaShanah lunch

September 16

Deadline for Rosh HaShanah
youth programming sign-up and
nonmember/guest in-person
registration (members do not
need to register)



Rabbi's Corner

Putting on our own oxygen mask

As we approach the High Holy Days, a time traditionally dedicated to *cheshbon hanefesh*, or “soul accounting,” I find myself wrestling with a question. In a world with so much brokenness - so many urgent issues demanding our attention - is it selfish to focus on our own inner work?

This year, the wisdom of our first-century sage, Rabbi Hillel, has been a guide for me. His famous teaching, “If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?” (Pirkei Avot 1:4), highlights a delicate balance. We must care for ourselves to have the energy and strength to care for others. As a friend once reminded me, we have to “put on our own oxygen mask first.”

This teaching is at the heart of my preparation for the High Holy Days. Our services are designed to help us find this balance - to look inward and to look outward. We will weave together prayers, music and teachings that encourage both personal reflection and a broader awareness of the world around us. Each service will have a different focus. We will begin with *Selichot*, where we will center on introspection and personal responsibility. At Rosh HaShanah, we will reflect on our relationship to our Jewish community. On Yom Kippur, we will turn our attention to our role as Jews in the wider world, including democracy in the United States and the ongoing humanitarian crises in Israel and Gaza. At our concluding *N'ilah* service, we will have an opportunity to reflect on how we can balance our own well-being with our responsibility to others.

Hillel's quote concludes with a powerful call to action: “And if not now, when?” The High Holy Days offer us this very moment to find our balance. As you prepare your heart for this sacred time, I want to share a blessing from my colleague, Rabbi Eve Posen, who was inspired by Rabbi Hillel's timeless words.

“May we be for ourselves, recognizing our worth and advocating for our needs. May we look beyond ourselves, finding our true purpose in our connections and contributions to the world. And may we seize the present moment, nurturing our souls and finding joy in the here and now.”

I look forward to spending time with you during this sacred season.

L'Shanah tovah,

Rabbi Rachel Kort

Rabbi Rachel Kort (she/her)

Important communication note

I now have remote access to a dedicated TBO line, and will phase out using my personal cell phone for TBO communications. Please call and text message me on my direct TBO line: **425-551-7624**.

Thank you, Rabbi Kort



From our home to yours, wishing you a sweet year filled with peace, joy, and good health!

Wanda and Mark Bresnick

Shanah Tovah. May the new year bring you apples and honey.

Harold Dash and Vicky Romero

Have a blessed and sweet new year



From our President

Welcome 5786



This new Jewish year, 5786, is easy to remember: 5,6,7,8 but not in that order. Jewish traditions are full of mnemonic devices, as is only fitting for a religion that focuses on studying and calls its clergy teachers. *Moshe rabbenu* means Moses our teacher. Of course, one of the cleverest traditions we all love is hiding the afikomen during the seder. Children, stay awake and pay attention so that you will know where to find the afikomen.

As in all religions, symbols play an important role in our Jewish traditions. For the High Holy Days, the pomegranate makes a prominent appearance. In the Book of Numbers, we read that it is one of the fruits used to demonstrate Caanan's bounty when Moses sends the twelve scouts to gather information about the land. Egyptian records mention importing pomegranates from Israel as early as the 12th century BCE. But why are pomegranates associated with Rosh HaShanah in particular? For one, pomegranates are in season during Rosh HaShanah, and the Hebrew calendar is inextricably bound to the agricultural cycles of Israel. The pomegranate has also become a symbol of the 613 mitzvot included in the Torah, thanks to the age-old theory that each fruit holds 613 seeds. And of course, the fruit symbolizes fertility, rebirth and plenty. It's also that gorgeous color!

This year will be remembered in TBO history as the year we remodeled our building to make it more comfortable, accessible and inviting. We are grateful to Unity Lynnwood and the Alderwood Boys and Girls Club for renting us their attractive, comfortable and inviting spaces for our services and Religious School while we are out of our building. Thank you TBO members who found those spaces and made the arrangements! It has worked out so well. And we hope that next year, we will celebrate the High Holy Days in our beautiful new building on Lombard Avenue.

But life isn't all apples and honey. We recognize that it has been a painful year in many ways. For some, that has been on a personal level: illness, loss of loved ones, mental and physical pain. For all of us, the world has taken on some frightening dimensions, more than usual. Whether it's here at home or in Israel, we grieve to see people suffer and also fear for our own safety and security. As we have more access to information, it feels harder than ever to understand that information and to know what responses are required of us. Some things seem as clear as day, yet we feel powerless to "fight the good fight." We do what we can. And in all humility, as we enter the Days of Awe, may we be forgiven for our sins of omission and commission.

On a personal note, sometimes I hear jokes about being Temple president - should I congratulate you or offer condolences? But seriously, it is an honor and a privilege to be president of Temple Beth Or, such a wonderful congregation. As we close out this year, I want to thank you all for your support, your presence, your donations of time and yes, financial donations. We couldn't thrive without all of that. It's easy to be president with so many kind, thoughtful, and committed friends.

May you have a healthy, happy, fulfilling and peaceful New Year 5786.

Shanah tovah,

Nancy Rosen, President (she/her)



*Wishing you blessings for the New Year
Dave and Julie Maltos*



*Happy New Year to our TBO family
Pam and Rich Spitzer*



Nancy Rosen

High Holy Days services and activities



Creative *Selichot* service and *Havdalah*

Unity in Lynnwood

Saturday, September 13, 7:30 pm *oneg* followed by service from 8:15-9:15 pm



Erev Rosh HaShanah service

Unity in Lynnwood

Monday, September 22, 7:30-9:15 pm. In-person and online.



Rosh HaShanah festival and youth programming (offsite)

Tuesday, September 23, all day, beginning at 10:00 am. Only the morning service will be online.

- 10:00-10:30 am - Arrive/schmooze
- 10:00 am-noon - Youth programming
- 10:30 am-noon - Rosh HaShanah morning service
- 12:15-1:15 pm - Lunch
- 1:30-1:45 pm - *Tashlich* at the lake
- 2:00-3:00 pm - Festival



Cemetery memorial service at GAR Cemetery, Snohomish

Sunday, September 28, 2:00-3:00 pm. In-person only.



Erev Yom Kippur services, Wednesday, October 1

Unity in Lynnwood

Family service 4:30-5:15 pm. Geared toward children. In-person only.

Kol Nidrei 7:30-9:30 pm. In-person and online.



Yom Kippur observance, Thursday, October 2, all day.

Unity in Lynnwood

- 10:00 am-12:30 pm - Yom Kippur morning service
- 1:30-2:00 pm - The Book of Jonah
- 2:00-3:30 pm - Adult learning: The Book of Jonah (no streaming)
- 4:00-5:00 pm - *Yizkor* service
- 5:00-6:15 pm - Concluding service (*N'ilah*)



Full details on all services and activities can be found at templebethor.org/HHD.

See also the list of Shabbat services on page 5.



ONLINE



OUTDOOR



OFFSITE



ADULT EDUCATION

September Shabbat services

Shabbat at home

Friday, September 5, 7:00 pm, with Rabbi Rachel Kort and HHD music leader Steve Chaitman



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.

Family Shabbat

Unity in Lynnwood

Friday, September 12, 7:00 pm, with Rabbi Rachel Kort and musician Noah Zeichner



This service is designed especially for the youngest children in our community. We'll enjoy Shabbat songs, a story, a taste of challah, and hear the Shofar for the New Year.

Guests - Register at templebethor.org/service-registration/. Registration ends Friday, September 12, 3:00 pm.

Shabbat morning services with Rabbi Rachel Kort and musician Noah Zeichner

Unity in Lynnwood

Tot Shabbat, Saturday, September 27, 9:00 am



This service is designed especially for the youngest children in our community. We'll enjoy Shabbat songs, a story, a taste of challah, and hear the Shofar for the New Year. In-person only.

Shabbat Shuvah, Saturday, September 27, 10:00 am

Our community worship service will include a Torah reading and *drash* (sermon), and feature High Holy Day melodies. The service is geared toward our adult and *b'nei mitzvah* student community, and will last about 90 minutes.



Guests - Register at templebethor.org/service-registration/. Registration ends Friday, September 26, 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

B'nei Mitzvah Coordinator (BMC) and B'nei Mitzvah Family Liaison (BMFL)

Our BMC, **Pam Spitzer**, and BMFL, **Jessica Burgamy**, are Temple volunteers committed to supporting your student and family throughout the *b'nei mitzvah* process. They will check in with families and offer support to:

- Brainstorm the 13 Mitzvot project
- Brainstorm and troubleshoot the *tikkun olam* project
- Provide a space for students to practice prayers, Torah reading and haftarah reading
- Answer parent questions about *b'nei mitzvah* logistics

The BMFL will be onsite at Religious School on Sunday mornings, and will focus on developing cohesiveness among the *b'nei mitzvah* cohort. The BMC will focus on prayer and Torah/haftarah, and will join on Sundays as needed.



Mazel tov to our newest b'nei mitzvah cohort: Henry Cronk, Aurora Straume, Elle Waldman, Callie Miller, and Willow Kauffman (not shown)



Wishing you a peaceful new year

Change will come!
Vicki Schwartz



Best wishes for a peaceful New Year

Kathie & Tony Roon



Remodel news



The TBO team and CPM, the contractor, have been working hard to keep our project moving forward as close as possible to the schedule and budget. Here's what's happening:

1. Unanticipated foundation deficiencies discovered under the current foyer/office area require additional work.
 - We received approval from the City of Everett for the additional foundation repairs.
 - CPM prepared an estimate for this work of approximately \$154,000.
 - The TBO Board voted to use funds from the existing restricted Capital Property Fund account, rather than Capital Campaign monies, to cover these costs.
 - This additional work is underway, but unfortunately the project is now delayed by about 10 weeks. CPM is hoping to make up about half of this delay.
2. Construction progress
 - Most of the concrete work has been completed, including the foundations and retaining wall.
 - A change order is being prepared for additional work required by the City of Everett related to stormwater issues, landscaping and other miscellaneous items, estimated to cost about \$64,000.
 - Framing is expected to start in mid-September.
3. Design team efforts
 - The Design Team has selected carpet (for the sanctuary, offices and meeting room) and luxury vinyl plank flooring (for all other floors, including stairs) that meet our budget constraints.
 - Paint colors are being considered.
 - Kitchen design, appliances and cabinet quotes are in progress. (Note: fundraising for these items is underway. See article on page 12.)
4. Finances
 - We have settled our insurance claim with the insurance carrier and received a check for \$373,221.
 - Given current expected billings and funds availability, we anticipate needing a bridge loan toward the end of this calendar year to be able to meet our obligations.

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



Happy hydrangeas!
Vacationing off site
during construction,
and thriving under the
green thumbs of **Mike**
and **Marilyn Glosser**

Pumping concrete
(August 7)



Remodel progress - August 20



Preparing to fix the front foundation



Outside - from inside!



(August 6) Foreground - elevator shaft



(August 20)



From our Director of Youth Education

Stefanie
Stefanie Somers (she/her)

Religious School ready? Read up and find out :)

Tips for a great first day!

1. Please arrive with enough time to park and get your student(s) settled in their classrooms.
2. Parents, please walk your student directly to their classroom so they can go to *K'hilah* with their class. Then, go to the community room for *K'hilah* and sit in one of the last two rows reserved for parents. Classes will soon join and sit together in the front rows.
3. Don't miss the orientation/parent meeting, happening 10:00-11:00 am in the teen lounge. A sweet nosh is included.
4. Remember to bring *tzedakah* - no amount is too small.
5. K-3 parents, we ask that you meet your child in their classroom at 11:00 am.
6. Smile! If you're excited about being back, your students will be excited too.

First day schedule - September 7

9:15 am	Madrachim arrive
9:15-9:30 am	Students/families arrive
9:30-10:00 am	Special opening day <i>K'hilah</i> (parents encouraged to attend)
10:00-11:00 am	Jewish studies (K-7th)
11:00-11:15 am	Recess/snack
11:15 am-12:30 pm	Hebrew (4th-7th)

Temple Beth Or Religious School 2025-26 / 5786

TBO TOTS CALENDAR 2025-26

WHAT'S JEWISH ABOUT APPLES? SEPTEMBER 14	WHAT'S JEWISH ABOUT HOMES? OCTOBER 5	WHAT'S JEWISH ABOUT FAMILY? NOVEMBER 2	WHAT'S JEWISH ABOUT LIGHT? DECEMBER 7	TU B'SHVAT GARDEN WORK PARTY JANUARY 4
WHAT'S JEWISH ABOUT TREES? FEBRUARY 1	WHAT'S JEWISH ABOUT FACES? FEBRUARY 22	WHAT'S JEWISH ABOUT FROGS? MARCH 15	WHAT'S JEWISH ABOUT COOKIES & LOVIES? APRIL 12	LAG B'OMER FIELD DAY MAY 3



September '25 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	October '25 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	November '25 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
December '25 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	January '26 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	February '26 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
March '26 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	April '26 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	May '26 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

RS and RS Shabbats



Family programming





Next Chapter is going to the Seattle Aquarium

We will be visiting the amazing Seattle Aquarium on **Wednesday, September 17, at 10:30 am**. If taking the light rail from Lynnwood, meet there at 9:30. We'll get off at the Westlake station and walk to the pier through Pike Place Market. Or, drive and park near Pier 59 along Alaskan Way or Elliott Way, and meet us at the ticket counter in the new

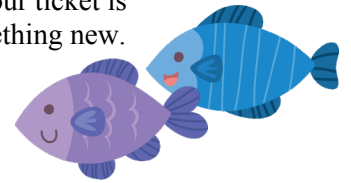
aquarium addition. TBO member and dedicated volunteer at the Seattle Aquarium, **Bernie Busch**, will guide us as the expert staff tells us about many of the displays.

Reserve your tickets to ensure entrance with the TBO Next Chapter group. There are three ways to do this:

- Purchase a regular ticket online for the specific date and time at \$32.95 per person. Website link for ticket purchase is tinyurl.com/AquariumTicket.
- Purchase a Seattle Aquarium membership, providing many benefits and several membership plans. Membership information is at tinyurl.com/AquariumMembership.
- Purchase an Age Friendly Gold Discount Card through the City of Seattle. This can provide up to 75% discount! Website is tinyurl.com/AgeFriendlyCard.

No matter which ticket plan you choose, be certain to reserve your ticket for the specific day, date, and time - Wednesday, September 17, 10:30 am. **Even though you are purchasing your own tickets, please register at tinyurl.com/NextChapterAquarium** so we know how many will be joining us.

After the tour, we can gather at the Pike Place Market for lunch, and recap the morning. Your ticket is valid all day, so feel free to return to the aquarium to revisit your favorite spots or see something new. If you have any questions, please contact **Janis Warner** via text or email. If you have questions about the Next Chapter program at TBO, contact **Sonia Siegel Vexler**.



Membership news

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



- Susan and Michael Cross - 36 years
- Eldon and Carolyn Wexler - 36 years
- Janis Warner and Norm Black - 33 years
- Glen and Kathy Pickus - 33 years
- Nancy Adler-Jones - 26 years
- Bernie and Phyllis Busch - 24 years
- Anne Gurian - 24 years
- Steve Cohn and Carol McCready-Cohn - 16 years
- Eric and Shelley Elsemore - 7 years
- Kelsey Bresnick - 7 years
- Cari Goldman and Adam Mendelzon - 6 years
- Kendra Waldman - 6 years
- Cecelia Black - 5 years
- Jonathan Roselle and Suzanne Powell - 3 years
- Autumn Halliwell and Emma Broadleaf - 1 year



Leslie Elsemore
Cecelia Black
Sonia Siegel
Vexler
Melanie Field
Naomi Katsh
Barger
Janis Warner
(not shown)



The highest bidders at the TBO breakfast auction got a chance to try their hand at wheelchair rugby. The Seattle Slam wheelchair rugby team coached and played with TBO's brave participants.

Fun at the TBO summer BBQ



Thank you to our hosts **Michael and Susan Cross** and our chefs **Mark Bresnick, Tom Elsemore and Bob Goodmark!**

Social Action Committee news

The *Tzedakah* Box recipient for July-September 2025 is the ACLU of Washington Foundation. The ACLU 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. 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 aclu-wa.org/give.

High Holy Days food drive

It is more important than ever to help our local Volunteers of America Food Bank as part of the High Holy Days food drive. The Torah and Jewish tradition command that we feed the hungry and help eradicate hunger from our society. While hygiene items and nonperishable foods are always welcome, a monetary donation either as a check (made out to Volunteers of America Western Washington) or food store gift cards would also be greatly appreciated, as it allows the food bank to purchase items most needed, including perishables.

Donations can be brought to Erev Yom Kippur, October 1, or to the Yom Kippur Morning Service, October 2. Volunteers will be available in the parking lot to collect donations. Direct donations can be made at voaww.org/donate.

Gaza hunger crisis

If you are concerned about the hunger crisis in Gaza, consider donating to the New Israel Fund's Campaign to Address Humanitarian Aid into Gaza. (tinyurl.com/NewIsraelFund). NIF works toward equality, democracy, and human rights for all people who live in Israel. See also the article on page 12.

Immigrant rights

Many of us are concerned about the lack of due process afforded to immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. To learn more about what is being done in our area, here are links to several local nonprofit agencies. They can all use volunteers and/or financial help.

Refugee and Immigrant Services Northwest

risnw.org, (425) 388-9307

Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network

waisn.org (844) 724-3737

Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice Northwest

jewishcoalition.org

Northwest Immigrant Rights Project

nwirp.org, (206) 957-8600

Rapid Response hotline: (844) RAID-REP. Call this number to report ICE activity in your community and dispatch rapid response volunteers.

Save the date - Sukkot, October 10

In addition to a Sukkot dinner and observance, we will be hosting the showing of the documentary, "No Place to Grow Old," an intimate portrait of the rising crisis of senior homelessness in Portland, Oregon. More details next month.



*Have a blessed and
sweet new year*



*From Your
Social Action Committee*

Reform movement statement and resources on Hamas-Israel war

Many of us are struggling with the ongoing war in Israel and Gaza. We want to share recent Reform Movement statements and some resources with you.

On August 8, the Union for Reform Judaism, Central Conference of American Rabbis, and American Conference of Cantors - which together represent over two million American Jews - released a powerful statement. It implores Israel to “choose life for our hostages, our soldiers, and innocent civilians in Gaza by ending - not extending - this war.” Read the statement at tinyurl.com/URJexpansion. The Reform movement made a statement last month declaring that “starving Gazan civilians neither will bring Israel the ‘total victory’ over Hamas it seeks, nor can it be justified by Jewish values or humanitarian law.” See also <https://tinyurl.com/URJstarvation>. For those who wish to better understand the conflict and the Reform Movement’s position, we encourage you to subscribe to the Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA) at tinyurl.com/ARZAnewsletter. As the Zionist voice of the Reform Movement, ARZA advocates for an end to the war, supports Palestinian self-determination through a two-state solution, and promotes equality and democracy in Israel.

If you are looking for a way to help provide humanitarian aid, we hope you will consider donating to the New Israel Fund’s Campaign to Address Humanitarian Aid into Gaza (tinyurl.com/NewIsraelFund). NIF is a reputable NGO that works to advance democracy and minority rights in Israel, and is partnering with World Central Kitchen to deliver aid.

In these difficult times, let us continue to be a community that seeks understanding, offers comfort, and acts with compassion.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Rachel Kort

Nancy Rosen, TBO President

Capital Campaign



Question: Where can you make challah with the Religious School, hamantaschen for the Purim carnival, or matzah balls for the seder?

Answer: In our very own TBO kitchen.

We hope to soon be back in our building (1st quarter of 2026, assuming no further delays). Help put the icing on the cake. Make a donation to the Capital Campaign this month to help us fund the kitchen, anti-ballistic window film, and an awning. Spending decisions on these items will need to occur soon.

B'tayavon (Hearty Appetite)

Todah rabah for your generosity

Your Capital Campaign Committee: Adam, Bob, Eldon, Jeff, Jona, Norm, Nancy R, Sheryl, Sonia and Wanda

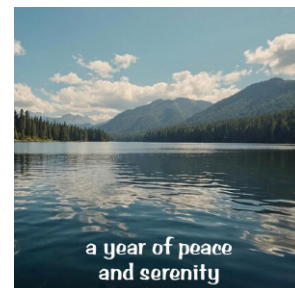


*Wishing you and yours a healthy
and peaceful new year.*

The Chepuri/Field Family



*Have a happy peaceful New Year
Marilyn and Michael Glosser*



*a year of peace
and serenity*



9/1	Dorothy Falconer	Mother of Nancy Wilkinson
9/2	Armand Weiss	Father of Randi Weiss
9/3	E. Lillian Michelson	Temple Beth Or Family
9/4	Theodore Baldwin	Uncle of Nancy Sosnove
9/4	Estelle Summer	Mother of Pam Pintus
9/5	Jack Barbour	Father of Kaye Gorlick
		Grandfather of Joshua Gorlick
		Grandfather of Rachel Gorlick
9/5	Celia Goralnick	Mother of Mark Goralnick
9/7	Sam Siegel	Father of Sonia Siegel Vexler
		Grandfather of Jess Burgamy
9/8	Ted Burgamy	Father of Will Burgamy
9/9	Laura Mackoff	Mother of Julie Mackoff
9/9	Aleksandris Rokulis	Father of Anita Goralnick
9/10	Kit Cissell	Grandmother of Sarah Davis
9/10	Rena Shevick Kessler	Temple Beth Or Family
9/10	Rosalie Kosher	Temple Beth Or Family
9/10	Marilyn Tucker	Sister of Andrea Tucker
9/11	Phyllis Rubin	Wife of Solly Rubin
9/12	Regina Litvinoff	Grandmother of Jennifer Cail
9/13	Jean Robinson Pickus	Mother of Glen Pickus
9/14	Elsie Dobowitz Bisen Reiter	Grandmother of Melanie Field
9/14	Gerta Nussbaum	Aunt of Hanna Schwarz
9/15	Morris Cohen	Grandfather of Mim Edelstein
9/15	Effraim Kaplan	Temple Beth Or Family
9/15	Eugene Krantz	Grandfather of Eldon Wexler
9/15	Robert "Roy" Middleton	Grandfather of Sarah Davis
9/16	Jay Bisen	Uncle of Melanie Field
9/18	Ruth Friedenberg	Aunt of Nancy Sosnove
9/18	Lil Reid	Aunt of Melech Gillins
9/18	Sidney Silverstone	Temple Beth Or Family
9/19	Allen David Friedman	Uncle of Gerry Friend
9/20	Alice Maltos	Mother of Dave Maltos
9/21	Rachel Silverstone	Temple Beth Or Family
9/22	Julius Schwarz	Father-in-law of Hanna Schwarz
9/23	Larry Abramson	Cousin of Nancy Rosen
		Cousin of Mirs VonAschen-Cook
9/23	Rita Glosser	Mother of Michael Glosser
9/23	Neil Russakoff	Brother of Steven Russakoff
9/24	Hyman Blustein	Grandfather of Marvin Blustein
9/24	Bernard Kosher	Temple Beth Or Family
9/25	Ruth Bisen Field	Mother of Melanie Field
9/25	Shirley Bresnick	Mother of Mark Bresnick
		Grandmother of Kelsey Bresnick
9/25	Seymour Katsh	Father of Naomi Katsh Barger
9/25	Evelyn Safran	Grandmother of Marla Phippen
9/26	Gussie Gevirtz Blustein	Grandmother of Marvin Blustein
9/26	Mitchell Snider	Cousin of Stan Sussman
9/27	Estelle Tucker	Mother of Andrea Tucker
9/28	Rose Landow	Grandmother of Harold Dash
9/30	Leon McDuff	Father of Russ McDuff

Can you hear the future calling?



**This New Year,
answer
the call by
making a
legacy gift,
ensuring a
strong Jewish
community for
future generations.**



The TBO Life & Legacy Committee wishes everyone a sweet and healthy New Year.

Bob Goodmark, Deb Henry, Debbie Halliday, Eldon Wexler and Sonia Siegel Vexler





Leadership news

During the Governing Board meeting on August 10, 2025, the Board did the following:

- **Bob Goodmark** gave a Remodel Task Force update. See page 6.
- A motion was made by Bob Goodmark to use funds from the Capital Properties Restricted Fund to pay for the concrete foundation at the front of the existing building. If necessary, additional funds will be taken from the Emergency Fund. The motion was discussed, amended and approved.
- Leadership from an Abundance Mindset - **Sonia Siegel Vexler** recapped the first five sessions, and led the Board in session 6, on thinking about grace within a mindset of abundance. A suggestion was made, and agreed to, that the Board write a letter to the Congregation talking about what we are doing well.
- Finance Report - Bob Goodmark gave the update from the Finance Committee. There were no extraordinary items to report. Included was a discussion of “greenies” (monthly committee income/expense reports).
- High Holy Days update – **Wanda Bresnick** reported that packets would be sent out shortly and members should have them by late August.
- Security - **Nancy Rosen** discussed a security issue that arose on July 30, which turned out to be a false alarm not directed at TBO.
- Nancy Rosen discussed the *b’nei mitzvah* process.

Your TBO Governing Board wishes you a happy, healthy and sweet New Year



Board nominations

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

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

May you be blessed with sweetness and peace
Carolyn and Eldon Wexler



Janis Warner and Norm Black

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

Patti Heg Harjo

Board Secretary

Melissa VonAschen-Cook

Members-At-Large

Gwen Campbell

Rani Linarelli

Rich Spitzer

Committees and Task Forces

Atidaynu: Sheryl Shapiro

Adult Education: Patti Heg Harjo

Bereavement: Susan Cross

B’nei Mitzvah Coordinator: Pam Spitzer

B’nei Mitzvah Family Liaison: Jessica Burgamy

Book Club: Wyndi Russakoff

Building: Vacant

Calendar: Gwen Campbell

Campership: Sonia Siegel Vexler

Capital Campaign: 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

Oneg Coordinator: Janet Karr

ORacle Editor: Kathie Roon

ORacle Publisher: Rich Spitzer

ORbits: Janis Warner

Remodel: Harold Dash & Melanie Field

Ruach & Ritual: Gwen Campbell

Safety & Security: Mark Bresnick

Social Action: Naomi Katsh Barger &

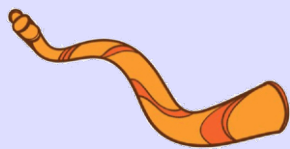
Melissa VonAschen-Cook

Technology: James Feinberg

Website: JonaRose Feinberg

Youth Education: Meghan Lefrancois-Hanson &

Rani Linarelli



SEPTEMBER 2025

Elul / Tishrei 5785-86



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Executive Board meeting 7:00 pm	Remodel Task Force meeting 7:30 pm	Liaison Committee meeting 10:00 am Shabbat at home 7:00 pm	
7 Governing Board meeting 10:00 am RS first day	8 Communications Committee meeting 7:00 pm Finance Committee meeting 7:00 pm	9 Life & Legacy Committee meeting 7:00 pm	10	11 Calendar planning meeting 7:00 pm	12 Family Shabbat 7:00 pm	13 Creative <i>Selichot</i> 7:30 pm
14 TBO TOTS first day Fundraising committee meeting 6:30 pm RS	15	16	17 Next Chapter at Seattle Aquarium 10:30 am	18 ORacle deadline	19 Shabbat on your own - <i>parashah Nitzavim</i>	20
21 HHD singers rehearsal 3:00 pm No RS	22 Erev Rosh HaShanah 7:30 pm	1 Tishrei 23 Office closed Rosh HaShanah	24 Safety & Security Committee meeting 7:00 pm	25	26	27 Tot Shabbat 9:00 am Shabbat Shuvah 10:00 am
28 Cemetery memorial service 2:00 pm RS	29	30 HHD singers rehearsal 7:00 pm				

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.

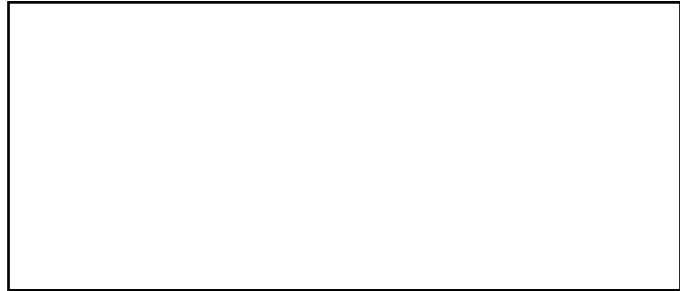
templebethor.org/calendar-submission

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).