

THE ORACLE



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Tu BiShvat seder and Shabbat: Honoring the earth, inspiring action

Tu BiShvat, the New Year of the Trees, calls us to reflect on the state of our fragile natural environment. As we grapple with climate change and the impact of extreme weather here in western WA and globally, it is easy to feel overwhelmed.

Our tradition offers a powerful response: "You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it." (Pirkei Avot 2:21)

Join the Social Action Committee for a special Tu BiShvat seder dedicated to stewardship and inspiration. This year, with the four symbolic glasses of wine/juice, we will honor and celebrate four individuals or organizations who are doing the vital work of environmental protection. Their efforts will inspire us to become more active caretakers of our world.

The evening will feature traditional Tu BiShvat fruits, a meaningful seder focused on environmental justice, music, and Shabbat songs and candle lighting.

Service led by Rabbi Kort and musician Noah Zeichner

Friday, February 6, 7:00-9:00 pm.

In person only at Unity. Attendees must register by Wednesday, February 4, 6:00 pm, at templebethor.org/service-registration/.





Judaism honors transitions

Judaism is a tradition that honors transitions. We are a people of the “in-between.” Each day, we mark the shift from light to dark with the *Ma'ariv Aravim* prayer. Each week, we bracket our sacred time by lighting candles to welcome Shabbat and again to bid it farewell. Traditionally, our life cycles follow a familiar map: we mark birth with a naming and covenant ceremony; the start of formal education with the sweet taste of honey; the threshold of adulthood with *b'nei mitzvah*; and eventually, the milestones of marriage and, finally, death.

I officiated at a naming ceremony a few months ago and, as I always do, I offered the traditional blessing: “As this child has entered into the covenant, so may they enter into Torah (study), chuppah (marriage), and *ma'asim tovim* (good deeds).” As the words hung in the air, I paused for a moment, thinking about how my own life has unfolded. While I have grown to embrace Torah and good deeds, I am no longer a married person. Although I grew up in a progressive Jewish community, it was still ingrained in me to believe that marriage was the Jewish ideal. While I have always found support in Jewish ritual during the various transitions of my life, I struggled when it came to my divorce. The traditional process of appearing before a *beit din* (a rabbinical court) to obtain a *get* (a religious divorce document) simply didn't speak to my soul or my experience.

So, what did I do? I created my own ritual - one that spoke to the reality of my life and the sanctity of my journey.

The modern trajectory of our lives often looks different than our ancestors anticipated. I recently finished the new book *Moments That Matter: Marking Transitions in Midlife and Beyond* by Rabbis Laura Geller and Beth Lieberman. They wrote this book in response to the “new” stages of life - the active years that previous generations didn't always get to experience. They offer a spiritual guide for navigating the changes that don't always have a “standard” Jewish prayer in the siddur (prayerbook), such as empty nesting, retirement, downsizing homes, or becoming a caregiver.

The beauty of our tradition is that it is not static; it is a living, breathing toolkit for making sense of change. As the authors of *Moments That Matter* remind us: “Even in the Talmud, more than fifteen hundred years ago, we learn that when there is a question as to what the law is, the Talmud advises, ‘Go out and see what the people are doing’ (Babylonian Talmud, B'rachot 45a).”

Whether a transition is joyful, painful, or somewhere in the complicated middle, marking it with ritual allows us to pause and acknowledge that we are standing on holy ground. It helps us move from “what was” to “what will be” with intention.

As your rabbi, I am here to help you navigate these “moments that matter.” If you are facing a transition in your own life - whether it is a career change, a milestone birthday, a move, or a personal loss - and you find that the traditional paths don't quite fit, please reach out to me. Together, we can find or create the rituals that honor your specific journey and help you mark your own personal, sacred transitions.

Rabbi Rachel Kort
Rabbi Rachel Kort (she/her)



Structured dialogue for difficult times: Exploring Israel/Gaza/Palestine

Sunday, January 11, 4:00 - 5:30 pm

Private home, Mukilteo (address provided upon registration)

Many of us have been carrying pain, confusion and concern in our hearts for the situation in Israel, Gaza and Palestine. Questions swirl internally - has my relationship with Israel changed? What role should I as an American and my country take in the conflict? How do I share my perspective with others? The Social Action Committee is creating a space for thinking and sharing, in a structured and facilitated process. Our member, **Beth Burstein Fine**, will be the facilitator.

Our goal is not to convince anyone of any position, but rather to support each other in clarifying our own thoughts. Please join us if this speaks to you. Registration closes Friday, January 9, at noon. Members only.

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

From our President

TWOsies



When I was a kid, I wasn't much of an athlete, but I was pretty darn good at jacks and routinely reached "twosies" on my first turn. Do you remember playing jacks? For our younger members, here's how to play: you throw out ten jacks onto the floor and then, sitting or crouching on the floor, you throw a little ball into the air and quickly pick up one jack and catch the ball before the ball hits the floor. Once you've picked up all ten jacks, you move to "twosies;" you pick up two at a time, and so on until "tensies." I've been thinking about "twosies" at this time of year not only because of the Christmas/Hanukkah "twosy" but also because, for me, January 1st is my Rosh HaShanah "twosy."

There are other "twosies," of course, notably Thanksgiving or "Sukkot twosy." As Jews, we live in a twosy kind of world as do other members of non-majority communities. I think of people celebrating Kwanzaa or Diwali. It is a privilege that I know we all cherish and appreciate and will fight to keep: the freedom to live in a "twosy" country that allows us to celebrate our unique traditions while also celebrating being "real Americans."

We see around the world that this "twosy" way of living is under threat. According to the Pacific Northwest's ADL report released in April 2025, there was a 15% increase in anti-semitic incidents in the Pacific Northwest region in 2024, 424 incidents up from 369. The region includes Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska. On December 14, the first night of Hanukkah, a gunman shot and killed 15 and wounded many more Jews at an outdoor Hanukkah party at Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia. Thanks to true heroes, including Jewish attendees, a non-Jewish lifeguard, and Ahmed al Ahmed, a Syrian-Australian shop owner and a Muslim, many lives were spared. Recently, a Hillel in San Francisco was firebombed. You have read too many scary stories this year. Are we under threat? Yes and no. Thankfully, at this time, the government and local police are committed to protecting us. We truly appreciate them. Not all minority groups share this privileged position, which is one reason why many of us do what we can to support immigrant rights: "There but for the grace of God go I." Our Social Justice Committee arranged for a representative of the Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice Northwest to speak at TBO last year, and several TBO members have joined that organization (www.jewishcoalition.org).

Getting back to "twosies," a street also has two sides, the sunny side and the shady side. I am choosing to walk on the sunny side even as I recognize that the dark side is still there. I hope that you will join me as we dance into 2026, vigilant, committed, and also hopeful, happy, and looking forward to moving into our bigger and better Temple Beth Or building on Lombard Avenue.

It's great to be able to wish you "Happy New Year" again. With best wishes for a happy, healthy and fulfilling 2026.

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

Nancy Rosen, President (she/her)



Hanukkah 2025 at
Unity in Lynnwood

January Shabbat services

Shabbat at home

Friday, January 2, 7:30 pm, with service leaders Rich and Pam Spitzer and musician Shoshana Stombaugh



Join us for a musical Shabbat worship experience from the comfort of your own space, lasting about an hour. This service is great for all ages.

Creative Shabbat service

Unity in Lynnwood

Friday, January 9, 7:30 pm, with Rabbi Rachel Kort and Rabbi CB Souther



This special Shabbat service will offer a creative and prayerful space with contemporary poetry, music, meditation and an optional hands-on creative practice. There will also be some traditional prayers.

Guests - Register at templebethor.org/service-registration/. Registration ends Friday, January 9, 3:00 pm.

Family Shabbat

Unity in Lynnwood

Friday, January 16, 7:00 pm, with Rabbi Rachel Kort and musician Shoshana Stombaugh



Our entire Temple Beth Or community is invited to our Family Shabbat service designed especially to nurture and engage our children and Religious School community. The evening will include songs, prayers and a story.

Guests - Register at templebethor.org/service-registration/. Registration ends Friday, January 16, noon.

Shabbat morning services, with Rabbi Rachel Kort and musician Neil Weinstein, Saturday, January 24

Unity in Lynnwood

Tot Shabbat, 9:00 am



This service is geared toward preschoolers and babies, but early elementary youth will enjoy the service too. The morning will include Shabbat singing and a story. Kids are encouraged to bring a special lovey toy with them.

Shabbat service, 10:00 am



Our community worship service will include a Torah reading and *drash* (sermon). The service is geared toward our adult and *b'nei mitzvah* student community.

Guests - Register at templebethor.org/service-registration/. Registration ends Friday, January 23, 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

Service leading workshop



Online class with Rabbi Rachel Kort and Ruach & Ritual Committee members

Tuesday, February 3, 7-8:30 pm

At Temple Beth Or, we live by the core Jewish value of being a *mamlechet Kohanim*—a “nation of priests” where every member has a voice. As a volunteer-driven community, our celebrations and prayers are truly “of the people, by the people, and for the people.”

Join **Rabbi Kort** and members of the *Ruach & Ritual Committee* to learn or refresh the skills needed to lead parts of a Shabbat service with one of our professional song leaders. Come discover how you can offer your strength as a leader on behalf of our community.



- Focus on introducing prayers and sharing your unique perspective
- No Hebrew knowledge is necessary
- All backgrounds and comfort levels are welcome

Religious School
Tu BiShvat celebration
Sunday, February 1, 10:00 am-noon
Details forthcoming in ORbits
and ORkids

BOTY is going bowling



Join BOTY for a fun and relaxed night of bowling on January 31 from 8:00–10:00 pm. Come hang out with friends, enjoy some great food and roll a few strikes.

Registration is open until January 24. Be sure to sign up - we'd love to have you there! Bowling location will be shared after you register.

To register, contact boty@templebethor.org.



From our Director of Youth Education

Sunday, December 14, marked Religious School's 4th Hanukkahpalooza! Tots to grandparents sang their Hanukkah hearts out with Shoshana Stombaugh, explored creative, interactive holiday stations, and ended their sweet morning with delicious *sufganiyot*. Tots enjoyed making a special family portrait, storytime and playing with the giant *hanukkiyah*. Bigger students had fun making their own dreidel, exploring the theme of light in the Hanukkah story and contributing to the school-wide art project that we hope will bring light and joy into the new building.

Stefanie
Stefanie Somers (she/her)

HANUKKAHPALOOZA 2025



Membership news



Please welcome two new members to TBO



We welcome our new member, **Linda Chessin**, who joined TBO this past July. Linda was previously a member of a *chavurah* in Woodinville which has since disbanded, and was reaching out for a new Jewish community closer to her home. It hasn't taken her long to become involved. An avid reader, she joined the book club and is now a co-chair with **Wyndi Russakoff**. She has also joined the Mitzvah Corps. Linda likes to hike, run half-marathons, play mah jong, travel and entertain. Her favorite holiday is Passover, when she gathers with family and friends to observe the seder. Linda is the mother of three children who are all professionals, just as she is. A Boeing retiree, Linda's late husband was also a Boeing employee and a writer and musician.

And now for an interesting story. Linda has two sisters, one of whom is a rabbi who attended Hebrew Union College at the same time as the first rabbi of our TBO. Judith Chessin has been the rabbi of a congregation in Dayton, Ohio for 40 years, and, would you believe, the name of that congregation is Temple Beth Or!

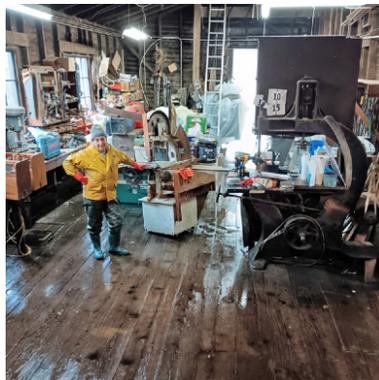
Welcome to **Terri Viglietta**, who joined Temple Beth Or this past year. Terri grew up on Long Island in New York and attended the University at Buffalo, where she met her husband, Ben. Ben was a JAG officer in the Air Force, so Terri and he, along with their three boys, lived all over, including several U.S. cities, Europe and Asia. They moved to Mill Creek 11 years ago to be near two of their sons who live close by. Ben passed away in 2022. On a happier note, Terri is looking forward to her first grandchild, due to arrive this month.

Terri's favorite Jewish holiday is Hanukkah. At TBO, she is enjoying making new friends and participating in Next Chapter events. Terri volunteers at the Assistance League in Everett. She has many interests including traveling, reading, bird watching, watching tennis and creating diamond art. We are pleased to have Terri as a member of our community.



Thank you, Temple Beth Or!

As many of you know, we live on the bank of the Snohomish River, and the atmospheric river that came through hit us hard. We had two feet of muddy water in the boat shop. We knew it was coming, so we picked up as much as we could, but it was still pretty awful. We have now hosed out the mud, and the floor is drying, so we are getting back to normal. But we wanted to express our deep gratitude for all the support we got from Temple members. We had so many phone calls offering help, meals, or a place to stay. Since our apartment is five feet higher than the shop, we didn't need to be rescued, but it was wonderful to know that folks were keeping an eye on us, and would help if we needed it. Floods don't just impact the physical space. They impact your mental and emotional space as well. We are so lucky to be a part of this amazing community. Thanks so much for the kind support!



Nancy Sosnove and David Roberts

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



- Solly Rubin- 40 years
- Barb and Mike Ingram - 35 years
- Hanna Schwarz - 35 years
- Selma Balk - 33 years
- Rosie and Harvey Tatel - 33 years
- Ellie Hochman and Sandy Voit - 29 years
- Mendel Zacky - 26 years
- Deb Henry - 24 years
- Debra and Scott Lawson - 21 years
- David Gross - 16 years
- Tina and Roland Roth - 11 years
- Janet Robertson - 7 years
- Ariel Topletz-Erickson and Adam Erickson - 1 year
- Terri Viglietta - 1 year
- Sarah Zinamon and Yueyang Zheng - 1 year



Remodel news



Things are getting very exciting as we get closer to completion of the building. Due to the fantastic efforts of our Capital Campaign team and the generosity of the TBO community, we have been able to add back into the project a few of the things that we had taken out of the original project in order to reduce our costs - including the kitchen! Whoo hoo! Please consider paying off your pledges as early as possible to delay or eliminate our potential need to borrow funds. It is not too late to pledge additional donations to this effort; there are still more items needed before the building is fully ready for us - like shelving, additional furniture, etc. For more information on how to pledge/donate to the Capital Campaign, contact **Jeff Napp**.

Here's the latest:

- Paint colors and kitchen appliances have been selected. Cabinets and the Kwik-Wall partitions have been ordered.
- Roof work is finished. The building is wrapped and windows have been installed.
- HVAC, plumbing, electrical and fire sprinkler subcontractors are working throughout the building.
- The building has been "sealed" and large heaters are now running 24/7 to dry out the building. Once the building is dry enough, insulation and drywall installation can begin.
- **Glen Pickus** has led numerous tours of the construction site over the last couple of months - about 25 members have participated. If you did not get to take a construction tour and still want to, please reach out to Glen. He would be delighted to show you around at a mutually convenient time.
- **Harold Dash** and other members of the Remodel Task Force led a presentation about the remodel construction at the semiannual membership meeting in December.
- **Rich Spitzer** will lead a team to design the various storage areas in the remodel. He'll need folks to represent the needs of Religious School, the sanctuary, building maintenance, administrative/office, and the social hall. Contact Rich if you'd like to help.
- **Mike Glosser** and **Adam Goldstein** have agreed to coordinate the move in process. Thanks Mike and Adam! If you would like to help, reach out to them or to **Melanie Field**. All skills are welcome.
- We have begun planning the building rededication event.

If you have questions about this project, feel free to contact Glen Pickus, Melanie Field or Harold Dash.

Capital Campaign - TBO ROCKS!

Hazak hazak venit'hazek (Be strong, be strong, and may we be strengthened). As of December 24, TBO households have pledged \$134,400 to qualify us for a matching \$150,000 grant from several generous TBO families.

Our small, progressive community has raised over \$4,391,200 as of the same date to complete the remodel of our historic building. Soon we will have ADA access for members and guests, two additional bathrooms, improved security, larger classrooms, and more meeting and social space. The following sources contributed to the total: member donations and pledges (including the Religious School), \$2,757,800; nonmember and other member donations and pledges, \$75,200; insurance, \$373,200; grants, \$500,000; Gordon estate, \$519,000; interest \$166,000.

Additional good news: If TBO households are able to complete their pledges on the timelines they offered, we may be able to avoid a construction loan and save approximately \$42,000 in interest and fees. Those funds will be used for other high priority remodel items.

Todah rabah to all our members for the many ways you supported this effort. There were so many different ways to be involved: generously pledging funds, asking others to pledge, serving on committees, participating in our member feedback sessions, helping to clean out the Temple, packing, moving and storing furniture, books and religious items. Many of you helped in multiple ways. We couldn't have done this project without your support in all these different ways.

With gratitude, Your Capital Campaign Committee



2025 donation statements will be mailed the first week of January and are enclosed with your quarterly statement. If you fail to receive one, please contact the office.

December construction photos



More great photos at templebethor.org/building



Social Action Committee news

The *Tzedakah* Box recipient for January-March is the Snohomish County Food Coalition. We all know that food insecurity is a worsening problem for our neighbors. Please consider donating to this network of 17 food banks, which is dedicated to ensuring access to nutritious food for individuals and families across the county, from Sultan to Darrington to Mountlake Terrace.

Coalition members collaborate on healthy food choices, bulk purchasing, best practices, and shared policies - strengthening the impact they can have.

Donations to the Snohomish County Food Coalition can be placed in the *Tzedakah* Box at services, online through the Temple Beth Or website, or directly to the Coalition. For more information, go to snocofood.org.



Immigrant rights

Washington Immigration Solidarity Network (WAISN) and Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice Northwest (JCIJ) are two organizations that can provide us with important information on how to support our immigrant neighbors.



WAISN is a great source of information on advocacy and on working to fix our broken immigration system. Go to WAISN.org to see their new and improved website. It has a link to resources, volunteer opportunities, a hotline phone number and “Know Your Rights” information for immigrants as well as bystanders and observers.



JCIJ is committed to supporting immigrant communities and standing together in the face of anticipated escalation of ICE activity in Washington. As part of the statewide Washington for All Coalition, JCIJ helps monitor the situation and prepare responses to federal escalation. The organization is planning ways to keep us informed and mobilize the JCIJ community to keep our state safe. Join the Community Response List! Take action for emergent and urgent needs to support immigrants by filling out the form at tinyurl.com/JCIJform. Contact **Beth Fine** or **Naomi Katsh Barger** if you have any questions.

JCIJ publishes a monthly newsletter. Here’s a link to their December newsletter: <https://www.jewishcoalition.org/news/newsletter/december2025>. To receive all the information that JCIJ has to offer in a timely fashion, scroll down to the end of this link to subscribe.

Join Everett’s annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration on January 19. Watch for details in the *ORbits* as we get closer to the date.



Camperships



There is no experience more thrilling or transformative than Jewish overnight summer camp. Camp creates lifelong friendships and unbreakable bonds to Judaism and the Jewish community. Teens who attend residential camp as a child tend to stay connected to their Jewish communities as adults.

Think about sending your child to URJ Camp Kalsman, the premiere Jewish camp in the Pacific Northwest. Campers from across the PNW - Oregon, British Columbia, Alaska, Montana, Idaho and Washington - call Camp Kalsman home. Your child’s camp experience is based on six core values: friendship, *k’hilah k’dushah* (sacred community), Reform Jewish identity, *chesed* (kindness), connection to Israel, and our relationship to *tevah* (nature). Camp Kalsman’s 300 beautiful acres offer a great balance of education and recreation. The camp incorporates Judaism into many different activities, and campers learn new skills in athletic, aquatic, artistic and nature programs. For a summer of fun, friendships of a lifetime, and an unparalleled Jewish experience, attend Camp Kalsman as a camper or as a staff member.

Campership information will be mailed to all Religious School families in early January. If you do not receive a packet, contact the Temple office.

All Temple Beth Or first-time campers qualify for \$100 off tuition. You will need to apply for this discount when you fill out the Temple Beth Or campership application at tinyurl.com/tbocampership26. The Temple will then pay the camp the first \$100. All Temple campership applications are due Friday, February 27, 2026. There are no extensions to this date.

If you need financial assistance, send in the Camp Kalsman application now and let them know you will be applying for both a Temple Beth Or and Jewish Federation campership. Contact **Sonia Siegel Vexler** with your questions.



1/1	Nathan Busch	Father of Bernie Busch
1/1	Alex Corotas	Grandfather of Sam Halle
1/1	Carl Sanche	Grandfather of Brian Yenna
1/1	Jacquelyn Schoenfeld	Stepmother of Howard Schoenfeld
1/1	Seena Seidman	Mother of Stacey Seidman
1/1	Michael Weight	Husband of Cheryl Weight
1/3	Louis Rosenzweig	Grandfather of Tony Roon
1/4	LaVera Barbour	Mother of Kaye Gorlick
		Grandmother of Joshua Gorlick
		Grandmother of Rachel Gorlick
1/4	Jacob Ephross	Father of Mim Edelstein
1/4	Rosalie Gross	Wife of David Gross
1/4	Mark Israel	Cousin of Suzan Halle
1/5	Sylvia Hochman	Mother of Ellie Hochman
1/5	Stan Wasser	Father of Barb Ingram
1/6	Ralph Barger	Father-in-law of Naomi Katsh Barger
1/6	Lena Abromovitz Friend Miller	Grandmother of Geraldine Friend
1/6	Melvin Tatel	Father of Harvey Tatel
1/7	Annette Block	Friend of Hanna Schwarz
1/7	Homer Clinton Smith	Grandfather of Jane Blustein
1/7	Angie Williams	Grandmother of Autumn Halliwell
1/8	Naomi Fishman	Mother of Selma Balk
1/8	Julius Katsh	Grandfather of Naomi Katsh Barger
1/8	Joshua Landow	Grandfather of Harold Dash
1/8	Gerald Otto Lechner	Temple Beth Or Family
1/9	Barbara Ticho	Grandmother of Rand Miller
1/9	Phillip Wexler	Grandfather of Eldon Wexler
1/10	Gloria Black	Mother of Norm Black
		Grandmother of Cece Black
1/10	Ludwig Klein	Brother of Hanna Schwarz
1/10	Jack Safran	Grandfather of Marla Phippen
1/10	Samuel Scott	Father of of Terri Viglietta
1/10	Dorothy Trenor	Stepmother of Mel Trenor
1/14	Harland W. "Sonny" Fine	Father of Rabbi David Fine
1/14	James Chris Wilkinson	Husband of Nancy Wilkinson
1/15	Miriam Waldbaum	Mother of Jerry Waldbaum
		Grandmother of Amber Waldbaum
1/16	D. Leonard Cohen	Father of Janet Robertson
1/17	Benjamin Golomstock Holomes	Grandfather of Leah Kliger
1/17	Jim Roberts	Brother of David Roberts
1/17	Stephen Wax	Husband of Linda Chessin
1/18	Martin Friedman	Father-in-law of Vicki Schwartz
1/18	Ellie Gurian	Grandfather of Anne Gurian
1/19	Minnie Morris	Grandmother of Ron Green
1/21	Sarah Bockserman	Mother-in-law of David Gross
1/22	Barney Gorenstein	Life partner of Pamela Lonergan
1/22	Manfred Halle	Father of Suzan Halle
1/22	Portia Kaufmann	Mother of David Roberts
1/22	Joseph Kelly	Cousin of Sarah Davis
1/24	Leslie Mackoff	Father of Julie Mackoff
1/24	David Sebel	Grandfather of Howard Schoenfeld
1/25	David Schwartz	Father of Vicki Schwartz
1/26	Lazarus Haet	Temple Beth Or Family
1/26	Martin Koss	Grandfather of Jeremy Feigen
1/26	Alexander Roon	Father of Tony Roon
1/26	Violetta R. Tolle	Grandmother of Tina Roth
1/26	Ruth Weiss	Mother of Helene Paroff
1/27	George Adler	Father of Nancy Adler-Jones
1/28	Beverly Lemchen	Cousin of Carolyn Wexler
1/29	Paul Gardsbane	Father of Susan Cross
1/30	Albert Kessel	Father of Cheryl Weight
1/31	Grace Katsh	Mother of Naomi Katsh Barger
1/31	Edward Resnick	Temple Beth Or Family

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 on this page.

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 to TBO after your death.

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.

To learn more or to start the conversation, please contact one of our Life & Legacy Committee members:

- Bob Goodmark**
- Debbie Halliday**
- Deb Henry**
- Eldon Wexler**
- Sonia Siegel Vexler**



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).



Leadership news

During the Governing Board meeting on December 7, 2025, the Board did the following:

- Current Board members welcomed newly elected Present-elect **Jonathan Roselle** and Assistant VP of Jewish Life **Matt Sowell**.
- The Board approved expenditures for:
 - Building access control, exterior security cameras and required cabling, to be provided by ITN at a cost of \$66,700
 - Cabinets and countertops for the kitchen at a cost of \$30,000 from United Wholesale
 - Installation of kitchen cabinets and countertops by SCR Construction at a cost of \$3,100
 - Kitchen appliances, faucets and miscellaneous items at a cost of \$6,900.
- **Jeff Napp** reported that the \$100,000 Capital Campaign match challenge has been met.
- **Wanda Bresnick** and **Leslie Elsemore** are starting to plan the reopening/ dedication celebration.
- **Gwen Campbell** reported on the TBO policies organization project. Once completed, current policies will be on the TBO website.



Thank you to our outgoing 2025 Governing Board

Bob Goodmark, Wanda Bresnick, Rich Spitzer, James Feinberg, Jeff Napp,
 Melissa VonAschen-Cook, Nancy Rosen, Gwen Campbell
 Not pictured: Pattipeg Harjo, Ron Green, Rani Linarelli, Dana Sanders

Temple Leadership

Rabbi

Rachel Kort

Director of Youth Education

Stefanie Somers

Office Administrator

Sarah Davis

Governing Board

President

Nancy Rosen

President-elect

Jonathan Roselle

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

Matt Sowell

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

B'nei Mitzvah Family Liaison: Jessica Burgamy

Book Club: Wyndi Russakoff & Linda Chessin

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: Vacant

HHD (Rosh HaShanah): Vacant

HHD (Yom Kippur): Vacant

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

Oleg 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



JANUARY 2026

Tevet / Sh'vat 5786



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				Office closed 1	Office closed 2	3
					Shabbat at home 7:30 pm	
TBO TOTS 4	5 Finance Committee meeting 7:00 pm <i>Ruach</i> & Ritual Committee meeting 7:00 pm	6	7	8	9 Liaison Committee meeting 10:00 am Creative Shabbat 7:30 pm	10
RS			Executive Committee meeting 7:00 pm	Remodel Task Force meeting 7:30 pm		
Governing Board meeting 10:00 am Structured dialogue 4:00 pm	12 Communications Committee meeting 7:00 pm	13 Office closed	14 Office closed	15 Office closed	16 Office closed Family Shabbat 7:00 pm	17
11						
18	1 Sh'vat 19 <i>ORacle</i> deadline Membership Committee meeting 7:00 pm	20	21	22	23	24 Tot Shabbat 9:00 am Shabbat morning service 10:00 am
No RS						
25	26	27	28 Executive Committee meeting 7:00 pm Safety & Security Committee meeting 7:00 pm	29 Rabbi away	30	31 BOTY goes bowling 8:00 pm
RS						

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.**