



The Bet Ha'am Weekly Email

Words of Torah from Rabbi Saks

This Shabbat, as I am sure you are aware, is Rosh Hashanah. Accordingly, our Torah reading for Shabbat falls outside of the regular cycle of Torah readings. Rather than continuing with Deuteronomy, we'll read the Akeidah, the Binding of Isaac (Genesis 22). It is a challenging and troubling story, one which our tradition interprets as a test of Abraham's faith in God. God commands Abraham to take his son Isaac to the top of Mount Moriah and offer him as a sacrifice. At the 11th hour, an angel calls out to Abraham, who is clutching the knife, and tells him to stop, that he has proven his faith in God. In place of Isaac, Abraham pulls a ram from the thicket nearby and offers the ram as a sacrifice instead.



Our tradition says that there were ten things that were created at the twilight of Shabbat at the end of Creation. Among them is the ram that was offered in Isaac's place. Ultimately, the first people were expelled from the Garden of Eden, which serves as the model for the perfection of the world. But these ten items serve as the tools through which we will return to the Garden of Eden. They are the tools that help us to perfect the world. Rabbi Nachman of Breslov taught, "If you believe that destruction is possible, then you must also believe it is possible to repair." With all the brokenness in our world today, we must have the faith and conviction that we can repair our broken world.

Worship Schedule

Friday, September 18

Erev Rosh Hashanah Worship 7:30 PM

You must register by **Friday, September 18 at 9:00 AM** to receive the link to this service. Register [here](#).

Saturday, September 19

Children's Rosh Hashanah Worship 8:30 AM

You must register by **Friday, September 18 at 9:00 AM** to receive the link to this service. Register [here](#).

Torah Study 9:00 AM

Thank you to Robert Morrison for leading our Torah Study. We apologize; this session is fully enrolled.

Rosh Hashanah Worship 10:30 AM

You must register by **Friday, September 18 at 9:00 AM** to receive the link to this service. Register [here](#).

Sunday, September 20

Family Second Day Rosh Hashanah Program 9:00 AM. [Register here.](#)

Teen Second Day Rosh Hashanah Program 5:00 PM. [Register here.](#)

Wednesday, September 23

Morning Minyan 7:30 AM

Join congregant Daniel Oppenheim for the morning service. [Register here.](#)

Religious School

Religious School on Zoom Sunday, September 20

9:00 AM Rosh Hashanah Family Program (Grades 1-6)

[Register in advance.](#)

Meeting ID: 867 7207 8269

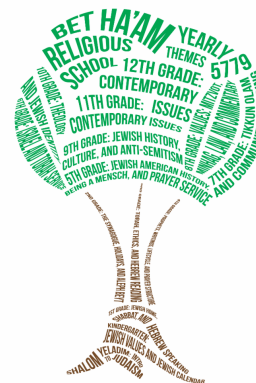
Passcode: 360142

10:00: 5th Grade Hebrew

10:00: 6th Grade Hebrew

10:15: 3rd Grade Hebrew

10:30: 4th Grade Hebrew



5:00 PM Rosh Hashanah Teen Program (Grades 7-10)

[Register in advance.](#)

Meeting ID: 819 8617 4173

Passcode: 028105

6:15 PM Shoko & Sheetuf

[Register in advance.](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

6:30 PM Grades 8-9

6:30 PM Grade 7

Religious School Registration Is Still Open

[Click here](#) to register.

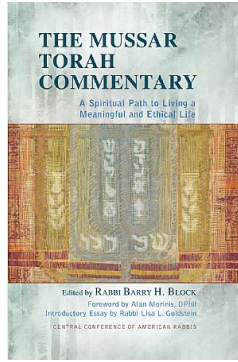
Social Action

Maine's online system for applying for an absentee ballot for the November election is now available. Any Maine registered voter can choose to vote absentee, either by mail or in person. But to receive a ballot by mail, you must fill out the online request form. Once you have voted, you may choose to mail in your ballot, return it to your city clerk or town hall prior to or on election day, or take it to your polling place on election day.

Voting is a mitzvah and as part of our campaign to reach 100% congregation participation, we encourage you in this time of COVID-19 to take advantage of the absentee option. ~Catherine Share

[Request an Absentee Ballot](#)

News from the Office



Torah Study

At Bet Ha'am, people gather for our weekly Torah Study on Saturday mornings at 9:00 AM. Some have been coming for over thirty years. Others are just dipping their toes in the water. Everyone is welcome.

Starting October 17, we will be exploring Torah through the lens of *The Mussar Torah Commentary: A Spiritual Path to Living a Meaningful and Ethical Life*. You may buy a copy [here](#) or [here](#) (be sure to choose Bet Ha'am's Smile account) or from your local book seller. Scholarships are available--please email [Karen Hindall](mailto:karen.hindall@bet-ha-am.org). You should also feel

free to join Torah Study if you don't have a copy--we'll be reading passages aloud. [Read more](#) about this new practice in Rabbi's blog.

Regulars, please note: We will not be sending materials in advance while we use this book to guide our study.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Chris and Theresa Skidgel and big sisters Mary and Sarah on the arrival of baby Christopher on Friday, September 4. We can't wait to meet him!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Karen Hindall and Emma Hindall for being awarded the Linda and Joel Abramson Award from the JCA.

If you would like help getting **essential supplies**, like groceries or medication, or if you would like a weekly phone call check-in, we are here! Please [email us](#) and we will match you with a volunteer. We extend this invitation to our summer-resident congregants as well as those who live here year-round.

Adult Learning and Socializing

B'Yachad | Together

Come relax and talk virtually with your Bet Ha'am community before Friday Shabbat services! Simply dine and/or share a glass of wine together? Share your newest knitting creation, a few pictures of your garden or last vacation, or the latest book you've read? Our virtual Zoom "social hall" will be open an hour before 7:30 PM services for you to stop by and chat. [Register here](#). Please contact congregant [Wendy Hayes](#) with questions.



B'Yachad | Together will not meet this week.



TV Discussion Group

Please join congregants Melissa Montefel and Wendy Hayes, co-facilitators, for a discussion group about Jewish-themed shows. The group meets at 7:00 PM for fun, talk, and insights.

September 30: "Outback Rabbis" available on Amazon. "On a road trip like no other, ultra-Orthodox

Chassidic rabbis hit the Aussie bush looking for 'lost Jews'."

October 14: "Harbor from the Holocaust" available at pbs.org. "This is the story of nearly 20,000 Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi-occupied Europe during World War II to the Chinese port city of Shanghai. Explore the extraordinary relationship of these Jews and their

adopted city of Shanghai, even through the bitter years of Japanese occupation 1937-1945 and the Chinese civil war that followed."

October 28: "Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel" available on Amazon Prime (\$1.99). "A team of nice Jewish baseball players takes on the world. This is the David-and-Goliath story of Israel's national baseball team as it competes for the first time in the World Baseball Classic. After years of crushing defeats, Israel finally ranks among the world's best in 2017."

Please email Wendy for the login or with questions or suggestions for future movies.

Curbside Library Borrowing

Although the building remains closed, you may borrow a book from our wonderful library using our new curbside delivery on **Fridays between 10:00 a.m and 1:00 p.m.** Our library offers 3,000 volumes, including both contemporary fiction and non-fiction works about life-cycle events, holidays, Jewish parenting, and Torah study.



Please visit the [library page](#) on our website for a description of how the program works. The same page also has access to our online catalog and direction on how to use it.

Curbside borrowing is not available this Friday, September 18.

Notable Upcoming Services

Sunday, September 27
Kol Nidre

Monday, September 28
Yom Kippur

For more on High Holy Day services and programs, please look for the High Holy Day email that will arrive Friday morning. Limited information is also available [on our website](#). You can register for services by clicking the button below. **Registration is required to attend services; we will not be sending the links to our lists.**

[High Holy Day Registration](#)

Donate to Bet Ha'am

Thank you to everyone who is supporting us as we try to close our budget gap! Your financial commitments and gifts to the annual fund are greatly appreciated. You can also support Bet Ha'am by clicking the button below.

[Donate Now](#)

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