



## The Bet Ha'am Weekly Email

**Please note: We have all new links for Shabbat worship services, morning minyan, and Torah study!** The old links will not work. Please register below.

## Words of Torah from Rabbi Saks

This Shabbat is also the first day of the fall harvest festival of Sukkot. There are three harvest festivals in our calendar: Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot. When the Temple stood in Jerusalem, each was a pilgrimage festival. For each, there is an agricultural, a historical, and a theological theme. For Passover, they are the spring harvest, our redemption from Egypt, and the longing for the ultimate redemption. For Shavuot, they are the late spring harvest, our standing at Mount Sinai, and God's having revealed Torah to us so that we can share its message with the world. For Sukkot, they are the fall harvest, our wandering in the wilderness, and God's creation of the world.



In the Torah reading for the first day of Sukkot, we read, "On the first day you shall take the product of *hadar* trees, branches of palm trees, boughs of leafy trees, and willow of the brook, and you shall rejoice before the Eternal your God seven days" (Lev. 23:40). These four types of produce are the *etrog* (citron) and the *lulav*, the latter of which is comprised of a palm branch, myrtle branches, and willow branches. Various sources in Jewish tradition identify these four products as symbols of our bodies. The *etrog's* shape evokes the heart. The palm branch evokes the spine. The shape of the myrtle's leaves remind us of eyes. And the shape of the willow's leaves remind us of lips. As we take the *etrog* and *lulav* into our hands, we remind ourselves to strive to praise God with our whole bodies, with the intention of our hearts, through our physical actions, by seeing God in the world, and through song and speech. Sukkot calls us to use our whole selves to see and represent God's presence in the world.

## Worship Schedule

**Friday, October 2**

### **Erev Sukkot Worship 7:30 PM**

Weather and internet permitting, Rabbi Saks will lead services from his sukkah. We hope you will join from your own sukkah--be it one you built outside, a sukkah-like space you've created in your home, or a table-top sukkah you have placed in sight of your computer camera. You can read more about Sukkot and about building (and sharing!) a sukkah [here](#).

**NEW LINK!** Please use the link in the technology box to register for services **BEFORE NOON ON FRIDAY**.

Thank you to board member Sam Rothman for making announcements.

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Saturday, October 3

### Torah Study 9:00 AM

**NEW LINK!** Please use the link in the technology box to register for Torah Study **BEFORE NOON ON FRIDAY**. The study sheets are [here](#) and [here](#).

### Shabbat Morning Worship 10:30 AM

**NEW LINK!** Please use the link in the technology box to register for services **BEFORE NOON ON FRIDAY**.

Wednesday, October 7

### Morning Minyan 7:30 AM

**NEW LINK!** Please use the link in the technology box to register for morning minyan led by congregant Daniel Oppenheim.

## Registration Links

Please register to receive the Zoom links for worship and study.

- **NEW!!** The Friday night link will work for **ALL** Friday night services (whether at 6:00 PM or 7:30 PM) until the end of December.
- **NEW!!** The Saturday link will work for **ALL** Saturday morning worship (including b'nai mitzvah services) until the end of December.

As always, the Torah Study link will work for all Torah study sessions and the morning minyan link will work for all morning minyanim through the end of December. Tot Shabbat will have its own link.

- For **Friday night worship**, [click here](#).
- For Saturday morning **Torah Study**, [click here](#).
- For **Saturday morning worship**, [click here](#).
- For **Wednesday morning minyan**, [click here](#).

Please remember to register by noon on Friday. **We will not be able to send links on Saturday or Sunday.**

## Religious School

### Religious School on Zoom Sunday, October 4

Morning School:

9:00 AM Grades 1-6 Tefillah & Assembly

9:30 AM-12:00 PM Grades K-6 (at pre-scheduled times)

12:15 PM: Grade 6 Parent Meeting (Sam invited families in an email.)

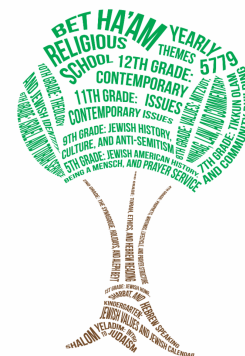
Evening School:

5:00 PM: Grades 8-10 Parent Meeting (Sam invited families in an email.)

5:00 PM: Grades 7, 11-12 Classes

5:30 PM: Grades 8-10 Classes

6:15 PM: Shoko & Sheetuf (Grades 7-12 invited)



## Drum Circle

**Come bang a drum (or bucket) with Bet Ha'am!  
Sunday, October 11th at 2:00 PM**

Please join us for our first in-person outdoor event this fall: a drum circle in the great outdoors! Making music is an important part of creating shared space, and drum circles are an ancient and time-honored way of gathering together in a community. This will be a great chance to see some old friends in the congregation face to face in a safe and fun way. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are unable to provide instruments, so please bring a drum if you have one, or anything to bang out a rhythm on (including plastic buckets, tubs, or even pots and pans). Please bring only drums or drum-like instruments.



All ages are welcome. Space is very limited, so please [register here!](#) You will receive information about the event's location after you register (and if there's still room). This event has priority registration for current congregation members and *all participants will need to agree to our in-person meeting guidelines.* You can find them [here.](#)

## Bernstein Memorial Scholar

Each year, the Rosalyn S. and Sumner T. Bernstein Memorial Scholar-In-Residence program makes it possible for us to bring a leading figure in the Jewish world to our synagogue for study and celebration. This year, we will welcome (on Zoom) Professor Marc Dollinger, author of *Black Power, Jewish Politics: Reinventing the Alliance in the 1960s.*



We are pleased to offer Dr. Dollinger's book in advance of the talks. **Signed copies of the book will be available for \$35 until they're gone.**

[Buy the book HERE](#)

### **Jews, Whiteness, Power, and Privilege** **October 22 at 7:00 PM**

In this talk, which is focused more on sociology than history, Dr. Dollinger will define "whiteness," give an overview of Jewishness and whiteness since the late 19th century, and help frame some of the larger questions of power and privilege in an American Jewish context. The talk will explore the vocabulary and assumptions of social justice movements today.

### **1619, 1654, 2020: Jews and Racism** **October 29 at 7:00 PM**

We will explore the documents in a primary source reader that Dr. Dollinger co-edited with Gary Zola get to the heart of American Jewish support, complicity, and benefit from institutional racism. This talk will be a deep dive into the ways that Jews, as whites, have succeeded in the U.S. because of institutional racism. This is talk for people who want the most direct and honest assessment of the current national climate.

[Register HERE](#)

Both talks will be held on Zoom. Read the sermon Rabbi Saks gave about racial justice [here.](#) Read more about Dr. Dollinger [here.](#)

## News from the Office

### **High Holy Day Prayer Books**

We were pleased that so many people borrowed books for the High Holy Days. Now is the time to return them to Bet Ha'am! There will be a box in the courtyard **Monday through Friday, 10:00am until 1:00pm.** If those times

do not work for you, please [email Chris Skidgel](#) to see if there's a possible alternative arrangement.

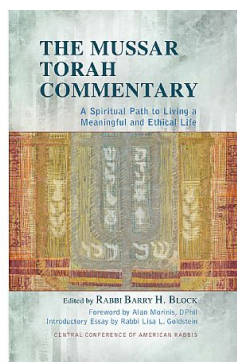
Prayer books are **due back by October 23**.



## High Holy Day Sermons

If you'd like to read what Rabbi Saks and President Lynn Urbach shared during the High Holy Days, check out [our blog](#)! The Rosh Hashanah sermons and welcome are up now; we will post Yom Kippur's sermons and remarks in the coming days.

Recordings of High Holy Day services are not available.



## 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](#). 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.*

## Stone Soup

Stone Soup is a Shabbat gift to our congregants. Please stop by the building on Friday between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to pick up a container (or two, if you have a family) of frozen vegetable soup for your Shabbat table. The soup is vegetarian and kosher style; the ingredients are listed [here](#) (on the Stone Soup tab), along with an explanation of "stone soup." Many thanks to those who have donated to support Stone Soup.



## 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](#)

# 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.



### 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.

**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.

## Notable Upcoming Services

**Friday, October 9**

### Erev Simchat Torah 6:00 PM

Join us to dance to the accordion of Nancy 3. Hoffman and welcome children to consecration. We will read from the end of Deuteronomy and the beginning of Genesis. All on Zoom.

**Saturday, October 17**

### Declan Rowles Bar Mitzvah

**Saturday, October 24**

### Lucinda Hirschhorn Bat Mitzvah

# Donate to Bet Ha'am

Guests of Bet Ha'am, joining us for High Holy Day services, gave generously to support the community. You can join them! Your gifts to the annual fund are greatly appreciated. You can support Bet Ha'am by clicking the button below.

[Donate Now](#)

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