



The Bet Ha'am Weekly Email

Words of Torah from Rabbi Saks

One of the most famous narratives of Torah appears in this week's Torah portion, *B'reishit*. After Adam and Eve have been exiled from the Garden of Eden, their sons, Cain and Abel, each make an offering to God. Abel's offering is accepted; Cain's is rejected. Despondent, Cain kills his brother, the first murder and first human death in the Torah. When God confronts Cain, God says to him, "The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground" (Genesis 4:10). The word 'blood' here is presented in the plural in Hebrew דָּמַי (*d'mei*). It is as though the verse reads, "Your brother's **bloods** cry out to Me."



In the Mishnah (Sandhedrin 4:5), the Sages ask why it says 'bloods' and not 'blood.' The Mishnah responds, "This serves to teach that the loss of both his brother's blood and the blood of his brother's offspring are ascribed to Cain." It's not just Abel's life that is lost, but all of the potential for future life that would flow from him is lost as well. Here, the Mishnah teaches us that whoever destroys a single life has destroyed an entire world, but that whoever saves a single life has saved an entire world. Each of us is created בְּצֶלֶם אֱלֹהִים (*b'tzelem Elohim*), in the image of God. When we value each and every life, we honor that spark of the divine in each person.

Worship Schedule

Friday, October 16

Shabbat Worship 7:30 PM

Please use the link in the Registration box to register for services. Thank you to board member Ashley DiPietro for making announcements.

Before *MiShebeirach* and *Kaddish*, Rabbi Saks will invite anyone who wishes to say a name to unmute themselves and share the name of the person they are remembering.

B'Yachad | Together will meet before the service at 6:30 PM. Please see the Adult Socializing box below for details--including the login.

Saturday, October 17

Torah Study 9:00 AM

This is our first week 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.

Shabbat Morning Worship 10:30 AM

Mazal tov to Declan Rowles, child of Molly Curren Rowles and Dustin Rowles, who will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Please use the link in the Registration box to register for services.



Thank you to board member Jay Efron for making the board presentations.

Before *MiShebeirach* and *Kaddish*, Rabbi Saks will invite anyone who wishes to say a name to unmute themselves and share the name of the person they are remembering.

Pregnancy & Infant Loss Memorial Havdalah 6:00 PM

Please join our Jewish community as we create a service to give support, love, and remembrance to those who have experienced tragedy during pregnancy or soon thereafter.

Families do not have to grieve in silence. We will join together to mark our experiences and share words of peace and comfort in a safe space. We will conclude with a brief Havdalah service, marking the separation of Shabbat from the secular week, followed by a candle lighting recognizing family loss.

Following the Havdalah service, you are invited to stay on the chat to meet other families and learn more about resources in our community available to help through times of grief.

Registration is required and will close on **Friday, October 16 at 3:00 PM.**

Questions? Please [contact Karli Efron](#). *The service is presented by Michael Klahr Jewish Family Services (KJFS) and Congregation Bet Ha'am.*

Wednesday, October 21

Morning Minyan 7:30 AM

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

Registration Links

Please register **BEFORE NOON ON FRIDAY** to receive the Zoom links for worship and study.

- 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.
- 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 18

Morning School:

9:00 AM Grades 1-6 Tefillah & Assembly

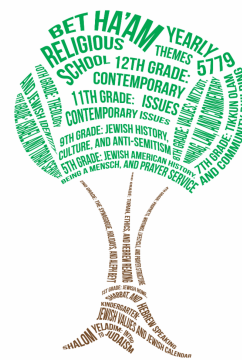
9:30 AM-12:00 PM K'tanim, Shalom Yeladim, Grades 1-6 (see class hourly schedule)

Evening School:

5:00 PM: Grade 7 Class

5:30 PM: Grades 8-10 Classes

6:15 PM: Shoko & Sheetuf



Candle Lighting

Have you noticed that we haven't been lighting Shabbat candles at our services on Zoom? In part, it's because Shabbat and holiday candle lighting are traditionally a home ritual, not a congregational ritual. The Shabbat song *Shalom Aleichem* is rooted in a text from the Talmud (BT Shabbat 119b) that says that two angels join us in our homes on Friday night. If the home is prepared for Shabbat and the candles have been lit, then the "good" angel declares, "So may it be for next Shabbat!" If however the home is not prepared for Shabbat and candles have not been lit, the "bad" angel gets to make the same declaration. The early Reform rabbis, seeing that the members of their congregations were no longer participating in this home ritual, moved candle lighting, kiddush, and motzi to the sanctuary to include more Jews in this tradition. Now that we all experience worship from our own homes, we have the unique opportunity to bring Shabbat candle lighting back into our homes.



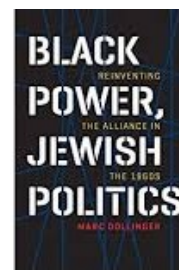
If you miss candle lighting at the start of services, why not share your home candle lighting with us? Please consider signing up to be a candle lighter at an upcoming Zoom Friday night service. You may choose to do this in memory of a loved one for whom you're observing yahrzeit that week, in honor of a celebration in your life, or just because you want to engage in this ritual. Sign up here.

[Candle Lighting Sign Up](#)

Want to learn the candle lighting blessing? You can find it on our website! It's [here](#)--track 42, the last track. You can find the words [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*.



Congregant Catherine Share writes, "I am thrilled that Bet Ha'am is sponsoring these two talks by Dr. Dollinger. I have been a student of the civil rights movement and participated from 1971 to 1975 in Mississippi and Georgia. I have found his work to be incredibly informative. The history of Jews in the US is complicated and we have not always come down on the right side of human and civil rights for people of color. As supporters of the State of Israel, we are well aware of the ongoing discrimination of the Jews from Ethiopia. So read the book if you are able, but even if not, please attend these timely presentations to move the struggle forward!"

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](#).

We are pleased to offer Dr. Dollinger’s book in advance of the talks. **There are five more signed copies of the book available for \$35.**

Buy the book [HERE](#)

Virtual Visit to Israel

Sarona: What's an 1870s German Templer village doing in the middle of Tel Aviv?
Sunday, October 25, 2020, 12:30 PM

Over the past two months, our friend and Israeli tour guide, Yoram Preminger, has taken us up the *tel* (mound or hill) to see the top of Hiriya Park and to walk through the historic archeological site of Tel Gezer. This month he guides us to one more *tel* – Tel Aviv! Join Yoram for a virtual visit to Sarona, a lesser-known oasis nestled in the heart of modern Tel Aviv. An architectural throwback to the Holy Land’s pre-Zionist era, Sarona is a 150-year-old German Templer colony, which after the establishment of the State of Israel, served as government offices and part of the Israel Defense Forces’ Kirya headquarters. It has since been converted into a contemporary “lifestyle center” while preserving the former agricultural colony’s unique character.



Register [HERE](#)

Morning, Noon, and Night

There are two spaces left in this three-session mini-course! Led by Rabbi Alice Goldfinger, we will explore Jewish spiritual practices that give structure to the day and connect us to something larger than ourselves. We will study source material from the prayer book, the Talmud and Chasidic literature to support and inspire our daily practice. **Wednesdays, October 21, October 28, and November 4 at 10:00 a.m.** on Zoom. [Register here.](#)

News from the Office

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](#)! Recordings of High Holy Day services are not available.

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.



Board Meeting

Board Meetings at Bet Ha'am are open to any member of the congregation. We hope you will join us on **Tuesday, October 20 at 6:30 PM** on Zoom. Please [email Karen Hindall](#) to get the link.

Perimeter Amble

If you live near Bet Ha'am and would like to do an easy mitzvah, stop by some time, walk around the parking lot and gardens, generally let people know we are keeping an eye on the place. We would be very grateful for the "neighborhood watch."

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 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.



This week is our last look at High Holy Day recordings and writings!

[Selichot](#)
[Healing and Meditation](#)
[Break-the-Fast greetings](#)
[Read about Tashlikh](#)
[Read about Sukkot](#)

We hope you will use these contributions, hard work by many of our congregants, to inspire you for next year.

Notable Upcoming Services

Saturday, October 24
Lucinda Hirschhorn Bat Mitzvah

Saturday, November 7
Daniel Polisner Bar Mitzvah

Saturday, November 14
Eliana Goldman Bat Mitzvah

Saturday, November 21
Catherine Share 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](#)

[Unsubscribe_gleckman@mindspring.com](mailto:unsubscribe_gleckman@mindspring.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by rachel@bethaam.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!