



## The Bet Ha'am Weekly Email

### Words of Torah from Rabbi Saks

Contained within this week's Torah portion, *Noach*, in addition to the flood and the story of Noah's Ark, is the story of the Tower of Babel. After God has rebooted the creation of the world after the flood, humanity is found building a tower that they intend to have reach the sky so that they can, as they put it, make a name for themselves. The *midrash* tells us that they are more concerned with the tower's reaching heaven than they are with the care and compassion for each other. When a brick falls to the ground, they mourn; but when a person working on the tower falls, they just bring in someone to replace him. God responds by confounding their language – this is where the term babbling comes from – and scatters them around the earth. Since then, we humans have struggled to understand each other.



The lesson of the Tower of Babel is clear, I think. God presents us with the ability to communicate, but by having given each of us a unique way of speaking, of sharing our thoughts and emotions, God has also charged us with being sure to listen. The people building the tower could fully understand each other's language and because of this, they never had to struggle to actually understand each other. We are at an advantage. Because we have to start from a place of trying to understand each other's words, we possess greater potential of understanding where others are coming from.

### Worship Schedule

**Friday, October 23**

**Tot Shabbat 5:30 PM**

Families with children under the age of five are invited to join Rabbi Saks for a special interactive online Tot Shabbat. This week's theme is Noah's Ark. A story and craft activity will be included. **Register in advance** to join Tot Shabbat.



**Shabbat Worship 7:30 PM**

Link in the Registration box below. Thank you to board member Donna Landau for making announcements. Thank you to Diane Newman for lighting the Shabbat candles in memory of her grandmother, Lillian (Leah) Newman. If you would like to light candles for the congregation, please see the box down below.

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.

**Saturday, October 24**

### **Torah Study 9:00 AM**

We were happy to see so many new (and returning) faces last week! We hope everyone will join us to explore 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 Lucinda Hirschhorn, child of Nancy Merwin and Phil Hirschhorn, who will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. The link is in the Registration box below.



Thank you to board member Nathan Szanton 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.

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**Wednesday, October 21**

### **Morning Minyan 7:30 AM**

Please use the link in the Registration box below and join us 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**

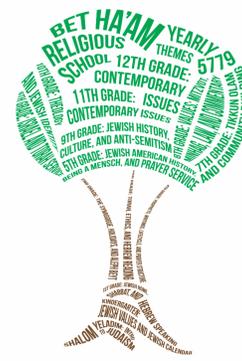
### **Religious School on Zoom Sunday, October 25**

Morning School:

9:00 AM Grades 1-6 Tefillah & Assembly

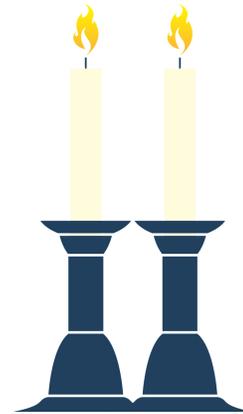
9:30 AM-12:00 PM K'tanim & Grades 1-6 (see class hourly schedule)

Evening School:  
5:00 PM: Grade 7 Class  
5:30 PM: Grades 8-10 Classes  
6:15 PM: Grades 7-10 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](#).

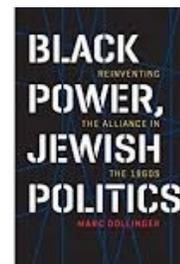
Candle Lighting Sign Up

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

**TONIGHT!! Register by 3:00 PM!**

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 signed copies of Dr. Dollinger’s book. **There are two more copies 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](#)

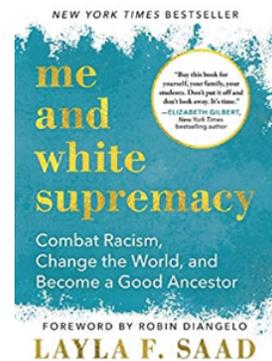
## **Anti-Racism Discussion Group**

Please join us for a weekly discussion group of *Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor*, by Layla F. Saad. Saad takes readers through a step-by-step process of exploring white supremacy and how it has affected each one of us. She states, “White supremacy is a system you have been born into. Whether or not you have known it, it is a system that has granted you unearned privileges, protection, and power.” She gives us tools for going deep into understanding of our own racism. She helps us find ways to

become better allies to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, and to find pathways to Tikkun Olam.

We will meet weekly for four weeks, preparing each week by reading identified chapters and writing personal responses to the journaling questions posed in the book. During our meetings, we will have a chance to discuss the questions, the process, and the issues that arise. At the end of the four weeks, we will decide if the group wishes to continue to meet and, if so, in what format.

If you wish to participate in this group, please click below to identify your preferences for when the group will meet. Once we have the dates, we will open registration.



## Discussion Group

Coordinators/facilitators: Mary Lou Michael and Faith Moritz. If you have any questions, please feel free to [email Faith Moritz](mailto:faith@bethshabbat.org).

*"You cannot dismantle what you cannot see. You cannot challenge what you do not understand."* – Layla F. Saad

## News from the Office



Thank you to everyone who took the survey we sent before the High Holy Days--your thoughts and suggestions helped shape what we did on Zoom and YouTube.

While the holidays are fresh in your mind, we hope you will help us! What did we get right? What should we try to do differently next time? Why did you decide not to join us? We hope you will take [this survey](#); it will take less than

ten minutes to complete and your answers are anonymous.

We will read every response and even though we cannot respond to you personally, we will take all answers into consideration as we plan future online services and study groups, as well as next year's High Holy Days observance.

If you have questions or would prefer to answer by email, please [contact Lynn Urbach](mailto:lynn@bethshabbat.org).

### 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.



### 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, and generally let people know we are keeping an eye on the place. We would be very grateful for the "neighborhood watch."

## Adult Learning and Socializing

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.

## Notable Upcoming Services

**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

Use our Clynk tags to donate your bottle refunds to us! Choose our account on Amazon Smile! Or just click the button below and make a donation to the annual fund or another fund that you love.

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