



## The Bet Ha'am Weekly Email

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### Words of Torah from Rabbi Saks

The story of Jacob's dream appears in this week's Torah portion, *Vayeitzei*, with his vision of a ladder to heaven, with angels ascending and descending on it. Just before Jacob lays himself down for the night, the text tells us that he gathered stones on which to rest his head. Later, though, the text says that he takes the stone, mentioned in the singular, and sets it up as a monument. What happened to the multiple stones? Rashi, the 11th century commentator and scholar, notes that at first there *were* multiple stones, but there's a reason why later only one is recorded. Rashi offers that God must have molded the multiple stones into one, perhaps because they'd been fighting over which one would have the honor of cradling Jacob's head. God unites them to bring an end to the jealousy and argument. This week of Thanksgiving, when we gather with friends and family and reflect on the bounty in our lives and express our gratitude for it, let us remember that we must see ourselves as one, all as parts of a larger whole.



### Worship Schedule

#### Friday, November 27

##### **Shabbat Worship 7:30 PM**

Thank you to Diane Newman for lighting Shabbat candles for us. The service link is in the registration box below. You will be invited to unmute yourself before *MiShebeirach* and *Kaddish* to share the name of the person you are remembering.

**B'Yachad | Together** will meet at 6:30 PM. Please see the Adult Socializing box below.

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#### Saturday, November 28

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

Our exploration of *The Mussar Torah Commentary* continues. 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.

##### **Shabbat Morning Worship 10:30 AM**

The service link is in the registration box below. You will be invited to unmute yourself before *MiShebeirach* and *Kaddish* to share the name of the person you are remembering.

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#### Wednesday, December 2

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

Please use the link below to join us for morning minyan led by congregant Daniel Oppenheim.

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A belated thank you to Sharon Newman for co-leading with Rabbi Saks two weeks ago.

## Registration Links & Notes

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.

***If you lose your links, please [email the office](#) before noon on Friday and we will resend them to you directly.*** Please be sure to say which links you'd like.

- 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](#).

We will not be able to send links on Saturday or Sunday.

At Friday night and Saturday morning worship services, you will be invited to unmute yourself before *MiShebeirach* and *Kaddish* to share the name of the person you are remembering.

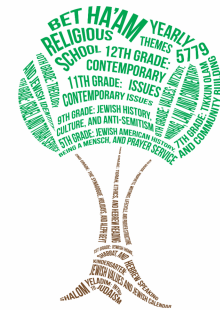
We are grateful to the CCAR for providing virtual versions of our prayer books [here](#). If you would prefer to have a real book, you may order one from the [CCAR press](#) ([large print](#) also available) or Amazon. Please be sure to order **Mishkan T'filah for Shabbat, Transliterated** (NOT for Shabbat, Weekdays, and Festivals) so that you'll have the right page numbers. It costs around \$37.

## Religious School

### Religious School on Zoom

**Sunday, November 29**

No classes: Happy Thanksgiving!



## Youth Group

**December 3, 7:00 PM**  
**Virtual Game Night!**

We will be playing Among Us and scribbl.io. You will need to download the free Among Us app to play. Zoom link is [here](#).

**December 17, 7:00 PM**  
**Virtual Chanukah Celebration!**  
Details to come! Zoom link is [here](#).

## Community-Building Workshop

Our relationships are enriched by personal sharing. On **December 3, from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM**, a community-building workshop on Zoom for Bet Ha'am members will be facilitated by congregant Asherah Cinnamon with assistance from her team of local facilitators. This is an opportunity for adults to express the personal impact of current events, including COVID-19, the tensions of US elections, and the rise in visibility of anti-Semitism. In large and small listening circles, each participant has an equal opportunity to be respectfully listened to. This will be a participatory group (not a discussion) designed to strengthen our connections with each other.

Asherah is a trained facilitator with decades of experience bringing people together. Her bio may be found [on her website](#). Please [contact her](#) with questions.

[Register here](#) by **December 1 at 4:00 PM.**

## Light Up the Night!

One of the most wonderful evenings in our community is our annual Light Up the Night Family Chanukah Shabbat service, when over 100 folks from the Bet Ha'am community gather to celebrate Chanukah and welcome Shabbat, lighting dozens of *chanukiot* (Chanukah menorahs) in our sanctuary garden windows. We'll still be holding Light Up the Night on Friday, December 11 at 6:00 PM--albeit differently and on Zoom. We will share details soon.



But here's something wonderful! We are excited to share that this year, Rabbi Saks will be gathering with small groups from our congregation throughout the holiday for Chanukah candle lighting. Sign up below (choose just one night, please) to join one of these gatherings to light candles, sing songs, and play dreidel with each other and with Rabbi Saks. We will send you the Zoom link closer to the date.

[Sign Up HERE](#)

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And yes! We have your holiday items in our gift shop.

- Chanukah candles: \$2 or \$8
- Chanukiyot (Menorahs): Traditional or electric starting at \$10
- Gelt: No nuts/pareve, \$1.05 per bag
- Assorted dreidels and holiday cards

Contact Teri Berenson to arrange payment and outside pickup: [teri@bethaam.org](mailto:teri@bethaam.org) or call her Tuesdays through Thursdays, 10:00am to 2:00pm at 207-879-0028.

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### Statewide Chanukah Celebration Saturday, December 12, 5:30-6:15 PM

Join the Rabbi Saks Center for Small Town Jewish Life on the third night of Chanukah for an all-Maine celebration!

- Welcome the new week with a spirited Havdalah led by Cantor Sheila Nesis.
- Bring your chanukiah so you can light candles with Rabbi Darah Lerner of Beth El Bangor.
- Experience a Chanukah play written by Rabbi Lily Solochek, Rabbi Carolyn Braun, and Rebbetzin Lisa Mayer especially for this celebration—performed by rabbis from across the state!
- Enjoy music from Rabbi Sruli Dresdner and Rebbetzin Lisa Mayer.

CSTJL thanks its co-sponsor, the Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine.

Register [HERE](#)

## News from the Tikkun Olam Council

The Tikkun Olam Council has decided to join a project of the Maine Gun Safety Coalition, a grassroots organization founded in 2000 to protect Maine families and communities from gun violence. The project is called Show Up Network (SUN). It will help participants find effective ways to SHOW UP for gun safety. Please read more on our website [here](#), under the Show Up Network tab.

If you would like to join SUN, please register below.

Sign Up [HERE](#)

## News from the Office

### Stone Soup

Stone Soup is a Shabbat gift to our congregants. Read all about it [here](#) (on the Stone Soup tab). Many thanks to those who have donated to support Stone Soup.

**Stone Soup is closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on November 27.**



### Perimeter Amble

If you live near Bet Ha'am and would like to do an easy good deed, 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."

### Reopening Plans

Our recently updated reopening memo is now available [on our website](#).

## 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.

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 curbside pick up. Read more on our [library page](#).



## Notable Upcoming Services

**Friday, December 11**  
**Light Up the Night, Chanukah Service**

**Saturday, December 12, 5:30-6:15 PM**  
**Statewide Chanukah Celebration**

## Donate to Bet Ha'am

We received **\$26.78** from the AmazonSmile Foundation last quarter! Thank you to everyone who used AmazonSmile. You can also use our Clynk tags to donate your bottle refunds to us! Or just click the button below and make a donation to the annual fund or another fund that you love. We are grateful for your support.

[Donate Now](#)

Congregation Bet Ha'am | 81 Westbrook Street, South Portland, ME 04106

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