



## The Bet Ha'am Weekly Email

**We will be using new service links starting January 1!**  
Sign up today and the new link will be sent to you Friday, January 1.  
See sign-up below.

## Words of Torah from Rabbi Saks

The saga of Joseph and his brothers continues in Parashat Vayigash. Up until this point, Joseph's life has been a rollercoaster. He begins by being loved by his father and hated by his brothers. Then, we find him the perfect servant of Potiphar, but the object of Potiphar's wife's unwanted advances. Joseph is cast in prison, but pulled out to be Pharaoh's dream interpreter and eventually his right-hand man. When the famine that Joseph has predicted strikes the region, his brothers appear before him and he catches them in a scheme, framing his only full brother, Benjamin. The rabbis wonder about Joseph's intention in this moment. Is he simply out for revenge? Some commentators certainly think so. But Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch insists that Joseph's motive when he frames Benjamin are not revenge, but instead to change his opinion of his brothers and their opinion of him. He needs a climactic moment, one that tests their trust in each other, in order for their relationship to move forward. If Rabbi Hirsch is right, then we can be inspired by Joseph and find a way to rise above our desire for revenge when it hits us and instead seek reconciliation and growth in fraught relationships.



## Worship Schedule

**Friday, December 25**

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

Thank you to Donna Landau, who, in memory of her mother, Rita Bubela, will light our Shabbat candles. Thank you to board member Nathan Szanton for making announcements. The service link is in the blue "Registration" box below.

**Saturday, December 26**

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

Torah study using *The Mussar Torah Commentary* continues--but you don't need to own a copy. Read more [here](#), under the "Torah Study" heading.

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

The service link is in the blue "Registration" box below.

**Wednesday, December 30**

## Morning Minyan 7:30 AM

Led by congregant Daniel Oppenheim. The service link is in the blue "Registration" box below.

# December 25 & 26

Please register **BEFORE NOON ON FRIDAY** to receive this week's Zoom links.

***If you lose your links, DO NOT RE-REGISTER.*** Instead, please [email the office](#) before noon on Friday and we will resend the links to you directly. Please be sure to say which links you'd like. We will not be able to send links on Shabbat or Sunday.

- For **Friday night worship, December 25**, [click here](#).
- For Saturday **Torah Study, December 26**, [click here](#).
- For **Saturday worship, December 26**, [click here](#).
- For **Wednesday Minyan, December 30**, [click here](#).

Read more about our service and our prayer book [here](#).

## NEW! Registration Links Starting January 1

The Friday night link will work for **ALL** Friday night services (whether at 6:00 PM or 7:30 PM) from January 1 until the end of January.

The Saturday link will work for **ALL** Saturday morning worship (including b'nai mitzvah services) from January 2 until the end of January.

Links will be sent around 4:00 p.m. on Fridays, starting January 1.

- 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 are changing our Zoom links (and how often we make new ones) to support Zoom security while improving access to services for our guests.

## Religious School

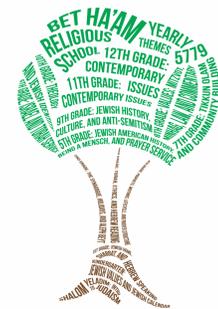
### Religious School on Zoom

#### Sunday, December 27

No religious school classes this week.

#### What's Happening?

Most classes will have new links in 2021! We are looking forward to Part III of the B'Mitzvah Family Program (for Grade 6 families). It will take place on Saturday, January 9, at 10:30 a.m.



## 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 will not be available on December 25 or January 1.

### Office Closed

The office will be closed on December 25 and January 1 to give staff a chance to celebrate the federal holidays. There will be services both nights. Rachel Lefkowitz will be sending service links around 4:00 p.m. both Fridays.

## Adult Learning and Socializing

### B'Yachad | Together

Come relax and talk virtually with your Bet Ha'am community before Friday Shabbat services! We will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. [Read more here](#). [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 p.m. 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

**Saturday, January 23**  
**Sophia Gavin Bat Mitzvah**

## Donate to Bet Ha'am

As we approach December 31, we hope that you will consider making a year-end donation in any amount to Congregation Bet Ha'am. Your gift to the annual fund will allow us to continue offering services, educating children, upgrading our HVAC and AV, and providing help to people struggling in these times. We are grateful for your support.

[Donate Now](#)

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

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