



## The Bet Ha'am Weekly Email

### Words of Torah from Rabbi Saks

The closing verses of this week's Torah portion, *Vayikra*, which is the first portion in the book of Leviticus, teach us that when we trespass against God by harming another person, we are commanded not only to seek God's forgiveness, but also make restitution to the person whom we've harmed. We know this from our Yom Kippur liturgy, which teaches us that God can forgive us for the mistakes we make in our relationship with God, but not for the mistakes we make with others until we have acquired their forgiveness. The layer of this commandment, though, that we might overlook is that primarily, Judaism views these transgressions in the context of our relationship with God. The text says, "When a person sins and commits a trespass against the Eternal by dealing deceitfully with one's fellow..." First and foremost, our encounters with others are encounters with the Divine. While we may grow concerned about how our negative interactions with others will negatively impact our relationship with God, we can take great comfort in knowing that when we benefit others, we benefit our relationship with God, sometimes far beyond what is within our comprehension.



### Worship Schedule

We are now using **March** Zoom links for Shabbat worship and Torah Study.  
Registrations close at noon on Fridays.  
Zoom links will be sent by 4:00 PM on Fridays to all who have registered by the deadline.  
*We cannot send Zoom links after 4:00 PM on Fridays.*  
Read more about our service and our prayer book [here](#).

#### Friday, March 19, 7:30 PM

Thank you to Melissa Montefel for leading our service on Friday night.

Thank you to board member Sylvia Most for making announcements.

Thank you to Chris Skidgel for taking over the behind-the-scenes tech for our Zoom services. Remember to say hi to him through the Zoom chat box, and please be patient as he settles into this new role.

Register to receive the **Friday Night Shabbat Worship** Zoom link, [here](#).

#### Saturday, March 20

##### Torah Study 9:00 AM

Thank you to Catherine Share for leading Torah Study this Saturday.

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.

Register to receive the **Torah Study** Zoom link, [here](#).

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

Thank you to Sharon Newman for leading the service on Saturday.

Thank you to Lisa Munderback for reading Torah and giving the d'var Torah.

Thank you to Sylvia Most for reading Haftarah.

Register to receive the **Shabbat Morning Worship** Zoom link, [here](#).

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### **Wednesday, March 24**

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

Led by congregant Daniel Oppenheim.

Register to receive the **Wednesday Morning Minyan** Zoom link, [here](#).

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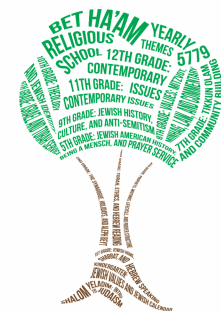
### **Notable Upcoming Services**

**Congregational Second Night Passover Seder on Zoom**, March 28 (more below)

**Ziza Kaback Bat Mitzvah**, April 10

## **Religious School on Zoom**

Please check your junk/spam folders if you don't think you have received all of your emails from Sam or from the office. People are reporting that our emails are landing in the wrong folders within their own email programs. Please remember to mark Bet Ha'am staff email addresses as 'safe senders'. Thank you!



### **Sunday, March 21**

Grades 1-9 on Zoom

3:00 PM JKids Musical Passover Seder Experience (Community Program) - Please see box immediately below for more information.

### **What's Happening?**

Submissions for our school's spring talent show are due March 28! Email Sam a horizontal-oriented video (less than 30 seconds) or photo of a talent, and it will be shown at tefillah on April 4!

**If you are interested in enrolling in religious school, email Sam at [sam@bethaam.org](mailto:sam@bethaam.org)**

## **Musical Passover Seder Experience**

**Sunday, March 21, 3:00 PM**

**JKids Radio  
MUSICAL PASSOVER  
SEDER EXPERIENCE**

A FREE online event sponsored by PJ Library in Southern Maine, the JCA, Temple Beth El, and Congregations Bet Ha'am and Shaarey Tphiloh

Advanced registration is required by Sunday, March 21 at 12:00 noon to receive the Zoom link. Register using the button below.

Join us for a musical seder experience with the very top artists in Jewish kids music including Nefesh Mountain, Rabbi Josh Warshawsky, Eliana Light, Shira Kline, Ellen Allard, Rick Recht, Joanie Leeds, and Elana Jagoda! We'll sing traditional and contemporary songs, tell the Passover story, and explore the foods on the seder plate, the blessings, the questions, and the highlights of the Exodus - from slavery to freedom. Registered participants will receive downloadable resources for families to use at home. Geared towards families with children ages 0-10 years old.

Throughout the musical Seder there will be opportunities to use the crafts (which you can make in advance) from the [downloadable JKids Passover Home Activity Kit](#). To enrich your musical Seder experience, we recommend having the elements of your Seder plate as well as matzah and a kiddush cup available, or you can pretend! If you wish, you can also follow along in the [PJ Library Haggadah](#).

Concert Registration



## Celebrate Passover with Bet Ha'am!



### Celebrate Passover with Congregation Bet Ha'am!

Please join us for a  
**Congregational Second Night of Passover Seder on Zoom**  
**Sunday, March 28, at 5:30 PM.**

**All are welcome!**

**Join us in telling the story of our redemption at this fun, interactive, family-friendly Seder.**

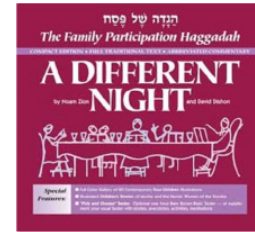
Seder registration closes at 12:00 Noon on Friday, March 26. The link to join the Seder will be sent by 4:00 PM on Friday, March 26 to all who registered by the noontime

deadline. Depending on your email provider's filters, your Zoom links may end up in an alternative inbox, the trash folder, or even spam. Please check those locations if you can't find your link in your inbox.

[Register for the Seder](#)

### Borrow a haggadah for your Seder!

Would you like to borrow a haggadah (Passover prayer book) to use at home in conjunction with the online Seder? Bet Ha'am has a limited number of books available. Please email Chris Skidgel, [chris@bethaam.org](mailto:chris@bethaam.org) to reserve your copy. Haggadot are available on a first come, first served basis, and must be returned to the synagogue by Friday, April 9.



## Save the Date !

### A DRAMATIC AFFAIR

A VIRTUAL EVENING WITH MAINE DRAMATISTS

SATURDAY EVENING, MAY 1, 2021



We are thrilled to be featuring these world premiere pieces by 3 of Maine's best-known playwrights for this year's *A Dramatic Affair*.

#### *Tikkun Olam*, by Brent Askari

A humorous and insightful examination of how one congregant's crisis of faith results in some unexpected advice from his rabbi.

#### *June 20/20 reVision(s): A Fire Diary*, by Bess Welden

A brand new, totally untested solo performance text-in-progress of truer than true tales about whiteness, Jewishness, and what she inherited from her father.

#### *The Male Gaze*, by Monica Wood

A woman feeling overlooked by her husband asks an older neighbor for advice. Be careful—very careful—what you wish for.

All of these pieces will be brought to life by the talented artists at  
**Mad Horse Theater Company.**  
ASL interpreting provided.

### Now's the time to join **A Dramatic Affair Host Committee!**

The generous support of our hosts lays the foundation to ensure A Dramatic Affair is a successful and profitable event. For a \$250 fully tax deductible donation you will be named and thanked on our host list which will appear in the Bet Ha'am weekly email, email blasts, and the digital event program. You will receive two household admission links for A Dramatic Affair so you can share one with family or friends.

For more information or to join the Host Committee, contact [story@bethaam.org](mailto:story@bethaam.org).

### **New this year!**

This year we are also offering the opportunity to promote your business while you support this event through advertising. Click the button below to learn more.

## Ongoing Programs

### Shabbat Candle Lighting

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, in honor of a celebration in your life, or just because you want to engage in this ritual. You can read more from Rabbi Saks [here](#); learn the candle lighting blessing [here](#) (on track 420); and find the words [here](#).



### Candle Lighting Sign-Up

### Stone Soup

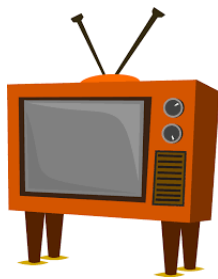
Stone Soup is a Shabbat gift to our congregants. Read all about it [here](#) (on the Stone Soup tab). Many thanks to those who have donated to support Stone Soup.



**Stone Soup will not be available on Friday, April 2, during the week of Passover.**

### B'Yachad | Together

Come relax and talk virtually with your Bet Ha'am community before Friday Shabbat services! We will meet every Friday except the second Friday of the month when there is a 6:00 PM Family Shabbat service. [Read more here](#). [Register here](#). Please contact congregant [Alan Davis](#) 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.

### March 31: Maine Jewish Film Festival Movies

"In anticipation of Spring, we're [MFJJ] delighted to offer two movies in a lighter vein: a delightful comedy about complicated relationships and a delicious documentary about a celebrity chef who visits the past to recreate over the top pastries. Both screenings are free."

### Ottolenghi and the Cakes of Versailles

Via London, Versailles, and Instagram, Ottolenghi and the Cakes of Versailles follows celebrity chef Yotam Ottolenghi on his quest to bring the sumptuous art and decadence of Versailles to life in cake form at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

*Program:* Director Laura Gabbert joins MJFF for a live discussion about the film on Tuesday, March 23 at 7PM.

### Shiva Baby

A disaffected young Jewish woman anxiously juggles an accumulation of mishaps and potentially disastrous encounters, each threatening to expose her messy multitude of

secrets, all at the same family gathering. A sharp-witted satire. Contains Sexual Content

**April 14:  
Crossing Delancy**

A contemporary New York comedy about Isabella, a single independent woman who is caught in a romance quandry when her grandmother hires a Jewish matchmaker to find her a husband. Amazon Prime



**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](#).

## So Much Going on in Our Community!

We are fortunate to be in a community where there is so much going on Jewishly that we cannot possibly list all of the happenings here. Please check out the websites listed below for all kinds of activities – movement, art, spirituality, books, movies, Jewish education, and more. Bet Ha'am often co-sponsors programs with these community leaders.

**National Council of Jewish Women, Southern Maine  
Section  
Scholarship Program**

The Southern Maine section of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) awards college scholarships to young Jewish men and women from Maine. Scholarships are awarded to high school seniors and undergraduate college students primarily on the basis of financial need with consideration for academic achievement and Jewish as well as general community involvement. In addition to need-based awards the Selma Gleit Memorial Scholarship for Women in STEM is presented to a Jewish female high school senior or college student who has demonstrated excellence and commitment in science, technology, engineering and/or math, without consideration of need.



Visit [www.ncjwmaine.org](http://www.ncjwmaine.org) to complete applications online or to download copies. Look under the "what we do" "local" "community service" tabs. High school guidance offices and synagogues have NCJW scholarship applications available as well. Complete applications and supporting documents must be received by **Friday, April 16, 2021**. Please contact Susan Gladstein, Scholarship Chair, at 954-559-0221 or [sgladstein23@gmail.com](mailto:sgladstein23@gmail.com) if you have any questions or need an application.

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Alliance of  
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Museum](#)

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School](#)

[Maine Jewish  
Film Festival](#)

## Donate to Bet Ha'am

Please consider donating in any amount to Congregation Bet Ha'am--with your help, we can close the budget gap! We are grateful for your support.

[Donate Now](#)

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

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