



## The Bet Ha'am Weekly Email

### Words of Torah from Rabbi Saks

At the end of this week's Torah portion, Tzav, which outlines many of the sacrificial offerings of the days of the Mishkan and the Temple, we are told that Aaron and his sons did all of the things which the Eternal had commanded them. Rashi, the 11<sup>th</sup> century renowned commentator, teaches that this verse tells us that Aaron and his sons, in their role as the priests of the Israelites' worship, did exactly as they were told, neither veering to the right or the left from what was expected of them. The Chatam Sofer, a Chasidic commentator, asks if we would expect any less of the High Priest and his sons. Why would Torah or Rashi have needed to tell us that they did exactly as they were told? He answers his own question, teaching that often when expectations are placed upon us, we fulfill them, but we do so begrudgingly. In this moment, Aaron and his sons serve as an example to us that when we are asked to complete a task, whether that request comes from God, from our family, from our friends, or from anyone else, we should perform the task with the fullness of our hearts, giving it as much devotion and attentiveness as we would expect from others if we were making the request of them. Our sincerity in responding to the needs of others is one of the paths to peace.



### 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](#).

**NOTE: This is the last weekend we will be using March Zoom links. Please see the box below for April registration information.**

Friday, March 26

#### 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. [Register in advance](#) to join Tot Shabbat. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the service.



#### Shabbat Worship 7:30 PM

Thank you to board member Diane Newman for making announcements.

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

**Saturday, March 27**

**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.

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

**Shabbat Morning Worship 10:30 AM**

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

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**Sunday, March 28**

**Congregational Second Night of Passover Seder on Zoom 5:30 PM**

It's not too late to register for the seder! Please see all the details in the box below.

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**Wednesday, March 31**

**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 Service**

**Ziza Kaback Bat Mitzvah**, April 10

**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.**

## NOTE: 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](#)

### New! Schmooze before the seder!

Our online Zoom seder will begin at 5:30 PM (and the Zoom invite will indicate 5:30 PM). **However, our Zoom room will open at 5:00 PM for anyone who would like to sign on a little early to schmooze.** You are welcome to sign on anytime after 5:00 PM to say hi and chat with friends before the seder begins at 5:30 PM.

### LAST CHANCE! Reserve your haggadah today!

In order for us to be together and to be able to see faces on the Zoom screen, **Rabbi Saks will not be screen sharing (showing slides) at our online seder.**

If you want to borrow a haggadah (Passover prayer book) to use in conjunction with the online seder, now is your last chance to do so. Bet Ha'am has a limited number of books available, on a first come, first served basis. **They will be available for pick-up only until Friday at noon.** Please email Chris Skidgel, [chris@bethaam.org](mailto:chris@bethaam.org) to reserve your copy.



**Haggadot must be returned to the synagogue by Friday, April 9.**

### From the Tikkun Olam Council

Please take a moment to read [The Four Children: A Racial Justice Haggadah Insert](#) published by the [Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism](#).

Thank you to Catherine Share for bringing this to our seder tables.

### And just for some Passover fun...

[Matzah "Crack" \(Chocolate Toffee Matzah Crunch\)](#) (because it is so delicious!)  
[The Maccabeats - Nirtzah: The Seder Finale - Passover - נרצה](#)  
[Six13 - The Red Sea Shanty: A Pirate Passover](#)

Thank you to Toby Rosenberg for sharing these recipes and songs.

## Register Now for April Zoom Links

Register now to receive **April Shabbat worship and Torah Study links.**

We will start using the NEW links on April 2.

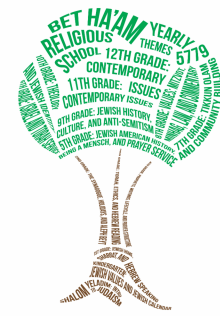
Note: March service links will NOT work after this weekend.

April registration:

- To register for **Friday night worship**, [click here](#).
- To register for **Torah Study** on Saturdays, [click here](#).
- To register for **Saturday morning worship**, [click here](#).
- To register for **Wednesday morning minyan**, [click here](#).

**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 28

9:00 AM: Join the religious school for an interactive, musical Passover celebration! This holiday program takes the place of all classes today. It's open to youth and their families. The link below gets you in:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83313658014?pwd=RU53NFBpLzFFR3JIem1PbDZ3elliQT09>  
Meeting ID: 833 1365 8014  
Passcode: 734538

### 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 a child or teaching at religious school, email Sam at [sam@bethaam.org](mailto:sam@bethaam.org)

## 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.

Promote Your Business

## 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

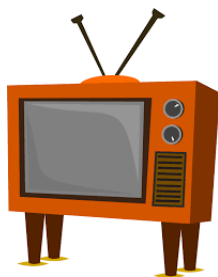
Stone Soup is a Shabbat gift to our congregants. Read all about it [here](#) (on the Stone Soup tab). Many thanks to those who have donated to support Stone Soup.



**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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## 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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