



The Bet Ha'am Weekly Email

Words of Torah from Rabbi Saks

Our Torah reading for this Shabbat falls outside of the regular cycle of Torah readings. It is taken from *Parashat B'Shalach* in the book of Exodus and, notably, includes *Shirat HaYam*, the Song at the Sea, which the Israelites sang upon reaching the far shore of the Sea of Reeds safely. Most of the song is Moses' but the last two verses, Exodus 15:20-21, allude to Miriam's song. Tradition tells us that the one verse of Miriam's song that appears in the text is just a fragment of the song in which she led the women. The text



identifies her as *Miriam HaN'viah*, *achot Aharon*, Miriam the Prophet, sister of Aaron. Commentators have wondered why she is referred to here as Aaron's sister and not as Moses'. Rashi, the renowned 11th century French commentator, points out that Miriam's prophecy began before Moses was born. It was she, according to the Talmud (Sotah 12b), who prophesied that her mother would bear a son who would deliver the Israelites from Egyptian bondage. When Pharaoh issued the decree to have all Hebrew baby boys cast into the Nile, her father divorced her mother and decided that no more children should be born, lest any of them die. Miriam scolded her father saying that his decree was worse than Pharaoh's. Pharaoh only intended to kill the boys, but her father would prevent any children from being born. Upon hearing this, her father remarried her mother and then they had Moses. While their stories are not often recounted in our texts, the women in our tradition have often been the ones who have led us toward redemption, many following in Miriam's footsteps.

April Zoom Links In Effect This Weekend!

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

March service links will **no longer** work.

- 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](#).

We are now using **April** 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 siddur (prayer book) [here](#).

Worship Schedule

Friday, April 2

Shabbat Worship 7:30 PM

Thank you to board member Donna Landau for making announcements.

Please note: The siddur (prayer book) we will be using tonight during Passover is not our regular siddur. Instead, we will be using *Mishkan T'filah for Shabbat, Weekdays, and Festivals*. You can find a digital version [here](#). It is the second flipbook as you scroll down the column.

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

Saturday, April 3

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.

This Weekend!

Our Torah reading for this Shabbat falls outside of the regular cycle of Torah readings. It is taken from *Parashat B'Shalach* in the book of Exodus, Exodus 14:30-15:21.

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

Last Day of Passover, Yizkor, and Shabbat Morning Worship 10:30 AM

Please note: The siddur (prayer book) we will be using this morning during Passover is not our regular siddur. Instead, we will be using *Mishkan T'filah for Shabbat, Weekdays, and Festivals*. You can find a digital version [here](#). It is the second flipbook as you scroll down the column.

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

Wednesday, April 7

Morning Minyan 7:30 AM

Led by congregant Daniel Oppenheim.

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



Community Yom Hashoah Observance – Holocaust Remembrance Day, 6:30 PM

Advanced registration required by 4/7 at 4:00 PM to receive the Zoom link.

In partnership with the Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine, Join for a brief commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day, through memorial prayers, poems and songs, with poet and historian Anna Wrobel, and Rabbi Carolyn Braun of Temple Beth El.

[Register through the JCA](#)

Notable Upcoming Service

Ziza Kaback Bat Mitzvah, April 10

Please remember to return your borrowed Passover haggadot to Bet Ha'am by **Friday, April 9.**



Religious School on Zoom

Sunday, April 4
Grades 1-12 (Morning & Evening School)

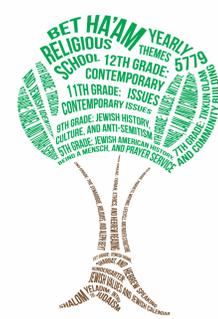
What's Happening?

Assembly this Sunday will include the Spring Talent Show!

Counting the Omer:

If you'd like to participate in a community Facebook of counting the Omer, email [Sam](mailto:Sam@bethaam.org) a photo of the appropriate number of animals, objects, or symbols to have it posted for the corresponding day of the Omer count. (Today is the 4th day.)

If you are interested in enrolling a child or teaching at religious school, email Sam at sam@bethaam.org



New! April 22 Racial Justice Program

Thursday, April 22, 7:00 PM

Justice In Our Backyard: A conversation with DeRay Mckesson

Join us for a very special evening of racial justice learning. Activist, educator, and author DeRay Mckesson will share his journey from middle school math teacher to acclaimed civil rights leader and social justice advocate. DeRay will also talk about the transformational work he is doing with his organization, Campaign Zero.



Campaign Zero is a project of the non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, WeTheProtesters. Campaign Zero supports the analysis of policing practices across the country, research to identify effective solutions to end police violence, technical assistance to organizers leading police accountability campaigns and the development of model legislation and advocacy to end police violence nationwide.

Read more about DeRay McKesson [here](#).

Space is limited for this program. Register today!

[Register for Justice in Our Backyard](#)

Save the Date !

A DRAMATIC AFFAIR

A VIRTUAL EVENING WITH MAINE DRAMATISTS

CONGREGATION BET HA'AM

MAY 1, 2021 AT 8PM

FEATURING PLAYS BY

Brent Askari

Bess Welden

Monica Wood

BROUGHT TO LIFE BY

Mad Horse Theater Company

ASL Interpreting Provided



BETHAAM.ORG/GALA

TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE

Be the first to show your support for our annual spring gala by purchasing your tickets early! This year's virtual event will showcase the following world premiere pieces by 3 of Maine's best-known playwrights:

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.

David Bass-Clark will return as Master of Ceremonies.

Q&As will again be moderated by Andrew Kosak.

We hope that you will give generously to support the evening and Bet Ha'am. Click the button below to register to attend, make a contribution, join the Host Committee, or purchase tickets for the Adventure of a Lifetime Raffle.

Still have questions? Find the answers [here](#), on the Bet Ha'am website.

**Register to Attend. Buy Raffle Tickets. Join the Host Committee.
Make a Contribution.**

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.

Click the button below to join the host committee. For more information, contact story@bethaam.org.

Join the Host Committee

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.

Purchase Advertising for the Event

A DRAMATIC AFFAIR SPOTLIGHT MAD HORSE THEATER COMPANY

was founded in 1986 in Portland as a professional resident theater ensemble. The Company quickly developed a reputation for innovative interpretations of cutting-edge contemporary plays as well as the dramatic classics. After performing in a variety of venues, they secured a lease on their own building in 2009 from the city of South Portland. The company's mission has been the driving force behind a history of productions that, they believe, have added to Maine's artistic enrichment and to the social discourse that is at the heart of a strong community. It is their sincere hope that the audience's experience is entertaining and engaging. Mad Horse Theater Company's Artistic Director Mark Rubin is a member of our Bet Ha'am community.



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 and Movie Discussion Group

Please join congregants Melissa Montefel and Wendy Hayes, co-facilitators, for a discussion group about Jewish-themed movies and 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.

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

April 28:

The Present

On his wedding anniversary, Yusef and his young daughter set out in the West Bank to buy his wife a gift. Between soldiers, segregated roads and checkpoints, how easy would it be to go shopping? NetFlix

June 9:

Shtisel

A Haredi family living in an ultra-Orthodox neighborhood of Jerusalem reckons with love, loss and the doldrums of daily life. We'll be discussing all three seasons of Shtisel available on NetFlix so we're giving you plenty of time!



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.

COMMUNITY YOM HASHOAH FILMS, DISCUSSION & OBSERVANCE - Holocaust Remembrance Day

Presented by the Maine Jewish Film Festival and the JCA

Free Film Streaming

Sunday, April 4 at 9:00 AM – Wednesday, April 7 at midnight

Euphoria of Being

When choreographer Reka Szabo reads a memoir by dancer Eva Fahidi, a 93 year old survivor of Auschwitz, who returned to Hungary alone following the murder of 49 family members, Szabo is compelled to choreograph Fahidi's story. An unforgettable portrait.

You Only Die Twice

When Israeli director Yair Lev's mother inherits a house from a distant relative, she discovers that her father died 'twice' - as Ernst Bechinsky in Palestine and Ernst Bechinsky in Austria. But which was the real one and which the imposter? The director's search for the answers takes you on a thrilling ride from Zagreb to Tel Aviv.

Zoom Discussion with *You Only Die Twice* Filmmaker Yair Lev

Tuesday, April 6, 2:00 PM

Both films are available for free streaming on the Eventive platform. You must reserve your ticket for access. (Links for the films will not be emailed).

[Register for free film and discussion access through MJFF](#)

ALL STAR MUSICAL YOM HA'ATZMAUT CELEBRATION

Presented by the JCA's Cantor Kurt Messerschmidt Memorial Fund

Sunday, April 11, 3:00 PM

Free! Advanced registration required by Sunday April 11 at 12:00 noon to receive the Zoom link.



Join Jewish Rock Radio for a celebration of Israel

Independence Day featuring Israeli superstar, David Broza, Josh Nelson, Chava Mirel, Nefesh Mountain, Rabbi Josh Warshawsky, Rick Recht, Shimon Smith, Laurie Akers, Rabbi Lisa Silverstein, teens and college students from Israel and special guest leaders including Dan Shapiro (Former US Ambassador to Israel), Rabbi Eric Fingerhut (President and CEO of JFNA), and more!

[Register here](#)

National Council of Jewish Women, Southern Maine Section Scholarship Program

Deadline is Friday, April 16

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 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 if you have any questions or need an application.

[Alliance of
Southern Maine](#)

[Cemetery
Association](#)

[Maine Jewish
Museum](#)

[Levey Day
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.

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