



The Bet Ha'am Weekly Email

Words of Torah from Rabbi Saks

This week we the double Torah portion of *Acharei Mot-Kedoshim*, which contains a section of text called the Holiness Code. Among the laws in the Holiness Code are laws about moral behavior and how we ought to treat one another. They include loving your neighbor as yourself, not hating your neighbor in your heart, and not insulting the deaf or placing a stumbling block before the blind. Our tradition teaches us that this last example is not only to be taken literally, but figuratively as well. If we make things more difficult for someone who is already at risk, we are responsible. If we enable someone who seeks to harm others, we are as responsible as that person is. And if we don't remove obstacles from before others, we will be held accountable. What are the ways in which you seek to help others, especially those who are the most vulnerable?



April Zoom Link Registration

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

We are now using **April** Zoom links for Shabbat worship and Torah Study.

- 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](#).

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 23

Shabbat Worship 7:30 PM

Thank you to board member Donna Landau for making announcements.
Thank you to Marilyn and Alan Davis for lighting our Shabbat candles in memory of Alan's mother, Joan Davis, Marilyn's grandmother, Mildred Gross, and friend, Elizabeth Watson.

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

Saturday, April 24

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

Thank you to Susan Paris for reading Torah and giving the d'var Torah on Saturday. Register to receive the **Shabbat Morning Worship** Zoom link, [here](#).

Wednesday, April 28

Morning Minyan 7:30 AM

Led by congregant Daniel Oppenheim.

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

Notable Upcoming Services

Sabina Petrucci Bat Mitzvah, Saturday, May 1, 10:30 AM

Shabbat Service and Grade 12 Graduation, Friday, May 7, 7:30 PM

This year's religious school graduating class consists of high-achieving academics, Tikkun Olam champions, and local leaders. You are invited to attend the virtual 12th grade graduation on May 7 at 7:30 PM to honor them. We look forward to seeing what these young adults achieve in the world!

Aziza Morrison Bat Mitzvah, Saturday, May 15, 10:30 AM

Religious School on Zoom

Sunday, April 25

Kindergarten & Office Hours with Sam Spinrad

What's Happening?

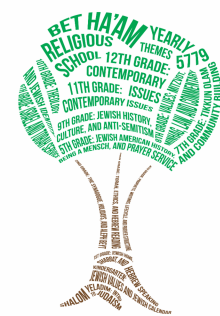
You are invited to attend the virtual 12th grade graduation on May 7 at 7:30 PM to honor our graduating seniors. It will be on the May Friday night Shabbat link.

Bet Ha'am Youth Group

Please join the Bet Ha'am Youth Group (grades 8-12) for a virtual game night on April 29 at 7:00 PM. Have a game you want to play? Let us know! See you then! Andrea, Kate, Sid, and Hannelore FMI: [Andrea Levinsky](mailto:Andrea.Levinsky).

Zoom link: <https://maine.zoom.us/j/82662909156>

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



Join Us for Our Spring Gala !

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

Let's spend a much-needed evening together!

"A Dramatic Affair" is Congregation's Bet Ha'am's biggest fundraising event this year. Please help support our mission and programs by clicking on the button above to buy tickets or to make a contribution. If you prefer, you may register by calling the office at 207-879-0028.

www.bethaam.org/gala

Can't Make The Event on May 1?

Anyone who supports our event with a contribution will receive a link to a recording of the entire evening that will be accessible throughout the month of May.

The Adventure of a Lifetime Raffle Tickets Are Now On Sale!

One winner will be selected by drawing to choose from our two prize categories and receive a prize worth \$5,000! Tickets are \$100 each and no more than 150 tickets will be sold. Click on the link below to purchase raffle tickets.

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

The casts for the readings on May 1

All artists are members of Mad Horse Theater Company

Tikkun Olam, by Brent Askari

directed by Marie Harmon and featuring Allison McCall and Jake Cote

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

directed by Stacey Koloski and featuring Reba Askari

The Male Gaze, by Monica Wood

directed by Chris Price and featuring Brent Askari, Janice Gardner and Christine Marshall



May 1 at 8:00 PM

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

ASL interpreting will be 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.

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

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

A DRAMATIC AFFAIR SPOTLIGHT

MONICA WOOD is a novelist, memoirist, and playwright, the 2019 recipient of the Maine Humanities Council Carlson Prize for contributions to the public humanities, and the 2018 Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance Distinguished Achievement Award for contributions to the literary arts. In 2015 her first play, Papermaker, debuted at Portland Stage, the theater's highest-grossing show in its 40-year history. The play has had subsequent productions in several regional theaters, including Shadowland Stages in Ellenville, NY, and Chenango River Theatre in Greene, NY. Her second play, The Half-Light, recently debuted at Portland Stage, its second highest-grossing show ever. Her most recent novel, The One-in-a-Million Boy, has been translated into 20 languages in over 30 countries.



www.bethaam.org/gala

11th Annual Plant Sale

**Great news! In *just over three weeks*, we will
be having...**

**The Garden Committee's 11th Annual Outdoor
Plant Sale at Bet Ha'am!
Sunday, May 16, 2021
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
All Covid Safety Protocols will be followed.**



The plant sale is possible only with your support! All plant sale proceeds support the Garden Committee's efforts to plant, harvest and donate fresh produce from our raised bed gardens to those in need, to promote educational gardening events and projects at Bet Ha'am, and to care for our beautiful gardens?

We need your help to have a nice variety of plants and seedlings for customers to purchase. Donations of sun, shade, foliage, and flowering plants are needed. Perennials, annuals, and seedlings are needed too!

Leave your plant donations at Bet Ha'am. Starting on May 9, you can drop your potted (or plastic bagged) plants off by the raised beds. Read more on how to repot home garden plants [here](#). If you purchase plants and flats for yourself at a garden center, please consider picking up an extra to donate to this fundraiser!

Need more information about the sale? You can find it [here](#), or get it by emailing Joan Caldwell at garden@bethaam.org.

Thank you. We hope to see you at the sale!

Tikkun Olam

Welcoming The Stranger (WTS) Recruiting Mentors for Asylum Seekers



Welcoming The Stranger (WTS) is recruiting mentors to match with a growing list of prospective mentees seeking asylum . Please go to the [website](#) for more information and an [application form for mentors](#).

WTS is a grassroots project matching mentors with asylum seekers to help them integrate into the Greater Portland community. Bet Ha'am members have participated in this cross cultural friendship and partnership since its inception in 2016 .

Mentors may provide a wide range of support through information, referrals, connections . This support may relate to transportation, housing, employment, education, English, culture, and more. Mentors are not expected to be Social Workers!

Along with knowing they are helping asylum seekers navigate a new community, mentors comment on the mutual benefits of cross cultural sharing and how mentees appreciate regular contact with someone who cares.

If you wish to contact a WTS Steering Committee member/experienced mentor, please go to our [contact page](#) or email info@wtsmaine.com.

Solar Energy Fundraiser

Support Local Maine Solar, Lower Your CMP Bill and Raise Money for Bet Ha'am

Bet Ha'am was recently contacted about a new fundraising initiative involving congregants who may be interested in community solar. PowerMarket is an operator of multiple community solar energy farms on the east coast including one located in Baldwin, Maine that is currently looking for "subscribers." Subscribers are self-designated CMP customers who wish to buy a portion of their electricity from a community solar farm. The electricity is sold at a discount and produced with a lower carbon footprint.



The initiative presented provides that PowerMarket and Darrell Cooper of Energy Audits Ltd. will donate \$150 to Bet Ha'am for each subscriber who signs up using the promo code "Bet Ha'am." There is no upfront cost to sign up, subscribers typically save about 10% on their CMP bill, and they can cancel at any time on 60 days' notice.

You can obtain more information, and if interested become a subscriber through the PowerMarket/Baldwin Community Solar project website at: <https://account.powermarket.io/bethaam.html>.

If you have questions about the donation to Bet Ha'am, please contact Mark Stone at lmstone@lmstone.com

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

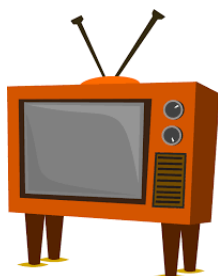
Stone Soup

We will no longer be offering soup on Fridays. Thank you to Chef Chris Skidgel for sustaining us with healthy and delicious Shabbat soup during these past months.



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 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

May 12: *The Book Thief*

While subjected to the horrors of World War II Germany, young Liesel finds solace by stealing **books** and sharing them with others. In the basement of her home, a Jewish refugee is being protected by her adoptive parents.
Amazon Prime

June 9:

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.

Sunday, April 25, 3:00 PM

The [Frances Perkins Center](#) invites you to the **Virtual Public Policy Forum 2021**

IMMIGRATION/REFUGEE POLICY

Conscience and Courage:

Frances Perkins and Dr. Feng Shan Ho

Little Known Heroes Who Saved Lives



[Click HERE for more information.](#)

Shlichei Tzibur Training



A Yearlong Prayer Service Leader Training Program for Community Members



Empowering Worship Service Leaders, with Cantor Nesis

Monthly classes on Tuesday evenings, 7–8:30 PM • Starting Tuesday, May 25

This yearlong experience is designed to empower individuals to lead worship services, shiva minyans, singing circles, and more, within their own communities. Through monthly online classes and individual coaching sessions with Cantor Sheila Nesis, participants will build the skills they need to succeed as prayer leaders. Enrollment will be limited.

Application deadline: Friday April 23. Applicants will be notified of acceptance to the program on Friday, May 7.

Tuition: \$120 for the yearlong program (\$10/month for class and individual tutoring).
Cost should not be a barrier to participating in this program.

Made possible by the Center for Small Town Jewish Life, the Messerschmidt Memorial Fund at the Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine, and the Covenant Foundation

[Learn More and Apply Here](#)

**SAVE THE DATE! For the Maine Conference for Jewish Life
Sunday, June 13, 2021**

Join the Center for Small Town Jewish Life on Zoom for an afternoon of interactive learning and community celebration! Stay tuned for more details and information about how to register.



[Jewish
Community
Alliance of
Southern Maine](#)

[Center for Small
Town Jewish
Life](#)

[Southern Maine
Jewish
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.

[Donate Now](#)

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

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