



## The Bet Ha'am Weekly Email

### Words of Torah

Rabbi Saks is away for a three-month sabbatical. While he is away, we will be sharing Words of Torah from various Jewish educational resources. This week's Words of Torah, *Reigniting the Spark of Community*, about parashah Korach, come from Rabbi Alex Kress via [reformjudaism.org](http://reformjudaism.org).



Before the pandemic, I took so much for granted: hugging friends, visiting family, singing at concerts, eating at restaurants, going anywhere I desired. The virus flipped our world upside down and forced us apart from the people and spaces that fill our lives with love, sustenance, purpose, and energy. I am grateful to live in a time with technology that allows us to stay hyper-connected, but screens have not replicated what I missed most – my Jewish community.

Zoom did not nearly replace the spiritual energy I receive when gathering in temple to worship, sing, learn, and eat bad oneg cookies together. I miss the laughter and handshakes and hugs. I miss the highs of lifting each other up on chairs in celebration and the lows of carrying each other through suffering. Fundamentally, I miss Jewish life.

This experience brought new meaning to the words of the first-century sage Hillel: "Do not separate yourself from the community" (Pirkei Avot 2:4). I always thought of this teaching as an obligation to sustain the community, not the self, but the pandemic has made me rethink that assumption.

In Parashat Korach, we read of the dynamic between individuals and their community. Korach leads a rebellion against Moses and Aaron, charging them with the crime of separating and elevating themselves from the community. "You have gone too far!" the rebels accuse. "For all the community are holy, all of them, and Adonai is in their midst. Why then do you raise yourselves above the congregation of God?" (Numbers 16:3). Though God quashes Korach's rebellion and the earth "swallows [the rebels] up," his false accusations regarding the relationship between the individual and the community are not totally without merit. Every individual is holy, and God is found when we gather in community.

Continue reading [here](#).

## In-Person Worship Resumes!

In-person Shabbat services in our sanctuary have begun! There are a number of safety protocols in place, including,

- Attendance will be limited. Registration is required.
- Everyone must wear a mask at all times when on our property.
- All attendees must be at least 2 weeks post final vaccine.

This is likely to last throughout the summer, with the possible exception of outdoor family services. If you are interested in attending a service in our sanctuary, please indicate all of the dates which you are able to attend when you register. If there are more people interested in attending than spots available we will hold a lottery to determine participants.

If you indicate interest in attending in person you will receive an email indicating which services you will be able to attend. The email will also provide detailed information regarding Covid protocols.

All services will continue to be live-streamed on Zoom. All who register by the Friday deadline (whether or not you have requested to be in person) will receive the link for the live-streamed services.

Services will be held at Bet Ha'am on the dates listed below. When you register for the monthly Zoom service you will be asked if you want to attend in-person services and will have the option of choosing the date(s) that work for you.

Friday, June 18  
Saturday, June 26

Questions can be addressed to Sylvia Most at [sylviamost@gmail.com](mailto:sylviamost@gmail.com).

## Registration How-To

### Want to register to participate in Shabbat worship or Torah Study? It's easy to do!

- Click on the registration links in the worship box below.
- Registration closes at noontime on Fridays.
- Zoom links will be sent by 4:00 PM on Fridays.
- All services will be live-streamed on Zoom.
- **Everyone who registers by the deadline will be sent Zoom links.**
- Registration forms will also have prompts for those who wish to attend in-person sanctuary services at Bet Ha'am.

**Easy! We will look forward to seeing you soon!**

## Worship Schedule

### Friday, June 11 Shabbat Worship, 7:30 PM

Thank you to congregant **Nanette Chern** for being our Shabbat guest speaker on Friday night. Nanette will speak on "Small Acts."

*Originally from New York, Nanette and her family moved to Maine in 1995 and have been members of Bet Ha'am since 1996. They have celebrated life cycle events with the Bet Ha'am family, as well as holiday celebrations. They value this open and welcoming community that has been a part of their family for 25 years.*

Thank you to Sharon Newman for leading our worship service, Catherine Share for lighting our Shabbat candles, and Sylvia Most, for making announcements.

A belated thank you goes to Sylvia Most for lighting candles and making announcements on Friday, June 4

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

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

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### Saturday, June 12

## **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.

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

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

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## **Saturday, June 12**

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

Mazal tov to Elena Rosenberg, child of Josh Rosenberg and his partner Alexandra Furth, who will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday.

Thank you to Lynn Urbach for leading our worship service, Sharon Newman for providing music, and Sylvia Most for making our board presentations.

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

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

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## **Wednesday, June 16**

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

Thank you to Daniel Oppenheim for leading Morning Minyan.

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

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### **Contemplative Worship Service - Always Available on the Bet Ha'am Website!**

Judaism offers many pathways to God. There are opportunities for encounter with God in nature, in the interactions we have with one another, through worship and study, and through contemplative meditation that helps us to leave behind the world of doing and the world of work to enter the world of peace.

Meditation in a Jewish context is not an end in and of itself. It is a pathway towards encounter with God. It has its roots throughout our history, from Isaac meditating in the field (Gen. 24:63) to the prophets who focused their minds to deliver God's message to ancient and modern Jewish meditation practices.



In this contemplative worship service, compiled by Bet Ha'am lay leader Jane Sloven and led by Jane along with fellow congregant Sharon Newman, we offer an opportunity for you to delve deeper into your own spiritual practice and open the pathways to God that are available to you. By making this available here, we hope that you will access it anytime you need to re-center yourself or reopen those pathways to God.

You can watch the service [here](#).

Follow along with the prayer book [here](#).

## **Service Leaders Needed!!!**

### **Service Leaders Needed!**

With Rabbi Saks on sabbatical, we need service leaders for June, July, and the first half of August. If you would like to lead or co-lead, there are dates available for Zoom and in-person services. If interested, willing and able, please

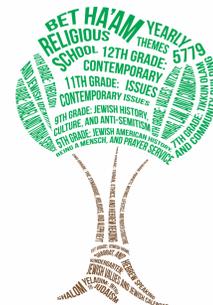
contact Melissa Montefel at [missyjo314@hotmail.com](mailto:missyjo314@hotmail.com) or call/text 207-939-8568. Thank you!!



## Religious School on Zoom

Volunteer teachers wanted! Email Sam at [sam@bethaam.org](mailto:sam@bethaam.org) if you're interested in teaching next fall.

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



## Bet Ha'am Youth Picnic

**Bet Ha'am is hosting a Youth Group picnic on June 16, at 6 PM with a rain date of June 17.**

Meet at Fort Allen Park: 49 Eastern Promenade, Portland, ME 04101 at 6 PM by the gazebo. Please pick up teens by 7:30 PM. Anyone in grades 8-12 are welcome!

Please RSVP [here](#) by June 13, and let us know if you have any dietary restrictions. We will probably have pizza!



Participants are expected to distance and wear masks when not eating.

Youth group advisors: Andrea, Kate, Sid, and Hannelore

## Calling All Passionate Congregants

Calling All Congregants...

Bet Ha'am's *Chadashot* is looking for articles from you about your passions.

- Are you interested in baking, cooking, grilling, anything to do with food? Tell us about it along with a favorite recipe.
- Are you passionate about books - reading at the beach, getting in a chapter before bed, listening in the car, curled up in your comfy chair? Write a review of one of your favorites.
- Do you have a guilty pleasure? What have you binge watched during a he pandemic.
- How about art? Do you make it or appreciate it?

The list of possibilities is endless and we would like to broaden the base of both our readers and contributors. The *Chadashot* is published bimonthly. The July/August issue comes out soon.

For more information, please email Donna Landau ([dmlandau@hotmail.com](mailto:dmlandau@hotmail.com)) or Molly Edelstein ([molly.edelstein@gmail.com](mailto:molly.edelstein@gmail.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](mailto: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

### 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.



**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!

## June 23:

This week we will be discussing *Kiss Me Kosher* and *Transkids*, two films presented by the Maine Jewish Film Festival in celebration of Pride Month. Please see the MJFF box in the community section below for full film details.



### 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.

### Maine Jewish Film Festival WEEKEND EDITION in Celebration of Pride Month June 11-13

Join the [Maine Jewish Film Festival](#) for their final **Weekend Edition** film presentations in celebration of Pride Month. They will be showing two films that explore the diversity of the international LGBTQ community. The Israeli comedy, *Kiss Me Kosher*, focuses on a Lesbian relationship. *Transkids* is a documentary that follows four Israeli teenagers as they undergo the process of gender transformation. The film's director, Hila Medalia, will join MJFF for a discussion. Admission is free but you must reserve a ticket. For complete details on the films click [here](#).



### Bet Ha'am Congregant, Russell Kaback, Debuts Holocaust Musical at PortFringe 2021 June 12, 13, 16, and 19

Tickets for the online streaming event are \$15 and information can be found at [here](#).

*Hamilton* meets *Maus* as Maine musician and educator Russell Kaback performs a one-man show at this year's PortFringe all-video festival on June 12, 13, 16 and 19.



With touches of rock, jazz, reggae and Judaic music, this timely work tells the true story of Kaback's own grandfather, Yehoshua Magier, who was a teenager in the Polish town of Bendzin when the Nazis showed up and eliminated a centuries-old thriving community in the span of only four years.

The 20-minute video titled "Holocaust Storyteller Chapter 1: The Hero of Our Story" was completed and uploaded to this year's online-only festival on the same day that the last remaining survivor in Kaback's family circle, his grandmother's dear friend Eva, passed away, highlighting the continued importance of telling these stories to new generations.

The seeds of this work originated in 2009, as Kaback sat with his grandfather between the smokestacks and the enormous mound of human ash at the death camp Majdanek in

Poland, and made the decision that he would tell his family story, through music.

As an educator and a Maine Arts Commission teaching artist, Kaback has been sharing this work in classrooms over the past 5 years, and now presents the first chapter to the public as one of 21 short films at this year's 10th annual PortFringe festival based in Portland, Maine. Follow Russell Kaback on social media @holocauststoryteller.

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**The Maine Conference for Jewish Life  
Sunday, June 13, 2021**



Though the Center for Small Town Jewish Life is not able to hold the Maine Conference for Jewish Life in person once again this year, they are still very excited for their online mini-conference on Sunday, June 13, 3:00 - 6:00 PM. Like all Center programming, one registration link will enable you to come and go throughout the afternoon.

[Learn More and Register Here](#)

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**Schmooze with Jews: Pride!  
Friday, June 18, 6:00 PM  
Root Wild Kombucha, Portland**



Pride is here! While we won't be able to march in the Parade or gather in Deering Oaks Park, we can still get together and celebrate Pride as LGBTQ Jews. Come to Root Wild Kombucha on Friday, June 18 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM to enjoy good company, delicious kombucha, and the beginning of a wonderful Maine summer.

Whether you're Jewish or Jew-ish, Jew-adjacent, part of the LGBTQ community, or an ally, let's have a l'chaim for love and equality!

Read more about the event [here](#).  
Read more about Queer Jewish Maine [here](#).

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# SUMMERTIME IN BUENOS AIRES: AN EVENING OF MUSIC AND MEMORIES

*Tango, ladino, and Jewish songs, with a Latin American flavor. Be transported to the heart and spirit of the Jewish musical scene in Buenos Aires.*

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WITH CANTORS SHEILA NESIS AND DIEGO  
RUBINSZTEIN. VIRTUAL CONCERT.



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JUNE 20, 2021  
5 PM PDT / 8 PM EDT

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\*Tickets grant access to the evening of the concert, and the ability to watch a replay for up to a week. The concert will be virtual and a secured private link will be shared 48 hours before the event.

Sample the repertoire that will be part of the concert [here](#).

Buenos Aires based cantor, pianist, composer and producer, **Diego Rubinsztein** is one of the most visionary leaders of modern liturgical music in Latin America. He has served several congregations in Buenos Aires and the US, including the emblematic and oldest synagogue in Buenos Aires C.I.R.A, best known as Libertad Temple, and most recently Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center in Florida, U.S. He's also the founder and Executive Director of Zamir, an organization dedicated to promoting Jewish music and education in Latin America.

**Sheila Nesis** is a cantor, singer and educator born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina where she served at C.I.R.A (also known as "Temple Libertad") the main Synagogue in Buenos Aires. Since her arrival to NYC in 2007, she has served congregations in NYC, Arizona, Colorado and Maine. She most recently produced and participated in the World Union for Progressive Judaism program 'S'lichot B'yachad', bringing together cantors and musicians from all the corners of the world. She is the Director of the Sh'lichei Tzibur School in Maine, a training program dedicated to empower individuals to lead communal prayer experiences.

They will perform a repertoire that includes tango, ladino and Jewish songs, with a Latin American flavor. They share a friendship and collaboration that extends for over two decades. They are delighted to share on a virtual stage that will transport you to the heart and spirit of the music scene in Buenos Aires.

[Purchase Concert Tickets Here](#)

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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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