



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 about Parashat Chukat (Numbers 19:1-22:1), ***Responding to Thirst***, come from Jordana Schuster via myjewishlearning.com.



Parashat Chukat brings one of the most famous of biblical stories: Moses strikes the rock and is thereafter barred from entering the land of Canaan. The outline of the story is spare. Toward the end of the Israelites' 40-year journey through the wilderness, the people begin to whine and grumble (once again) about their thirst. In response, Moses and his brother Aaron consult with God, who tells them to speak to a stone and it will bring forth water. Moses, instead, berates the people — "Listen up, you rebels!" — and strikes the rock.

Water comes forth and the people drink, but God punishes Moses and Aaron, saying, "Because you did not trust in Me enough to make Me holy before the Israelites, you will not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them." Everlastingly holy as God may be, Moses and Aaron fail to demonstrate God's holiness to the people and for this they are chastised and severely punished.

For more than 2,000 years, rabbinic commentators have struggled to understand the nature of Moses' sin — and, thus, to understand what Moses failed to do in order to make God holy before the Israelites. The commentators have diverged significantly...

Continue reading [here](#).

Immediate Changes for In-Person Worship!

Starting Immediately!

We are pleased to announce changes to our in-person Shabbat services.

- In-person attendance is no longer limited. Registration is not required for in-person services - just show up!
- Everyone must wear a mask at all times while attending services as we will be singing.

In-person services will be held at Bet Ha'am on **Friday, June 18** and **Saturday, June 26**. We can't wait to see you there!

All services will continue to be live-streamed on Zoom. **Registration is still necessary if you wish to receive the Zoom links for the remaining two weekends in June.**

All who register by the noontime Friday deadline will receive the Zoom links.

Questions can be addressed to Sylvia Most at sylviamost@gmail.com.

Exciting news for July!

Beginning in July, registration will no longer be needed for Shabbat worship services – not at all!. Want to attend in person? Just show up!

Want to continue watching the live-stream on Zoom? Just click on the service links that will be provided in the Thursday weekly emails. It's that easy!

How Do I Get the Zoom Links for June?

Want to participate in Shabbat worship and Torah Study via Zoom? Registration is 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.**

Easy! We will look forward to seeing you soon!

Worship Schedule

Friday, June 18 Shabbat Worship, 7:30 PM

Thank you to congregant **Sue Erber** for being our Shabbat guest speaker on Friday night.

Sue joined Bet Ha'am in 1989 when she moved to Maine to start her Ob-Gyn residency at Maine Med. Since then she has served the Jewish community of Southern Maine in various capacities including the Chevra Kadish, religious school teacher and acting Cantor at Etz Chaim. She was a character in most of Eve Cimmet's murder mysteries! She has served on the teaching faculties of Boston University, Harvard and in many developing countries. Her topic for her talk is "Do Something Scary."

Thank you to Alan Mills for leading our worship service. Thank you to Sylvia Most for making our announcements.

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

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

Saturday, June 19 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 Rachel Posner for leading Torah Study this week.

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

Saturday, June 19 Shabbat Morning Worship, 10:30 AM

Thank you to Toby Rosenberg for leading our worship service, Thank you to Rachel Posner for reading Torah and Haftarah.

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

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

Wednesday, June 23
Morning Minyan 7:30 AM

Thank you to Daniel Oppenheim for leading Morning Minyan.

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

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

This contemplative worship service offers 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, 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!!!

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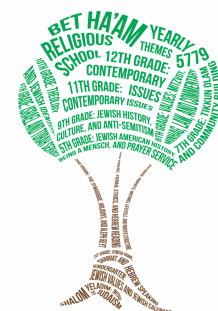
With Rabbi Saks on sabbatical, we need service leaders for July and the first half of August. If you would like to lead or co-lead, there are dates available for Zoom and in-person services. If interested, willing and able, please contact Melissa Montefel at missyjo314@hotmail.com or call/text 207-939-8568. Thank you!!



Religious School on Zoom

Volunteer teachers wanted! Email Sam at 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



June is Family Promise Month

June is Family Promise Month at Bet Ha'am Congregation and Thornton Heights Methodist Church!

This is our time to support Family Promise and families experiencing homelessness.

We are in need of donations (multiple types) to support the families at GPF. We will be delivering all donations the last week of June.

Please [sign up](#) to help!!!! (There are MANY ways to contribute!)



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) or Molly Edelstein (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

Ongoing at Bet Ha'am

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

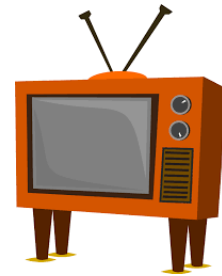
Note: The B'Yachad - Together social gathering on April 18 is cancelled. We will resume again next week.

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 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.

Bet Ha'am Congregant, Russell Kaback, Debuts Holocaust Musical at PortFringe 2021

One remaining date - June 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.

Schmooze with Jews: Pride!
Presented by Queer Jewish Maine
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 Queer Jewish Maine [here](#).
[Click here for the Facebook Event.](#)

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.

WITH CANTORS SHEILA NESIS AND DIEGO
RUBINSZTEIN. VIRTUAL CONCERT.



JUNE 20, 2021
5 PM PDT / 8 PM EDT

*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](#)

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