



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 D'varim (*Deuteronomy 1:1–3:22*), *It's An Old Song, But We Sing It Anyway*, come from Cantor Evan Kent via reformjudaism.org.



When I prepare the Torah scroll for the upcoming Shabbat and come to that white space dividing the end of the Book of Numbers from the beginning of Deuteronomy, I feel a moment of exhilaration. Just as the words of Torah are open to many interpretations, so too is this space between the two books, which anthropologist Victor Turner describes as "liminal space" in his book, *The Ritual Process* (1969). These are the places of transition, "betwixt and between the positions assigned and arrayed by law, custom, convention, and ceremonial." But it is here in this space that we find wonder, inspiration, personal and communal change, and often the power to move forward, to encounter the unknown. In the Torah, it is where we begin to leave the desert and make our way to the Promised Land.

For me, the encounter with this liminal space is a calendrical alarm clock, reminding me that the Jewish New Year is approaching. In the Torah it is like a sign in the desert that announces: "Welcome to California," or the moment when you cross the George Washington Bridge and the sign reads: "Welcome to New York." Here the white space says: "Welcome to Deuteronomy." It reminds us that we are quickly coming to the end of the Torah's yearly journey. But that space also sings and whispers to me the familiar narrative of the Jewish people: "You are on your journey home...you've come so far...let's finish this expedition together...and we will soon sing our High Holiday tune: Hashiveinu v'nashuva...Return us back to You, so we can return..."

Continue reading [here](#).

Join Us In Person!

- Registration is no longer required for in-person sanctuary services - just show up!
- Everyone must wear a mask at all times while attending services as we will be singing.
- It is our hope to hold one in-person service at Bet Ha'am every weekend. We can't wait to see you there!
- All services will continue to be live-streamed on Zoom. See below details.

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

Want to Join Us Via Zoom?

All services will continue to be live-streamed via Zoom. In addition, Torah Study will continue meeting via Zoom, most likely throughout the summer.

Want to join us via Zoom? Just click on the links provided below. **Please note: Zoom links will no longer be emailed on Fridays, but they will always be provided in the Thursday congregational emails.** It's that easy!

Join the **Friday Night Shabbat Worship** service, [here](#).

Join the **Torah Study** session, [here](#).

Join the **Shabbat Morning Worship** service [here](#).

Join the **Wednesday Morning Minyan** [here](#).

Worship Schedule

Friday, July 16 **Shabbat Service, 7:30 PM (via Zoom)**

Thank you to Alan Mills for leading our service. Thank you to Donna Landau for making our board announcements.

We welcome Cathy Breen as our guest speaker on Friday. *Cathy has represented the communities of Chebeague Island, Cumberland, Falmouth, Gray, Long Island, part of Westbrook, and Yarmouth in the Maine Senate since 2015. She also serves as Senate Chair of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, the committee that works on the state budget and funding other pieces of legislation. She is a member of the Natural & Working Lands group of the Maine Climate Council. In the last legislative session, she served as co-chair of the Mental Health Working Group.*

Cathy and her family have been members of Bet Ha'am since 2002.

The topic of Cathy's Friday Shabbat talk is "Values Expressed in the New State Budget."

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



Saturday, July 17 **Torah Study, 9:00 AM (via Zoom)**

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.

We apologize for our technical difficulties last weekend in getting the Torah Study session up and running on Zoom. Thank you to Jay Sherwin for preparing to lead the session. We are sorry that you were not able to study with him.

Saturday, July 17 **Shabbat Morning Worship, 10:30 AM (in the Sanctuary)**

Thank you to Robert Morrison for leading our worship service in the Sanctuary and for reading Torah.

Let's enjoy a Kiddush lunch together! Please bring your own brown bag lunch and carry-away your trash.

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

Wednesday, July 21
Morning Minyan 7:30 AM

Thank you to Daniel Oppenheim for leading Morning Minyan.

Join the **Wednesday Morning Minyan** [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!!!

Service Leader Needed!

Thank you to all who have volunteered to lead services throughout the summer while the rabbi completes his sabbatical. Most of our services have been covered, but we still have one date left without a service leader. If you would like to lead or co-lead, the following is date available:



Saturday, August 14, 10:30 AM (TBD)

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

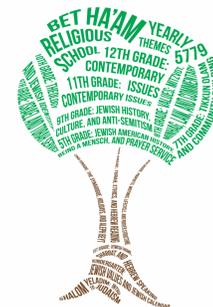
School registration 2021-22 is open! Click [here](#) to register today!

We expect to hold fully in-person classes. A virtual class is available to students who wish to continue learning on Zoom.

Early bird tuition rates end August 1. Early registration helps staff plan the year.

If you can teach 7th grade (Sunday nights 5:00 -7:30 PM), contact Sam, sam@bethaam.org. It's a fun combination of social activities and acts of Tikkun Olam. No Hebrew knowledge is required.

Teachers and Sam are looking forward to seeing families in-person this September!



2021-22 Financial Commitment Letters

Pledge forms for the upcoming fiscal year are in the mail! Your membership enriches all of us and is essential to maintaining our operations. As you consider your financial commitment for 2021-22, please be as generous as you can.



Please return your forms by July 20 or contact Teri at 879-0028 (teri@bethaam.org) with your pledge information and/or questions.

We're Hiring!



Congregation Bet Ha'am is hiring a part-time Facilities Assistant! We're looking for a multitasker to perform custodial duties and support our service leaders and religious school director with a variety of tasks. If you enjoy cleaning, coordinating technology needs, assisting with food service, greeting congregants, and want to be part of a terrific team, this is the opportunity for you! We're offering a flexible schedule for the right person

with a friendly, can-do attitude. To learn more, please reach out to Lynn at 879-0028, option 4 or Lynn@bethaam.org.

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](#).



B'Yachad | Together

Please note: We will not be meeting on Friday, July 16. We'll look forward to seeing you on July 23!

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.



July 21: *Uncut Gems*

With his debts mounting and angry collectors closing in, a fast-talking New York City jeweler risks everything in hopes of staying afloat and alive. *Available on Netflix.*



Curbside Library Borrowing

Although our building is again open, you may still borrow a book from our wonderful library using curbside pick up. Read more on our [library page](#). Questions? Contact Donna Landau, dmlandau@hotmail.com.

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.

[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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