



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 Va-et'chanan (*Deuteronomy* 3:23 - 7:11), *Dealing Wisely with Torah*, come from Dena Weiss via <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/>.



The Book of Deuteronomy is often described as Moses' review of the Torah, but in its deepest sense it is a meditation on the nature of Torah. Moses teaches some new laws and refreshes the old ones, and he argues for the centrality of the Torah and the commandments. But he also offers a nuanced perspective on the limits of Torah and how it must be approached with care and curiosity — even caution. This perspective invites us to think critically about the role of Torah in our lives as active producers of, and engagers with, the text — not just as passive recipients and obeyers.

Much of this conversation hangs on a single verb, which we first encounter in Parashat Vaetchanan.

הָזֵאת הַתּוֹרָה אֲשֶׁר שָׂם מֹשֶׁה לְפָנַי בְּנִי יִשְׂרָאֵל.

This is the teaching that Moses placed [sam] before the Israelites. [Deuteronomy 4:44](#)

Many readers will be familiar with this verse, which is recited in many synagogues as the Torah is displayed after the public reading, but the language is a little strange. Why does it say that Moses "placed" the Torah before the people? Why didn't he give it, or maybe better, teach it?

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 23 Shabbat Service, 7:30 PM (via Zoom)

Thank you to Melissa Montefel for leading our service. Thank you to Isaac Perry and his family for lighting the Shabbat candles.

We welcome Dana Gold as our guest speaker on Friday.



Dana Gold is Senior Counsel and Director of Education of the Government Accountability Project, the nation's leading whistleblower protection and advocacy organization. In addition to educating and developing strategic partnerships with diverse audiences to amplify support for whistleblowers and ensure their disclosures make a difference, she also serves as lead counsel for several Department of Homeland Security immigration whistleblowers who have disclosed problems including the systemic risk of [harm to both children](#) and [adult migrants](#) in detention; the health threat to immigrants, workers and the public posed by the spread of [COVID-19](#) in [ICE detention](#); that women immigrant detainees at Irwin County Detention Center were being [subjected to unnecessary, non-consensual gynecological procedures with dubious consent](#), and, most recently, gross mismanagement that endangers unaccompanied migrant children at the [Fort Bliss Emergency Influx Site](#) near El Paso, Texas. Over the past 25 years, Dana has represented and worked with dozens of whistleblowers on issues such as nuclear weapons risks, food safety, climate science censorship, banking fraud and illegal electronic surveillance. Her work has been featured in [The Washington Post](#), [Newsweek](#), [Slate](#), [The Hill](#), [Scientific American](#), and WNYC's [On the Media](#).

The topic of Dana's Friday Shabbat talk is "Supporting Whistleblowers: An Expression of Judaism"

Dana and her family, husband Robert Morrison and daughter Aziza, have been members of Bet Ha'am since 2010.

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

Saturday, July 24 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.

Saturday, July 24 Shabbat Morning Worship, 10:30 AM (in the Sanctuary)

Mazal tov to Isaac Perry, child of Michelle and Jason Perry, who will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday!



Thank you to Rachel Stamieszkin for leading our worship service. Thank you to Sylvia Most for making our board presentations.

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

Wednesday, July 28 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.



Welcome Back Ice Cream Social



Register for Religious School

Catch up with old friends; make new ones

Here's the SCOOP

Activities and Demos

Check out what's blooming in the garden

You're Invited to a **Welcome Back**

Ice Cream Social at Bet Ha'am

Sunday, August 29

1:00 to 3:00 PM

Listen to Live Music

Choose Free Books from the Library Cart

Enjoy decorating and eating an ice cream sundae

Meet our board members and new Executive Director, Lynn Mansfield

Discover volunteer opportunities

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 know of someone who enjoys cleaning, coordinating technology needs, assisting with food service, greeting congregants, and wants to be part of a terrific team, this



is the opportunity for them! 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](#).



[Candle Lighting Sign-Up](#)

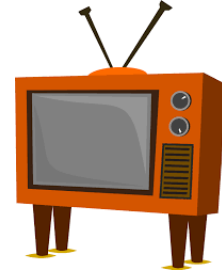
B'Yachad | Together

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.



August 4

Otherhood

Feeling forgotten on Mother's Day, three best friends drive from the suburbs to New York City to reconnect with their adult sons. *Available on Netflix.*

Suggestions are needed for August 18 and September 1.

September 29

My Unorthodox Life - 9 Episodes

The personal and professional life of fashion mogul Julia Haart, a former member of an ultra-Orthodox Jewish Community. *Available on Netflix.*

We will not be meeting on September 15 (Kol Nidre).



Returning Soon in the Library!

In-person book borrowing as well as curbside pickup. Days and times to be announced! 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](#)

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