



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 Re'eh (*Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17*), *Telling and Retelling*, come from Anat Barber via myjewishlearning.com.



The Israelites are in the wilderness of Moab, weary and exhausted, preparing for entry into the promised land. Having come so far and now standing on the cusp of crossing over, they are eager to move forward. But all of a sudden, their progress comes to a screeching halt.

Parashat Re'eh finds the people continuing to listen as Moses delivers his farewell speech, a talk that some commentators say lasted for 36 days. In a seemingly unending and repetitive speech, Moses tells the people the story of how they arrived at this moment, including (among other things) the sin of the spies, the 40 years of wandering in the desert that followed, the revelation at Sinai and the sin of the golden calf.

One could say this speech was the original filibuster. Moses was pushing off the moment of truth, when the people would enter the promised land without him, and he may have been hoping that if he talked long enough he might change his fate. For anyone who has ever had to leave a party before they wanted to, with a partner standing near the door itching to go home, you can understand the pressure of needing to go but desperately wanting to stay.

It's certainly not surprising that as the critical moment approaches, Moses chooses to harken back to the glory days. But why tell stories that most of those assembled already know?... 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. 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, August 6 **Shabbat Service, 7:30 PM (in-person in the sanctuary)**

Thank you to Alan Mills for leading our service in the sanctuary. Thank you to board member, Allan Townsend, for making our announcements.

We welcome Molly Edelstein as our guest speaker on Friday.

Molly Edelstein is a 34-year-old native Mainer new to the Bet Ha'am community since being invited to join Zoom services by her dear friend Ashley Flowers this past spring. Molly lives in Portland with her mom, Annie and her cairn terrier, Ruby. She runs her own online business as a personal and business coach for spiritual women who want to be fully expressed in their life + work. She and her boyfriend Ira love to get away to her family camp on the weekends, cook delicious food and drink lots of good coffee. The theme of her talk is "Coming home to myself."



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

Saturday, August 7 **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 Rachel Posner for leading Torah Study this week.

Saturday, August 7 **Shabbat Morning Worship, 10:30 AM (via Zoom)**

Thank you to Sam Spinrad for leading our worship service via Zoom and reading Torah on Saturday.

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

Wednesday, August 11 **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](#).

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.

Regular registration tuition ends August 25. Early registration helps staff plan the year.

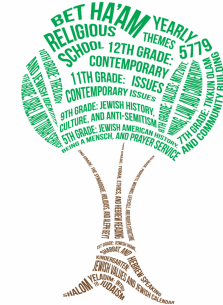
If you can teach 7th grade (Sunday nights 5:00 -7:30 PM), contact Sam, sam@bethaam.org. It's a fun combination of social activities and acts of Tikkun Olam. No Hebrew knowledge is required.

Teen and Adult Leaders Needed for Project Shofar!

We are looking for teen and adult community members to lead activities, songs, and read stories during Project Shofar on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Please email Sam if you're interested and free during part of those morning services!

Teen Leadership Opportunities

The [Union for Reform Judaism](#) (URJ) is offering some fantastic teen leadership opportunities 2021-2022. Interested? Read more about them [here](#).



Annual Outdoor Shabbat at Fort Williams

Friday, August 13
Family Shabbat Service and Picnic, 5:00 PM
Fort Williams Park in Cape Elizabeth



The evening will begin with a festive dinner. Then, the sights and sounds of summer will enhance our worship. Thank you to Toby Rosenberg for leading our service this evening.

Please bring your own brown bag dinner and carry-away your trash. Consider bringing a blanket or lawn chairs for sitting on the lawn.

NOTE: Our August service will be held at the Fort Williams Bandstand, not at the Fort Williams Picnic Shelter, where we have been for the past summers.

The Bandstand is a covered gazebo near the amphitheater and ball field. The nearest parking lot to our event will be on the right after you drive up the hill through the main park entrance on Shore Road. There is a walking path leading you to the gazebo. Stay to the right at the fork in the walking path as you walk toward the tennis courts. We will be on your left.

Pay and Display parking fees are in effect in most parking lots April 1 – November 15, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM. There is no charge to park in the Overflow lot.

In the event of mild inclement weather (light drizzle), we will proceed with our service and picnic at Fort Williams. **In the event of severe inclement weather** (driving down rain/thunder/lightning), we will cancel our service and picnic at the park

and instead offer a Shabbat service, led by Toby Rosenberg, **via Zoom at 6:00 PM** (see the worship box above for the Zoom service links). We will make a final weather determination at 2:00 PM on Friday. If you are unsure, please check the Bet Ha'am outgoing phone message after 2:00 PM for updates.



Garden Work Day

August 22, 9:00 AM
Mark Your Calendar!
Pre-High Holy Days Garden Work Day

The High Holy Days are right around the corner. Part of the beauty and meaning of this season is being able to walk the garden and grounds of Bet Ha'am. So we are calling on all previous and hopefully new garden volunteers to turn out on Sunday morning, August 22 from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, to spruce up our flower beds and do some last minute weeding, pruning and mulching. This can be a great time to get together with old friends and at the same time further enrich our environment at Bet Ha'am. There will be more information to come but please mark your calendar.



Welcome Back Ice Cream Social

Register
for
Religious
School

Yoga
with
Ashley
Flowers

Here's the SCOOP

You're Invited to a

Welcome Back

Live Music
with Spruce
Rooster

Decorate and eat
an ice cream
sundae

Discover
volunteer
opportunities

Ice Cream Social
at Bet Ha'am

Sunday, August 29

1:00 to 3:00 PM

Catch up
with
old friends;
make
new ones

Check out
what's
blooming in
the garden

Kids activities

Free books
from the
library cart

Meet our
board
members
and new
executive
Director

Spruce Rooster featuring congregants Alan Davis on banjo and Peter Scott on guitar will entertain us with live music at Bet Ha'am's Welcome Back Ice Cream Social. The band specializes in Old Time Music, an American genre of folk music which originated in Appalachia and predates Bluegrass. Modern-day old time string bands will usually have a fiddle or two, a banjo, a guitar, a bass and sometimes a mandolin. A Clogger may join the group providing percussion. The music forms are generally energetic reels and hoe-downs meant to drive Square and Contra dances and Waltzes. One may say that an Old Time band plays the top 40s from the 1840s.



Bring your "dancing shoes", clap your hands, or simply listen as you enjoy the sounds of Spruce Rooster from 1:00 to 3:00 PM, August 29.

2021-22 Financial Commitment Letters

Pledge forms for the upcoming fiscal year have been mailed! 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 as soon as possible, as our fiscal year began on July 1. Contact Teri at 879-0028 (teri@bethaam.org)



with your pledge information and/or questions.

Calls for Volunteers

Garden Committee Needs Your Help!

Bet Ha'am has a lovely sanctuary garden that needs regular care. The Garden Committee is dedicated to the care and upkeep of our garden so that all Bet Ha'am members can enjoy its beauty. In the past the committee has been able to do much of that volunteer upkeep in addition to our wonderful part-time gardener Eben Toste. The committee is looking for volunteers who would be willing to become stewards to just a small section of our garden and grounds. It would require a hour or two every two weeks or so depending on the amount of rainfall. If you have been wondering how can I do some volunteering at Bet Ha'am, maybe learn a new skill and enjoy the beautiful Maine summer? Well we have just the niche for you. Please contact me at garden@bethaam.org.



Catherine Share
Chairperson, Garden Committee

Volunteer Photographer Needed

Do you enjoy photography and mingling at events? We're looking for someone to share their love of photography with our congregation. Whether it's capturing candid moments at events or photographing folks for our social media platforms, your time and talents are needed. Is this up your alley? We'd love to talk with you! Please email Lynn at admin@bethaam.org or give her a shout at 879-0028, option 4.



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

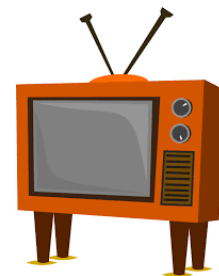
B'Yachad | Together

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.



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.

Wednesday, August 25, 5:30 PM
Preserving Jam with Sheri Fital
Live in person at the JCA
1342 Congress St., Portland
\$5.00



Making jam this time of year is a fun and delicious way to take advantage of fresh fruit either grown yourself, given to you by friends or purchased at the farmer's market or the supermarket. It is healthy, fun to make and tastes great.

Advanced registration required by Tuesday, August 24 at noon to attend in person. Finances should not be a barrier to participation. For more information, contact Adam at aseigal@mainejewish.org.

Event will also be livestreamed to Facebook – tune in at <https://www.facebook.com/KJFSMaine>

Register for the program [here](#).

[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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