



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 Shof'tim (*Deuteronomy* 16:18–21:9), *Social Justice in My Bones*, come from Cantor Evan Kent via reformjudaism.org.



This week's parashah deals with all forms of justice: establishment of courts, rules for bearing witness, laws of military engagement, and treatment of captives. Its most quoted line, particularly in the Reform Movement, is Deut. 16:20 - "Tzedek, Tzedek tirdof" (Justice, Justice shall you pursue).

For 25 years, I was the cantor at Temple Isaiah in Los Angeles, and even though the synagogue was named after the prophet Isaiah, the word "Tzedek" was ubiquitous. Tzedek, Tzedek tirdof crowned the Torah ark in the sanctuary and inspired the Temple's logo on stationery, business cards, and website.

Our clergy and community practiced what its logo preached: an expansive and embracing commitment to social action and social justice. As a young, newly ordained cantor I prayed with Caesar Chavez while he was on a hunger strike to bring attention to the plight of migrant workers. I served dinners to people without homes and breakfast to people with AIDS. I participated in interfaith services and forums protesting police violence.

Now, living in Jerusalem, I continue my life-long practice of social justice campaigning with my husband, Rabbi Don Goor, as we strive to make Israel a more just and compassionate society... 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 13

Family Shabbat Service and Picnic, 5:00 PM

The Bandstand, Fort Williams Park in Cape Elizabeth

The service in the park will NOT be livestreamed on Zoom. If the weather is bad, we will offer a Shabbat service via Zoom. Please see last paragraph of this box for inclement weather details.

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. Families are responsible for carrying-away their trash. Consider bringing a blanket or lawn chairs. We will be 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 inclement weather (drizzle, 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 below 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.

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



Saturday, August 14
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 Molly Edelstein for leading Torah Study this week.

Saturday, August 14
Shabbat Morning Worship, 10:30 AM (in-person in the sanctuary)

Thank you to Toby Rosenberg and Garth Ebner for leading our worship service in the sanctuary on Saturday. Thank you to Diane Newman for reading Torah.

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](#).

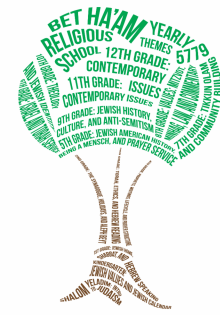
Religious School on Zoom

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 K'tanim (monthly Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:15 AM), contact Sam, sam@bethaam.org. It's a class about having a Jewish family for 2-4-year-olds and their parents. 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](http://www.urj.org) (URJ) is offering some fantastic teen leadership opportunities 2021-2022. Interested? Read more about them [here](#).

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

Congregant Ashley Flowers, of Ashley Flowers Yoga is thrilled to be offering two mini yoga classes and personalized yoga insights during the Bet Ha'am Welcome Back Ice Cream Social. Chat with Ashley about your own practice or take 15 minutes to simply stretch and relax. If you aren't sure if a yoga practice is right for you, this is a great time to find out.



Ashley knows that yoga can be healing to all bodies, it's just a matter of finding the right yoga for your body. Ashley's classes help you to find a sense of comfort and ease in the body you are in.

"The 19th century Chassidic Rebbe Sfat Emet teaches that everything in the human form hints to divine inner worlds and that the physical body is the doorway to spiritual realities. With Torah study and yoga practice we open the doorways of our body, mind, heart, and soul to ever-deepening inner worlds."

Join Ashley between 1:00 and 3:00 on August 29 and see if you can find the key to unlock the door to your inner worlds.

Find out more at ashleyflowersyoga.com.

Staff Changes at Bet Ha'am

We are happy to welcome Dana McCabe to our staff as Facilities Assistant. Dana will be working part-time to keep our building clean, help at Shabbat services, and work on our Zoom tech team. Welcome Dana!

A letter to the congregation from Karen Hindall, Assistant to Rabbi Saks:

Dear Friends,

It is with mixed emotions that I write to let you know I will be leaving my position at Bet Ha' am on Friday, August 20.

I have been with Bet Ha'am for more than 8 years and making the choice to leave has not been an easy one. I have been invited to join the McKinney-Vento and ELL teams, housed at South Portland High School, for a full-time district-wide clerk position. The McKinney-Vento team works to minimize educational disruptions experienced by homeless students, who are guaranteed the right to a free, appropriate, public education through the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The ELL team serves almost 300 students from as many as 30 different countries participating in K-12 programming for English Language Learners. For some time now, I have been searching for a way that I can make a difference in the world—participate in *tikkun olam*—in a way that feels authentic to who I am and to the issues I feel passionately about. I am excited and honored that I have been chosen to join this group of administrative and teaching professionals who are dedicated to such important social justice work.

I am proud that the work I have done at Bet Ha' am has had a positive impact on the congregation. I am thankful that I have had the opportunity to challenge myself and grow as my role has changed over the years. Finally, I cannot express how much I will miss working with the office staff and congregants, who have become my friends and family. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of such a wonderful community.

Karen

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 it's 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.



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.



August 18

They Are Everywhere

In counseling sessions with his therapist, preoccupied Yvan shares stories of anti-Semitism and what it's like to live as a Jew in modern France. *Available on Netflix.*

September 1

Defiance

In this action-packed drama based on an extraordinary true story, four brothers protect more than 1,000 Jewish refugees during World War II. Available on Netflix.

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](#)

Donor Gallery

General Fund

- To honor Jeremy Moser as this year's Jane L. Snerson Volunteer of the Year by Tom Rosen
- In memory of Deborah Tillman's brother, Doug, by Tom Rosen
- To celebrate the marriage of Robin Kroll & Steve Shefter by Sue Erber
- In memory of my father, William J. Leffler, by Rabbi & Ki Leffler
- In honor of Mary Lou Michael on her milestone birthday by Amy Roemer

Annual Fund

- Annette Goodman
- Rachel Reed

Welcome New Members

- Jackie & Adam Karpman, Leah & Noah
- Rachel & Gary Goldman, Stella & Violet
- Sheri January
- Barbara Slote & Mark Klimek and Sam
- Lisa Braiterman & David Neufeld
- Welcome back to Sue Erber

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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