



The Bet Ha'am Weekly Email

Words of Torah

This week's Torah portion, Ki Tavo, opens with commandments regarding the offering of first fruits presented by a farmer within the land of Israel. The ritual concludes with sharing the bounty with not only the priest and the Levite who assist in the ritual, but also with the widow, the orphan, and the stranger, who were Torah's most vulnerable citizens. Some think that this commandment that opens Parashat Ki Tavo better fits with the 75 or so commandments contained in Parashat Ki Teitzei, last week's portion, than it does with the blessings and warnings that fill this week's portion and the ones that follow. Perhaps, the offering of the first fruits and its obligation to share with those in need serves as a logical bridge between the commandments of Ki Teitzei that seek to create a society of order and the paths to blessing or curse. If we share our bounty with those in need, then our society moves from one that is simply orderly to one that abounds in blessing.



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.
- **Effective September 1st, anyone who wishes to attend services in-person must be fully vaccinated and be willing to attest to vaccination status.**
- 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 27

Shabbat Service, 7:30 PM (in-person in the sanctuary)

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

Saturday, August 28

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.

Saturday, August 28

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

Mazal tov to Natalie Morganbesser, child of Amy Colton and Hugh Morganbesser, who will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday.



Thank you to Michael Levine for making our board presentations on Saturday.

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

Saturday, August 28

Selichot Service - Pre-Recorded Video

Our Selichot service, co-led by Jane Sloven, Sharon Newman, Daniel Oppenheim, and Joseph Py, will be pre-recorded and available to watch from home. It is filled with beautiful poetry and prayers written by Rabbi Rachel Barenblat, Rabbi Jill Zimmerman, and Rabbi Yael Levy, all of whom have generously shared their work. The service will be become available to watch on Saturday, August 28th at 5:00 pm.

To receive the service link, please [REGISTER HERE](#) before August 27th at 5:00 pm.

Wednesday, September 1

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](#).

High Holy Day Services - Registration Required

At this time, we are planning a hybrid service that will provide both in-person and at-home worship opportunities. Those who wish to join us in person must be fully vaccinated and be willing to attest to vaccination status. If you are not fully vaccinated, we invite you to stream our services online and worship with us from home. Those who wish to worship from home do not need to register; online service links will be emailed to congregants by Wednesday, September 1st.

To register for in-person services, please complete the registration form [HERE](#). High Holy Day service registration will close on **Friday, August 27th**, so don't delay!

To view the High Holy Day Schedule of Services, click [HERE](#).

Welcome Back Ice Cream Social this Sunday from 1 to 3!

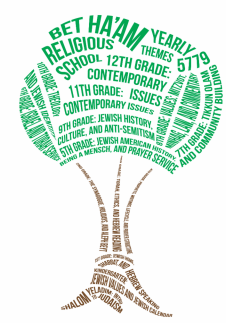


Religious School on Zoom

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

Religious school will be fully virtual for the month of September.

If you can teach Grade 5 Hebrew (reading and prayer review, with a focus on the siddur service) please contact Sam, sam@bethaam.org.



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](#).

Children's Library

Please remember to return any books you borrowed from our children's library. We miss them!

Garden Spruce Up Day Gratitude

I would like to thank the following Garden Committee members and volunteers for helping with our Garden Spruce Up Day on Sunday, August 22: Karen Lucas, Gretchen Greenberg, Sue Howard, Ken and Lauren Lehman, Jane Weinstein, Shai Levite, Laura Kittle, Toby Rosenberg, Helen Seder, Joanie and David Caldwell, and myself. We were able to accomplish a lot in just 3 hours and we beat the rain.



I also want to extend a thank you to the City of South Portland for removing a large locust tree that was outside the Sanctuary Garden south fence. The root system of this troublesome tree was sending out shoots into the Sanctuary Garden. These "volunteers" we can do without!

The garden is lovingly maintained by our part time gardener Eben Toste who unfortunately will be leaving us after this season. The Garden Committee conducts several work/clean up days throughout the year. This work day was in preparation for our Ice Cream Social and High Holidays.

Thanks again to the many hands of our dedicated Bet Ha'am volunteers.

Catherine Share
Garden Committee Chairperson

**BET HA'AM'S FIRST
EXCELLENT ETROG RAFFLE!**

Bet Ha'am's First

Excellent Etrog

RAFFLE



An Organically
Grown Etrog Set
Two Winners Chosen!



Glass Sukkot
Hostess Set!

Handmade in Israel!



Children's
Plush and
Book Set!

ENTER TO WIN!

1 Ticket - \$18

3 Tickets - \$50

7 Tickets - \$100

Outstretched Rabbi's Arm Length - \$150



We're excited to announce *Bet Ha'am's First Excellent Etrog Raffle!* Our etrogs were sprouted by the congregation at Tu b'shevat in 2012 and grown from seed from Israeli etrogim used in 2011 at Sukkot. They have been grown entirely organically by the garden committee at Bet Ha'am for the past 9 years. Commercially available etrogim are often heavily sprayed with pesticides to create unblemished fruit, which the Torah commands they be. Our crop this year appear to be unblemished despite being organically grown. Although many people do not eat the fruit after Sukkot, the Rabbi and the Garden Committee thought it was worthwhile to decrease the chemical footprint in the environment by growing these organically (and we did make yummy Persian etrog jam with the ones we grew last year, which congregants got to sample at our virtual Tu b'shevat Seder in January).

Prizes include an organically grown etrog and lulav set (we'll be choosing two winners), a beautiful glass Sukkot hostess set that was handmade in Israel,

and a children's plush etrog and lulav set with a lovely book featuring ideas for using your etrog after Sukkot.

Rabbi Saks was a great sport and let us measure his outstretched forearm which happens to measure 18 inches! Symbolizing chai, the Hebrew word for life, 18 is considered a lucky number. If you're feeling lucky, look for Toby Rosenberg in the sanctuary garden during our Welcome Back Ice Cream Social on Sunday from 1 to 3 to purchase your tickets! Cash and credit cards accepted.

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.



Catherine Share
Chairperson, Garden Committee

Volunteer Photographers Needed

Do you enjoy photography and mingling at events? We're looking for people 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.



Donor Gallery and New Members

General Fund

- In appreciation of Karen Hindall for all her help by Sunday & Charles Perry
- In memory of Edward Rosen on his Yartzeit by Tom Rosen
- In appreciation of holiday services by Jeff & Roxanne Marks
- In memory of Zadie David Rickless on his Yartzeit by Wendy & Bill Sirois

New Members

Please join us in welcoming:

- RJ McComish & Peter Brown along with Crosby
- Michael & Nancy Halpern along with Margot & Jesse

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

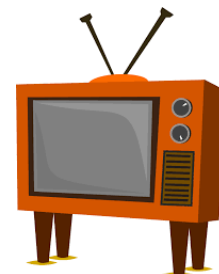
B'Yachad | Together

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.



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).

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](#)

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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