



## The Bet Ha'am Weekly Email

### Words of Torah

This Shabbat, we read some of the same text of Torah that we'll encounter on Yom Kippur. The text of Parashat Nitzavim serves as a bookend to the High Holy Days and provides a message of return to God. In just the first ten verses of Deuteronomy chapter 30, we encounter the Hebrew root shin-vav-bet at least seven times. Repeatedly, the text tells us to return to God and speaks of God's return to us, as well. With its diverse forms and functions, the varied theme of teshuvah in this week's Torah portion remind us that the process of teshuvah, return to God, is a mutual experience, one not only dependent upon us, but a process in which God engages, as well. It is the dance of two partners coming closer and closer until we meet again. This is our goal during the High Holy Days, that we dance that dance with God and find one another again.



### 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 [president@bethaam.org](mailto:president@bethaam.org)

### 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, September 3**  
**Shabbat Service, 7:30 PM (in-person in the sanctuary)**

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

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**Saturday, September 4**  
**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.

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**Saturday, September 4**  
**Shabbat Morning Worship, 10:30 AM (in-person in the sanctuary)**

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

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**Monday, September 6**  
**Erev Rosh Hashanah, 8:00 PM - Remote Worship Only; No In-Person Attendance**

Service link will be sent in a separate email to members and friends by Saturday, September 4th

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**Tuesday, September 7**  
**Children's Service, 8:30 AM - Remote Worship Only; No In-Person Attendance**

Service link will be sent in a separate email to members and friends by Saturday, September 4th

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**Tuesday, September 7**  
**Rosh Hashanah, 10:00 AM - Remote Worship Only; No In-Person Attendance**

Service link will be sent in a separate email to members and friends by Saturday, September 4th

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**Tuesday, September 7**  
**Tashlich Service, 4:00 PM - Pine Point Beach, Scarborough**

Bring your whole family and join Bet Ha'am members for a special Tashlich Service at Pine Point Beach in Scarborough, Maine!

Let's take this opportunity to gather safely outside as a community for this meaningful ritual in an awe inspiring setting. Prayer pamphlets will be on hand but BYOB (bring your own bread) to cast into the ocean.

Find directions to Pine Point Beach [HERE](#)

Read more about Tashlich [HERE](#)

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**Wednesday, September 8**  
**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 - Important Changes

Due to increasing concerns regarding the Delta variant of COVID-19, our Executive Committee was tasked with making the difficult decision to drastically reduce attendance at our upcoming High Holy Day services. In an effort to make an equitable decision in a short amount of time, **attendance will be limited to service leaders and those who have already committed to accepting an honor.**

Please note that all of our High Holy Day services will be livestreamed on Zoom. Service links will be shared in a designated email by Saturday, September 4th, so please watch your inboxes for more information. Read more about a special Tashlich service at Pine Point Beach in Scarborough in the service schedule above!

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

## Welcome Back Ice Cream Social

Bet Ha'am's Welcome Back Ice Cream Social was a success! We loved seeing so many of our friends who joined us for an afternoon of fun. The ice cream sundae bar was a big hit! We served 20 quarts of ice cream and oodles of yummy toppings.

Many thanks go out to our dedicated volunteers who made the event possible: Sherrie Bergman, Donna Landau, Sylvia Most, Diane Newman, Toby Rosenberg, Sam Rothman, Catherine Share, Cindy and David Stein, and to those who jumped in to help set up and break down the event.



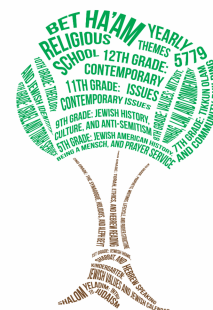
Special thanks to Spruce Rooster and Ashley Flowers Yoga for sharing your time with us. We are fortunate to have such talented community members!

## 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.

Our first Family Shabbat of the year will be 6 PM on September 10. The theme is t'shuva, which is repentance (or "return"). This service will be on Zoom only.



If you can teach Grade 3 Hebrew (letters, vowels, and beginning reading) please contact Sam, [sam@bethaam.org](mailto:sam@bethaam.org).

### Teen Leadership Opportunities

The [Union for Reform Judaism](#) (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!

## 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



## Enter to Win the Excellent Etrog Raffle

Over the next few weeks, the open-air markets in Israel will be brimming with etrogs (citrons) on sale for Sukkot. Not all etrogs will fetch the same price. Depending on size, shape, surface, and the presence of the pitom (flower stem), an etrog might cost from a minimum of 35 shekels up to hundreds, even thousands. Many synagogues around the world sell etrog and lulav sets as autumn fund raisers. Here at Bet Ha'am, we grow our own organic etrog plants. *It has taken nine years for our plants to produce three impressive fruits!* They are large and excellent in form. We will keep one for the Bet Ha'am sukkah.

We will raffle off two of these excellent etrogs on **Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM** live on Facebook! Each will come with a lulav to complete the ritual sukkah symbols.

Two other prizes are offered:

- a children's book and plush etrog and lulav set
- festive, Israeli, glass hostess set perfect for entertaining

*With four drawings each ticket has four chances to win!*

When you enter to win Bet Ha'am wins too.

1 ticket \$18.00

3 tickets \$50.00

7 tickets \$100

Rabbi's forearm length (11 tickets) \$150

**PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKETS [HERE!](#)**

*For More Information:*

*What is an Etrog?*

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Etrog>

*What can I do with an etrog after Sukkot?*

*How do I celebrate Sukkot at home?*

*How do I build a sukkah? (This year keep it airy and open)*

<https://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/june-2021/tips-for-building-your-sukkah>

*Ways to celebrate Sukkot without a sukkah*

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/celebrating-sukkot-without-a-sukkah/>

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 photos 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](mailto:admin@bethaam.org) or give her a shout at 879-0028, option 4.



## 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

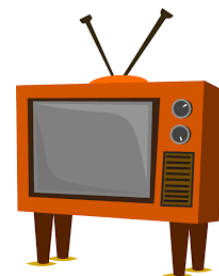
Due to low attendance, B'Yachad is on hold. Stay tuned for news on when we might start again.

Many thanks to Alan Davis for leading B'Yachad for us!



### 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](#)

[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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