



The Bet Ha'am Weekly Email

Words of Torah

This Shabbat is known as Shabbat Shuvah, the Shabbat of Return, because it falls between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The Torah portion for this Shabbat is Parashat Vayelech and as it opens, Moses addresses the people of Israel as his life is drawing to a close. He shares with them that he is 120 years old and reminds them that he will not cross over into the Land of Israel with them, but that even without him, God will still be with them. Some of the commentators, including Ibn Ezra (12th century, Spain) and Gersonides (14th century, France) indicate that Moses went tribe to tribe to share what he had to say. He could have, perhaps, addressed all the people as a whole, but instead chose to address them in smaller groups, according to their tribal ancestry. Gersonides even indicates that God had hidden away all of the trumpets that were typically used to gather the tribes so that Moses would have to speak with them individually. During these Ten Days of Awe, we contemplate the end of our lives, just as Moses is contemplating his. And like Moses, it is our task, however hard it may be, to have the tough conversations that will bring about comfort and return, even when we think it might be easier to take the broader, more generic approach.



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

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

*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. **Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur service links will be shared in a designated email by Sunday, September 12th, so please watch your inboxes for more information.***

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

Friday, September 10

Family Shabbat Service, 6:00 PM - Zoom Only; No In-Person Attendance

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

Saturday, September 11

Weekly Torah Study, 9:00 AM - Zoom Only

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, September 11

Shabbat Morning Worship, 10:30 AM - In Person and Zoom

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

Wednesday, September 15

Morning Minyan 7:30 AM

Thank you to Daniel Oppenheim for leading Morning Minyan.

Join the **Wednesday Morning Minyan** [here](#).

Wednesday, September 15 - Kol Nidre

Kol Nidre Worship Service, 8:00 PM - Zoom Only; No In-Person Attendance

Thursday, September 16 - Yom Kippur

Children's Worship Service, 8:30 AM - Zoom Only; No In-Person Attendance

Thursday, September 16 - Yom Kippur

Torah Study, 9:00 AM - Zoom Only; No In-Person Attendance

Thursday, September 16 - Yom Kippur

Morning Worship Service, 10:00 AM - Zoom Only; No In-Person Attendance

**Thursday, September 16 - Yom Kippur
Meditation and Healing Service, 12:45 PM - Pre-Recorded Only**

**Thursday, September 16 - Yom Kippur
Afternoon Study, 2:30 PM - Zoom Only; No In-Person Attendance**

**Thursday, September 16 - Yom Kippur
Afternoon Worship Service, 3:30 PM - Zoom Only; No In-Person Attendance**

**Thursday, September 16 - Yom Kippur
Yizkor Service, 5:00 PM - Zoom Only; No In-Person Attendance**

**Thursday, September 16 - Yom Kippur
Neilah, 6:00 PM - Zoom Only; No In-Person Attendance**

**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](#).

Sukkot Events!

**Sunday, September 19 - 1:00 to 3:00 PM
Community Sukkah Raising**

Come help build and decorate our sukkah--no experience necessary! It's a mitzvah and it's fun!

**Friday, September 24 - 6:00 PM - Stay tuned for required registration!
Tot Shabbat in the Sukkah**

Join us for Tot Shabbat in the Sukkah for families of children 5 and under. Masks are required for children ages two and up. *This event is for parents and their children only, please.*

Other Sukkot events are in the works! Keep watching for more information!

Religious School on Zoom

School registration for the 2021-22 school year is open.

Click [here](#) to register! Late Tuition Rates Are In Effect

September 12:

- 9:00 - Grades K-6 High Holy Day Zoom Program
- 10:30 - Grades 1-2 Meet-up

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 memory of Evelyn Rosenthal by Robert & Rona Rosenthal
- In memory of Joseph and Therese Erdman on their Yartzeits by Harold Erdman
- Donation by Susan Lieberman

New Members

Please join us in welcoming:

- Keith & Lauren Rosenberg with Levi, Sawyer & Zaff "Taco"

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

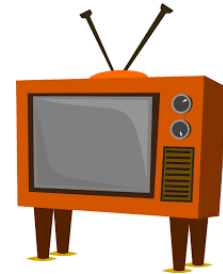
Due to low attendance, B'Yachad is on hold. Stay tuned for news on when we might start again.

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!

 CENTER FOR
SMALL TOWN
JEWISH LIFE

Join us for
**The Fall
Shabbaton**
with Elana Arian



Friday, October 29 and Saturday, October 30, 2021
Join us via live stream for Friday-night services, and in person for a Shabbat afternoon concert at Beth El, Augusta. Save the date!
More details to come at jewishlife.colby.edu

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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