



## The Bet Ha'am Weekly Email

### Words of Torah

When the rabbis consider this week's Torah portion, B'reishit, in the Mishnah (Sanhedrin 4:5) and its narrative about the creation of the first human being, they ask why God chose to begin humanity with a single person. Among a number of possible answers, there are two that stand out to me. The first is that with a single human being as our common ancestor, none of us can say that our lineage is any better than anyone else's. The second is that when God created the mold for the first human being, part of the miracle of that mold is that unlike coins minted from a mold, which all turn out the same, the mold that God used to create the first human being, which is used to form all of us, creates each of us differently. Even though we don't take the story of Creation literally, we see the truth in it that even as we are each different and have something unique to offer the world, we are all connected to one another.



### Staff Shabbatical

In recognition of the excellent service our staff has provided through the last year and the value and impact of rest and rejuvenation in our tradition, the Bet Ha'am Board of Trustees approved a one-week paid "Shabbatical" for staff to align with Rabbi Saks' scheduled vacation. We anticipate that our staff will come back refreshed and focused on stewarding relationships with the congregation.

The synagogue will be closed from Tuesday, September 28th through Monday, October 4th and will reopen on Tuesday, October 5th. During this time, our lay leaders will conduct our Shabbat Worship Services from home via Zoom. You can access the service links below.

**If you have a pastoral care emergency, please call 879-0028 and choose option 9 to leave a message for our pastoral care team.**

### Join Us In Person!

- 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 until further notice.

Want to join us via Zoom? Just click on the links provided below. It's that easy!

Join the **Friday Evening Shabbat Service** [here](#).

Join the **Torah Study** session [here](#).

Join the **Shabbat Morning Worship Service** [here](#).

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

## Worship Schedule

**Friday, October 1**

**Friday Evening Shabbat Service, 7:30 PM - Zoom Only**

**As our building will be closed while our staff is on "Shabbatical," our Friday Evening Shabbat Service will be held via Zoom; in-person attendance is not available.**

Thank you to Melissa Montefel for leading the service in the absence of Rabbi Saks and to Benn May for coordinating Zoom.

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

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**Saturday, October 2**

**Weekly Torah Study, 9:00 AM - Zoom Only**

Rabbi Saks will be on vacation, but new study materials will be shared in the Zoom chat on Saturday.

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**Saturday, October 2**

**Shabbat Morning Worship, 10:30 AM - Zoom Only**

**As our building will be closed while our staff is on "Shabbatical," our Shabbat Morning Worship Service will be held via Zoom; in-person attendance is not available.**

Thank you to Toby Rosenberg for leading the service in the absence of Rabbi Saks on her 70th birthday and to Sylvia Most for coordinating Zoom. In celebration of Toby's birthday milestone, we will be meeting for lunch at TIQA following the service. See the "Special Celebration" section below for more details!

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

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**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](#).



# Special Celebration

Saturday, October 2

## Lunch at TIQA Following Shabbat Morning Worship

In celebration of our beloved Toby Rosenberg's 70th birthday milestone, we'll be meeting for lunch at TIQA located at 327 Commercial Street in Portland after our Morning Shabbat Worship Service.



**Reservations are required**, so please let us know if you'd like to join us. Not in your budget, but you'd really like to celebrate with us? We've got you covered. Please email Sylvia Most at [president@bethaam.org](mailto:president@bethaam.org) with questions.

RSVP Here!

## Religious School on Zoom

**School registration 2021-22 is open.**

Click [here](#) to register!

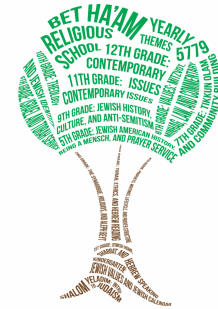
**Exciting update!** The board approved in-person classes for religious school. Watch for updates here and from Sam over coming weeks as we transition.

### October 3:

9:00 AM: Grades K-6 Zoom Assembly

9:30 AM through the morning: Zoom Grades 1-6

5:00 PM: Zoom Grades 7-9



## Ongoing Events at Bet Ha'am

### Shabbat Candle Lighting

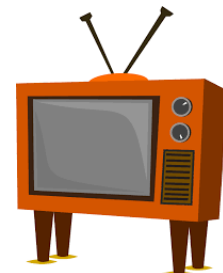
Please consider signing up to be a candle lighter at an upcoming Zoom Friday night service. You may choose to do this in memory of a loved one for whom you're observing yahrzeit, in honor of a celebration in your life, or just because you want to engage in this ritual. You can read more from Rabbi Saks [here](#); learn the candle lighting blessing [here](#) (on track 420); and find the words [here](#).



Candle Lighting Sign-Up

### 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 questions or suggestions for future movies.



### September 29th

#### ***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.*

### October 13th

#### ***The Band's Visit - movie***

Eight Egyptian musicians arrive by mistake in a small town in Israel's Negev Desert. Their booking set for a different city, and with no transportation out of the town or any hotels to stay at, the band settles at a restaurant owned by Dinaz, who offers them lodging. Overcoming ethnic barriers, the Egyptians find diversion and companionship with the Israelis. *Available on Amazon or Tubi.*

### October 27th

#### **Hit and Run** - 9 episodes

A man searching for the truth behind his wife's death becomes caught up in a dangerous web of secrets and intrigue stretching from New York to Tel Aviv, Israel. *Available on Netflix.*

### November 10th

#### **Worth** - movie

In the wake of the Sept. 11th attacks, a lawyer faces an emotional reckoning as he attempts to put a dollar value on the lives lost. Based on real events. *Available on Netflix.*

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84000133732?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84000133732?pwd=RWNNS1UvNHpORnFZOTFpMmhoWVpyQT09)

[pwd=RWNNS1UvNHpORnFZOTFpMmhoWVpyQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84000133732?pwd=RWNNS1UvNHpORnFZOTFpMmhoWVpyQT09)

Meeting ID: 840 0013 3732

Passcode: 853665

One tap mobile

+19294362866,,84000133732#,,,,\*853665# US (New York)

### Condolences:

## So Much Going on in Our Community!



**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](http://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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