



## The Bet Ha'am Weekly Email

### Words of Torah

Our Torah narrative shifts from the universal to the particular in this week's portion, *Lech L'cha*. Up until this point, Torah has told the story of all humanity. Now, our story focuses on Abraham and Sarah's entering the covenant with God and with this, Torah shifts to the story of the Jewish people. The phrase that gives the portion its name, *Lech L'cha*, is commonly translated as 'go forth,' but as Torah scholars note, its form is redundant. Literally, the text, in which God commands Abraham to set out on this new journey, means 'go to yourself.' One Hasidic teach understands this to mean that none of us is expected to be more than who we are. Yet, we *are* expected to fulfill our potential, to be the fullest self we are capable of being. Perhaps you know the story of Rabbi Zusya who, weeping on his deathbed, told his students that he wasn't concerned that God was going to ask him why he wasn't more like Moses, but rather, why he wasn't more like Zusya, why he wasn't his best self? *Parashat Lech L'cha* reminds us to live up to our potential and be the best we can be.



## Join Us In Person!

### COVID-19 UPDATE

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU COME BACK TO WORSHIP

Did you know that our Friday Evening and Saturday Morning Shabbat Worship Services are being held in-person? When you're ready to come back to the sanctuary, here's what you can expect:

- Effective September 1st, anyone who wishes to attend services in-person must be fully vaccinated and be willing to attest to vaccination status.
- Everyone must wear a mask at all times while attending indoor services. Masks are required before entering the building.
- Masks are required at outdoor worship services, as we will be singing.
- Disposable masks and hand sanitizer are available at our main entrance. Hand sanitizer can also be found at the entrance to the sanctuary.
- Everyone must complete the sign-in form at each visit.

- We're practicing social distancing in the sanctuary. Seats are spaced 3 feet apart; please do not move seats together unless you are members of the same household.
- Eating is not allowed inside the building at this time. We hope to return to Onegs and Kiddush lunches soon.
- Our Family Shabbat Worship and Tot Shabbat Services will be held via Zoom only until further notice.
- Our Shabbat Morning Worship Services sometimes include celebrations of our students becoming bar or bat mitzvah. The entire congregation is welcome and encouraged to join in Shabbat worship when our students are called to the Torah. While we require everyone who wishes to attend in-person to be fully vaccinated, these celebrations may include children who are not yet eligible for vaccination. Unvaccinated children will be seated in a separate area away from the general congregation; however, if you are not comfortable sharing a space with unvaccinated individuals, we encourage you to attend a Shabbat service that does not include a family-centered celebration or join us via Zoom.
- 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.

**Family Shabbat Worship Services are held on the second Friday of each month and are currently being offered via Zoom only.**

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

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

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 15**

**Friday Evening Shabbat Worship Service, 7:30 PM**

Our Friday Evening Shabbat Worship Services are currently being held in-person with an option to join via Zoom.

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

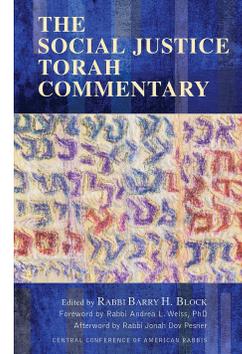
**Saturday, October 16**

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

Please join Rabbi Saks for Weekly Torah Study featuring *The Social Justice Commentary* by Rabbi Barry H. Block.

What does the Torah have to say about social justice? As the contributors to *The Social Justice Torah*

*Commentary* demonstrate, a great deal. A diverse array of authors delve deeply into each week's *parashah*, drawing lessons to inspire *tikkun olam*. Chapters address key contemporary issues such as racism, climate change, mass incarceration, immigration, disability, women's rights, voting rights, and many more. The result is an indispensable resource for weekly Torah study and for anyone committed to repairing the world.



The book release is coming soon! To pre-order, visit [https://www.ccarpress.org/shopping\\_product\\_detail.asp?pid=50552](https://www.ccarpress.org/shopping_product_detail.asp?pid=50552).

In the meantime, to download and print this week's study materials, click [HERE](#).

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### **Saturday, October 16** **Shabbat Morning Worship, 10:30 AM - Zoom and In-Person**

Our Shabbat Morning Worship Services are currently being held in-person with an option to join via Zoom.

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

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### **Wednesday, October 20** **Morning Minyan 7:30 AM - Zoom Only**

Join us every Wednesday for a Shacharit (morning) prayer service at 7:30 AM. If you are coming to recite Kaddish and desire a full minyan (a quorum of ten worshipers), please contact the office in advance.

Join the Wednesday Morning Minyan [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.



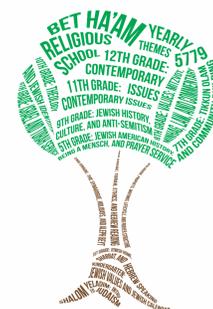
You can watch the service [here](#).  
Follow along with the prayer book [here](#).

## **Religious School on Zoom**

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

We're excited to welcome our Religious School students back to in-person attendance indoors! Thank you for being patient with us as we've worked to ensure a safe environment for learning. Here are a few things you can expect:

- All teachers, students and volunteers will be masked at all times.
- All parents/guardians must wear a mask and complete our Sign-In Form for each student at every school drop-off.



- Students will be greeted by their teachers outside and escorted to their classroom area.
- Specials like Art and Music will take place in the student's classroom area. We are unable to offer regular Children's Library visits at this time, but are working on a plan to make the Library accessible outside of school days.
- If your child is sick, please do not come to Religious School. We'll see you when you're feeling better!

**Sunday, October 17**

**In-Person at Bet Ha'am!**

9:00 - Grades 1-6 Gardening & Class

Shalom Yeladim Class (Watch your email for details)

5:00 - Grades 7-9 Class

**Urgent!** As we transition to in-person learning, the school needs more volunteers for on-site teaching, security, furniture moving, and enforcing Covid-19 protocols. Please email Sam for details.

## Call for Volunteers!



Would you like to help fellow congregants in need of rides, help with errands, or friendly phone calls to check-in?

Rabbi Saks is seeking fully vaccinated volunteers who are interested in helping our members in need. Please email [Lynn@bethaam.org](mailto:Lynn@bethaam.org) for more information.

Bet Ha'am is always looking for volunteers to assist with programs and services! From gardening to helping plan community events, we're sure to have the right opportunity for you. Contact Lynn at [Lynn@bethaam.org](mailto:Lynn@bethaam.org) to learn more about how your time and talents can help grow the Bet Ha'am community!

## We're Hiring!

### Administrative Assistant

Bet Ha'am is hiring an Administrative Assistant to support the Rabbi and serve the general administrative needs of our congregation. This is a 30 hour per week position with flexible hours between Tuesday and Friday. If this sounds like the perfect opportunity for someone you know, please contact our Executive Director, Lynn Mansfield, at [Lynn@bethaam.org](mailto:Lynn@bethaam.org). You can view the complete job description at <https://www.bethaam.org/join-us/careers/>.

**ARE YOU  
AWESOME?**

*...perfect!*  
We're hiring!

## 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](#).



### 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](mailto:Wendy) for questions or suggestions for future movies.



#### 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=RvVNS1UvNHpORnFZOTFpMmhoWVpyQT09)

[pwd=RvVNS1UvNHpORnFZOTFpMmhoWVpyQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84000133732?pwd=RvVNS1UvNHpORnFZOTFpMmhoWVpyQT09)

Meeting ID: 840 0013 3732

Passcode: 853665

One tap mobile

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

## Jewish Community Happenings

**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.**



The JCA seeks a skilled and passionate professional to run their PJ Library program, which provides age-appropriate, relevant, and fun Jewish programming for kids, as well as sending free Jewish-themed books monthly to enrolled families. Interested in learning more about this position? Visit

<https://www.mainejewish.org/about/employmentopportunities/pj-library-coordinator/> for more information!



### Introduction to Judaism Online

Introduction to Judaism online is a live 21-session class for adults who wish to gain a deeper understanding of Jewish life through a Reform lens. Classes meet on Zoom video-conferencing and live closed captioning is available by advance request.

Introduction to Judaism online is designed for interfaith couples, adults raising Jewish children, spiritual seekers, individuals considering conversion, and Jews who want a

meaningful adult learning experience.

Wherever you are on your journey with Judaism, this class is designed to be a safe and welcoming place for you to explore. Our programs welcome people from all backgrounds and are LGBTQ-friendly.

To learn more and register for this URJ course, please visit

<https://reformjudaism.org/learning/judaism-classes/introduction-judaism/introduction-judaism-online-classes>.

## Learn to Read Hebrew

Familiarity with Hebrew can be a key to feeling at home in the Jewish community. Learn the shapes and sounds of the Hebrew alphabet, with a warm and supportive educator to guide you and a group of classmates for practicing together. Recognize and understand common Hebrew words and phrases that are often heard in Reform congregations and in Jewish prayer. Perfect for Introduction to Judaism alumni and other adults, this course assumes no prior Hebrew experience.



This course has been developed specifically for online learning, and is taught by experienced educators. Live sessions meet weekly over video conferencing. Participants are given access to online course materials and a link to purchase workbook.

To learn more about registering for this URJ course, please visit

<https://reformjudaism.org/learning/judaism-classes/Learn-to-read-hebrew>.

A poster for 'The Fall Shabbaton with Elana Arian'. It features a photo of Elana Arian playing a guitar. The text includes the event name, dates (Friday, October 29 and Saturday, October 30, 2021), and information about live streaming and in-person services at Beth El, Augusta. The logo for the Center for Small Town Jewish Life is in the top left corner.

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)

[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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