



The Bet Ha'am Weekly Email

Words of Torah

In his work *Kedushat Levi*, Rabbi Levi Yitzchak of Berdichev explores a verse in this week's Torah portion, *Parashat Chayei Sarah*. The text tells us, "Abraham was old, well advanced in years, and the Eternal had blessed him in every way" (Gen. 24:1). What does it mean that God blessed Abraham in every way? Rabbi Levi Yitzchak writes, "The truly righteous person does not only pray for oneself, but for the whole community. By the same token, a righteous person should not be satisfied if only they alone are blessed by God." The cause for Abraham's being blessed by God, according to Rabbi Levi Yitzchak, is that he sought blessing not only for himself but for others, as well. We are called to follow in Abraham's footsteps. Our task is to ensure not only our own blessing and prosperity, but the blessing and well-being of others, as well. Otherwise, our blessing is no blessing at all.



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

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 29

Rabbi Saks invites you to join us in-person on Friday, October 29th to watch the Live Stream Kabbalat Shabbat Service with Elana Arian and Rabbi Rachel Isaacs hosted by the Center for Small Town Jewish Life.

The Fall Shabbaton is an annual event that brings together the Maine Jewish community and friends from farther afield for a weekend of Torah study, soulful music, Shabbat meals, and invigorating connection. What started out as a Friday-night dinner and concert has evolved into a full Shabbat of learning and singing, with intergenerational programs for college students, children and teens, synagogue members from across the state. Past guests have included Nefesh Mountain, Deborah Sacks Mintz, Neshama Carlebach and the Glory to God gospel singers, and Joey Weisenberg, as well as Talmud scholar Ruth Calderon. The Shabbaton has grown into a partner program to the Maine Conference for Jewish Life, sustaining our community with Jewish learning and music as we enter the winter months.

In lieu of our Evening Shabbat Worship Service, we'll be meeting early and showing the live stream event on our big screen. You must be present to watch with us, but if you can't join us, you can register to watch from home at <https://colbycollegejewishlife.regfox.com/shabbaton-2021>.

Where: Congregation Bet Ha'am Sanctuary

When: Friday, October 29, 2021

Time: 6:30 p.m.

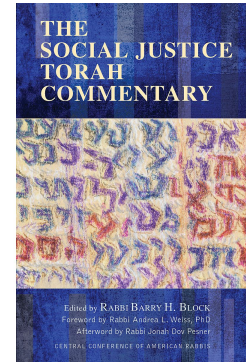
Masks are required.

Saturday, October 30

Weekly Torah Study, 9:00 AM - Zoom Only

In preparation for this week's Torah Study, Rabbi Saks has asked that you please read Genesis Chapter 24 and print the study materials [HERE](#).

This year's Weekly Torah Study will feature *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.

Are you in need of a book, but it's not within your budget? A kind donor has offered to purchase books for those in need. Please reach out to Rabbi Saks at ravsaks@bethaam.org for more information.

Saturday, October 30

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.

Please join us in celebrating the Brit Bat, "daughter's covenant," ceremony of baby Rosa Eve, daughter of Karen Stameskin and Aaron Englander; granddaughter of Rachel and Piotr Stameskin and Laura Englander; and great granddaughter of Barbara Bronstein.



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

Wednesday, November 3

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](#).

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.



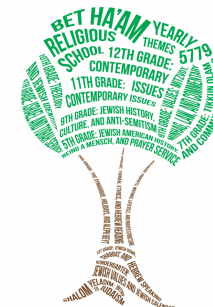
You can watch the service [here](#).
Follow along with the prayer book [here](#).

Religious School Happenings!

October 31 at Bet Ha'am:

- 9:00 Grades K, 1, 3 Tefillah & Class
- 9:00 Grades 4-6 Class
- 9:00 Middot Online for Grades K-6 (the online option)
- 9:30 Grade 2 Field Trip to TBE
- 1:00 Grades 7-9 Class

Urgent: In order to conduct school safely, we require more volunteers for on-site teaching, security, and enforcing Covid-19 protocols. Please email [Sam](#) for details.



Last week's Animal Tikkun Olam session (with Mr. Drew and his Animals Too)

Call for Volunteers!



Fall Garden Clean-up Day!

The Garden Committee is hosting a fall clean-up day on **Sunday, October 31st from 9:00-12:00**. This will mainly involve finishing the tasks that we couldn't accomplish from this last Sunday's "Hebrew School Day in the Garden." Please join us for any time you can spare that morning!



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 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 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. You can view the complete job description at <https://www.bethaam.org/join-us/careers/>.

**ARE YOU
AWESOME?**

...perfect!
We're hiring!

Donor Gallery, New Members & Milestones

Many thanks to the following donors for their generosity:

Annual Fund:

- Josh & Lesley Levy
- Sheri Fistal

General Fund:

- In memory of Peter Moser by Jeremy Moser & Laura Kittle
- In memory of Bain Kittle by Laura Kittle & Jeremy Moser
- In memory of Betty Beilstein by Laura Kittle & Jeremy Moser
- In appreciation of High Holy Day services and our staff by Jeremy Moser & Laura Kittle
- To honor Jane Snerson on her birthday by Sarah & Tod Luginbuhl
- In honor of Toby Rosenberg on her birthday by Susan Lieberman
- In honor of Sydney Rosenfeld on becoming Bat Mitzvah by Sarah & Nathan Szanton
- In appreciation of High Holy Day services by Ilene Rutan

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.



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=RvNS1UvNHpORnFZOTFpMmhoVWVpyQT09)

[pwd=RvNS1UvNHpORnFZOTFpMmhoVWVpyQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84000133732?pwd=RvNS1UvNHpORnFZOTFpMmhoVWVpyQT09)

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 Jewish Community is cordially invited:

Portland Chevra Kadisha Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 14, 2021

10:00 - 11:30 am

Temple Beth El

A kosher breakfast will be served

This meeting is open and free to all members of the Jewish Community. Please RSVP by Monday, November 8, 2021 to: paulaharrisrn@gmail.com or call Paula Harris at 207-799-9098 for reservations.



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>.

 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

[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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