

the bimonthly

bulletin

Temple Beth Am

"Israel"

April / May 2019
Adar II – Iyar 5779;
Vol. 66, No. 4



BEING *OHAVEI YISRAEL*/ LOVERS OF ISRAEL

As the deadline for this Bulletin approaches, the news from Israel suggests that the April elections are gearing up to be a brawl. The headlines announce scandals regarding the racist *Otzma Yehudit* party and the corruption charges against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. No matter where you stand with regard to Israeli politics – to the right or to the left –

this is nothing short of a mess. And this doesn't even begin to consider the question of Palestine and the roadblocks to a two-state solution.

This is why, for many North American Jews, we disengage from Israel. People are turned off by the often sensationalist news media (of all political stripes) that polemicizes to us about the reality on the ground.

RABBI RUTH A. ZLOTNICK
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SHABBAT SERVICES - APRIL

Friday Services

Kinder Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, April 5 / 6:00 PM

Choir Kabbalat Shabbat with Special Readings by Beth Am Writers

Friday, April 5 / 8:00 PM

As part of our Choir Kabbalat Shabbat service, members of Temple Beth Am's writing group, led by Marilyn Layton, will share some of their work. A festive oneg will follow.

Jazzy Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, April 12 / 8:00 PM

No Services – First Night of Passover

Friday, April 19

Healing Challahs and Klezmer Kabbalat Shabbat with Guest Emmanuel Ndayisenga

Friday, April 26 / 6:15 PM

To commemorate the 25th year anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide, we will hear from the local head of the Rwandan community in Seattle.

Saturday Services

Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday, April 6 / 10:30 AM / Parsha: Tazria

B'nai Mitzvah of Leo Hasson, son of Molly Sedlik Hasson and Joey Hasson; and Jack Bear, son of Molly Kertzer and Gregory Bear

Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday, April 13 / 10:30 AM / Parsha: Metzora

B'not Mitzvah of Tova Korry, daughter of Andrea and Richard Korry; and Sadie Davis-Suskind, daughter of Rebecca Davis and David Suskind

Passover Festival Service

Saturday, April 20 / 10:30 AM / Parsha: Bo

Tot Shabbat

Saturday, April 27 / 9:15 AM

Shabbat Minyan Service

Saturday, April 27 / 10:30 AM / Parsha: Sh'mini I

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SHABBAT SERVICES - MAY

Friday Services

Kinder Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, May 3 / 6:00 PM

Choir Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, May 3 / 8:00 PM

Jazzy Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, May 10 / 8:00 PM

Acoustic Kabbalat Shabbat with Senior Send-Off, followed by Yom Ha'atzmaut Spring Shabbat Dinner

Friday, May 17 / 6:15 PM

Join us to celebrate Israel with a delicious Shabbat meal featuring Israeli cuisine.

Klezmer Kabbalat Shabbat and Healing Challahs

Friday, May 24 / 6:15 PM

Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, May 31 / 6:15 PM

We offer alcohol-free services at all B'nai Mitzvah and Acoustic Shabbat onegs. All Minyan Services are followed by a dairy potluck.

Saturday Services

Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday, May 4 / 10:30 AM / Parsha: Achrei Mot

Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Berg, daughter of Gail Herman and Daniel Berg

Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday, May 11 / 10:30 AM / Parsha: Kedoshim

B'nai Mitzvah of Leo Ginzler, son of Jennifer Melsher and Joshua Ginzler; and Noam Perkel, son of Lyatt Jaegle and David Perkel

Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday, May 18 / 10:30 AM / Parsha: Emor

B'nai Mitzvah of Tobias Wepman, son of Deborah and Noah Wepman; and Maxwell Bolen, son of Aimee Sher and Sven Bolen

Tot Shabbat

Saturday, May 25 / 9:15 AM

Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday, May 25 / 10:30 AM / Parsha: Behar

B'nai Mitzvah of Asher Leis, son of Jennifer and Benjamin Leis; and Noah Becker, son of Wendy and Jonathan Becker



BETSY K. MAURER
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“You shall not oppress a stranger, for you know the feelings of the stranger, having yourselves been strangers in the land of Egypt” (Exodus 23:9; see also 22:20).

We read this particular Torah verse in early February, and the upcoming holiday of *Pesach* (Passover) will give us a week-long opportunity to delve into its meaning. Indeed, the mitzvah of kindness to strangers is the mitzvah most repeated in the Torah. We hear it so often that we may overlook just how radical both the message and its method of instruction are. We might also miss the connection to how we treat each other within the Temple Beth Am community and those who may wish to join us.

When the Torah refers to our knowledge of “the feelings of the stranger,” the Torah is not arguing logically or rationally. It’s an emotional appeal, a demand for empathy. Whichever Haggadah you may use at your seder reinforces the same approach. Our tradition asks us to see ourselves as if we each were personally redeemed from bondage in Egypt, and then to turn our memory of the Exodus from Egypt into empathy and moral responsibility for those who are vulnerable to social and economic exploitation. Perhaps we need the message and ritual of the Seder to help us combat an equally plausible, but more entitled, response to our enslavement in Egypt. How easily could we have reacted to our 400 years of slavery – and how often do we respond in personal-scale experiences of exploitation – that because no fellow humans helped us, we do not owe any moral obligation to help anyone else? The Torah and the celebration of Pesach forcefully remind us that precisely because we were exploited and oppressed, we must never be the exploiters and the oppressors. We tell the story of the Exodus, eat the bitter herbs, recline as liberated people, and express

PESACH AND THE POWER OF EMPATHY

gratitude for our freedom, all so that we may tap into our feelings of empathy for others.

Arguably, our internalization of the Exodus experience gives us a template for how we each need to transform our own memories of life experiences when we felt exploited or oppressed. Rather than respond to our personal suffering combatively and conclude we owe nothing to anyone, we instead have opportunities to learn compassion and kindness for the stranger and the vulnerable among us. By the time Pesach comes around in the Jewish calendar, our weekly Torah portions may be found in the Book of Leviticus, which elaborates on just who those strangers among us are. As Rabbi Shai Held has observed, “We are called to love even those who are not our kin, even those who do not share our socioeconomic status, because, after all, we remember only too well what vulnerability feels like.”¹

Our Temple Beth Am community includes people from many walks of life and spans a wide socioeconomic range. As we collectively confront the financial challenges of Temple Beth Am this spring, I hope we treat each other individually with dignity and compassion and continue to “see” the economically vulnerable among us. I also hope everyone in our community will have the opportunity in April to gather at a seder, experience our exodus from Egypt, and wrestle with what it means to care for the stranger in Seattle, Israel, and our own Beth Am community. (If you have room at your seder table or you are looking for a seder to attend, please contact Director of Community Engagement Alexis Kort at alexis@templebetham.org.)

¹“Mishpatim #1: Turning Memory into Empathy,” *The Heart of Torah*, Rabbi Shai Held (2017)



BARBARA GREEN
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As Executive Director of Temple Beth Am, I am privileged to be a member of the National Association of Temple Administrators (NATA), whose mission is to prepare and inspire synagogue management professionals to serve and lead congregations with excellence. Among the benefits of membership is receiving the *NATA Journal*. The theme of the most recent journal is “Relevancy: Boldly Innovating, Learning and Evolving.”

Across the country, synagogues are grappling with how to stay relevant in the 21st century. Here at Temple Beth Am, we too have been trying to figure this out. In alignment with both our Strategic Plan and our learning theme for the year, “*Ma’asei V’reisheet / Acts of Creation*,” we have been engaging in various experiments to stay relevant. For example, we tested visual t’filah, made recommendations for a new *tzedek* (social justice) framework, and started small groups. These experiments have been met with a wide range of excitement and some resistance.

In 2018, the Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati, OH and several congregations went on a Learning Journey, so they could better understand how to support synagogues. They studied the sociology of contemporary American Jewish communities and, in particular, how synagogues adapt, change, and move forward.

Brian Jaffee, the executive director of the Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati, recently wrote his

MOVING TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

thoughts on the Learning Journey. One of his key observations was the inherent tension between, what he called, “inreach” and “outreach.” One thing that became apparent is that as much as it is imperative for synagogues to change, it is hard to find the right balance between serving and satisfying long-time, loyal members who are happy with the status quo and innovating in a way that appeals to newer or future members. Of course, these two categories are not mutually exclusive, but there are always those who are more or less comfortable with change. For me, the most challenging question is, “How can we effectively acknowledge, hold, and work through the tension of maintaining the familiar while experimenting with the new?”

There are no easy answers. Bob Johansen, a futurist, recommends that we be as clear as possible about where we want to end up but flexible about how we get there. We need to experiment, learn, and course-correct as necessary. This is messy territory, and no two congregations are the same.

As we seek to stay relevant at Temple Beth Am, at least we know that we are in good company; congregations of all sizes across the country are trying to figure this out. Hopefully, we can all learn from each other. At Temple Beth Am, let us have compassion and an open heart as we work together to stay relevant for our future while honoring our past and present.

Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism's Consultation on Conscience

Join Temple Beth Am at the Consultation on Conscience, the Reform Movement's biennial social justice conference. On **May 19 – 21**, social justice advocates from all over the country will convene in Washington DC to hear world-class speakers, build their advocacy skills, and lobby our federal elected officials. For more information on how to register as part of our delegation, contact Beth Am Board member Shelly F. Cohen at shellyfcohen@gmail.com.



RABBI JANINE C. SCHLOSS
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Educating our students about Israel and giving them the tools to think critically about what they learn are important values throughout our Religious School curriculum. Every grade learns about Israel in some way, depending on students' age and developmental stage. In some classes, students learn about Israel by studying Hebrew or singing Hebrew songs and many even learn Israeli dances. Some grades learn about Israel in a more in-depth way. In 2nd grade, for example, the students read about the cities, land, water, and people of Israel. In 4th grade, Israel is one of the two main foci of the homeroom curriculum. Using the textbook *Welcome to Israel!*, students spend the year learning about the people, geography, towns, and cities that make up the modern state of Israel. The book ends with chapters about the efforts towards peace and hope for the future.

In 7th grade, the students start from the beginning – and we mean the beginning! They learn about our ancient connection to the land of Israel and look at Jewish settlements throughout the centuries. As they begin to learn about the waves of immigration (*Aliyot*) to Israel, they begin to see how Israel's history connects with the history they learned in their Holocaust studies. They learn about the founding of the State of Israel, the history of the country since 1948, and the many sides of the issues that Israel currently faces. Our goal is for the students to learn enough that they can pick up a newspaper and be able to understand what is written in the articles about Israel.

Whether Israel is a formal part of the students' curriculum or not, our students and staff celebrate Israel when we mark *Yom Ha'atzmaut* (Israel Independence Day), learn Hebrew songs, or cook our favorite Israeli dishes. In our school, we emphasize our love for Israel, support for its existence, and our

ISRAEL EDUCATION IN RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

assertion that Israel must be able to defend itself. We help our students create a connection to the ancient and modern land of Israel, and we share our desire for Israel to be at peace with its neighbors. We also recognize that the Palestinians' sacred narrative has truths that must be recognized and honored, and we work for the day when all parties will feel safe and at home. What we do not do, though, is tell our students what the "right" way is to solve the complicated problem of Middle East Peace. Regardless of their view of current Israeli politics, our students always have a place at Temple Beth Am.

Israel – just as it is a cornerstone of Jewish life – is a cornerstone of our Jewish education. As they say in Hebrew, *yesh!* (awesome!).

Religious School Registration Changes

In order to make things easier for Religious School parents, we are creating a streamlined process that combines information about Religious School registration with your annual financial commitment (dues) letter, starting this coming spring. Religious School scholarships and dues adjustment forms will also be combined. We hope that getting everything at once will simplify things for you and make for a smoother process. The letters will be sent out in April. **We will also require that all tuition is paid by EFT or credit card on a monthly basis, unless it is paid in full up front.** Please contact Executive Director Barbara Green at barbara@templebetham.org with any questions.

BETH AM TEMPLE YOUTH (BATY)

Finding Myself in Israel

By Paige Welikson, BATY Religious and Cultural Vice President

When first asked to write a short article about my time spent with NFTY in Israel, I imagined that it would be quite easy. There's certainly not a lack of material after spending four weeks there with 80 Jewish teenagers. Yet, as I began to write about swimming in the Dead Sea, praying at the Western Wall, sleeping under the stars in the Negev, and riding camels in the Judean desert, I felt that I wasn't doing my trip justice. I know, that's a pretty crazy thing to write. Yet, all of these descriptions felt like what I had experienced was a glorified vacation. In some aspects, maybe it was. But the four weeks that I spent in Israel have stuck with me long past my memories of other trips.

Many teens will return and share that "Israel Changed My Life." In my experience, the cliché is certainly true. I'll bet that those who share similar sentiments agree with me that the experiences that truly shape us aren't riding camels or lathering ourselves in mud. Don't get me wrong, these memories are certainly fun and very Instagram-worthy. Yet, what truly made my Israel trip so profound was its ability to challenge me physically, emotionally, and spiritually. There was a hike in the



Negev where my fingers swelled so much from the heat that my friend had to rip my rings off of my fingers, tearing some of my skin. But the feeling of climbing down the other side of the mountain and knowing that I did it was unforgettable for a girl who is known for not having exercised since 8th grade gym.

There were moments where Alissa Berman and I sat by ourselves, wondering if we were ever going to make any friends and complaining about how all of the kids

on our bus already knew each other. Those bittersweet tears of saying good-bye to what ended up being some of the most incredible people I've ever met made those four days of uncomfortable small talk so worth it.



There were days where I struggled to be present, where I still felt caught up in the things that I had really wanted to leave at home. Yet the ability to return at the end of my trip having experienced all of the things I had, gave me the perspective I needed to tackle them. This perspective is one that I still use to this day when faced with the challenges that come with being a junior in high school.

If you're considering NFTY in Israel because you're looking for four weeks of lounging on the beach, wandering aimlessly through the streets of Jerusalem, and sitting around in a hotel, save your money. But if you are looking for a summer that is going to have lasting effects on your view of yourself, your world, and your religion, it will be the best investment that you can make.

ANNUAL GALA & AUCTION



GALA GATHERING

By Davida Sims, Director of Development

On March 9, close to 300 of our congregants and supporters came together to celebrate and raise money for our community at our Annual Gala & Auction. Every ticket, auction donation, raffle purchase, and general donation helped us secure the funds necessary to sustain our vibrant Jewish community. Thanks to all of you who participated in this essential and fun way to support Temple Beth Am!

At the Gala, we presented a short movie to remind us why supporting Temple Beth Am is so important. If you missed this video or want to watch it again, please look for the email link sent on March 12 or email davida@templebetham.org.



The Gala's theme of "The Secret Garden: Sowing the Seeds of Community" was drawn from our learning theme for the year, *Ma'asei V'reisheet/Acts of Creation*. Beyond the spiritual implications of having a Jewish home, we all know what a special community there is within our walls. "The Secret Garden" represents the happiness



and renewal that we create every time we come together and sow the seeds of community (deepen our relationships with each other) inside and outside the walls of Temple Beth Am.

If you were unable to attend the Gala, we hope that you will still consider making a gift to Temple Beth Am. As your annual financial commitment (dues) only covers 54% of our essential funding, your generous gift helps provide the additional resources necessary to

ANNUAL GALA & AUCTION

educate our children, maintain our sacred spaces, and provide for the spiritual needs of our members. Your gift at any level will help secure the present and future of Temple Beth Am. You can give at this link: <https://www.templebetham.org/form/gala-giving-form.html>.



Lesley Isgur, Sharon Kean, Susan Klasterin, Betsy K. Maurer (President, Board of Directors), Maggie Medearis, Dara McAllister (Décor Chair), Mikhaila Reudink, Leatt Rousso, Judy Unger. And thank you to all of those who celebrated our Secret Garden! We are grateful for your commitment to supporting our sacred community.

**All Gala pictures by Sabina Burd.*



Thank you again to **Eliza Medearis and Helen Spencer-Snyder**, this year's Gala co-chairs, as well as our 2019 Gala Committee: **Dita Appelbaum, Elizabeth Asher, Lucy Auster, Greg Berkman, Ruth Berkman, Gaby Charlton (Development Chair & Table Captain Chair), Puddin Cox, Katie Fingerroot, Charlene Finn, Kaitlin Geballe (Dessert Chair), Zach Geballe, Ellen Greenberg, Bernice Harris,**



Hold Your Next Event at Temple Beth Am

We offer comfortable and affordable spaces for meetings, events, concerts, recitals, and special occasions like B'nai Mitzvah celebrations, weddings, receptions, parties, or other events.

For current room availability and pricing, contact Facilities & Events Director Victoria Guy at victoria@templebetham.org or 206-525-0915.

Sponsor an Oneg

Sponsor an oneg for Shabbat in honor of a special person or occasion, or in memory of a loved one. The cost to sponsor an oneg is \$100. Dates will be offered on a first-come, first-serve basis. Your name and the name of the honoree will be mentioned at the Shabbat service for the oneg you are sponsoring.

To sponsor an oneg, email Director of Development Davida Sims at davida@templebetham.org.

TEMPLE BETH AM'S 2019 UNIVERSITY LECTURE SERIES

with Professor Sasha Senderovich



*HOW THE “SOVIET JEW”
WAS MADE: LITERATURE,
CULTURE, AND HUMOR*

**All lectures held from 7:00 - 8:30 PM at Temple Beth Am
2632 NE 80th St., Seattle 98115**

APRIL 3

Hammer & Pickle: How Soviet Jews Joked – and Were Joked About

APRIL 10

Rooted and Rootless: How Soviet Jews Made Homes – and Left Them

APRIL 17

Scenes of Encounter: How American Jews Imagined Soviet Jews – and Vice Versa

\$40 for the series / \$15 per lecture, free for students with ID

Become a program patron for \$100

Open to everyone in the community

templebetham.org



SASHA SENDEROVICH is a scholar of Russian Jewish literature and culture. His current book project, *How the Soviet Jew Was Made: Culture and Mobility after the Revolution*, explores the emergence of the "Soviet Jew" as a cultural concept. Prof. Senderovich also studies contemporary literature written by Soviet-born Jewish Russians, particularly in America. He received his Ph.D from Harvard in 2010.

Choir Kabbalat Shabbat with Special Readings by Beth Am Writers

Friday, April 5, 8:00 PM

Temple Beth Am

As part of our Choir Kabbalat Shabbat service, members of Temple Beth Am's writing group, led by Marilyn Layton, will share some of their work. Join us for services and a festive oneg afterwards.

Young Families at Beth Am

Pre-Passover Pizza Party and Bowling

Saturday, April 13, 4:00 – 6:00 PM

Kenmore Lanes, 7638 NE Bothell Way, Kenmore

Cost: \$5/person



We're having a YFBA Party at Kenmore Lanes, and you and your family are invited! We'll have lanes with bumpers for the kids and plenty of pizza. This event is especially for the 4 years and up crowd!

RSVP to Director of Community Engagement Alexis Kort at alexis@templebetham.org.

Torah & Tea with Rabbi Ruth A. Zlotnick

Sunday, April 14, 12:30 – 2:00 PM

Beth Am Social Hall



The Sisters of Beth Am are honored to host a light lunch with tea, text study, a discussion led by Rabbi Ruth A. Zlotnick, and an opportunity to connect with women at Beth Am through study and conversation. Free and open to everyone.

RSVPs appreciated by Wednesday, April 10 to Director of Community Engagement Alexis Kort at alexis@templebetham.org.

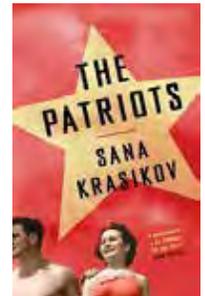
New Jewish Writing from Around the World

Book Group

Tuesday, April 16, 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Beth Am K'hilah Rm. 226

The Patriots by Sana Krasikov (Russian) is a sweeping, multi-generational novel about idealism, betrayal, and family secrets set in the U.S. and Russia from one of *Granta's* "Best of Young American Novelists."



Klezmer Kabbalat Shabbat with guest Emmanuel Ndayisenga to commemorate the 25th year anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide

Friday, April 26, 6:15 PM

Temple Beth Am

As part of our Kabbalat Shabbat service, we will hear from the local head of the Rwandan community here in Seattle, Emmanuel Ndayisenga. Emmanuel works at the International Rescue Committee as a senior operations coordinator and has been The Temple Beth Am professionals contact for the apartment set-ups for new refugee families being resettled through the IRC.

Women of Reform Judaism Pacific Northwest Sisterhood Retreat

Friday, April 26 – Sunday, April 28

Camp Kalsman, Arlington, WA

Come home to beautiful Camp Kalsman for the weekend and relax among old and new friends from temples around the Pacific Northwest. All meals provided. Prices are online at <https://www.templebetham.org/community/sisterhood>. If you have any questions or want to learn more about the Sisterhood retreat weekend, please email Sisterhood@tdhs-nw.org.

Group Cabin: \$136

Small Group Room: \$150*

Single Room: \$160*

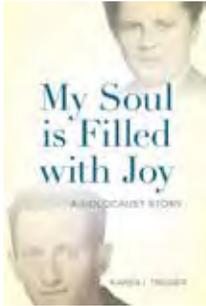
**Limited availability – filled first-come, first-served*

ENGAGEMENT

Yom HaShoah Commemoration and Book Discussion: *My Soul is Filled with Joy: A Holocaust Story* with author Karen Treiger

Thursday, May 2, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Beth Am Sanctuary

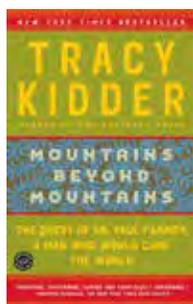


This book tells the tale of Seattle resident Karen Treiger's in-laws, Esther and Sam Goldberg, as they survived the Holocaust, and her odyssey of writing the book. Sam Goldberg was one of approximately 65 people to make it out of the Treblinka extermination camp alive and met Esther while both were in hiding. Hear more

about their remarkable journey and Karen's life-changing experiences of writing this family story.

Karen Treiger is a Seattle native and retired lawyer. She has been named to the Jewish Book Council Author's Network and the Seattle Holocaust Center for Humanity Speaker's Bureau.

To learn more about the book and author, read Communications Lead Rachel Román's article for *Jewish in Seattle* magazine, "Karen Treiger's Family History Finds Holy Moments": <https://mag.jewishinseattle.org/articles/2018/10/23/karen-treiger-s-family-history-finds-holy-moments>.



RAC Reads: Social Justice Book Group

Sunday, May 5, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Beth Am K'hilah Rm. 226

Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World by Tracy Kidder is the story of Paul Farmer,

who found his life's calling in medical school: to cure infectious diseases and bring the lifesaving tools of modern medicine to those who need them most. Tracy Kidder's magnificent account shows how one person can make a difference in solving global health problems through a clear-eyed understanding of the interaction of politics, wealth, social systems, and disease.

"The Detention Lottery"

Wednesday, May 8, 6:30 – 9:00 PM

Temple Beth Am

Co-sponsored by the Temple Beth Am Immigrant Justice Action Team together with our congregational partners in the University District Sanctuary Hub.

For better or worse, the issue of immigration has been making headlines most days lately. For many of us, it's hard to comprehend what detainees face in our immigration enforcement system. In an effort to educate ourselves, our U-District Sanctuary Hub is sponsoring "The Detention Lottery," a dynamic, immersive courtroom drama created by local immigration attorney Margaret O'Donnell. Seattle-area immigration attorneys will play the roles of attorneys, judges, ICE officers, and guards with audience members selected at random to be detainees. Afterward, there will be a talk-back to answer questions about how the detention process works.

Light refreshments will be available at 6:30 PM, and the program will begin at 7:00 PM. There is no charge, but donations will be collected to benefit the Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN) Fair Fight Bond Fund. RSVPs are required. Register at <http://tinyurl.com/y4t4buob>.

New Jewish Writing from Around the World

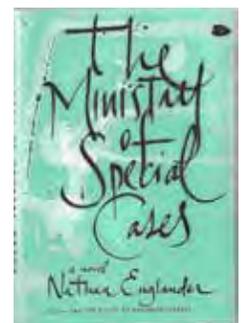
Book Group

Tuesday, May 14, 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Beth Am K'hilah Rm. 226

The Ministry of Special Cases by Nathan Englander (American set in Argentina) takes place during Argentina's Dirty War when Kaddish Poznan struggles with

a son who won't accept him; strives for a wife who forever saves him; and spends his nights protecting the good name of a community that denies his existence – and denies a checkered history that only Kaddish holds dear. When the nightmare of the disappeared children brings the Poznan family to its knees, they are thrust into the unyielding corridors of the Ministry of Special Cases, the refuge of last resort.



YOM HA'ATZMAUT SPRING SHABBAT DINNER

Friday, May 17, following 6:15 PM

Acoustic Kabbalat Shabbat services

Temple Beth Am

Cost: \$22/adult, \$12/child

(6 to 12 years old, kids under 5 eat for free)

Join us to celebrate Israel with a delicious Shabbat meal featuring Israeli cuisine. Dinner includes chicken shwarma, mujadera rice and lentil pilaf (v/gf), Israeli salad, pita, humus, eggplant and watermelon salad, and dessert with wine and non-alcoholic beverages. *Tofu entrée upon request for vegetarians (email Director of Community Engagement Alexis Kort at alexis@templebetham.org).

**Registration in advance is required by Tuesday, May 14. Once registration is closed, we will have a limited number of at-the-door spots available.*



Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 19, 10:00 AM

Temple Beth Am

Beth Am members will have an opportunity to see old friends and make new ones as well as vote on the annual budget, bylaws, and new Board of Directors members and officers. There will also be a discussion on our social justice/tzedek policies.

Camp Keshet for Families

August 30 – September 1

Recapture the best parts of Jewish summer camps or find out what you have been missing all of these years!

Come to Camp Keshet, a multi-generational camp held at Camp Sealth over

Labor Day Weekend. Camp Keshet brings together campers of all ages from the Jewish community around the Puget Sound where they study, pray, enjoy nature, sports, music, and crafts — and get away from everyday distractions and responsibilities (no cooking!). For more information or to register, go to <https://www.campkeshet.org/>.



ENGAGEMENT



Passover Seder Hosts Needed for Friday, April 19 and Saturday, April 20

Each year we receive requests from congregants looking for a seat at a seder. Consider offering a spot at your table for those in our community who do not have family or a seder to attend in Seattle. It's a mitzvah!

Contact Director of Community Engagement Alexis Kort at alexis@templebetham.org or by phone at 206-525-0915 ext. 210 if you can host 1-4 people for either seder, and she may pair you up with someone in need.

Passover Gift Shop

Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Beth Am Lobby

Temple Beth Am offers a selection of Passover Seder plates, cups of Elijah and Miriam, and more. They make perfect gifts or can brighten your own table! Drop by our lobby during regular business hours to take a look.

Save the Date for H2R's...

A Taste of Elegance in the Courtyard

Sunday, August 4th, 2019 at 5:00 PM

A sit-down dinner showcasing interactive food demonstrations by local chefs and caterers. All food, drink, and preparation are donated. Net proceeds go directly to the Homeless to Renter program and its mission to support homeless families in their pursuit of stable housing. Attendance limited to 100 guests.

TEMPLE BETH AM OF SEATTLE
February 15-26, 2020

THE ISRAEL TRIP

FEBRUARY 15-26, 2020

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FROM **\$3,049** LAND ONLY (from April 18th)

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- Experience Israel from ancient history to high-tech innovation
- Go beyond the headlines: explore the challenges, triumphs and diversity of Israel
- Feel the energy of Tel Aviv & the holiness of Jerusalem, see the beauty of the North
- From floating in the Dead Sea to jeep tours on the Golan Heights: authentic Israel
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BETH AM COMMUNITY

Dreaming of a Return to Israel

By Alexis Kort, Director of Community Engagement



When I was 18 years old, I spent a year living in Israel, mostly on a kibbutz, with a group of Jewish North Americans from my Progressive Zionist youth movement. Each morning, I would wake up before 5:00 AM, put on my work clothes, head to the kitchen to make myself a strong cup of *nes café* (instant coffee), smoke a Noblesse cigarette, and start preparing breakfast and then lunch for 300-plus kibbutzniks. We spent our afternoons lounging by the pool and talking about the ideals of socialism and the peace process.

I returned to Israel for my junior year abroad at Hebrew University and lived in Jerusalem in the Baka neighborhood, across the street from Kehilat Kol HaNeshama, which was then one of the only Reform synagogues in Israel. Those two years in Israel helped form my identity as someone who believes in the beauty and complexity of Jewish peoplehood and the state of Israel. I studied Hebrew and Arabic, celebrated holidays, explored the history and land, and engaged in meaningful co-existence work. Israel is like no other place that I have ever lived or traveled. The old and new, the holy and the secular, the smells and tastes and sights resonate deeply.

I am delighted at the opportunity to bring my family on our **Temple Beth Am Multi-Generational Trip to Israel on February 15 – 26, 2020**. This will be my husband, Josh Greenberg's first time in Israel, and I can't wait to take him to my favorite hummus restaurant, *Pinati*, on the corner of Melech George Street in Jerusalem. I am looking forward to showing my girls, Charlotte (7) and Mira (2), the Galilee and stay on a kibbutz; to bring my in-laws to the amazing city of Akko; and take my mom back to the Roman ruins of Beit She'an. I'm especially excited for the cooking class with Arab-Israeli families planned for our group and to explore the hip new markets and food scene in Tel Aviv.

I also anticipate traveling and connecting with my Beth Am friends – along with Rabbi Ruth A. Zlotnick and her family – to share, learn, and laugh!

Every year at Passover, we say it and this year it can be a reality – *Bashanah Haba'ah B'Yerushalayim* (Next Year in Jerusalem).

If you have any questions about the trip, be in touch at alexis@templebetham.org.



Alexis Kort on Kibbutz Grofit in Israel in 1996

New Members

Jessica and Jon Greenberg with Zinn (7)
and Viola (3)

Patricia Hughes and Charles "Kent" Smith

Catherine Morrison and Andrew Perez-Lopez

New Baby

Sophie Anne Adler

February 7, 2019

Parents: Becca and Chad Adler

Big sister: Emma

ARZA: Bringing Israel Home to All

By Sandy Berger, ARZA Committee Chair



The Association for Reform Zionists (ARZA) was established in 1978 to assure that the voice of Reform Judaism and Reform Zionism is clearly heard in America and Israel. Just three years later, under the guidance of Goldie Silverman and then Board of Directors President, Les Mackoff z"l, Temple Beth Am became one of the first synagogues in the Pacific Northwest to join ARZA and its mission.

You may ask, what is ARZA and Reform Zionism? ARZA is an organization that advocates for Israel as it should be: a society reflective of both democratic values and religious pluralism. ARZA works for the acceptance of the Reform Movement as a legitimate stream of Judaism by the Israeli government. Reform Zionism seeks the completion of the Zionist dream: a modern Jewish State of Israel that is inclusive, democratic, and a home for all of us.

As the umbrella organization for Temple Beth Am trips to Israel, ARZA offers travelers the opportunity to explore the history and culture of Israel through the lens of Reform Judaism. As part of the temple, the ARZA committee strives to bring Israel home to all members.

Each year, the committee sponsors the annual Shabbat celebration of *Yom Ha'atzmaut* (Israel Independence Day). But we do much more than rejoice at the marvel of Israel's existence; the committee also provides opportunities that deepen our understanding of Israel.

Whether providing a safe place for Beth Am members to share their opinions on Israel or a lecture on Israeli art, the ARZA committee has offered a range of programs that explore Israel's diversity, culture, and concerns. Other past events include a series of programs in support of Anat Hoffman and the Women of the Wall, hearing the first-hand story of an Eritrean asylum seeker looking for a safe haven in Israel, discussions on the growing concerns of anti-Israel campaigns on college campuses, and learning about environmental issues confronting Israel. Other cultural events include an Israeli film series and monthly book club focused on Israeli authors – with another planned for next year.

ARZA continues to give voice to the Reform Movement here and in Israel and keeps our love of Israel alive.

***Thank you to all who contribute \$36 annually to ARZA.**



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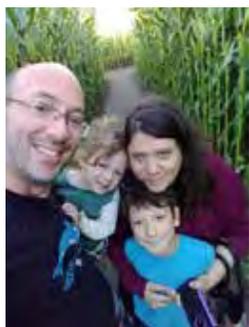
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Moranne Aaron-Berel and Dror Berel Q&A

By Rachel Román / Beth Am Communications Lead

From visiting the country through temple trips to Birthright to being native Israelis – members cite Israel's influence on their Jewish identity. In this Q&A with Communications Lead Rachel Román, native Israelis and Beth Am members Moranne Aaron-Berel and Dror Berel (who joined Temple Beth Am in June 2018) discuss how both Seattle and Israel influence their lives and how everyone in Israel, for better or worse, feels like family.



1. Why did you move to Seattle?

We came to the U.S. about 15 years ago as international students from Israel. Back then, we were thinking it would be for just a couple of years to experience life abroad. After we both graduated and our kids, Aviv (3) and Shalev (9), were born here, we became more acculturated to America. We began in Houston TX, then Los Angeles, CA, and about 2.5 years ago to Seattle for Dror's job at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center as a Bioinformatician. Moranne is a registered drama therapist and is getting her 3rd master's degree for her practice as a marriage and family therapist.

2. What drew you to Temple Beth Am?

We were looking for a nearby religious school for Shalev. We were happy to be warmly accepted by a wonderful community that shares similar values to us and makes us feel that we belong. We highly appreciate the temple's efforts to include people of all abilities.

3. How is being Jewish different in Seattle than in Israel?

Growing up secular in Jerusalem, we took our culture/religion for granted because it was everywhere in our surroundings through school, language, culture, national holidays, etc. We had no need to look for a community, since everyone is a part of one big community.

In Seattle, we have to make much more of an effort to be Jewish. We need to look for Jewish cultural events and find a community on top of our daily tasks and routine.

4. What is your favorite aspect of Seattle? Of Israel?

Our favorite aspect of Seattle is that we don't need to leave the city to find some quiet place to get peace of mind. Abundant trees and water sources make us feel like we are living at a lodge, but not too far from the luxuries of a big city (parks, entertainment, and ... Costco).

In Israel, we never feel like strangers. Every person is a far-flung relative. For better or worse. That sense of community is extended to the entire Jewish people. News about fellow Jews in any small, remote place will get everyone's attention. Everybody cares. No matter if it is in Israel itself or anywhere else in the world.

5. A lot of American Jews say that going to Israel is life-changing spiritually because they feel an affinity with their "Jewish homeland." Since Israel is your actual homeland, how do you feel about it that may be similar or different from American Jews?

There are so many things to connect and relate with in Israel: the culture, food, history, nation, spirituality, and, most importantly, the people. Sure, you can say the same about any other place, but when it comes to Israel, many Jewish people immediately feel like they belong. These are YOUR people, YOUR far-flung relatives, and YOUR home. We may not like everything about it, but it will not affect our unconditional love for it.

Yet, as we decided to make our new home here in the U.S., acculturation transformed our perspective and mentality into new hybrid identities, combining both. As we moved from place to place in the U.S., we felt relief to know that one home will always be there for us, no matter what.

Community Profile: Ruth Fast

By Rachel Román / Beth Am Communications Lead



Israel – or rather Palestine – played an important role in Temple Beth Am member Ruth Fast’s life. To escape the Nazis during World War II, Fast’s parents sent her to live in Palestine when she was 15 years old in 1936.

Ruth had lived in Stettin, Germany (it became part of Poland, now known as Szczecin, following the war). To immigrate to Palestine, she was a part of Youth Aliyah, a Hadassah-sponsored Jewish organization that rescued thousands of children from the Nazis. She spent the first two years living on a kibbutz with other teenagers who had been separated from their families: “It wasn’t easy. We got homesick,” she says.

She then served for four years in the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), the women’s branch of the British Army (it merged into the Women’s Royal Army Corps in 1949), working her way up from Private to First Lieutenant. Ruth was eventually joined by her immediate family, including her older sister, Hilde Zadek z”l, who became a famous European opera singer until her passing this past February. (Ruth’s father was briefly imprisoned in Sachsenhausen, a German concentration camp used mostly for political prisoners.)



Two years before Israel’s War of Independence (1947-1949), the country experienced unrest with numerous terrorist acts, including the King David Hotel bombing in 1946. Before the war officially started in 1947, Ruth left Jerusalem to visit relatives in the U.S., then stayed after meeting her future husband, Alfred Fast z”l in Portland, OR.

“Coming to America was very different than what I expected,” Ruth says. “To be honest, it was disappointing because I knew it through movies where everybody was dancing every night in nightclubs in beautiful clothes. When we landed in New York

harbor, it was a dreary, gray day, and New York was not the beautiful, shining city that we had imagined. You get a certain image when you see a country only through movies.”

New York was an overwhelming throng of buildings and people, many of whom were struggling, like her relatives. Ruth was happy to move out west – first settling in Portland (she worked for the Jewish community center there) then in Seattle in 1952 – where, she says, it was much better.

After some time living in different cities, including Phoenix, AZ and Los Angeles, CA and having two children (Daniel and Josey), Ruth permanently moved back to Seattle in 1987, following her retirement from her job as an office manager and her divorce from Alfred. She joined Temple Beth Am a few months later. Ruth has sang in the Beth Am choir for 30 years.



Ruth Fast (in front) on the kibbutz in Palestine in 1962

Since settling into life in the U.S., Ruth has returned to Israel nearly a dozen times to visit relatives: “I love Israel, warts and all.” She says that the Israel of today is very different from the Palestine that she left when she was younger.

“Palestine was very agricultural, and Israel is industrial. Technology there is fabulous now,” she says. “Jerusalem was a very sleepy town; now it’s a big city. It’s not a big country, but it feels like one.”

Now at 98, Ruth frequently spends time with her granddaughter, Alexandra, who also lives in Seattle: “She’s the light of my life,” Ruth says. Reflecting on her experiences, Ruth says that the best piece of advice that she ever received was from her mother.

“Keep your chin up, my mother used to say. I learned not to feel sorry for myself. There’s no future in that. It’s much better to look up instead of down.”

JEWISH SENIORS PROGRAMS

Endless Opportunity

Thursday, April 4, 10:30 AM

Temple De Hirsch Sinai, 1441 16th Ave.

Rabbi Kate Speizer: 206-693-3046

Let's Play Some Games

Friday, April 5, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Reserve: Tuesday, April 2; Leah Vetter: 206-856-2875

Soup & Cinema

Nordic Museum, 2655 NW Market St.

Tuesday, April 9, 11:30 AM

Reserve: Tuesday, April 2; Ulla Rychter: 206-546-3053

Tacoma Art Museum

1701 Pacific Ave., Tacoma

Wednesday, April 10, 11:00 AM

Reserve: Friday, April 5; Emily Davis: 206-525-6723

Dessert Schmooze

Thursday, April 11, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Reserve: Friday, April 5; Gail Schwarz: 206-546-3887

Interesting Movie

Paramount Theater, 911 Pine St.

Monday, April 15, 7:00 PM

Tickets: 206-365-7770; Anne Futterman: 206-523-4231

Current Events

Temple Beth Am, 2632 NE 80th St.

Friday, April 19

10:00 AM: Coffee and cookies

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM: Current Events

Passover Lunch

Hillel UW, 4745 17th Ave. NE

Tuesday, April 23, 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM

Cost: \$15 pre-paid

Reserve: Monday, April 15; Hillel UW: 206-527-1997;

Ulla Rychter: 206-546-3053 (to reserve seats)

Passover Schmooze and Planning Meeting

Thursday, April 25, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Reserve: Friday, April 19; Aza Hadas: 206-723-6422

Holocaust Remembrance

Seattle Art Museum, Plestcheeff Auditorium

Sunday, May 5, 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Free, must register before Saturday, April 6

Holocaust Center for Humanity: 206-582-3000

Quarterly Torah Study

at Aljoya Thornton Place

Aljoya Thornton Place, 450 NE 100th St.

Tuesday, May 7, 2:00 – 3:00 PM

Dessert Schmooze

Wednesday, May 8, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Reserve: Friday, May 3; Paul Kasprzyk: 206-522-3355

Stroum Lectures

Kane Hall, University of Washington campus

Tuesday, May 14 and Thursday, May 16, 7:00 PM

Register: 206-543-0138 or <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stroum-lectures-2019-jewish-manuscripts-in-the-digital-age-the-cairo-geniza-and-the-new-materiality-tickets-57744330848>

Music of Remembrance's Spring Concert

Nordstrom Recital Hall at Benaroya Hall

Sunday, May 19, 7:30 PM

Tickets: \$55

Call: 206-365-7770

Endless Opportunity

Thursday, May 23, 10:30 AM

Temple De Hirsch Sinai, 1441 16th Ave.

Rabbi Kate Speizer: 206-693-3046

Dessert Schmooze

Thursday, May 23, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Reserve: Friday, May 17; Fran Goldman: 206-397-3338

Spring Walk

Friday, May 24

Destination and time: TBD

Reserve: Wednesday, May 22;

Ulla Rychter: 206-546-3053

Birthday Bash

Restaurant to be announced

Sunday, May 26, 5:00 PM

Reserve: Monday, May 20; Aza Hadas: 206-723-6422

Current Events

Temple Beth Am, 2632 NE 80th St.

Friday, May 31

10:00 AM: Coffee and cookies

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM: Current Events

Continued from page 1

If we allow our understanding of Israel to be limited to the headlines, then we cannot see our homeland fully in all of its beauty and all of its complexity. For precisely this reason, we devote this issue of Temple Beth Am's bimonthly Bulletin to Israel.

"I'd began the trip with very few expectations...I was feeling an incredible epiphany from *being* in Israel."

– Beth Am member Larry Tice

As I preached from our bima: "At Temple Beth Am, we are *ohavei Yisrael*, lovers of Israel. Israel's security and welfare are of paramount importance to us. We love Israel because it's a nation where the ancient and the cutting-edge collide. We love Israel because it's a society that runs on Jewish time, speaks a Jewish language, is guided by Jewish values and is home to a creative Jewish brain trust. We love Israel because it's a haven for endangered Jews everywhere" (Yom Kippur sermon, 5776). Yes, and loving Israel includes asking challenging questions that others might prefer remain unspoken, questions about the diminishment of Israel's pluralistic and democratic foundational principles. Israel, the *real* Israel, is miraculous and mundane, exhilarating and confounding, familiar and strange.

In these pages, you'll read about how our congregation engages with Israel in a myriad of ways that deepen our relationship with the land, people, and culture. I'm particularly excited about the **Temple Beth Am Multi-Generational Trip to Israel on February 15 – 26, 2020**. Lest you think a trip to Israel may not be of interest to you, I share with you the experience of Larry Tice.

Larry joined our 2016 Congregational Trip to Israel primarily because his wife, Carol, was eager to go. Larry was a supportive non-Jewish spouse and father to his Jewish wife and kids. On the last day of our trip, we gathered in the lobby of the Dan Hotel in Jerusalem to reflect on our journey. I think Larry surprised even himself by his response. As he recalls:

"I'd been rehearsing thoughts in my mind for some time but when Rabbi Ruth called on me to speak, I was virtually speechless. My chest tightened, and I could feel tears streaming from the corners of both eyes. It took a period of uncomfortable silence for me to get the words in sync with the emotions within me. I started to say how I'd began the trip with very few expectations, but that I'd been completely overwhelmed by the passion and strength of spirit I felt welling up inside me. I was feeling an incredible epiphany from *being* in Israel. I didn't feel like an outsider.

In 10 days, I'd travelled through more than 3,000 years of time and followed the story of a people who built a homeland from neglected swampland and desert sand. And, most importantly, I felt a powerful affinity with *being* Jewish, much stronger than anything I'd ever felt before.

I proclaimed my love for Israel and my desire to convert to Judaism and join the Jewish people. My spiritual journey doesn't end here, of

course, it's really just a beginning."

As long as we go beyond the headlines, Israel can be this meaningful for every member of Temple Beth Am, whoever we may be. Israel is not just a destination on the map. It is a connection to past generations, a challenge to our present generation, and a promise to future generations. It is as ancient as the Jewish people and as novel as a first step on a spiritual quest.

For this reason, and so much more, as we enter the season of *Yom Ha'atzmaut*, Israel Independence Day, let us recommit ourselves to better understanding our homeland and continuing to be *ohavei Yisrael*, lovers of Israel.





2632 NE 80th Street
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templebetham.org

APRIL 2019

Adar II, Nisan 5779

| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------------------------|--|--|-----------|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| 7 No Religious School | 1 No Religious School | 2 5:30 PM: Pizza Dinner 6:15 PM: Tuesday Night Service 6:30 PM: Advanced Conversational Hebrew 6:45 PM: Religious School | 3 7:00 PM: University Lecture Series | 4 | 5 10:00 AM: PJ Library 6:00 PM: Kinder Kabbalat Shabbat 8:00 PM: Choir Kabbalat Shabbat Service with Beth Am Writers | 6 9:15 AM: Torah Study 10:30 AM: Hasson/Bear B'nai Mitzvah Shabbat Morning Service | |
| | | | | | | | 8 No Religious School |
| 14 NFTY NW Spring Kallah | 15 | 16 5:30 PM: Pizza Dinner 6:15 PM: Tuesday Night Service 6:30 PM: Advanced/Conversational Hebrew, Contemporary Jewish Literature Book Group 6:45 PM: Religious School | 17 12:00 PM: Downtown Lunch & Learn 7:00 PM: University Lecture Series | 18 | 19 Erev Passover 10:00 AM: PJ Library, Seattle Jewish Seniors 6:15 PM: No Shabbat Services - 1 st Seder | 20 Passover 9:15 AM: Torah Study 10:30 AM: Passover Festival Service | |
| | | | | | | | 21 Passover No Religious School |
| 28 9:00 AM-1:30 PM: Adult Learning 9:45 AM: Religious School 12:30 PM: Women's Torah Study | 29 | 30 5:30 PM: Pizza Dinner 6:15 PM: Tuesday Night Service 6:45 PM: Religious School | | | | | |

For any calendar questions, please call Temple Beth Am at 206-525-0915.



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MAY 2019

Nisan, Iyar 5779

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| 5 9:00 AM-1:30 PM: Adult Learning 9:45 AM: Religious School 11:00 AM: RAC Reads Book Group | 6 | 7 2:00 PM: Quarterly Torah Study at Aljoia Thornton Place 5:30 PM: Pizza Dinner 6:15 PM: Tuesday Night Service 6:30 PM: Advanced/Conversational Hebrew 6:45 PM: Religious School | 1 6:30 PM: Immigrant Justice Program: "The Detention Lottery" | 2 Yom HaShoah 7:00 PM: Yom HaShoah Commemoration and Book Discussion | 3 10:00 AM: PJ Library 6:00 PM: Kinder Kabbalat Shabbat 8:00 PM: Choir Kabbalat Shabbat Service 8:06 PM | 4 9:15 AM: Torah Study 10:30 AM: Berg Bat Mitzvah Shabbat Morning Service |
| 12 9:00 AM-1:30 PM: Adult Learning 8:30 AM: Angelina's Kitchen Lunch Prep 9:45 AM: Religious School 10:00 AM: Knitzvah Knitters | 13 | 14 5:30 PM: Pizza Dinner 6:15 PM: Tuesday Night Service 6:30 PM: Advanced/Conversational Hebrew, Contemporary Jewish Literature Book Group 6:45 PM: Religious School | 15 | 16 | 17 10:00 AM: PJ Library 6:15 PM: Acoustic Kabbalat Shabbat with Senior Send-Off 7:00 PM: Congregational Yom Haatzmaut Dinner 8:16 PM | 18 9:15 AM: Torah Study 10:30 AM: Wepman/Boien B'nai Mitzvah Shabbat Morning Service |
| 19 9:00 AM-1:30 PM: Adult Learning 9:45 AM: Religious School 10:00 AM: Congregational Annual Meeting | 20 | 21 5:30 PM: Pizza Dinner 6:15 PM: Tuesday Night Service 6:30 PM: Advanced/Conversational Hebrew 6:45 PM: Religious School | 22 12:00 PM: Downtown Lunch & Learn | 23 | 24 Healing Challahs 10:00 AM: PJ Library 6:15 PM: Klezmer Kabbalat Shabbat Service 8:33 PM | 25 9:15 AM: Torah Study, Tot Shabbat 10:30 AM: Leis/Becker B'nai Mitzvah Shabbat Morning Service |
| 26 No Religious School | 27 Memorial Day Office Closed | 28 5:30 PM: Pizza Dinner 6:15 PM: Tuesday Night Service 6:30 PM: Advanced/Conversational Hebrew 6:45 PM: Religious School | 29 | 30 | 31 10:00 AM: PJ Library, Seattle Jewish Seniors 6:15 PM: Kabbalat Shabbat Services 8:40 PM | |

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