



The Bet Ha'am Weekly Email

Words of Torah

Rabbi Saks is away for a three-month sabbatical. While he is away, we will be sharing Words of Torah from various Jewish educational resources. This week's Words of Torah, *The Perils of Groupthink*, about the parashah Sh'lach L'cha, come from Rabbi Asher Lopatin via myjewishlearning.com.



Perhaps the most nagging question in this week's parsha is: What went wrong?

Parashat Sh'lach tells the story of the spies who were dispatched by Moses to investigate the land of Israel prior to its capture by the Israelites. But the spies return with a report that frightens the people, who refuse to go forth and take the land as God had commanded.

In the version of the story related in Deuteronomy 1:22, the blame for the fiasco is put on the Israelites, who pressured Moses to send a group of spies to inspect the promised land instead of simply going in and conquering it. But in the version of the story related in Parashat Sh'lach, it is Moses who chooses the spies — all leaders of the people — and sends them on their mission.

So how did this hand-picked group of leaders go so bad, give up their faith in God, and pervert the will of the people? Moreover, how did the people, just months after building the Tabernacle and experiencing God's presence in their midst, not to mention having not long before received the Torah (and a rebuke for building the Golden Calf), succumb so easily to the negative report of the spies?

Continue reading [here](#).

In-Person Worship Resumes!

In-person Shabbat services in our sanctuary have begun! There are a number of safety protocols in place, including,

- Attendance will be limited. Registration is required.
- Everyone must wear a mask at all times when on our property.
- All attendees must be at least 2 weeks post final vaccine.

This is likely to last throughout the summer, with the possible exception of outdoor family services. If you are interested in attending a service in our sanctuary, please indicate all of the dates which you are able to attend when you register. If there are more people interested in attending than spots available we will hold a lottery to determine participants.

If you indicate interest in attending in person you will receive an email indicating which services you will be able to attend. The email will also provide detailed information

regarding Covid protocols.

All services will continue to be live-streamed on Zoom. All who register by the Friday deadline (whether or not you have requested to be in person) will receive the link for the live-streamed services.

Services will be held at Bet Ha'am on the dates listed below. When you register for the monthly Zoom service you will be asked if you want to attend in-person services and will have the option of choosing the date(s) that work for you.

Saturday, June 5
Friday, June 18
Saturday, June 26

Questions can be addressed to Sylvia Most at sylviamost@gmail.com.

Registration How-To

**Want to register to participate in Shabbat worship or Torah Study?
It's easy to do!**

- Click on the registration links in the worship box below.
- Registration closes at noontime on Fridays.
- Zoom links will be sent by 4:00 PM on Fridays.
- All services will be live-streamed on Zoom.
- **Everyone who registers by the deadline will be sent Zoom links.**
- Registration forms will also have prompts for those who wish to attend in-person sanctuary services at Bet Ha'am.

Easy! We will look forward to seeing you soon!

Worship Schedule

Friday, June 4
Shabbat Worship, 7:30 PM

Thank you to **Rabbi David Sandmel** for being our Shabbat guest speaker on Friday night. Rabbi Sandmel will speak on "Some reflections on the current state of antisemitism."

Rabbi Dr. David Fox Sandmel is Bet Ha'am's much beloved founding Rabbi, serving us for our first five years. Having lived in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Chicago and New York he has returned to Maine and lives in Portland.



Rabbi Sandmel is long-time interfaith activist. He is Senior Advisor on Interreligious Affairs at ADL. From 2003-2014, he held the Crown-Ryan Chair in Jewish Studies at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. As Judaic Scholar at the Institute for Christian & Jewish Studies in Baltimore, he managed the project that produced "[Dabru Emet: A Jewish Statement on Christians and Christianity](#)." He is an editor of [Christianity in Jewish Terms and Irreconcilable Differences? A Learning Resource for Jews and Christians](#).

Thank you to Toby Rosenberg for leading our worship service.

Register to receive the **Friday Night Shabbat Worship** Zoom link, [here](#).

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

Saturday, June 5
Torah Study, 9:00 AM

Torah study using *The Mussar Torah Commentary* continues--but you don't need to own a copy. Read more [here](#), under the "Torah Study" heading.

Thank you to Jay Sherwin for leading Torah Study this week.

Register to receive the **Torah Study** Zoom link, [here](#).

Saturday, June 5 **Shabbat Morning Worship, 10:30 AM**

Thank you to Daniel Oppenheim and Mylan Cohen for leading our worship service.

Thank you Rachel Stamieszkin for reading Torah, Haftarah, and giving Saturday's d'var Torah.

Register to receive the **Shabbat Morning Worship** Zoom link [here](#).

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

Wednesday, June 9 **Morning Minyan 7:30 AM**

Thank you to Daniel Oppenheim for leading Morning Minyan.

Register to receive the **Wednesday Morning Minyan** Zoom link, [here](#).

Notable Upcoming Services

Elena Rosenberg Bat Mitzvah, Saturday, June 12, 10:30 AM

Contemplative Worship Service - Always Available on the Bet Ha'am Website!

Judaism offers many pathways to God. There are opportunities for encounter with God in nature, in the interactions we have with one another, through worship and study, and through contemplative meditation that helps us to leave behind the world of doing and the world of work to enter the world of peace.

Meditation in a Jewish context is not an end in and of itself. It is a pathway towards encounter with God. It has its roots throughout our history, from Isaac meditating in the field (Gen. 24:63) to the prophets who focused their minds to deliver God's message to ancient and modern Jewish meditation practices.



In this contemplative worship service, compiled by Bet Ha'am lay leader Jane Sloven and led by Jane along with fellow congregant Sharon Newman, we offer 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 here, 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](#).

Service Leaders Needed!!!

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With Rabbi Saks on sabbatical, we need service leaders for June, July, and the first half of August. If you would like to lead or co-lead, there are dates available for Zoom and in-

person services. If interested, willing and able, please contact Melissa Montefel at missyjo314@hotmail.com or call/text 207-939-8568. Thank you!!



Religious School on Zoom

Sunday May 23 was the last day of Religious School this year!

Thank you to all our volunteer teachers from 2020-21! Email Sam at sam@bethaam.org if you're interested in teaching next fall.

If you are interested in enrolling a child or teaching at religious school, email Sam at sam@bethaam.org



We Need Your Input!

It's not a tsunami, but our finances are scary....!

We need your help to determine our future. If you want early input to the Board's direction, please attend our listening session on June 6!

At Bet Ha'am our expenses exceed our income, an untenable situation. We must make some major changes to how we generate income. The Board of Trustees is inviting all synagogue members to one of two listening sessions. This is an opportunity for you to tell the board how you think we should address our ongoing budget deficits, what membership at Bet Ha'am should include, what you hope will not change, and to respond to some of the ideas that have already been raised. Everything is on the table. It is important that we get input from a large number of congregants before we make changes to our current financial model.



For more information, check out the treasurer's presentation from the May 11, 2021 Annual Meeting [here](#).

Bet Ha'am Financial Listening Session II: Sunday, June 6, 10:00 AM

If you are unable to attend, feel free to email your thoughts, questions, and concerns to treasurer@bethaam.org or President@bethaam.org.

You must register for this sessions. Register [here](#) for the session on Sunday, June 6, at 10:00 AM.

Bet Ha'am Youth Picnic

Bet Ha'am is hosting a Youth Group picnic on June 16, at 6 PM with a rain date of June 17.

Meet at Fort Allen Park: 49 Eastern Promenade, Portland, ME 04101 at 6 PM by the gazebo. Please pick up teens by 7:30 PM. Anyone in grades 8-12 are welcome!

Please RSVP [here](#) by June 13, and let us know if you have any dietary restrictions. We will probably have pizza!

Participants are expected to distance and wear masks when not eating.

Youth group advisors: Andrea, Kate, Sid, and Hannelore



Solar Energy Fundraiser

Support Local Maine Solar, Lower Your CMP Bill and Raise Money for Bet Ha'am

Bet Ha'am was recently contacted about a new fundraising initiative involving congregants who may be interested in community solar. PowerMarket is an operator of multiple community solar energy farms on the east coast including one located in Baldwin, Maine that is currently looking for "subscribers." Subscribers are self-designated CMP customers who wish to buy a portion of their electricity from a community solar farm. The electricity is sold at a discount and produced with a lower carbon footprint.



The initiative presented provides that PowerMarket and Darrell Cooper of Energy Audits Ltd. will donate \$150 to Bet Ha'am for each subscriber who signs up using the promo code "Bet Ha'am." There is no upfront cost to sign up, subscribers typically save about 10% on their CMP bill, and they can cancel at any time on 60 days' notice.

You can obtain more information, and if interested become a subscriber through the PowerMarket/Baldwin Community Solar project website at: <https://account.powermarket.io/bethaam.html>.

If you have questions about the donation to Bet Ha'am, please contact Mark Stone at lmstone@lmstone.com

Ongoing Programs

Shabbat Candle Lighting

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



Candle Lighting Sign-Up

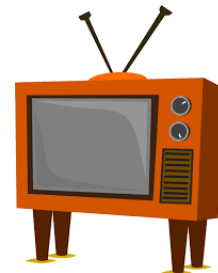
B'Yachad | Together

Come relax and talk virtually with your Bet Ha'am community before Friday Shabbat services! We will meet every Friday except the second Friday of the month when there is a 6:00 PM Family Shabbat service. [Read more here](#). [Register here](#). Please contact congregant [Alan Davis](#) with questions.



TV and Movie Discussion Group

Please join congregants Melissa Montefel and Wendy Hayes, co-facilitators, for a discussion group about Jewish-themed movies and shows. The group meets at 7:00 PM for fun, talk, and insights. Please email [Wendy](#) for the login or with questions or suggestions for future movies.



June 9:

Shtisel

A Haredi family living in an ultra-Orthodox neighborhood of Jerusalem reckons with love, loss and the doldrums of daily life. We'll be discussing all three seasons of Shtisel available on Netflix so we're giving you plenty of time!



Curbside Library Borrowing

Although the building remains closed, you may borrow a book from our wonderful library using curbside pick up. Read more on our [library page](#).

So Much Going on in Our Community!

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.

Deafness and Disability During the Holocaust with Rabbi Bill Tepper **Wednesday, June 9, 7:00-8:00 PM via Zoom** **Sponsored by the HHRC and Temple Beth El**

The Ordeal of those with Deafness and Disability during the Holocaust
One hour in length, including time for discussion

During the years of the Holocaust, those affected by deafness and other disabilities - Jew and non-Jew, adults and children - faced extermination under the Nazi regime. Such persons were viewed as burdens on the community and therefore rendered expendable.

In our program, and by way of historic documents, visual material and the narratives of survivors, we will survey this catastrophic period in human history. Time will be devoted to the sharing of questions, thoughts and feelings as they pertain to this tragedy. RSVP to bethelaugusta@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link.

Maine Jewish Film Festival WEEKEND EDITION in **Celebration of Pride Month** **June 11-13**

Join the [Maine Jewish Film Festival](#) for their final **Weekend Edition** film presentations in celebration of Pride Month. They will be showing two films that explore the diversity of the international LGBTQ community. The Israeli comedy, *Kiss Me Kosher*, focuses on a Lesbian relationship. *Transkids* is a documentary that follows four Israeli teenagers as they undergo the process of gender transformation. The film's director, Hila Medalia, will join MJFF for a discussion. Admission is free but you must reserve a ticket. For complete details on the films click [here](#).



The Maine Conference for Jewish Life Sunday, June 13, 2021



Though the Center for Small Town Jewish Life is not able to hold the Maine Conference for Jewish Life in person once again this year, they are still very excited for their online mini-conference on Sunday, June 13, 3:00 - 6:00 PM. Like all Center programming, one registration link will enable you to come and go throughout the afternoon.

[**Learn More and Register Here**](#)

SUMMERTIME IN BUENOS AIRES: AN EVENING OF MUSIC AND MEMORIES

Tango, ladino, and Jewish songs, with a Latin American flavor. Be transported to the heart and spirit of the Jewish musical scene in Buenos Aires.

WITH CANTORS SHEILA NESIS AND DIEGO
RUBINSZTEIN. VIRTUAL CONCERT.



JUNE 20, 2021
5 PM PDT / 8 PM EDT

*Tickets grant access to the evening of the concert, and the ability to watch a replay for up to a week. The concert will be virtual and a secured private link will be shared 48 hours before the event.

Sample the repertoire that will be part of the concert [here](#).

Buenos Aires based cantor, pianist, composer and producer, **Diego Rubinsztein** is one of the most visionary leaders of modern liturgical music in Latin America. He has served several congregations in Buenos Aires and the US, including the emblematic and oldest synagogue in Buenos Aires C.I.R.A, best known as Libertad Temple, and most recently Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center in Florida, U.S. He's also the founder and Executive Director of Zamir, an organization dedicated to promoting Jewish music and education in Latin America.

Sheila Nesis is a cantor, singer and educator born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina where she served at C.I.R.A (also known as "Temple Libertad") the main Synagogue in Buenos Aires. Since her arrival to NYC in 2007, she has served congregations in NYC, Arizona, Colorado and Maine. She most recently produced and participated in the World Union for Progressive Judaism program 'S'l'ichot B'yachad", bringing together cantors and musicians from all the corners of the world. She is the Director of the Sh'l'ichei Tzibur School in Maine, a training program dedicated to empower individuals to lead communal prayer experiences.

They will perform a repertoire that includes tango, ladino and Jewish songs, with a Latin American flavor. They share a friendship and collaboration that extends for over two decades. They are delighted to share on a virtual stage that will transport you to the heart and spirit of the music scene in Buenos Aires.

[Purchase Concert Tickets Here](#)

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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.

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Congregation Bet Ha'am | 81 Westbrook Street, South Portland, ME 04106

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