



# TEMPLE BETH HATFILOH

— A CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE —

## The Short Schrift

November 2016

Tishrei - Cheshvan, 5777

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### **Pacific NW Shabbaton – Early Registration**

*Submitted by Tikva Glantz*

Early registration has begun for the Pacific Northwest Reconstructionist Shabbaton on May 5-7, 2017!!!

The five Reconstructionist communities in the Pacific Northwest -- Seattle, Olympia, Portland, Salem, and Eugene -- have teamed up to plan a week-end Shabbaton right here in Olympia, at Camp Solomon Schechter. You can save money and kickstart the enrollment process if you register by November 23rd - just a few weeks from now!

The theme of the weekend is *M'Yad L'Yad* – From Hand to Hand, The Chain of our Tradition. This will be a unique opportunity to celebrate Shabbat with members of other Reconstructionist congregations in our region.

The Shabbaton is designed with programming for all ages and stages of life. There will be talks, services, activities for children, childcare, and lots of opportunities to meet other Reconstructionists from around the Northwest. Since the event is in our backyard, we'll have the option of sleeping in our own beds or at the camp -- and to offer home hospitality to members of our fellow communities.

The national Reconstructionist Rabbinical College has been working hard to make this event happen, and they are sending staff and two of their most respected and inspirational faculty to be our Scholars in Residence. Northwest congregational rabbis and educators will also provide enrichment opportunities throughout the weekend.

Here is the link to the registration page: <http://www.jewishrecon.org/events/pnw-retreat>.

Please contact Tikva Glantz at [tikvaglantz@gmail.com](mailto:tikvaglantz@gmail.com) if you have any questions about the Shabbaton. Also, our own Sam Schrager is the chair of this regional effort; you can contact him at [samschrager@comcast.net](mailto:samschrager@comcast.net). This will be a terrific event, and we hope to see you there.

# An Invitation from President Laura Schrager

At our September Retreat, the Board adopted a new approach to membership dues at TBH. We decided to invite people to pay according to their hearts. We know that a number of folks who are connected to the community are not, formally, members. We want those of you who are in this position to feel welcome to join—and we don't want financial or other considerations to get in the way!

I was very happy to introduce this change in my talk on Erev Rosh Hashanah. As I explained, we do depend, of course, on contributions from members to maintain our staffing, programs, and building (about \$1000 a year per adult member). But, I said,

that is not what we are asking from you. What we want, is you -- to fill up our sanctuary, to enrich our programming, to come to our events, and to add your voice and your energy to our community. I invite you to join us, to give the amount that you are comfortable giving, to give wholeheartedly, and to not be shy. You're already a part of our community, so take the next step and become a member.

And why are you already part of our community? Because,

by walking up the steps (or taking the elevator) to join with us in celebration of the Jewish New Year in this sanctuary, you are affirming that this is your synagogue, that TBH is a place that you come to for renewal or that you are drawn to in honor of the traditions of your ancestors.

Now I'd like to add: If you are reading these words today, the same holds true. If you are not presently a member, we are a community that you care about, are a part of, and we encourage you to make that affiliation official by becoming a member and strengthening our community. Please feel free to talk with the Rabbi or me about any questions you have. You can find our NEW New Member Form by going to our membership page on our website at <http://bethhatfiloh.com/about/membership>, you can go directly to the [form](#), or you can call the office at 360-754-8519 to be sent a copy.



## Life and Legacy: HOW WILL YOU BE REMEMBERED?

You've lived your whole life with purpose, cared for others and made a difference in our Jewish community. Now, you can leave a legacy for the future of Temple Beth Hatfiloh.

By leaving a gift to Temple Beth Hatfiloh in your will or trust, you can be remembered for generations to come as someone who made a difference sustaining the Jewish community in Olympia.

After providing for your family, you can leave your mark by making a gift. No gift is too small and it costs you nothing now but a pledge.

To learn more, please contact Charles Shelan at (360) 352-1354.

## November Erev Shabbat Services

Erev Shabbat on November 18 will be at 6pm, with a potluck following the family service. All other Erev Shabbat Services will start at 7:30, with an oneg following the service.

## November Shabbat Day Activities

### JEWISH WITH MEANING

**1st Saturday, November 5**  
**10:30am - 1:00pm**

The Jewish with Meaning group meets on Saturday, November 5. We will gather at 10:30 for food, ritual, and discussion.

### BAR MITZVAH

**2nd Saturday, November 12, 10am**



All are invited as Leif Syversen, son of Erin and Gaute Syversen, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Leif is in the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade at the Olympia Waldorf School. His favorite subjects are reading & games class (playing dodge ball, capture the flag). His

hobbies include collecting Marvel & DC comics, contemplating the two comic book universes, and disproving his dad's claim that Thor is the greatest of all super heroes. Leif also enjoys playing Pokémon Go, Clash Royale, & Clash of Clans. For his Bar Mitzvah project, Leif is raising money for the Tumwater Veterinary Hospital's Spot Fund—a fund that helps senior citizens pay for their pet's vet bills. If you would like to donate to this fund in his honor, please contact Tumwater Veterinary Hospital at (360) 754-6008 or visit them at 7020 Littlerock Road SW, Tumwater, WA 98512.

### TORAH STUDY

**2nd Saturday, November 12, 3pm**

Prayer and study are equally holy activities and we will do both. We'll share a snack and study the Torah together. All are invited. No experience is necessary!

### MUSSAR MORNING & SERVICE

**3rd Saturday, November 19**  
**Mussar 9:30am, Service 10:30am**

Mussar is the Jewish school of thought which seeks to root personal character development and right behavior in Jewish tradition and text. We meet monthly to share some food and learn more about this tradition and how it may benefit our lives.

### BAT MITZVAH

**4th Saturday, November 26, 10am**



All are invited as Amelia Hamilton, daughter of Mari Nowitz and Nathan Hamilton is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. Amelia is in the 7th Grade at Jefferson Middle School and her favorite hobbies are reading and kirigami (paper folding and cutting). She says it is WAY too hard to pick a favorite book. Amelia's favorite movie is The Force Awakens and she enjoys listening to Panic! at the Disco and Fall Out Boy. Her favorite TV show is The Flash because of Grant Gustin's hair. Amelia says that she loves dogs, and hair dye, though not necessarily together. She also loves mac and cheese. Amelia's mitzvah project has been working with the Thurston County Food Bank's 'ForKids' program.

### TALMUD STUDY

**4th Saturday, November 26, 3pm**

The Talmud is a compendium of law and lore that is the basis on which biblical interpretation and contemporary Jewish practice rest. Rabbi Seth will lead us as we dive deep into this complex and fascinating text.

# November Events

## SENIOR SCHMOOZE

**Tuesday, November 1  
12pm**

All seniors (define yourself!) are invited. In celebration (still) of the High Holidays, Rabbi Seth will be providing lunch.

Please contact Elie Halpern at 357-8160 or by email at [ehalpern@aol.com](mailto:ehalpern@aol.com) if you have any suggestions for our December program. Starting in January, Russ Lidman will become the Senior -in-Charge of the Senior Schmooze.

## TIKKUN OLAM MEETING

**Thursday, November 3, 7pm**

Join us to discuss the future of the Tikkun Olam Committee as Barbara Gross steps down as chair. For more information or to let us know that you can't make it to the meeting, contact Barbara Gross at [bgrosspt@comcast.net](mailto:bgrosspt@comcast.net) or 360-534-9064

## FILM SERIES: FOREIGN LETTERS

**Sunday, November 6, 7pm**



Ellie, a 12-year-old immigrant girl from Israel, moves to the US in 1982. Her halting English limits her ability to make new friends, as does the fact that she's Jewish. But she finds common ground with a classmate, a Vietnamese refugee. This sensitive drama is written and directed by Ella Their, who also plays Ellie's mother and whose childhood experiences are the basis of the film. (99 min, Hebrew, Vietnamese and English)

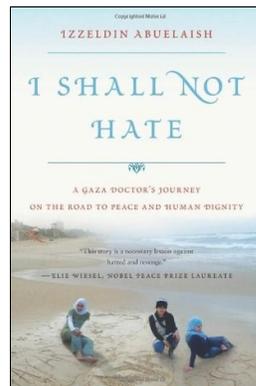
## FORKIDS PACKING

**Thurston County Food Bank  
2260 Mottman Road SW, Tumwater  
Tuesday, November 8  
3:30pm**

Join us on the second Tuesday of November as we again fill bags at the Tumwater branch of the Thurston County Food Bank. The FORKids program provides a weekend bag of food to over 2000 elementary and middle school children in Tumwater, Lacey and Olympia. For further information please contact Elie Halpern at 357-8160 or email him at [ehalpern@aol.com](mailto:ehalpern@aol.com).

## BOOK GROUP

**Tuesday, November 15  
7pm**



Join us as we discuss *I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor's Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity* by Izzeldin Abuelaish. A compelling account of Abuelaish who was born and raised in a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip and trained as a doctor at Harvard. Despite the deaths of his daughters by Israeli soldiers in 2009, he continues to urge reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians. Contact Karen Greene at [ekgisrael@gmail.com](mailto:ekgisrael@gmail.com) for more information.

## Upcoming Events in Early December

**Saturday, December 3 at 7pm**

Movie: *Iraq N'Roll* Preceded by catered dinner for Young Jews (pre-register on-line or contact the Office)

**Tuesday, December 6 at 12pm**

Senior Schmooze

**Tuesday, December 6 at 7pm**

Emergency Preparedness Training

## Tikkun Olam Update

**Special meeting to discuss the future of the Tikkun Olam Committee on November 3 at 7pm.**  
For more information or to let us know that you can't make it to the meeting,  
contact Barbara Gross at [bgrosspt@comcast.net](mailto:bgrosspt@comcast.net) or 360-534-9064.

## High Holiday Food Drive 2016

We collected 126 bags of food to donate to the Thurston County Food Bank.

How much food is this?

According to the food bank, we collected 1400 lbs of food, worth \$2500!

Thanks to everyone who donated!

## Mitzvah Morning: Sunday, October 16

Sunday October 16 was a very rainy Mitzvah Morning. Some 40 people participated. Vegetables were chopped and large stock pots of soup were cooked up in our TBH kitchen. Some folks got grubby at GRuB, pulling plants and weeding, while staying dry in the hoop house. A crew hauled our donations to the Food Bank and helped sort food for the Thanksgiving holiday. And, lastly, a small crew of dedicated builders erected our Sukkah, getting completely drenched in the process! Thanks to everyone who participated!

## FORKids: Tuesday, October 18

Kudos to the 12 volunteers who showed up for the FORKids Program on October 18, 2016. That is the most we have had in several years and TBH alone filled almost 2 ½ pallets totaling more than 600 bags for kids. Thanks to Erin Syversen, Leif Syversen, Olivia Walk, Stacey Hirsch, Selah Hirsch, Cecelia Korn, Bernie Friedman, Pamela Gentile-Friedman, Beth Dubey, Jim Redle and Joan Aronovitch. Bernie Friedman and Beth Dubey have been coming since the very beginning to fill bags, and TBH was the first faith community to volunteer for this program with the Thurston County Food Bank.

We will be filling bags again throughout the year on the second Tuesday of each month. Please bring your friends to volunteer as well. We will again be filling bags on Tuesday, November 8, Election Day, at 3:30 at the Tumwater Branch of the Thurston County Food Bank. We should be finished by 5:00 at the latest. If you can only come for an hour or part of an hour, it still would be appreciated. Thanks for your help. If you have any questions, please call Elie Halpern at 357 8160 or email at [ehalpern@aol.com](mailto:ehalpern@aol.com).

# Family Life and Learning Director Catherine Carmel



Shalom y'all,

In an effort to expand on the Jewish values education that comes to us via the PJ Library grant we received, we have included school wide education around a 'middot of the month' concept. We started this year with a short video for families called 'The Making of a Mensch'. Following that video we began our mussar study with the character trait of *kavod*, honoring the Divine in all people. Each class was able to wrap that instruction into what they did. We even approached our menu planning through a lens of honoring everyone. The food

we serve to the kids is allergy free and safe for everyone. It isn't easy to create menus holding the different needs of all our kids, but we are doing it because it demonstrates the *kavanah*, intention of honoring every child.

We are moving into the next character focus, *anavah*, translating in a single word as humility. Humility as a translation is lacking though. *Anavah* suggests one has the balance to occupy their rightful space. It is the balance between being too boastful and being too meek. Instruction in Mussar is not a novel practice, but it is one we have not approached as actively and mindfully in the past and I am looking forward to seeing what happens when we teach the mindful practice of Jewish values.

That being said, the rest of this letter is a description of what is happening in the Alim class, taught by Rabbi Seth:

While I've always been involved in our Beit Sefer program, this year I decided to go back into the classroom and teach a class, something I haven't done for a while. I'm very happy to be teaching the Alim class, our 5, 6 and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. We have a great group of 23 (!) students.

I approach the Alim class and Beit Sefer in general with the question, what is it that we have to offer to our kids that they are not going to get in other places? The obvious answer is Jewish education, we teach our kids about Jewish traditions, practices, ideas and prayers. The less obvious answer is spirituality in general. My goal for the coming year is to allow my students to grow in their spirituality.

This will take different forms. Our basic curriculum through the Chai Curriculum that we use at TBH is the prayer service. We will learn and in some cases review the basic prayer service and the "how to" of Jewish prayer. But we will also go deeper into the themes of the service and how that can be used to inform our own spiritual outlook.

We spent the first class exploring the order of the service itself, but not through asking what prayers come in what order, but what "ideas" come in what order. The prayer service is a journey through the ideas of Assembling, Creation, Revelation, Covenant, Redemption, Healing of the World and Remembering. We will then go deeper on each idea and learn the prayer associated with each, also with a corresponding craft or exercise. I am also leading our students in mindfulness meditation exercises, and we will be keeping gratitude journals.

Rabbi Seth's comments continued:

And that's not all for me, during our elective session I have begun meeting with our next cohort of b'nai mitzvah students, six students who will be celebrating their b'nai mitzvah in spring and summer. We are off to a lively start learning trope (cantillation), and I always look forward to ushering these kids through this important transition.

L'shalom,



And don't forget TBH and Beit Sefer's annual family skating event:

**\*JEWS ON WHEELS \***

Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 5-7 pm

Skateland

2725 12th Ave NE, Olympia, WA 98506

\$9 per person includes skate rental, snacks and a drink.

Bring friends and family!

## Happy Birthday, Yom Huledet Sameach

### November

3 Erin Syversen  
5 Evan Ferber  
9 Gail Wish  
9 Steven Wish  
10 Lindsey Kennelly  
13 Mona Hahn  
15 Nita Posner  
16 Marv Reiner  
18 Raven Lidman  
18 Cobie Whitten  
26 Elizabeth Siegel  
27 Yohanna Kinberg  
28 Paul Paroff  
29 Stan Shore

## Yahrzeits

### November

1 Ronald Brooks	15 Selma Soule
3 Todd Brabant	16 Diana Crystal
3 Thomas Stevenson	16 <b>Minnie Levinson</b>
6 Arthur Sigmund Farber	17 Milton Josephson
6 <b>Benjamin Robinson</b>	18 Morris Belling
7 <b>Doreen Miley Holder</b>	18 George Neff
7 Sidney Klevens	18 <b>Benjamin Rome</b>
7 Esther Pollack	20 Mitchell Mogal
9 <b>Eva Robinson</b>	21 <b>Esther Schwartz</b>
9 Jess Speilholz	21 Bernard Shelan
10 Leroy Hittle	21 Jack Snyder
10 Mary Parker	22 Donald Heptner
11 Walter Benjamin Reichman	24 Besse Klotz
12 Charlotte Grotsky Reichman	25 <b>Marcheta Bean</b>
13 Al Hodes	26 Ann Baldwin
14 David Soule	26 Edward Duthweiler
14 <b>Linda Silverman</b> <b>Weisstein</b>	27 Adlaide Bamberger
	27 <b>Rose Robinson</b> <b>Margolis</b>
	29 Margaret Urstadt
	30 Artie Browning

These names will be read from the bimah at Shabbat services before and after the yahrzeit. **Bold type** denotes those inscribed on a plaque on our Memorial Wall.



## For Current Members Only:

In November and December we are mailing the Short Schrif to all current members. If you told us that you don't want a paper copy and you are still receiving it by mail, we apologize. (Not all requests have been properly tracked.) Please let us know if you only want an electronic version of the Schrif.

Starting in January we will only mail the Schrif to members who request to get a copy in the mail. We're happy to send it to you, if you prefer to read the Schrif in print.

Please contact us before January if want to continue getting a paper copy of the Schrif.

## Thank You Volunteers!

Database: **Judith Barnes**  
Finances: **Judith Barnes, Gary Schneider**  
Torah Study Oneg Host: **Laura and Sam Schrager**  
Friday Night Oneg Hosts: **Laura and Sam Schrager, Erin Syversen**  
Erev Rosh Hashanah Oneg: **Blintzpalooza Committee**

Building and Grounds Volunteers: **Rob Carmel, James Dolliver, Raven Lidman, Rhone and Spencer Orman**  
FORKids Volunteers: **Joan Aronovitch, Beth Dubey, Bernie Friedman, Pamela Gentile-Friedman, Elie Halpern, Selah and Stacey Hirsch, Cecelia Korn, Jim Redle, Erin and Leif Syversen, Olivia Walk**

## Thank You For Your Contributions!

(September and October contributions will be listed in the December Schrif)

Yes, I want to contribute to the ongoing vitality of Jewish life in Olympia and the South Sound!

Enclosed is my gift of:

\$18 \$36 \$54 \$108 \$180 \$360 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Check payable to "Temple Beth Hatfiloh" is enclosed.

Visa MasterCard Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Sec. Code (Last 3 digits on back of card): \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Donor name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Your gift is tax deductible. Thank you for your generosity.

This gift is

- In honor of
- In memory of
- Wishing speedy recovery to
- With thanks to
- On *yartzeit* of

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

This gift is for

- High Holidays
- TBH Sustaining Fund
- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
- Goldberg Scholarship Fund
- Building Strength Maintenance Endowment

See above for fund descriptions. High Holiday and other undesignated donations will be applied to the Sustaining Fund.

Please send a notification of this gift to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Donations, without amounts, will be acknowledged in TBH publications. Please mark if this is an ANONYMOUS donation: