



TEMPLE BETH HATFILOH

A CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE

The Short Schrift

December 2016

Kislev - Tevet, 5777

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From the Rabbi

Shabbat is the day in our tradition that we are meant to take ourselves out of our regular lives and reflect, renew and recharge. This takes on many different forms for us, but in addition to how we might individually observe Shabbat, we also have our communal practices and observances.

While the default observance in our community is “services,” we have over the years developed a communal minhag (custom) that recognizes and celebrates different approaches to Shabbat as well as the different communities within our larger community. We have a regular Shabbat evening service on Friday nights, and a rotating series of study groups on Shabbat morning.

Starting in December, we are making some more changes to our schedule (some of these have been happening gradually anyway). In the past our services have been held at 7:30 p.m. with an early service once a month. We are flipping that so that all of our services will be at 6:00 p.m. with a “later” service once a month. The weekly schedule looks like this:

- **First Friday:** 7:30 p.m. service with participation from Kol N’Shama, our choir, followed by an oneg.
- **Second Friday:** 6:00 p.m. service with 7:00 p.m. communal dinner and speaker, the “Shabbat Salon” (see below)
- **Third Friday:** 6:00 p.m. Family Shabbat service with potluck dinner following at 6:45 p.m.
- **Fourth Friday:** 6:00 p.m. Early service with “Shabbat at Home”—people are encouraged to join together for shared meals.

Most of these changes have been introduced already. And one thing to note is that we will only have a communal oneg after services once a month—so a great opportunity to either sponsor an oneg oneself or join with others in jointly sponsoring.

Our biggest change is the Shabbat Salon! Over time we have heard interest in both having shared meals and guest speakers on Shabbat. The Shabbat Salon is an opportunity for both! We will begin with a full Shabbat service at 6:00 p.m., then at 7:00 p.m. move to the Social Hall for a catered dinner and guest speaker. Our kickoff will be Friday, December 9 when we will share a meal provided by Nineveh Catering and welcome Max Patashnik, the Government Affairs Director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, who will speak on the upcoming legislative session. Look for a special e-mail to register for the dinner (services and speaker are open to all of course without reservations), or contact the office for more information.

Rabbi Seth Goldstein

From President Laura Schrager:
Good News and New Initiatives

Good news! We already have more member households and more money in pledges than we had at the end of the last fiscal year in June 2016. And we're not yet half-way through our current fiscal year. Thank you for your generous support of our community. Over the next months, the Board will be continuing to reach out to talk to people about joining or re-joining. We encourage you to contact the Rabbi, Caroline Metzger (our new Community Engagement Coordinator) or me if you have any questions about membership.

In the Membership Engagement Survey we conducted last year, a full 3/4ths of respondents said they would be interested in going to a lecture or discussion at TBH. The Shabbat Salon is a direct response to this interest. We are also acting to create a Speaker Series, with an initial focus on Israel and anti-Semitism. Some of these events will be scheduled as part of the Shabbat Salon, others at different times. The first meeting, to choose speakers and begin planning for the Speaker Series is on December 18th at 7pm. The group is open to all members interested in being involved. Please let Caroline or me know if you want to help.

We are also beginning a new initiative about homelessness in our community. It's an outgrowth of our participation in the Warming Center last winter and the decision of the ad-hoc committee this summer to, with a heavy heart, post and enforce a no-trespassing sign. Providing food and shelter to strangers is, we know, at the heart of Jewish ethics. The ad-hoc committee now plans to increase TBH's voice in the community-wide effort to develop housing options and advocate for people in need of shelter. This will be a core activity of the Tikkun Olam Committee. Allyson Brooks has volunteered to lead this effort, and you should get in touch with her (AllysonBrooks@gmail.com) or [Caroline](#) if you want to be involved.

This time of year is always dark, with shrinking daylight hours, and lots of rain. This year feels especially dark. TBH is here as your place to come, do, relax and celebrate. Come to a delightful movie on Saturday, December 3rd (Iraq N' Roll)! Make a mezuzah on December 4th! Engage in a post-election discussion on December 7th! Join us for a catered dinner and talk on Friday, December 9th! Rejoice in the Festival of Lights in our Social Hall on December 28th!



December Erev Shabbat Services

Erev Shabbat services on December 2nd and December 30th will be at 7:30pm.
All other services will be at 6pm.
The service on December 30th will be lay-led.

December Shabbat Day Activities

JEWISH WITH MEANING

1st Saturday, December 3

The December meeting of Jewish with Meaning is cancelled. Please contact Nancy Snyder if you have any questions. We will be meeting again in January.

TORAH STUDY

2nd Saturday, December 10, 10am

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, December 17

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.

TALMUD STUDY

4th Saturday, December 24, 9:30am

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.

A Second Post-Election Gathering, December 7 at 7:30pm

With a spontaneous determination, after the national results were clear, that many people might want to be surrounded by a community of shared values and experience at a time of great emotion, Rabbi Seth sent out a notice that there would be a gathering at the temple the evening after the 2016 General Election. Approximately 70 people responded, most from the TBH membership, but there were many others in the greater Olympia area who heard about this instantaneous event and felt the need to be amongst others.

Rabbi Seth started the event with a welcoming prayer and statement. But then quickly passed out a set of gray and green cards to all in attendance. On the gray cards, people were encouraged to describe their fears based on the election results, and on the green cards their hopes. After providing time for all to write down those feelings and wishes, the cards were read out loud for all to hear. Anyone wishing to read the listing of all the hopes and fears written down at that meeting can find them on the Rabbi's blog www.rabbi360.com.

We will gather again on Wednesday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m. for more reflection and potential planning.

Rabbi Seth Goldstein and Daniel Farber

December Events

FILM SERIES: IRAQ N' ROLL

Saturday, December 3, 7pm



In this intimate and poignant film about family, culture and identity, filmmaker Gili Gaon follows popular contemporary Israeli rock musician Dudu Tassa as he embarks on a deeply personal journey to reconnect with the musical legacy of his grandfather, Daud al-Kuwaiti. Daud and his brother Saleh were Jewish musicians who lived in Iraq in the 1930's and were the most celebrated musicians and composers of their time. (56 min, Hebrew and Arabic)

For young Jews (You define young): Join us for a pre-movie dinner of falafel and salad bar catered by the Gyro Spot and Kenny Trobman at 5:30 pm. Please email tbh@bethhatfiloh.org or call the office if you think you will come so we know about how many people to expect.

SENIOR SCHMOOZE

Tuesday, December 6, 12pm

All seniors (define yourself!) are invited. With the recent appointment by President-elect Trump of Stephen Bannon as chief strategist and senior counsel to the President, the issue of anti-Semitism has become front and center in the media. Nita Posner will present a lively discussion of anti-Semitism at the Senior Schmooze on Tuesday, December 6, 2016, at noon at TBH. Betty Goldstein will be providing dessert. Please bring a lunch and enjoy the comradery of other self-described seniors.

NEW - SHABBAT SALON

Friday, December 9, 6pm

Join us for a shared meals and guest speaker on Shabbat! We will begin with a full Shabbat service at 6pm, then at 7pm move to the Social Hall for a catered dinner provided by Nineveh Catering and guest speaker Max Patashnik, the Government Affairs Director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle. The cost is \$10 per dinner ticket. Look for a registration e-mail next week! (Note, one can stay for the speaker without having the dinner.)

FORKIDS PACKING

Tuesday, December 13, 3:30pm

Thurston County Food Bank
2260 Mottman Road SW, Tumwater

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.

SPEAKER SERIES PLANNING

Sunday, December 18, 7pm

Attend the first meeting to choose speakers and begin planning for the upcoming speaker series. The group is open to all members interested in being involved. Please e-mail Caroline or Laura know if you want to become involved!

BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, December 20, 7pm

Join us as we discuss *The December Project: An Extraordinary Rabbi and a Skeptical Seeker Confront Life's Greatest Mystery* by New York Times bestselling author Sara Davidson. At eighty-five, Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi wanted to teach people how to navigate the December of life and to help them "not freak out about dying." Contact Karen Greene at ekgisrael@gmail.com for more information.

Travel to Israel Mini-Camp

**Tuesday & Wednesday
December 27-28, 9am to 3pm**



Visit Ramat Ruach and learn about the food, people and culture of Israel.
For children between the ages of 8 and 12.

Cost is \$50. Pre-registration is required. Contact Catherine at beitsefer@bethhatfiloh.org with questions or to register.

Upcoming Events in Early January

Monday, January 2 at 7pm: Judaism 101
Tuesday, January 3 at 12pm: Senior Schmooze
Saturday, January 7 at 7pm: Movie: *The Tomashefskys*
Friday, January 13 at 6pm: Shabbat Salon

HANUKKAH PARTY

Wednesday, December 28, 6pm

Join us for the annual Hanukkah party! We invite you to bring your menorah and candles for our community candle lighting. There will be latkes, games, crafts, and more. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

TBH also has everything you will need to celebrate Hanukkah in our pop-up gift shop! You can purchase candles, dreidels, and gelt. The shop is self-serve, and available whenever the building is open. Questions? [E-mail](mailto:tbh@bethhatfiloh.org) the office or call (360) 754-8519.



Book Donations for Blintzpalooza

For anyone who wishes to drop off books for the Blintzpalooza in March, 2017, please wait to drop them off in early March so they do not have to be moved to storage. Thanks!

Tikkun Olam Update: Winter Clothing Drive

Winter is coming quickly, and we are once again collecting warm clothing for those in need. Donation boxes are placed in the foyer for coats, sweaters, socks, blankets, hats etc. Please donate gently used or new items to be delivered to St. Michael's clothing bank. We will be collecting items from now until January 1st.

FORKids Update: Tuesday, November 8

There were 16 TBH volunteers, the most ever since the beginning of the program more than ten years ago, on November 11, 2016, at the Food Bank in Tumwater who helped fill three full pallets totally 864 bags for distribution to elementary and middle school kids in the Tumwater, Olympia and North Thurston school districts. Currently that is half of the bags distributed each week by volunteer drivers. Kudos to the volunteers: Rabbi Seth Goldstein, Erez Goldstein, Ozi Goldstein, Sydney Hirsch, Jerry Hirsch, Beth Dubey, Amelia Hamilton, Mari Nowitz, Stacy Hirsch, Selah Hirsch, Olivia Walk, Erin Syversen, Leif Syversen, Betty Goldstein and Bernie Friedman. We will again be filling food bags on the second Tuesday, December 13, 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. Please bring family and friends. If you have any questions, please call Elie Halpern at 357-8160 or email him at ehalpern@aol.com.

Family Life and Learning Director Catherine Carmel



Shalom y'all,

Days after the election, I traveled to Massachusetts for a conference of Reconstructionist Education Directors. While we were all very happy to see and learn from each other, there was an overwhelming unease from the election results hanging heavily on our hearts and minds. For many, Wednesday afternoon classes held the mixed blessing of connecting with families in their community while feelings were still raw. For others, the question remained, what do we tell our kids? That was a question I brought back from the conference with the answer still only half formed. That's when I realized we had a structure in place to address this.

We have stories that tell of our ancestors overcoming fear and danger; the story of the Maccabees is one of many. In the past I have been hesitant to bring up the danger in these stories, not wanting to cause unnecessary fear in our children. However, experts often disagree. Violence that expresses truthfully the dangers that exist in the lives of our kids teaches them how to deal with conflict positively. It is essential to teach children there are courageous, non-violent solutions to conflict. To this end, we have selected ometz lev, courage, as our next middah to study and practice. Set in the context of the Chanukah story, our Beit Sefer students will learn about ometz lev, translated as strength of heart, as we prepare for the possibility of a less welcoming America. G-d willing, we will be only teaching them about a holiday whose origins come from a time when Jews were not always safe. However, if the lessons learned are helpful in the future, we will have prepared our children to face the world with courage and peace.

The following paragraph is an update of what is going on in the Anafim class, taught by Rochelle Rinn.

This year is off to an energetic start. We are working together to learn, laugh and really think about what kodesh may mean to different people. So far, we have explored the meaning of HOLY and why GOD is said in so many ways. We came up with different ways to demonstrate true sacrifice. We discussed how we can sacrifice the use of a game to someone who doesn't have one, or we can give our last bit of food to a stranger who has nothing. We also learned that giving is a reward in itself. We are learning about teamwork and courage to allow others to have their own ideas that differ from our own, but are still ok. This led to our life size portrait of our class on the wall. Our team drawing demonstrated the idea that each student is a leader and that we could allow our partners to lead at the same time. These thoughts and lessons were incorporated into our team portrait that involved true cooperation and listening to each other's needs and requests. We look forward to exploring kashrut and putting ourselves in the heart of the Maccabees while the Temple was protected by their courage.

L'shalom,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine".

Thank You For Your Contributions

In Memory of Ben Bean	Eve Rosenfeld	Jill Rosenkrantz & Jay Goldstein	Jill & William Dole
Suzanne Albrecht	Linda Rubin	Richard Sandler	James Dolliver
Elaine Bricker	Philip Schmidt	Angela Santamaria & Howard Schwartz	Linda Bean Georges
Rebecca & Jay Buxbaum	Laura & Sam Schragar	Laura & Sam Schragar	Karen Gibson
Carol Danish	D. Wayne Smyth	Norma & Charles Shelan	Marilyn Gisser
Ilene & Jim Davidson	Cynthia & Gary Stratiner	Sharon & Elliot Stern	Lisa Goldschmidt
Jenat & Howard Feldman	Sharon Weil	TBH Men's Poker Group	Michael Hirsch
Robert Godwin	Lynnette Weiner		David Huguet
Leslie & Craig Goodman	In Memory of Arnold Goldstein	High Holiday Donations	Rich Kalman
Lisa Brodoff & Lynn Grotsky	Kim & Ed Adelson	Marcela Abadi	Jean Katz
Beth & Elie Halpern	Bret Anderson	Jackie Awerman	Camille Kettel
Frank Herman	Flora & Marguerite Clark	Miriam Lowin & Richard Beckenbaugh	J. Marshall
Evanne & Charles Howard	Deborah Devine	Mitch Becker	Rebekah Padgett
Frances & Stan Jaffe	Marsha DiGiacomo	Dahna Berkson	Donna Phillips
Betsy & Charles Kapner	Michelle & Jay Fields	Francine Burg	Florence & Anthony Riesner
Jeff Bean & Elaine Kraft	Marian & Harold Greenberg	Thomas Courts	Cynthia Spencer
Janice & Steven Lewis	Lisa Brodoff & Lynn Grotsky	David Deitz	Lauri Turkovsky
Monica Mackin	Beth & Elie Halpern		Vickie & David Williams
Phyllis Mandel	Mark Kaufman		
Victor & Toinette Menashe	Laurie & Sam Landy		
Elaine Moshcatel	Bernice & Lewis Levison		
Avrel Nudelman	Phyllis Muska		
Olympia Glass Club #1	Phyllis Neff & Jim Kaydus		
Charlotte & R. E. Phillips			
Bert & Laurie Rogoway			

Note: We are catching up on several months of contributions. More will be published next month.

Thank You Volunteers!

Database: **Judith Barnes**
 Finances: **Judith Barnes, Gary Schneider**
 Friday Night Oneg Hosts: **Gail Pollock**
 Kitchen Volunteers: **Leslie Goldstein, Myra Paul**
 Building and Grounds Volunteers: **Rob Carmel, James Dolliver, Raven Lidman, Rhone and Spencer Orman**

FORKids Volunteers: **Rabbi Seth Goldstein, Erez Goldstein, Ozi Goldstein, Sydney Hirsch, Jerry Hirsch, Beth Dubey, Amelia Hamilton, Mari Nowitz, Stacy Hirsch, Selah Hirsch, Olivia Walk, Erin Syversen, Leif Syversen, Betty Goldstein and Bernie Friedman.**
 Office Volunteers: **Jim Kaydus, Phyllis Neff**

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 or cshelan@comcast.net.



Happy Birthday, Yom Huledet Sameach

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| December | 14 Sara Eve Sarliker |
| 3 Stephen Hodes | 15 Frank Herman |
| 7 Laura Hurtado-Webb | 15 Hal Marcus |
| 9 Michael Lowsky | 16 Gary Franklin |
| 9 Carl Wolfhagen | 20 Michael Blum |
| 10 Susan Poplack | 27 Paul Alig |
| 13 Howard Schwartz | |



Current Members Only:

Contact us by December 28th if you want to continue getting a paper copy of the Schrift.

Yahrzeits

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| December | 15 Esther Silverman |
| 4 Earl Bean | 16 Evelyn Bean Bercovitz |
| 4 Dallas Cline | 17 Ted Strange |
| 5 Ruth Jaffe Farber | 18 Harry Robinson |
| 6 Karen "Rosemary" Snyder | 19 Minnie Cohn |
| 7 Martha Stein Adelson | 20 Pearl Rubin |
| 7 Charles Friedman | 21 C. William Chappell |
| 9 Lenore Greene | 23 Iris Karger |
| 11 Rose Packer | 23 Helen Stein |
| 13 Sidney Shapiro | 24 Albert Tenenbaum |
| 14 Richard Schneider | 28 Shirley Hacken |
| 14 Sidney Schwartz | 31 William Schragar |

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.

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: _____

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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 *yahrtzeit* 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: