

# TEMPLE BETH HATFILOH

— A CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE —



## The Short Schrift

MAY 2017  
IYYAR - SIVAN, 5777

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## Membership and a Welcoming Community

Last fall, the Board launched an initiative to encourage people who regard TBH as their Jewish home, but aren't members, to join. As this invitation took off—it's been quite successful, as you'll see from Laura's report in this Schrift—the Board asked the Ritual Committee to review our current membership policy. We want to give you a brief summary of what we learned, and our suggestions, which the Board has adopted.

TBH's practice today is essentially the same as it's been for decades: Membership is open to persons who are (1) Jewish, (2) partnered with a Jew, or (3) undergoing conversion to Judaism. At TBH, like many congregations, a person is regarded as Jewish if they identify themselves as Jewish. As for non-Jewish partners, they are members (if they wish to be) because they are part of Jewish households. Conversion candidates are not expected to join, but they can if they want to.

Our committee advised the Board to stick with this longstanding policy. We think it has helped TBH to be a diverse, inclusive, close-knit community with a strong Jewish identity. But as we studied the question, we also became convinced that there is more TBH can do to meet the challenges of hospitality facing Jewish American communities in this fraught early 21st century. We can be more intentional in how we welcome potential and new members and guests. Please consider:

*For those unsure of their Jewish identities.* The committee had heartfelt dialogues with TBH members who stressed the need to ease the way to belonging for persons, especially young adults, who are conflicted about whether they are "Jewish enough." TBHers can offer them affirmation and acceptance. Our membership form should be revised to make it clear that if you have Jewish heritage and seek connection to Judaism, TBH invites you to join. If you're ambivalent about whether you're Jewish, the Rabbi will give warm counsel. Members can, too.

*For conversion candidates.* Whether or not they choose to become members while undergoing conversion, TBHers can support their learning, engagement in our community, and personal journeys. This can range from informal ties to formal mentoring, from guidance on Jewish matters to involvement in committees. What's called for is attentiveness to each person's interests and needs.

*For guests.* The value of *hachnasat orechim*, welcoming guests, is vital in Jewish tradition. TBH invites all who seek to engage in Jewish community to join us in services, study, and other activities. TBHers should be attuned to greeting guests, recognizing their presence and conversing person-to-person. Some, of course, are one-time visitors; others may form friendships and an ongoing relationship to TBH.

*Continued on page 3*

# FROM PRESIDENT LAURA SCHRAGER: The ending of the year -- the fiscal year

We're at that time of year when the Board wraps up the books on the past year, counts our pennies, and looks ahead to the next. The Board worked hard this year to encourage people to join TBH and to reconnect with people who had drifted away. We went into the year with 130 member households, and now stand at 167 member households. As for counting pennies, in the next weeks we will contact people who are behind in dues or tuition payments. Our Treasurer, Gary Schneider, is optimistic that we can close out this year slightly in the BLACK.

This is also the time when we get ready for elections and transition in Board Membership. If you would consider serving on the Board, please contact me or the office.

Looking back and forward: The Rabbi launched the hugely successful Shabbat Salon series in January, with attendance averaging about 60. The last Salon for this cycle will be May 12th; they will resume again in the fall. Our new Community Engagement Coordinator, Caroline Metzger, has been working magic in the office. She's preparing to launch our new database and website, and you can see her handiwork in the transformation of the Short Schrift. A third continuing initiative is engagement on the issue of immigration and refugees. The Board was thrilled by the response to our proposal to endorse the HIAS Campaign for welcoming refugees into the United States. We received emails from 17 congregants, all in strong support. Our application was submitted and we are now listed as one of the 351 congregations that have signed onto their initiative. Visit the website at [www.hias.org/welcome-campaign-congregations](http://www.hias.org/welcome-campaign-congregations). Rabbi Seth will be making a presentation on May 4th at 7 pm on the new sanctuary movement and what is happening in faith communities both locally and nationwide.



Last, we're busy with last minute planning for the upcoming Shabbaton on May 5-7 at Camp Solomon Schechter. It's stunning how many people from our community have registered: 47 adults and 12 youth. Generous donations from our members and our Rabbi's Discretionary Fund have made it possible for some to attend. Now we just have to scramble to get ready: prayer books to pack up, folding chairs to schlep, bedding to supply for folks coming from Philadelphia, and nametags to write. We are excited to gather with fellow Reconstructionists from Seattle, Portland, and Eugene right in our home town to eat together, to celebrate Shabbat, to play and to learn. To top it off, the forecast is looking good, with—at last—a break in the spring rains!

Mark your calendar for our Annual Meeting on June 11th at 10 am. Blintzes and the usual bagel-lox-cream cheese offerings will be served before the start of the meeting. Ballots along with a renewal form will be mailed to all members before the end of May. I hope to see you then, if not before.

*L'hitraot* (See you later),

# MAY EREV SHABBAT SERVICES

Erev Shabbat services on  
May 5th will be at 7:30 pm.

All other services will be at 6:00 pm.

**May 5** 7:30 pm Choir service, Oneg following

**May 12** 6:00 pm Shabbat Salon

**May 19** 6:00 pm Family service, Potluck following

**May 26** 6:00 pm Service with "Shabbat at Home"

# MAY SHABBAT DAY ACTIVITIES

## JEWISH WITH MEANING

### CANCELLED FOR MAY

Next month's meeting is Saturday, June 3  
10:30 am - 1:00 pm

Our monthly gathering of food, ritual, experience, and discussion is cancelled for May due to the Shabbaton weekend. We will meet again next month on Saturday, June 3rd at 10:30 am.

## TORAH STUDY

**2nd Saturday, May 13, 10:00 am**

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, May 20**

**Mussar 9:30 am, Service 10:30 am**

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 food and learn more about this tradition and how it may benefit our lives.

## TALMUD STUDY

**4th Saturday, May 27, 9:30 am**

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.

## Save the Date: SHAVOUT Tuesday, May 30, 8:00 p.m.

Shavuot is the holiday when we celebrate the biblical story of Sinai, when the Israelites received the torah, formed a covenant and established a new community, while it doesn't have an obvious ritual like the Seder on Passover, Shavuot is marked by engaging in meaningful study (and eating dairy foods like cheesecake!). Join us as we spend the evening into



night in meaningful study, reflection, prayer and song. Stay tuned for specific program elements in the weekly.

## Continued from page one: Membership and a Welcoming Community

If you have questions or comments about this work on membership, please contact me by e-mail at [samschrager@comcast.net](mailto:samschrager@comcast.net) or anyone on the committee. Our gratitude goes to all in the community who engaged with us in this effort.

--Sam Schrager, for the Ritual Committee  
(Evan Ferber, Sam Kates-Goldman, Cindy Levy, Myra Paull, Howard Schwartz, Nancy Snyder, Craig Wallace, Rabbi Seth Goldstein *ex officio*)

## MAY EVENTS

### WEEKLY EVENT: Make Your Voice Heard Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

This political advocacy group is focused on issue advocacy and communicating with lawmakers. We meet to discuss current events and identify various political actions to take. Open to members and friends.

### Senior Schmooze Tuesday, May 2, 12:00 pm

This month Oscar Soule will talk about examples of excellent environmental practices in our region. Oscar is a PhD ecologist and was a long-time Evergreen faculty member, now Emeritus. He is a terrific speaker, and was much loved by his students for his enthusiasm and warm and humorous delivery. Marv and Mary-Lynne Reiner will be dessert hosts.

### Immigration, Synagogues, and Sanctuary

Thursday, May 4, 7:00 pm

Both traditional Jewish teachings and our history cause us as Jews to engage with issues of immigration and refugees. In light of the recent political climate, synagogues and churches are reflecting on the idea of "Sanctuary" and how houses of worship can aid those who are in need of protection and support. Join Rabbi Seth and others to discuss the New Sanctuary Movement, Jewish approaches, and what organizing is happening both locally and nationwide.

### Thurston County Food Bank Tuesday, May 9, 3:30 pm 2260 Mottman Road SW, Tumwater

Join us on the second Tuesday of May as we again fill bags at the Tumwater branch of the Thurston County Food Bank. For information please contact Elie Halpern at (360) 357-8160 or ehalpern@aol.com.

### CROP Hunger Walk Sunday, May 7, 1:30 pm

Team TBH walkers will meet at 1 pm near the steps of the state capitol. The walk begins at 1:30. Walkers will have two options; either a 10K Walk, (6 miles) or a 5K Walk (3 miles). Step by step we can make a difference in the lives of hungry people here in our community and around the world. If you would like to help, visit [www.crophungerwalk.org/olympiawa/tbh](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/olympiawa/tbh) walks. You can sign up to walk or donate online to support our team or a specific walker. Our local CROP Walk makes a big difference - the 2016 Thurston County CROP Walk raised \$34,220! Every dollar makes a difference!



### May Shabbat Salon Friday, May 12, 6:00 pm

Our last salon of the season features guest speaker Lisa Hurwitz, filmmaker and director of the upcoming documentary "The Automat".



We will begin with a full Shabbat service at 6:00 pm followed by a catered dinner and speaker in the Social Hall at 7:00 pm. Dinner is \$10 per person. Register for the dinner online or e-mail the TBH office!

### Book Group: *The Golem of Hollywood*

Tuesday, May 16, 7:00 pm



An extraordinary work of detection, suspense, and supernatural mystery by Jonathan and Jesse Kellerman. (560 pp) For details contact Karen Greene at [ekgisrael@gmail.com](mailto:ekgisrael@gmail.com).

### Dying Happens, Let's Talk Wednesday, May 17, 7:00 pm

Please join us for a discussion with TBH member and attorney Lisa Brodoff who will be talking about the legal aspects of preparing for death. The event will be held in the TBH Social Hall.

### Jews Who Bowl Sunday, May 21, 2:00 pm

Join TBH at Westside Lanes, 2010 Harrison Ave NW in Olympia. Cost per person is \$6 for one game, \$10 for two games. All are welcome. Bring family and friends!

### Advancing In Hebrew Tuesday, May 23, 7:00 pm

This seminar-type gathering will work on advancing Hebrew knowledge, including grammar and roots. Contact Rabbi Seth at [rabbi@bethhatfiloh.org](mailto:rabbi@bethhatfiloh.org) if you want to know if this class is right for you. Held on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

### Shavout Tuesday, May 30, 8:00 pm

Join us as we spend the evening into night in meaningful study, reflection, prayer and song. Watch the weekly e-mail for program details.

## JUNE EVENTS PREVIEW



### Senior Schmooze

Tuesday, June 6 at 12:00 pm

### TBH Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 11 at 10:00 am

### Book Club

Tuesday, June 20 at 7:00 pm

We'll be selecting books for next year

## Dying Happens, Let's Talk

### Legal aspects of preparing for death

Our next workshop in our series on death and dying will be **Wednesday, May 17 at 7 pm.**

The session will be led by Rabbi Seth Goldstein and Sheri Gerson. TBH member and attorney Lisa Brodoff will be talking about the legal aspects of preparing for death.

We will be asking questions sharing experiences and in this informational and interactive session.

## 2nd Annual Jewish Community Night at Safeco Field Tuesday, June 6, 7:10 p.m.

Be a part of this wonderful opportunity for building community within and beyond our respective synagogues and organizations! Ticket prices are \$20 for View Level; \$30 for Main Level (AND your ticket comes with a cool, vintage-logo hat that says "Mariners" in Hebrew). Interested in attending? Contact the office. If there is enough interest, we'll buy group tickets. Or you can buy tickets at the Mariners website: <http://m.mlb.com/mariners/tickets/group/jewish>



## From TBH Committees TIKKUN OLAM COMMITTEE

Thanks to all who contributed to our first hygiene product drive for the Other Bank. We had quite a collection of menstrual products, shampoo, soap, dish soap, zip-lock bags, laundry soap and various other items. The YWCA was pleased with our efforts! This may become an annual event! Also, soup is available in the freezer for any community member needing a little TLC. Please feel free to take soup for anyone who could benefit.

## FORKids UPDATE

Kudos to the six people who volunteered on Tuesday, April 11, who volunteered at the Thurston County Food Bank in Tumwater to fill bags for the FORKids program: Bernie Friedman, Joan Aronovitch, James Redle, Paul Paroff, Laura Hurtado-Webb and Betty Goldstein are to be commended. Some of the six even went to a second Seder after volunteering.

We will again be volunteering on the second Tuesday, May 9, 2017, at 3:30 pm at the Tumwater branch of the Thurston County Food Bank. Two more volunteers have indicated that they will be volunteering for the first time in May, so the more people who come to volunteer at the Thurston County Food Bank, the easier it is for everyone. Thanks to everyone who has been volunteering for more than ten years!

## Ruach Shoveva Registration Is OPEN!

Mary your calendars! Camp will be the week of July 31 through August 4. This summer day camp is intended to be a stepping stone for overnight camps. It is a perfect option if your family is not quite ready for sleep away camp or your child has recently returned from camp and is looking to extend the camp comradery farther into the summer. Camp is open to kids going into 1st through 5th grades and runs from 9 am to 3 pm. We are based here at TBH with daily field trips for outdoor play. Our week Includes a Shabbat lunch which we prepare and eat together. Camp will culminate with a celebration at Shabbat services on Friday, August 4. Click here to download the PDF registration form.



# FROM CATHERINE CARMEL: FAMILY LIFE AND LEARNING DIRECTOR



Shalom y'all,  
Ending hunger means responding with compassion and long-term sustainable approaches. The Thurston County CROP Hunger Walk is raising money to help end hunger and poverty

through approaches that significantly reduce or eliminate hunger. For example, \$500 can supply tools, training and seeds to begin a community garden in an impoverished area. From combating droughts in Nicaragua, to providing agricultural training in Indonesia to stocking shelves in hundreds of food pantries across the United States, CROP Hunger Walks are fighting hunger. Each year 25% of the funds raised here go to local organizations like Meals on Wheels, the Thurston County Food Bank and GRuB.



Last year, over 400 walkers raised nearly \$35,000 through the CROP Hunger Walk. This year TBH joins thousands of other communities nationwide in interfaith CROP Hunger Walks around the theme "Ending hunger one step at a time." Walkers, and the sponsors that support their walk, will be proclaiming their solidarity with the millions of neighbors around the world who have to walk to live, as well as the millions served by local food pantries, food banks and meal sites here in the U.S. The Thurston County CROP Hunger Walk is only one of our community's responses to ending hunger throughout the world. Join me, TBH and our Thurston County community in the fight against hunger. To sign up to walk or sponsor our walkers go to [www.crophungerwalk.org/olympiawa/tbhwalks](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/olympiawa/tbhwalks).

*From Ariel Azereth, Geza'im teacher (1 & 2 grades)*

Many of us spend our winters as introverts, hiding away in our homes and disconnecting from our environment. As signs of 'Aviv' (spring) begin to emerge all around us, we become very aware of our surroundings. Birds begin to sing and nest, trees bud, flowers bloom, and our neighborhoods become encompassed with activity. In Hebrew, the word 'Kehilah' means community, a central value in Judaism. In our first two trimesters this year, Torah and Avodah, Ge'zaim spent a lot of time discussing the importance of communities in the Torah, in our own lives, and in the lives of our ancestors.

With the arrival of spring, we felt it would be very fitting to spend our last trimester with G'milut Chasadim (meaning Acts of Loving Kindness), becoming active members of our communities. During our remaining classes, Ge'zaim will discuss issues affecting our communities, as well as communities all around the world, such as bullying, poverty, littering/pollution, and more. We will learn how we can get involved in these issues and make a difference. On sunny days, we even plan to partake in some of these mitzvot together as a class by helping to clean our neighborhoods!

*L'shalom,*

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

## Sustaining Fund

Myra Paull & Edward McGiveney  
 Beth Dubey in memory of Irving Samsky  
 and Ruth Samsky  
 William Caslar  
 Mort & Nina Shecter to support the Life & Legacy  
 campaign  
 Leona Zarin in memory of Judy Soicher

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Adrian Olivier  
 Leslie Gates

## Seder Sponsors

Marcia David & Howard Goldberg  
 Daniel Cedarbaum  
 Marilyn Gisser  
 Michael Ross

## Film Series

Laura & Sam Schragr in honor of Beth & Elie Halpern

## Memorial Fund

Jim Kayden & Phyllis Neff

## Goldberg Fund

Beth Dubey

## ANNUAL MEETING Sunday, June 11, 10:00 am

Before the Annual meeting we'll gather to celebrate another year together, to vote, and - yes - to eat. At 10:00 am, we'll have the Annual Meeting with updates from board members and committee chairs followed by discussion and review of the budget for next year. Annual meeting packets will be mailed at the end of May. If you don't received your packet, please call the TBH office. Come, Eat, and Vote!

### Annual Meeting Schedule

9:00 am Blintzes and bagels  
 10:00 am Annual Meeting  
 D'var, Rabbi Seth  
 Life and Legacy, Charles Shelan  
 Budget Report, Gary Schneider  
 President's Report -- Membership, Laura Schragr  
 Rabbi's Report -- Shabbat Salon, Greeter Corp and more  
 Volunteer of the Year  
 Election Results



## Thank You Volunteers!

Friday Night Oneg Hosts: **Yair Wolf**  
 FORKids Volunteers: **Bernie Friedman, Joan Aronovitch, James Redle, Paul Paroff, Laura Hurtado-Webb, and Betty Goldstein**  
 Facility Maintenance: **Ariel Adereth**  
 Kitchen Cleaning: **You know who you are...**  
 Torah Study Brunch: **Myra Paull and Edward McGiveney**

## Happy Birthday Yom Huledet Sameach

1 Jeffery Reiner	15 Lynn Lipski
5 Bat-Sheva Stein	12 Kim Adelson
6 Joel Greene	20 Danny Kadden
6 Anne Hirsch	21 Linda Blustein
8 Lenny Trabka	24 Beth Halpern
10 Magdalena Cristo-Frank	28 Mary-Lynne Reiner
10 Andy Kaplowitz	29 Doug Littauer
13 Daniel Farber	30 Ron Jasmer
13 Charles Shelan	30 Sam Schragr
14 Robert Carmel	

# MAY YAHRZEITS

- 1 Murray Brodoff
- 3 Anne Bean
- 4 Catherine Fay
- 6 Isaac Robinson**
- 8 Jerry Grotzky
- 9 David Goldstein
- 11 Marie Van Rye
- 12 June Bean
- 13 Constance Shapiro**

- 14 Barry Aronovitch**
- 14 Ronald Doelle
- 14 Jean Medley
- 14 Naomi Siegel
- 16 Harold Kozerski
- 16 Perle Schragar
- 19 Jennette Lee
- 23 Lee Hollander**

- 24 Joseph Gentile
- 24 Lawrence Scheier
- 25 Alan E. Goldberg**
- 26 William Halpern
- 26 Nathan Perrin**
- 29 Ruby Burnett**
- 30 Eva Goldberg
- 31 Sidney Barshter

*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.*

## STARS OF DAVID SOFTBALL TEAM: Sign up TODAY!!

Join us for weekly games on Monday or Wednesday night (still to be decided) starting the week of June 5th. We play in a non-competitive co-ed league, sponsored by Olympia Parks and Rec. The team is open to players of all levels and to non-members, so sign up with friends. Ages 18 and over, 16-17 with parental consent. We are guaranteed at least 14 games, with doubleheaders most weeks of the season.

May 12th is the deadline for the team to register. You can join the team after that, but we need to know by then if we have enough people to field a team. The team registration fee has gone up to \$799 this year, so we are asking for \$50 from each player. Get in touch with Jocelyn if you want to play, but that is too much. We desperately need pitchers this year, so please join if you can pitch.



We'll be scheduling some practices in May. Sign up now! Contact Jocelyn Brown at jocabrown3@gmail.com or tbh@bethhatfiloh.org to sign-up, get more info, to express interest in playing, or to say which day you prefer to play.

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 *yahrzeit* 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: