



“All real living is meeting.” Martin Buber, *I and Thou*

During the month of January, members of our community are studying the theology of Martin Buber to explore how relationships render our lives meaningful, and how the teachings of the Jewish tradition help us to nurture resilience and joy.

Thank you to our sacred community for continuing to rise to the challenge of this unprecedented time. Because we as a congregation have made decisions rooted in our Jewish values, and continue to follow experts in the health profession, together we are best prepared to weather this new phase in the pandemic. However, in order to respond to the recent rise in Covid numbers due to the Omicron variant, Temple Beth Am is taking the following precautionary measures:

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

VACCINATION DEFINITION CHANGE: Starting on February 4, 2022, in order to meet our definition of **vaccinated**, you must have received your booster if currently eligible; current eligibility includes those ages 16 and up that received their last dose more than five months ago. We realize that booster appointments can be difficult to obtain, so if you are hoping to attend in-person services or an event at Beth Am and need help getting a booster, please email temple@templebetham.org for support.

THE GAN WILL BE VIRTUAL FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF SHMITA BET: In order to allow an extra week for students aged 5-11 to meet our vaccination deadline and review the testing data for school-aged children post-holidays/back to school, we will be starting the first week of The Gan virtually. Sunday, January 9 we will have virtual classes for all ages from 9:30am-11am. Please check The Gan newsletter later today (Wednesday) for more information. Our hope is that these measures will allow us enough time to gather the information necessary to safely open for the 2nd week of the Shmita. We will update families on 1/13/22 about the following week with the hope that we will be able to gather in person.

REMINDER: VACCINES REQUIRED FOR AGES 5 AND OVER: Children over the age of 5 registered for The Gan in-person will be required to be fully vaccinated by January 16th. Once children turn 5, they will have eight weeks to get fully vaccinated to continue attending in-person.

SERVICES: Although we look forward to welcoming our community to in-person services, in order to plan appropriately, we ask that you RSVP to attend Friday night or Saturday morning in-person services [click here](#) (no RSVP is needed for virtual services.) Again, we hope that this is a temporary measure, but we want to do all

that we can to mitigate the risks to our community. Lastly, we will be returning to having all officiants, including clergy, wear masks even while on the bima.

We join synagogues to gain strength from one another, share our joy, and withstand our hardships. Temple Beth Am clergy and professionals will continue to offer opportunities to gather both in-person and online in the weeks ahead. Please know that we are available if you have any questions or are in need of support.

L'shalom,

David Sims

Executive Director

Rabbi Ruth A. Zlotnick

Senior Rabbi