



Welcome to
Temple Beth El of Augusta, Maine

embracing a spirit of community, lifelong Jewish learning, commitment to inclusiveness, and active participation in Jewish life in Central Maine

artwork by Lenora Leibowitz

Tamuz-Av-Elul 5778/July-August 2018

From the desk of Rabbi Asch

Shamor V'Zachor B'dibur echad.

Keep and remember the Sabbath: they are heard as one utterance.

This line comes from L'cha Dodi, the prayer we sing as we open our Shabbat services each week. It refers to the fact that in the two versions of the Ten Commandments in the Torah, two different words are used. In Exodus it says "*Zachor et yom HaShabbat,*" and in Deuteronomy it says, "*Shamor et yom HaShabbat.*" *Zachor* means to remember. You might know it from the word *yizkor*, the memorial service we have four times a year. *Shomer* means to guard or protect. We are commanded both to remember Shabbat *and* to protect it.

The rabbis explain that *zachor* refers to all the positive commandments regarding Shabbat; everything we do to make Shabbat special. These include lighting candles, saying *kiddush* over the wine, and making the day different with special foods. These things help us to remember how special Shabbat is.

Shamor refers to all the negative commandments, the things we have to guard against doing. Traditionally, these include not lighting a fire, not writing, and not cooking. Not doing these things also help us to recognize and experience Shabbat as a different day.

In some ways, these two sets of rules for Shabbat are similar to how we experience summer in Maine. As the rhythm of our year changes we experience both *zachor* and *shamor*. There are things we do to make the summer special. These might include picking fresh fruit, gardening, going to the lake, spending time outdoors, eating ice cream, or taking time off work. There are also things we don't do during the summer months. We don't shovel snow, put on winter gear, build fires (except to roast marshmallows), or get up too early.

Here at the synagogue we try to keep the spirit of summer by spending time together outside — it is so beautiful to be outdoors and appreciate the natural world. We just enjoyed a Shabbat on the Lake on June 29th (thank you for hosting, Marty Weiss!) and look forward to another one August 24th. Again this year we will have two Shabbat hikes (July 14th and August 18th). Our July hike will be followed by a potluck at the Asch family house, and all are invited to spend the afternoon together enjoying Shabbat. We also plan to join Jews from around Maine at Hadlock Field in Portland on July 19th for Jewish Community Night at the Sea Dogs game.



It is such a blessing to be able to enjoy summer in Maine — I hope that your summer includes both adding new activities to appreciate this wonderful season and not doing some things that you normally do.

TBE Schedule: July—August

Services

Friday, July 6

5:30pm Shabbat Service & Installation of Rabbi
Lisa Vinikoor at Beth Israel Congregation in Bath
6:30pm Reception & dinner in Bath

Friday, July 13

6:00pm Shabbat Services
7:00pm Potluck Dinner

Saturday, July 14

10:30am Shabbat Hike
12:00pm Kiddush Lunch

Saturday, July 21

7:00pm Tish B'av Study and Service

Friday, July 27

7:00pm Shabbat Services

Friday, August 10

7:00pm Shabbat Services

Saturday, August 18

10:30am Shabbat Hike
12:00pm Kiddush Lunch

Friday, August 24

6:00pm Shabbat at the Lake
7:00pm Potluck Dinner

Torah Study

Saturday, July 7

10:30am Torah Study & Kiddush Lunch

Saturday, July 28

10:30am Torah Study & Kiddush Lunch

Saturday, August 11

10:30am Torah Study & Kiddush Lunch

Saturday, August 25

10:30am Torah Study & Kiddush Lunch

TBE Activities

Thursday, July 19

7:00pm Jewish Night at the Sea Dogs game

Wednesday, July 25

5:30pm Soup & Study

Wednesday, August 1

6:30pm TBE Book Club

Wednesday, August 29

5:30pm Soup & Study

Interfaith Activities

Every Tuesday

12:30pm Volunteering at Addie's Attic

Thursday, July 12

11:00am Interfaith Study

Thursday, July 26

11:00am Interfaith Study

(No interfaith study in August)



Your Rabbi in Action!



Beth El in Action planned a public meeting to celebrate the extraordinary progress the group has made in encouraging local school boards to adopt religious diversity policies. Rabbi Asch and her clergy colleagues offered strong support.



This summer, Rabbi Asch is helping Jewish Theological Seminary rabbinic intern Leora Kling-Perkins learn the ways of Maine Jewish life. Leora will be conducting two "Soup and Study" sessions at TBE (see pages 5 & 6).



FUNtensive is not a camp — it's a summer learning experience! Above, Rabbi Asch helps a student from Bath tie a tallit. She has been building a strong relationship between TBE and the Bath congregation and will be co-leading the service where Bath's new rabbi, Lisa Vinikoor (above, right) will be installed. Rabbi Asch is also working with the leaders of Bridging the Gap (right) to help Augusta's most vulnerable residents.



What's Happening at TBE

Rabbi Asch to Officiate Installation of Bath Rabbi

Friday, July 6th, 5:30pm
Beth Israel Congregation

Beth Israel Congregation in Bath will be celebrating the arrival of Rabbi Lisa Vinikoor to their synagogue with a formal installation during a Shabbat evening service followed by food and music. The service will be held at their synagogue at 862 Washington Street in Bath. The festivities will then continue at the Minnie Brown Center, just up the street at 906 Washington Street. Rabbi Erica Asch and Rabbi Sruli Dresdner will co-officiate at the service along with Rabbi Nancy Wiener. Rabbi Wiener is Clinical Director of the Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Center for Pastoral Counseling at the New York campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and is a teacher, friend and mentor for Rabbi Vinikoor.

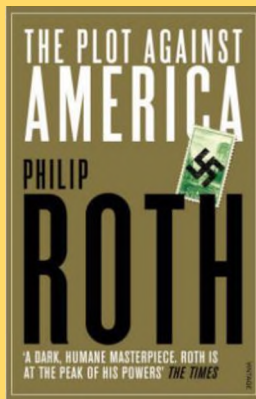
Shabbat Hike in Vaughan Woods

Sat., July 14th,
10:30am

Want to observe Shabbat with a bunch of your favorite Jews? Join us for a Shabbat Hike through Vaughn Woods, Saturday, July 14th at 10:30am. Following the hike, folks are invited for lunch at Rabbi Asch's house (50 Academy Street, Hallowell) at noon. Stay after lunch for a Shabbat afternoon of games, conversation, and community.

TBE Book Club

Wednesday, August 1
6:30pm @ TBE



Next up for the TBE Book Club is Philip Roth's disturbing and provocative *The Plot Against America*. All are welcome to join in a lively discussion about the book at TBE. Email Nan to RSVP: bethelaugusta@gmail.com.

Rabbinical Student to Co-Lead Shabbat Services @ TBE

Friday, July 13th, 6:00pm

Rabbinical student Leora Kling Perkins from the Jewish Theological Seminary will co-lead services and give the Dvar Torah.

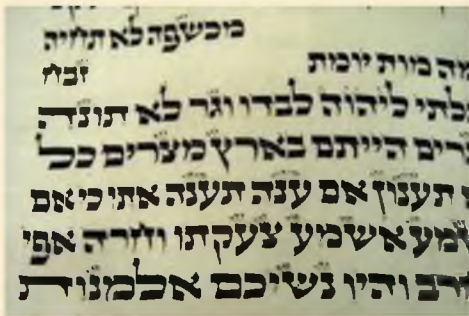
Tisha B'av Study & Service

Saturday, July 21st, 7:00pm

Join Rabbi Asch to study the ancient texts. We will discuss topics, like the destruction of the temple at Jerusalem, and their modern meanings, as well as chant from the Book of Lamentations.

SOUP AND STUDY

JOIN FOR A
DELICIOUS
DINNER AND
STUDY AND
DISCUSSION OF
JEWISH TEXTS



**WEDNESDAY
JULY 11TH,
5:30-7:00**

TEMPLE BETH EL
PLEASE RSVP TO THE OFFICE SO WE
HAVE ENOUGH FOOD!

FOLLOW THE LAW OF THE LAND

Jewish tradition tells us to follow the law of the land, but what happens when Jewish law differs from the laws imposed by civil authorities? And how can we respond when faced with unjust laws? Join **Rabbinical Student Leora Kling Perkins** in exploring sources from Jewish tradition about the relationship between Jews and whatever country we happen to be in.



SOUP AND STUDY

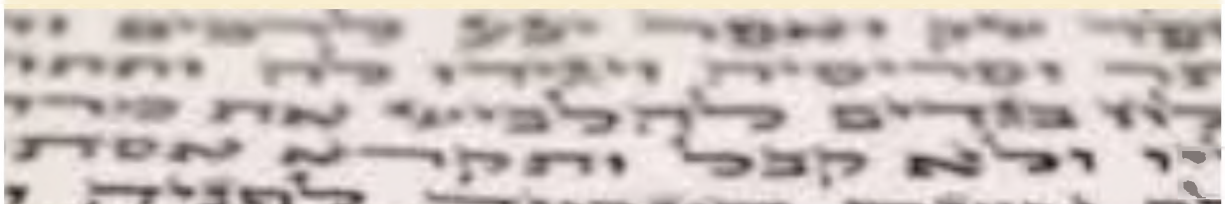
JOIN FOR A
DELICIOUS
DINNER AND
STUDY AND
DISCUSSION OF
JEWISH TEXTS

**WEDNESDAY
JULY 25TH,
5:30-7:00**

TEMPLE BETH EL
PLEASE RSVP TO THE OFFICE SO WE
HAVE ENOUGH FOOD!

COMMUNITY & DIFFERENCE

How do we deal with people who disagree with us? Do we ignore them? Tolerate them? Make special efforts to make them feel welcome in our community? The Talmud is full of disputes between rabbinic authorities, including disputes between the well-known Hillel and Shammai. Join **Rabbinical Student Leora Kling Perkins** to delve into the surprising way that the followers of each of these rabbis managed to get along. Together, we'll discuss how their behavior can provide a number of models for ourselves as we negotiate differences of opinion and behavior within our own communities.



Looking Back and Forward at the Half-Mile Post

By Chuck Cohen

The Annual Meeting of the members was held on June 3rd this year. At such time, the congregation elected Jay Collins and Richard Fein as new board members and re-elected Chris Zinck to a new term. Welcome to Jay and Richard and thank you to our departing board members, Peter Rosenberg and Bob Adler for your service to the TBE.

The highlight of the annual meeting, for me personally, was the presentation of this year's service award to Rich Goldman in recognition of his many years of service on the Board and most importantly to the Temple's Hebrew school. There were a number of heartfelt testimonials delivered and Rich gave a moving acceptance speech. Thank you so much Rich for all you have done over the years for the Temple's youth.

The meeting also marked the halfway point of my two year "run" as your president. Here's a look back at what we, as a congregation, have accomplished this past year and a look forward to the challenges that lie ahead in the coming year.

Beth El in Action

We closed out the year with an incredible community meeting hosted by the Beth El in Action Group to celebrate the progress that the group had made to date on getting local school boards to adopt a policy which would recognize non-dominant religious holidays on the school calendar, scheduling activities and in attendance policies and to get firm commitments from the school boards on taking action on the policy. As Deb Sewall said to me at the annual meeting, "We had a moment didn't we?"

The meeting was organized by members of the Temple Beth El In Action Group and our partners from various faith groups who have joined us in this effort. A number of students and parents made presentations on how they had been affected by the lack of such a policy and the need for change. Members from the RSU 2 (Hallowell, Farmingdale, Richmond, Monmouth), RSU 38 (Manchester, Readfield, Mt. Vernon), Winthrop and Augusta school boards attended. The RSU 38 member noted that their school board has already adopted the policy, and the RSU 2 and Winthrop members made firm commitments to bring the policy forward for adoption.

The policy proposal has not been as well received by the Augusta school board, however. So, we still have some work to do there. The Augusta school board will be meeting to consider the issue this summer. If you would like to lend your support to the effort and have not already committed to attending, please contact Emily Bessey or Lila Solomon. Possible additional actions in the coming year include working on a model policy which would be available to school boards across the state, working at the state level for adoption of a statewide policy and working with other school boards in the area.



See "Looking Back," continued on pg. 8

What's happening at TBE

"Looking Back," continued from page 7

Terumah

Last year the Board adopted a new model for financial support from our members. The new model, the *Terumah* or free will offering, replaced the fixed dues structure. The *Terumah* has been a huge success both in terms of financial support and in terms of removing barriers to membership. This past year we have had six new units join TBE and three units rejoin. Thank you all for making the *Terumah* such a huge success.

Based on the success that we have had with the new model, the Board decided to continue the *Terumah* for the upcoming fiscal year. The *Terumah* Commitment Forms were sent out last month and hopefully you have, or will in the near future, send in your response with your commitment for 2018-2019. While our first year was a great success we can't afford to rest on our laurels at this point.

Contractual Matters

One of our great successes of the past year was the Board's agreement with the Rabbi to extend our current agreement for the full five year term, or until June 30, 2021. Under the terms of our contract, the Rabbi is entitled to a six month sabbatical to be taken during the last two years of the contract. The Board will be working out the precise terms of the sabbatical with the Rabbi this coming fall.

In addition to this agreement, this past year the Board entered into an agreement with Colby College to authorize Rabbi Asch to work approximately eight hours per week at Colby and serve as the Jewish chaplain and Hillel advisor at the College. The agreement creates a "win-win" situation by providing the Rabbi with new and interesting professional opportunities and by providing the Temple with a stable and significant source of revenue. The new obligations created by the partnership required us to prioritize and restructure some of the Rabbi's duties at TBE which I think has occurred fairly seamlessly. The Board and Colby are currently negotiating a renewal of the arrangement which builds on this past success. I expect the discussions to be completed within the next few weeks.

Volunteer Activities

As I noted in my High Holiday remarks of last year, one of the great challenges for the Temple in the coming years will be providing support services for our members in times of illness and need. This year, we retained Ellen Freed to act as our Volunteer Coordinator. We are excited about the talents and skills that Ellen brings to this position. Ellen will be in touch with the members of the congregation as we try and elevate our efforts in this area.

See "Looking Back," continued on pg. 9

Terumah pledge reminder

By Hildie Lipson

July marks the beginning of another fiscal year and the time that we ask for your annual *Terumah* pledge amount. Thanks to those of you who have already made your pledge. We mailed a request letter along with a response form at the beginning of June. If you need another pledge form, contact Nan at the office. Your timely response to this request helps us financially plan for the year. So, please think about how much we all need Temple Beth El and make your generous pledge of support for the coming year. Remember, you can give monthly using your credit or debit card. Contact Nan: bethelaugusta@gmail.com or 622-7450.

Rabbi Out of Town

Rabbi Asch will be away from Sunday July 29th to Sunday August 12th as she will be acting as faculty at URJ Crane Lake camp. She will be reachable by phone and email during this time. We are thrilled to have four of our Temple Beth El children attending camp at Crane Lake this summer, and one attending Eisner Camp just down the road! She will also be out of the office from August 13th-19th as she prepares for the High Holidays. She will, however, be reachable by phone and email.



CRANE LAKE CAMP

A URJ SUMMER CAMP

Jewish Night with the Sea Dogs

Thursday, July 19th, 7:00pm

Join Jews from across the state for Jewish Community Night at Hadlock Field to see the Portland Sea Dogs take on the Hartford Yard Goats. Tickets are available at a discounted rate of \$8 and may be purchased by phone (207 879-9500 – ask for tickets in the section reserved for Jewish Community Night) or online: <https://groupmatics.events/event/Jewishcommunity4>



“Looking Back,” continued from pg. 8

Building Renovation Project

Like most building projects, our building project has been a little slow in getting off the ground. The architectural plans have now been finalized and were presented by Jerry Bley at the annual meeting. Cost estimates are being developed by our contractor and will be provided shortly. After that, the Board will be getting back to the congregation with our fundraising plans to support the project.

20th Anniversary Wine Tasting

On January 30, 2018, we celebrated our 20th Anniversary Wine Tasting and by most accounts this was the biggest and best ever! The evening was made extra special by the presence of our friends from the Capital Area New Mainers Project who served as the cooks for the event. A special shout out to Deb Sewall and Nancy Kelly for their work on this event for the past twenty years. I know Emily Bessey and Peter Rosenberg are already working on next year's event. Let them know if you have ideas or would like to help out.

Thank you to the Board and to the many other volunteers who have made these successes possible. I look forward to serving as your president for another year and seeing you all at the Temple during the High Holidays. In the meanwhile, I hope you all have a wonderful summer in the great State of Maine.

Mazel Tov to Cole Bazakas (June 23rd), Ava Katz (June 30th), & Noah Katz (June 30th) on becoming B'nei Mitzvah!



FUNtensive has been a blast!



Donations

Yahrzeit/Memorials

- Richard Dana in memory of Elizabeth Dana
- Sarah & Michael Drickey in memory of Jack Drickey
- Janika Eckert & Rob Johnston in memory of Edwin Eckert
- Joan & Lowell Freiman in memory of Albert Freiman
- Pauline and Reginald Hannaford in memory of Fred Hannaford
- Kate McLinn in memory of Matthew McLinn
- Kerry & Peter Rubinstein in memory of Benjamin Rubinstein
- Nan Salvino & Jon Mittelman in memory of Irwin Mittelman
- Nan Salvino & Jon Mittelman in memory of Marilyn Molner
- Scott Schiff-Slater in memory of Fred Slater
- Sheila & Simon-Peter Schaffer in memory of Sylvia Shaffer
- Nancy & Charles Shuman in memory of Samuel Lerman
- Dace & Jon Weiss in memory of Clara Miller Weiss
- Martin Weiss in memory of Miriam Weiss
- Martin Weiss in memory of Linda Weiss Manson



Making a donation to Temple Beth El is a special way to honor family and friends.

Terumah

This fund includes the former General Fund and Dues and covers all temple operating expenses.

Building Fund

This fund is for major repair and rebuilding of our facilities.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

This fund helps Rabbi Asch meet special needs in the community.

Yahrzeit/Memorials/Honoraria

These contributions are made in memory or honor of family and friends.

Memorial Plaques

Remember a loved one with a memorial plaque in the synagogue.

Donation: \$250

Payment due at time of order.

Tree of Life

Acknowledge a life milestone in a special way by adding a personalized, inscribed leaf to the Tree. Donation: \$36.

Payment due at time of order.

Please make checks payable to Temple Beth El. Indicate the fund to which you want to contribute and mail to TBE, Box 871, Augusta, ME 04332. Undesignated checks will go to the General Fund. *Temple Beth El accepts Visa & Mastercard. Please contact the office with any questions.*

Temple Beth El

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 Rabbi Erica Asch 207-242-9792
 Email: bethelaugusta@gmail.com

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Chuck Cohen

Vice President

Emily Bessey

Immediate Past President

Anya Goldey

Treasurer

Hildie Lipson

Secretary

Peter Rosenberg

Hebrew School

Emily Bley

Yad B'Yad

Judith Plano

Membership

Robert Adler

Building

Syd Sewall

Board of Directors

Bob Adler, Jerry Bley, Mike Drickey, Richard Goldman, Nancy Kelly, Judith Plano, Fran Rudoff, Lila Solomon, Chris Zinck

Honorary Directors

Julius Goos, Sumner Lipman, Stanley Sclar

July Yahrzeits

July 1 Marcia Allen
 July 2 David James Macy
 July 3 Joseph Shaffer
 July 4 Rose Aransky LaPenna
 Lillian Lieba Sandler
 July 5 Harry Lait
 July 7 Gertrude Lerman
 July 8 Martha Kaplan
 Bernigolde Macy
 July 9 Naomi Shore
 July 11 Janice May Scott
 July 15 Blanche Marienhoff
 July 16 Kent R. Katz
 Lydia Liechty Thielman
 July 18 Doris Buford
 Sylvia K. Fain
 Rose Schwartz
 Finkelstein
 July 19 William Weisberger
 July 20 Nonie Barber
 Rebecca Schneider
 Cohen
 July 21 Edith Gershon
 July 22 Gersha Aronson
 Julia Weiss
 July 23 Pearl Bien
 July 24 Robert Bley
 Harry Michelson
 Wallace Miller
 July 26 Harold M. Grodinsky
 July 27 Ed Jones
 Joel Douglas Wells
 July 29 Heath Ledward Allen
 July 31 Harold Franzel
 I vnn Slosberg

August Yahrzeits

August 1 Dora Cohen
 Thelma Alpert Price
 August 3 Dick Faucher
 August 5 Janice Leavitt
 Rae Weiss
 August 6 William Cohen
 August 7 Stephen Fusco
 Rubin Lahti
 August 9 Gerald Golden
 Stephen Porter
 Ida Slosberg Perlberg
 August 11 Esther Shuman
 Dorothy Spalding
 August 13 Esther Kominers
 August 14 Hylan Bickerman
 Gerald Brock
 Adelle Rubin
 Charles Zinck
 August 18 Fannie Dansky
 Bernard Osgood Koopman
 August 19 Leonard Brittain
 August 24 Emma Levy
 Mildred Mogk
 August 28 Gertrude Goldberg
 August 30 Joel Hausner

**Portland Chevra Kadisha
 Jewish Funeral Home**
 471 Deering Ave.
 Portland, ME 04103
 207.774.3733



*Refuah Sh'lemah
 (Get Well) to:*

Hope Cohen
 Julius Goos
 Harriet Katz
 Michael Libby
 Judy Plano