



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

Adar 5779/March-April 2019

From the desk of Rabbi Asch

“Hillel says: Do not separate yourself from the community.” Pirkei Avot 2:4

In preparing for my second term on the Board of Trustees for the Central Conference of American Rabbis, I’ve been talking to colleagues across the country, telling them a little bit about myself and my rabbinate, and hearing about the work they are doing. Many of my fellow board members come from big cities and big congregations. As I have been talking about life here in Central Maine, I’ve been reflecting on what makes being a part of this community so special for me and for my family, and perhaps for all of you.

The quote from Pirkei Avot above resonates with me. What is the community? What does it mean to separate from the community? Why is it so important to be a part of community? I imagine that the answers to these questions are different for everyone. Some people have told me it is important for their children to learn about Judaism and to know other Jewish children. Others have said that they find meaning in attending Torah study and learning more as an adult. Many have spoken about the power of community during times of happiness and of mourning—sharing stories of celebrating *b’nai mitzvah* and the comfort of others when a loved one has died. One person summed up this question by saying that he comes not only because he enjoys services and Torah study, but because he might be the tenth. You never know when you will be the person who allows us to have a minyan so that we can hear Torah and say *kaddish*. No matter what your reason, we are so glad you are a part of our community.

Part of this saying is a caution to stay in community even when differences arise. *Berachot* 58a relates the blessing upon seeing a crowd of Jews. “Blessed is God who discerns secrets, for the mind of one is not like another, nor is the face of one like another.” This Talmudic saying relates a truth that we know—we look different and we think differently. However, despite any differences that might arise, we understand the importance of being in community.

I want to highlight one opportunity to be a part of the broader community—the Maine Conference for Jewish Life, which will happen on June 21-23rd at Thomas College (Waterville) and downtown Waterville. We will join together for superior Jewish learning, praying, community, and food! Early bird registration ends March 31st so register now! <http://www.colby.edu/jewishlife/registration/>. The full schedule is posted. It is going to be an amazing weekend.



I look forward to seeing you at our many, many events in the coming months. Thank you for being a part of our community!

TBE Schedule: March—April

Services

Saturday, March 2

10:30am Shabbat Service

12:30pm Kiddush lunch

Saturday, March 9

Shabbat Together

10:00am Shabbat Service

11:15am Torah Study

12:15pm Lunch

2:00pm Maine Museum Tour

Friday, March 15

5:30pm Tot Shabbat Dinner

7:00pm Shabbat Service

Friday, March 29

6:00pm Shabbat Service

7:00pm Potluck dinner

Saturday, March 30

10:00am Bat Mitzvah of Yana Montell

Friday, April 26

7:00pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, April 27

9:00am Tot Shabbat

10:00am Matzah Brei Brunch

11:00am Passover Service with Yizkor

Torah Study

Saturday, March 9

11:15am Torah Study (see Services)

Saturday, March 16

10:30am Torah Study & Kiddush Lunch

Saturday, April 6

10:30am Torah Study & Kiddush Lunch

Hebrew School

9:30 am on Sunday, March 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31

9:30am on Sunday, April 7, 21, & 28

TBE Activities

Thursday, March 7

5:30pm Soup & Study

Wednesday, March 20

6:00-7:30pm All Ages Purim (hamentaschen making, dinner, the Purim story)

7:30-??? Adult Purim @ Maine House, Hallowell

Thursday, March 28

5:30pm Soup & Study

Wednesday, April 17

5:30pm TBE Book Club

Saturday, April 20

5:30pm Community Passover Seder

Wednesday, April 24

5:30pm Soup & Study

Interfaith Activities

Every Tuesday

12:30pm Volunteering at Addie's Attic

Thursday, March 14

11:00am Interfaith Study

Thursday, April 11

11:00am Interfaith Study

Condolences

Temple Beth El sends condolences to the Shapiro family on the death of Harold on February 23, 2019. Harold was the president of the Gardiner synagogue just before it merged with Temple Beth El. He was very active in the Gardiner community where he lived for more than 50 years. *Zichrono l'vracha*, may his memory be for a blessing.

Your Rabbi in Action!



Rabbi Asch stays busy. In January and February, she taught a Colby JanPlan course on community organizing, hosted a Tu B'Shevat seder, spoke at rally against immigration detention, visited the Unitarian Church to talk about Judaism, welcomed a new baby into the TBE community, helped launch Project Zug, and so much more!



To TBE, an Amazing Congregation...Thank You

By Judith Plano

As many of you know I have been quite ill on and off for over a year. It started at the end of August 2017 when I had emergency open heart surgery. Luckily, we had just started a week-long family vacation and all my children were here to take care of Angeleigh. At the end of the week they took her to my brother's in NY where she stayed for two months.

Meantime, back in Augusta, once I returned home from rehab, meals were made for me three times a week under the direction of a friend and congregant. Everyone made so much food I was able to put leftovers in the freezer for weekends. This was beyond helpful because the day after I got home from rehab I came down with pneumonia and hardly was able to get out of bed or off the couch.

Sadly, this was not the end because I developed an autoimmune disease with fevers, pain, and fatigue. The only treatment was steroids which weakened my bones to such an extent that I started to get extremely painful stress fractures in my spine necessitating more surgery and ultimately broke a hip which led to a partial hip replacement. Now they have discovered that I have an extremely rare condition that happens in less than 1% of thoracic repair of the aorta. The doctors in Portland are not in agreement as to how to treat it so I am waiting on getting a second opinion in Boston.

During all this time Angeleigh and I have not been alone. One congregant and friend single-handedly tackled my overgrown gardens and yard all summer. People still made food. Other friends from the congregation came, and continue to come, once a week for several hours to help with laundry and dishes and heavy work, adding new railings to inside stairs etc. Others come to visit, which is great because I was not getting out. One person said to call if I needed anything beyond his wonderful bean soup and I called him to shovel me out. One person called and said "What can I do?" and she came and took Angeleigh out for the afternoon then came back, after buying Angeleigh a book at her favorite store, B&N, and cooked us supper. I had to be re-hospitalized several times and friends from the congregation took in Angeleigh for the afternoon and night and got her to and from school, a major undertaking. A teenager working on her Bar Mitzvah took Angeleigh to the park and made us some delicious meals. People gave us rides and got Angeleigh to and from camp all summer. When I made it to a pot luck or soup and study someone always filled a plate for me. One intrepid visitor played many games of Chutes and Ladders with Angeleigh. Of course, the Rabbi went above and beyond her duties, making food, coordinating rides, and caregivers and doing whatever she saw needed to be done.

My children have been amazed at the support and I am beyond grateful. If I have appeared less than thankful for all the care please understand that sometimes I was too weak to even write. Also, many of the issues I have been dealing with are life changing or even life threatening. That really messes with your head, especially when you are trying to provide a "normal" life for a young child. I appreciate your care more than you will ever know.

THANK YOU TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU

What's happening at TBE



**Soup and Study
with Rabbi Stacey Blank
from Kehilat Shir
Chadash in Israel**

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

**THURSDAY MARCH 7TH FROM 5:30-7:00PM
TEMPLE BETH EL
PLEASE RSVP TO THE OFFICE SO WE HAVE
ENOUGH FOOD!**

SHABBAT TOGETHER!

Spend shabbat with Temple Beth El, Augusta and Beth Israel Congregation, Bath. We will pray and study together, share a meal and visit the Maine State Museum's Maine + Jewish exhibit.

You are welcome to come to one or all of these Shabbat events:

10am Shabbat morning Torah service led by Rabbi Vinikoor

11:15am Torah Study led by Rabbi Asch

12:15 Lunch. Food is provided. We welcome contributions of dessert or fruit.

2pm Behind the Scenes Museum Tour for adults with curator Amy Waterman and kid-friendly activities with museum educator Joanna Torrow

**Saturday, March 9, 2019, 10am at Temple
Beth El, 3 Woodlawn Street, Augusta**



**CENTER FOR
SMALL TOWN
JEWISH LIFE**

All are welcome. RSVP's for lunch are appreciated by March 6 to bethelaugusta@gmail.com.

This program is sponsored by The Center for Small Town Jewish Life in partnership with Temple Beth El, Augusta and Beth Israel, Bath.



TBE Book Club

Wednesday, April 17

5:30-7:00pm

???

The TBE Book Club has a date, but no book. We will select one soon! Stay tuned!



MAINE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

March 9–17, 2019

Save the date!

Passover Seder @ TBE

Saturday, April 20th

5:30pm

The Maine Jewish Film Festival is *Unsettling*...

Saturday, March 16th

3:00pm, Portland

Join Natalie and TBE congregants for a showing of *Unsettling*, part of the MJFF. In this documentary, a left-wing Israeli director moves to a settlement in the West Bank and interviews people living there. The filmmaker, Iris Zaki, will be in attendance.

<https://mjff.org/film/unsettling/>

Interested? Please RSVP to Natalie: nlshribman@gmail.com. You must buy tickets in advance of the showing.

TEMPLE BETH EL, AUGUSTA

Weekend with Natalie



**FRIDAY MARCH 15TH -
SUNDAY MARCH 17TH**

Friday March 15th

7:00pm, Shabbat Services with Natalie and Rabbi Asch

5:30pm, Tot Shabbat dinner with Natalie (location TBA)

Saturday March 16th

10:30am, Torah Study led by Natalie and Kiddush Lunch

3:00pm, Maine Jewish Film Festival with Natalie. Attend a showing of *Unsettling*, a documentary exploring the West Bank settlements. Buy tickets in advance!

Sunday March 17th

11-12pm, "Creating Israel through Puzzles, Singing and Dancing" Special Israel program open to everyone.



Temple Beth El Presents...

PURIM

Wednesday March 20th
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**Dinner, hamentaschen, and fun at TBE
6:00-7:30**

**Party at The Maine House with Klezmer
music, hamentaschen, a specialty cocktail,
skits, jokes, and costumes!
All are welcome!
(119 Water St, Hallowell)
7:30 – they kick us out!**

Sunday March 24th
..... ❖

**Purim Carnival at Temple Beth El
10-11:30am
Fun for All Ages!!!**

Decorative elements include: colorful confetti, two masquerade masks (one purple and blue, one green and purple), a green balloon dog, and a bunch of colorful balloons (pink, purple, yellow, orange, teal).

Hebrew School



Next Teen Event: Broomball @ Colby!

Sunday, March 10th
1:30—4:30pm

We'll gather together for snacks and learn about Jewish dietary laws. Then we'll head over to the ice rink for some broomball. Sign up at

colbycollegejewishlife.regfox.com/teen-track-4

Hebrew School Schedule

9:30 am on Sunday
March 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31
April 7, 21, & 28
NO HEBREW SCHOOL ON April 14!



Teen Trip to Boston April 5—7

Registration for our teen trip to Boston will open the evening of March 10th. Make sure you sign up early. Limited spaces are available. We'll spend time exploring Jewish Boston, celebrate Shabbat and visit a local synagogue.



Donations

Capital Campaign 2019

- Jay Franzel
- Marilyn Friedman
- Seth Greene
- Paul Linet
- Jennifer Lipman Shinnars

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

- Elaine Katz-Hanish

Yahrzeit/Memorials

- Emily & Ethan Bessey in memory of Richele Gross
- Emily & Ethan Bessey in memory of Leo Bessey
- Emily & Ethan Bessey in memory of Ezra Bessey
- Susan Bakaley & Chris Marshall in memory of Perry Bakaley
- Emily & Jerry Bley in memory of Lauraine Goodrich
- Richard Dana in memory of Jacob Dana
- Sarah & Michael Drickey in memory of Beverly Drickey
- Sarah & Mike Drickey in memory of David Spalding
- Janika Eckert & Rob Johnston in memory of Rose Eckert
- Janika Eckert & Rob Johnston in memory of Erik Eckert
- Andrea & Em Freed in memory of Leah D. Freed
- Andrea & Em Freed in memory of Fred P. Freed
- Andrea & Em Freed in memory of Harriet R. Werlin
- Ellen Freed and Carol Barlow in memory of Leah Freed
- Joan & Lowell Freiman in memory of Laura Goldstein
- Anya & Allen Goldey in memory of Laura Goldstein
- Pauline & Reg Hannaford in memory of Helen Hannaford
- Pauline & Reg Hannaford in memory of Henry Thielman
- Elizabeth Koopman in memory of Jane Bridgman Koopman
- Mike Levey in memory of Harold Shapiro
- Beth & Steven Shapiro in memory of James Carvutto



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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Vice President

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 Judith Plano (Yad B'Yad)
 Fran Rudoff (Fundraising)

March Yahrzeits

March 3 Samuel L. Gershon
 Hyman Norken
 Milton Prager
 March 8 Isadore L. Risen
 March 10 Walter Barlow
 March 13 Patricia Manley
 Sydney Sewall
 March 14 Edith Richardson
 March 16 Rose Golden
 Elizabeth Sax
 Elenor Sylvia Slosberg
 March 20 Mollie Libben
 Shirley Melzer
 March 21 Bernice Golden Stone
 March 23 Nick Scott
 Bill Viles
 March 24 Margaret Kovacs
 Adele Swarzman
 March 25 Louis Smith
 March 26 Jacqueline Golden
 Daniel Clifford Gross
 Frank Salvino
 March 27 Joseph Shapiro
 March 28 Victor Feldmus
 March 29 Dora Brittain
 Ethel Porter
 March 30 Lillian Freiman
 March 31 Cynthia Haderski
 Andre Fleuriel

April Yahrzeits

April 5 Shirlie Goldman
 Toby Rudginsky
 April 6 Charles Bader
 April 7 Lewis Brown
 Lowell Fried
 Sten Jespersen
 Hyman Sandler
 Jonathan Schiff
 April 8 Jonathan Schiff
 April 9 Lillian Lerman
 April 10 Bruce Letizia
 Rhya Seligman
 Miriam S. Woolner
 April 12 Henry S. Price
 Raymond Torch
 Shawn Walker
 Irving Berman
 April 15 Daniel Cooper
 April 16 Shirley R. Siegel
 Margaret Manuel
 April 17 Leonard Dansky
 April 18 Arthur Flynn
 Ephraim Horvitz
 Morris Weiss
 April 21 Larry Saul Cohen
 April 22 Lillian Shapiro
 Robert Sandler
 April 24 Robert Sandler
 April 25 Lena Slosberg Lait
 April 28 Tishelle Glant-Scheinman
 John Marshall
 April 30 Lillian K. Sussman

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



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

Julius Goos
 Michael Libby
 Judy Plano