

Aug 2018/5778

Congregation Etz Chaim

Inside this issue:

<i>Synagogue Building Improvements</i>	2
<i>. Samuel Osher Memorial Library Hours</i> <i>. Torah Study</i>	3
<i>.. Torah Study cont.</i> <i>.. Eddie Macomber Bar Mitzvah pics</i>	4
<i>Volunteer at the Library</i>	5
<i>Cookbook Fundraiser</i>	6
<i>. Hebrew School</i> <i>. Go Green!</i>	7
<i>Join Etz Chaim Jewish Women's Book Club</i>	8
<i>Cantor's Corner Book Review: If the Seas Were Ink</i>	9
<i>Dr. Morton Gold—MI, VT, ME Years</i>	10-11
<i>Jewish Customs—Month of Elul</i>	12
<i>Elaina Hammond Bat Mitzvah pics</i>	13
<i>. Shabbat Services</i> <i>. Board of Directors</i> <i>. Website</i>	14
<i>. High Holidays</i> <i>. Note from the Board</i> <i>. Our Synagogue</i> <i>. Synagogue Contacts</i>	15

The following is the essay submitted by Lucy Macomber in 2018, the third recipient of the Arnold Shapiro Community Service Award:

Dear Etz Chaim Board of Directors and Award Selection Committee,

I am writing to you with hopes that you will select me as a recipient of the Arnold Shapiro Community Service Award for 2018. Though I graduated from high school last year, I decided to take a gap year and am now pursuing college which begins this fall.

From September 2017 through January 2018, I leveraged my interest in Jewish culture and volunteered in a kibbutz in northern Israel. The Jewish community there was small, but strong and close-knit, and being a part of it inspired me to want to make a difference in my Jewish community back home.

There were a lot of differences between the kibbutz and Hebrew School at Etz Chaim, but there were also similarities - the people were loving to one another, committed to community service, curious about how others thought of them, and devout in their Jewish faith. We often compared stories about how our synagogues celebrated traditional holidays, and I challenged my cohort that the latkes from our little kitchen on Bacon Street were better than any others in the world. I told a lot of stories about our Temple!

I wasn't sure what to do to contribute to the Etz Chaim community when I returned. But then I learned about the library project, and I was excited to help Maureen rekindle it's usefulness. I started volunteering in the Etz Chaim (Sam Osher) library in February. Since then I have spent a few days a week cataloging and organizing books, movies and artifacts. When we started, it seemed an impossible task, but since Maureen and I started coming in, huge, visible progress has been made. The overflowing stacks have been shelved, and as we've worked the library has become practically organized and easily accessible to Etz Chaim community and the public. I am proud of my work in the Etz Chaim library, and also pleased that I have had the good fortune to spend time with Maureen.

Raised around Judaism my whole life, I can recount many memories of Hebrew School, services and activities at Etz Chaim. However, it wasn't until I spent time volunteering - as an adult - that Judaism, and Etz Chaim - really became part of my identity. At Etz Chaim I started to learn about Jewish culture and traditions and became a Bat Mitzvah, and now I feel I've become part of the community and look forward to a lifetime of giving back.

Thank you for spending time reading my reflections of the past year!

Let me know if you have questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Lucy Macomber

Synagogue Building Improvements

By Jeff Levy

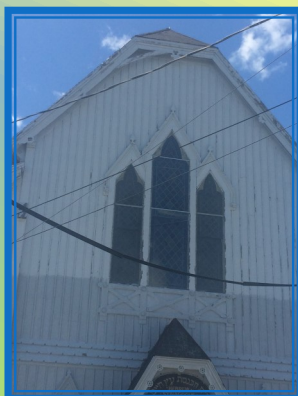
For the first time in nearly four decades, our synagogue has a fresh coat of paint. It was a major undertaking by the board of directors, and you can see that it was well worth the efforts.

The project began in early June, with the preparation. Special equipment and expertise was needed to scrape off the old paint, which was a lead based product. It was necessary to replace many fascia and trim boards that were weathered and rotted over the years. The synagogue's exterior is now in terrific condition, and looks fantastic!

The painting is the latest in a series of improvements made to our synagogue. Over the last several years, we have installed a new floor in the Shapiro Function Room downstairs, carpets in the sanctuary upstairs, as well as the installation of new pews. There are plans to update the kitchen next.

All of these necessary improvements cost a great deal of money, and we rely heavily on the continued support of our membership. Thank you all who have made this possible, and for your continued donations to keep our shul operating and in good condition.

Synagogue Improvement Pics. Pre & Post Painted



Samuel Osher Memorial Library HOURS

Please check the calendar on the Congregation Etz Chaim website www.etzchaimme.org/calendar/ for the most up to date schedule of days and hours.

The Samuel Osher Memorial Library is open at least two days each week, with a third day to be added this fall. Generally, the Library opens at 10 AM and closes at 2 PM. When Hebrew School begins this fall, the Library will be open from 10 AM to 6 PM on Thursdays, in addition to two other days (hours to be determined).

If you would like to make other arrangements to visit, please email Maureen King at library@etzchaimme.org or somlibrarymaine@gmail.com.

Torah Study Comes to Biddeford

By David Strassler

Last year, the Board of Directors of Congregation Etz Chaim contracted Cantor Strassler to lead two Shabbat services a month; one the first Friday night of the month and one on the third Saturday morning of the month. This was a departure from our previously lay led services of two Saturday mornings a month.

Although I am more of a Saturday morning services type of guy, I was up for the change. And I have enjoyed our Friday evening services, with Cantor Strassler leading prayers with her guitar accompaniment. Yet, I still missed that second Saturday morning service.

Several months ago, I asked Jack Schraeter, who helps lead the Saturday morning services by giving a D'vor Torah, if he would be interested in getting together on a Saturday morning a month, to do Torah study. "Of course," he said. "This would give me an opportunity to expand on my typical D'vor Torah and have more discussion without the time restraints of our usual Shabbat service."

The Congregation Etz Chaim Ritual Committee thought this was a good idea, and wanted to participate. This has led to our Torah Study session the second Saturday of the month this summer.

We begin by gathering our breakfast to nosh on (bagels, cream cheese, lox, herring, fruit salad, juice, coffee) as we listen and discuss. During the session, each member of the Ritual Committee takes a turn in presenting an interesting aspect of the parsha (Torah reading) from his/her particular area of expertise. Each presentation initiated a lively discussion from everyone around the table.

Here are excerpts from our August Torah Study from Parshat Re'eh (8/11/18):

"When the Lord your God brings you into the land that you are about to enter and possess, you shall pronounce the blessings at Mount Gerizim and the curse at Mount Ebal." Deut. 11:29

Jack Schraeter shared a synopsis of this week's parsha, and put this verse in a historical perspective. Whereas Moses was preparing the Israelites for their journey into the Promised Land, he was letting them know that they will be getting another round of instructions, once they got there, about what is right and wrong. We can then go into the first book of Prophets: Joshua, and find where that happens. This then led to a discussion about when the Torah was written and canonized.

Torah Study Comes to Biddeford, cont.

By David Strassler

You shall not eat anything abhorrent. Deut. 14:3

Next, *Alan Fink* facilitated a discussion about Kashrut (kosher) and its relevance (or lack of) in today's Jewish life. Further discussion focused on how difficult it is to explain to a non-Jew what kosher is, and how you can still be Jewish if you don't "follow all of the rules".

Are they not on the other side of the Jordan far beyond, in the direction of the sunset, in the land of the Canaanite... Deut. 11:30

Then, *Cantor Strassler* shared several of the nuances when chanting this verse of Torah. She explained how the cantillation (trope) accompanying the Hebrew elucidate the meaning of the verse. In this case, a pause in chanting this line, lets us know that the comma (pause) would be after "beyond" instead of after "the Jordan". This clarifies how far in Canaan Joshua will pronounce the blessing and curse.

The blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I enjoin upon you this day... Deut. 11:27

And lastly, *David Strassler* led a discussion on the Hebrew root: Shin-Mem-Ayin. This is the root to the Hebrew word *Shema*. The translation to the word *Shema* is sometimes "hear" and other times "listen". In the above text, the same root is translated "obey". Discussion led to how this becomes the preferred translation because of the context and its proximity to the word *commandments*. In English, when a parent tells their child: "Listen to me.", this typically means: "listen to what I say and do what I say". So, in this interpretation, the *Shema* is an active process, not a passive one.

The Torah Study session has been well attended and will continue on the second Saturday of each month, from 9:30-11:00. We hope you join us.

Eddie Macomber's Bar Mitzvah



Volunteers Wanted for the Samuel Osher Memorial Library

Maureen King

As the Library gets ready for circulation automation, there are many tasks to be accomplished at the Samuel Osher Memorial Library this Fall. We hope you will find something on this list that inspires you to volunteer. Some of these are large, multi-day tasks while others are short or can be done in pieces. As we complete tasks, we will remove them and add new tasks. Keep checking back if you don't find a task that suits you this time. We'd love to have you work at the Library with us! Contact the Library at library@etzchaimme.org, or call Maureen King at 207-282-2907 (home) or 207-284-5771 (synagogue)!

1. Card Catalog: Pull title cards; match with author cards.
 2. Card Catalog: Re-alphabetize author cards.
 3. Type cards for videos. Stamp.
 4. Catalog audio CD's: acquisition log.
 5. Type cards for audio CD's. Stamp.
 6. Mark children's books with E and holiday stickers, sort and re-shelve.
 7. Mark young adult books with YA stickers, sort and re-shelve.
 8. Collect recipes for cookbook (for October 1 deadline).
 9. Sell cookbook ads and dedications for October 1 deadline.
 10. Pre-sell cookbooks (for December 1 delivery).
 11. Pull books for damage, multiple copies, suitability/timeliness. Pull cards from catalog. Mark as discard in accession books. Sort for Hanukkah sale, donation, or discard.
 12. Sort artwork: keep, Hanukkah sale, or donate.
 13. Prep for Hanukkah book and stuff sale: sort books, etc., price items.
 14. Put together photo album with labeled photographs.
 15. Put together album of programs.
 16. Catalog Teen Class books (in teen classroom): acquisition log.
 17. Type cards/pockets/labels for Teen Class books, mark with stickers. Stamp.
 18. Move Teen Class books to one area, sort and re-shelve (only after #16 and #17 are complete).
 19. Type cards for books--author, book card, pocket, label. Stamp.
 20. Cover books.
 21. Staff the library for patron assistance (always on Thursday afternoons during the school year).
 22. Help generate and produce program ideas: book readings by authors, storytelling times, other events?
 23. Hebrew readers: help catalog Hebrew language books. Acquisition log, cards, pocket, label (all in English). Stamp.
- More to come as we get closer to the actual circulation automation project!

COOKBOOK FUNDRAISER

By Maureen King

The Samuel Osher Memorial Library is very excited to announce that the Library Committee is putting together a very special cookbook, filled with your favorite Congregation Etz Chaim recipes! Monies raised from sales of the completed cookbook will benefit the Library fund for books and materials.

Recipes will be collected until September 30, in order to have the cookbook ready in time for Hanukkah. The cookbook will feature many potluck favorites from over the years, including the famous Etz Chaim challah recipe and Marc's famous latkes, along with family heirlooms collected from congregation members and friends. Our goal is to have 300 recipes, so please share yours!

You can share your recipes with the Library Committee, either sending us a recipe by mail (P. O. Box 905, Kennebunk, ME 04043), by email (library@etzchaimme.org), or by filling out a recipe blank available at the Library. There is a space for a note about the recipe--we hope you will share a brief history of the recipe, or a dedication to the person who made it.

You can also share a recipe by going online to www.typensave.com. Our user name is **Library Etz Chaim** and the password is **blender220**.

Pre-ordering your cookbook, and those that you need for gifts, will guarantee that you get a copy in time for Hanukkah baking and gifting. Pre-ordered cookbooks will cost \$18. Cookbooks purchased after delivery will cost \$23.

To help defray costs of publishing, the Library Committee will sell memorials or dedications for \$18 each, and will sell advertisements beginning at \$36 each. Please see one of the committee members for more information: Sue Rubin, Susan Pierce, Maureen King, and Julie Campisi.

And of course, if you'd like to help put the cookbook together, please reach out to the Library Committee at library@etzchaimme.org or call 207-284-5771 and leave a message.

Look for an email or USPS mail with more details coming soon! The Library page at www.etzchaimme.org will also have Cookbook Fundraiser information and links to the recipe contribution page. Thanks for supporting the Library!!



An exciting year ahead for the Etz Chaim Hebrew School!

By Jeff Levy

We are pleased to share with our community exciting plans for our upcoming year of Hebrew School, beginning on September 27th.

Cantor Beth Strassler will be overseeing our programming, which will include education in Judaica, Torah Studies, Hebrew Language and Ethics. There are plans to learn about and celebrate the Jewish Holidays, and the entire school will be involved in Mitzvah projects, where we will be learning about Tikun Olam and helping members of our community who are in need. Throughout the calendar year there will be field trips, holiday celebrations, plays, crafts and other innovative learning activities. Healthy snacks are served each week to boot.

David Strassler leads the teen class, and will be available for post Bar and Bat Mitzvah learners, where participants continue their Jewish education, with in-depth discussions about books, movies, and current events.

The other Hebrew School Faculty includes Leah Macomber, Denise Hammond, Ethan Davis and me, Jeff Levy. We encourage members of our community with a connection to Judaism and school-aged children, to learn more about what we have to offer.



\$

You could save trees & money by
receiving your newsletter & all Jewish
community announcements electroni-
cally.

Just write to our mail address and
ask to

"Go Green".



Join the Etz Chaim Women's Jewish Book Club!

By Leah Macomber

New to the Etz Chaim scene this year has been the Etz Chaim Women's Jewish Book Club – and it has been a success! When Susan Pierce introduced the idea in December, I didn't know how I would fit it into my busy schedule, but since I love books and I also wanted to make stronger connections with women at the Temple, I decided to give it a try. During the year, I traded books for the morning news, volunteered to pick up the kids just to read a few extra pages in the car, stole hours in the middle of the night to find out what was happening next, and even tried out audio books to keep on track while walking, running and driving. When each book ended, I had delightful discussions with Book Group members. Through this activity, I have truly enjoyed getting to know some wonderful women.

So far this year, we've read seven books. They were all Jewish themed, but very different. We read the biography, My Own Words, by Ruth Bader Ginsburg, an autobiography Famous Father Girl, by Jamie Bernstein (daughter of Leonard Bernstein), and a biographical novel about Marc Chagall and his daughter Ida, The Bridal Chair, by Gloria Goldreich. We read two very different Holocaust books: one set in Egypt, called Day After Night, by Anita Diamant, and one that started in Poland, called We Were the Lucky Ones, by Georgia Hunter. We also read a fantasy novel set in early New York City, The Golem and the Jinni, by Helene Wecker, and a book of historical fiction partially set in 17th Century England, called The Weight of Ink, by Rachel Kadish.

Even though all the books this year have been written by women, that is not a requirement. In fact, there are very few requirements – 1) books are Jewish themed, and 2) members are women. You can read all, some or no part of the book and still come to the meetings for book discussion and socializing – we have fun! Meetings are organized by email, usually on weekday evenings at the Temple, and we try to serve snacks.

I'm so glad that I figured out how to fit in this book club – the books and the Etz Chaim women have enriched my life. If you'd like more information, or if you'd like to join the Etz Chaim Women's Jewish Book Club, please contact Susan Pierce at the_pierces@roadrunner.com.





Cantor's Corner

By Cantor Beth Strassler

Jews having chutzpah is not a modern invention. It is an ancient tradition. Jews look at our relationship with God to be dynamic, vital, ongoing, and definitely a two way street.

Abraham respectfully argues with Adonai over the decision to destroy the corrupt cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. When he hears Adonai's plan, he responds with "Will You really sweep away the innocent along with the guilty?"¹ He asks, "What if there are 50 righteous people?" 45? 30? 20?" As they respectfully banter, Adonai answers that he will forgive the whole place for the sake of each decreasing number of righteous people.

But 10 is the last straw. There has to be at least 10 righteous people. When Abraham is unable to find even ten righteous people, the cities are doomed. One interpretation of this Midrash gives the event credit for the Jewish tradition of needing a minyan, 10 people, in order to conduct public prayer.

Moses argues with Adonai right from the start. He doesn't want the job of leading the Jews out of Egypt. He tells Adonai that right there at the burning bush with doubtful question after question. "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, that I should bring the Children of Israel out of Egypt?"² From Who am I? he proceeds to: But how will I tell the people Your name?. Next is: What if they don't believe me? followed by: I am not a public speaker! and finally: Please ask someone else. This is the end of God's patience. God throws up both hands and responds with something like Fine! Use Aaron as your mouthpiece! I will tell you what to tell him to say! In the middle of this, God also tries to reassure Moses by saying "I myself will be there (with you)".³ I am always touched when I read or chant "I am with you" V'anochi is one of the sweetest words. It reassures Moses that he will be accompanied by God throughout the Jews' exodus from Egypt. He will not be alone. They will do it together.

It is believed that during the ten days of repentance, Adonai's presence is especially close to us. As we review our year and apologize to those we have hurt, Adonai is with us. We have a job to do together: Our job is to pray & repent, and Adonai's job is to be with us and to listen...really listen...attentively. We pull out all the stops with prayers only recited during these holidays, a unique Torah chant, beautiful music, Yizkor, a hearty congregational participation and reverence.

One of the unique prayers during these holidays is "Sh'ma Koleinu". We say to Adonai: Listen to our voices! But the verb is not in just any form: It is in the form of a command. What chutzpah! We command God to keep up the heavenly side of our relationship by listening attentively to our voices, our shofar, our music. With each blast of the shofar, we are reminded of the shofar at Sinai. As each blast ascends heavenward, God is reminded to be with us and listen—really, really listen.

May you have a sweet year full of health and joy for you and your family. שנה טובה ומתוקה Beth

Footnotes 1, 2, 3: Direct quotations are from: Fox, Everett. (1997) The Five Books of Moses: A new Translation with Introduction, Commentary and Notes. Schocken Books: New York.

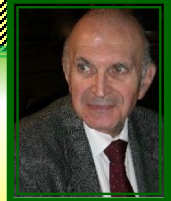
Book Review: If the Seas Were Ink

By Lucy Macomber

If the Seas Were Ink by Ilana Kurshan is an intelligent, passionate memoir. This memoir describes an American Jewish woman's journey with learning Talmud through *daf yomi*, a global book club dedicated to learning one page of Talmud every day, for seven and a half years at a time.

Kurshan poetically recounts her life and personal growth during her studies, bringing stories from each tractate (section) to life with anecdotes from history, mythology and her everyday life throughout the years.

Her wholesome, introspective style paints the Talmud as not only approachable, but relatable and interesting. After reading this book, you might find yourself picking up your siddur more often.



Dr. Morton Gold - The Michigan, Vermont and Maine Years: 1982-Present

by Cantor Beth Strassler

Introduction: Nine years ago, Dr. Morton Gold joined the minyan at Congregation Etz Chaim on Bacon Street in Biddeford, ME. As I became acquainted with Dr. Gold, I learned that he has composed Jewish liturgical music for the majority of his 85 years. I have sung many of his solo sacred compositions in synagogue and at recitals. The music is inspirational in a way that I have not experienced in other contemporary composers. As I became more and more immersed in its sounds, I became intrigued with how this composer's life events have shaped his music. My thesis for partial fulfillment of my Master of Arts degree in Jewish Studies chronicles Dr. Gold's eighty-five years of life and sixty-six years of composing. It identifies the musical influences during his formative years, and their specific impact on his later compositions.

The Michigan Years: 1982-1986: The Gold family relocated because Dr. Gold took his next position at a large synagogue in West Bloomfield, Michigan. He had been recommended for the position by Cantor Chaim Najman. His daughter, Sara, went to college, so she never made the move to Michigan with her family.

Dr. Gold worked with Cantor Harold Orbach for three years. However, his responsibilities kept growing and communication among the staff suffered until it all became unmanageable.

Dr. Gold took a job at a school in the town of River Rouge, teaching both music and English. However, the school board eliminated his position due to budget cuts.

The Vermont Years: 1987-2007: Dr. Gold found work in Vermont and the family moved there in 1987. He recalls this time in his life with pleasure. He "went on the market" and accepted a position in the high school music program in Rutland.

One of his most rewarding endeavors while living in Rutland was his association with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. He and the pastor of the church had each studied with the same teacher at Boston University. They worked well together for about twelve years, until the pastor left the church.

For sixteen years, Dr. Gold led the church's volunteer choir. It started out small, but after the second year, its membership grew to thirty. His daughter, Beth, claims, "The people in the Rutland choir would have done anything for my Dad." There was tremendous respect between director and choir members that grew with each passing year.

Dr. Gold patiently developed the capability of his choir. After a few years, he was able to lead the choir in some "very significant" pieces of music, which increasingly included more of his own compositions. Three of his oratorios were performed: Proverbs of the Sages, Haggadah and Havdalah.

Dr. Gold presented an annual concert of his works at the Rutland Jewish Center. "I always try to balance my concerts between vocal and instrumental pieces," remarks Dr. Gold. As his choir improved, he began to perform more of his own works, some of significant size.

I asked Dr. Gold if he composed during this period with this specific choir in mind. I was surprised when he emphatically answered, "No!" He continued to compose what he believed needed to be composed. He then taught his choir what they needed to learn in order to sing the repertoire.

Dr. Gold was very satisfied with the arrangement at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and so were the choir members. A huge, predominantly green quilt now hangs on the wall beside his piano. Each of the choir members' names is represented on a square. Gold considered his role with the choir as a teacher. He taught his choir members through the years, and developed a very capable group of singers. During this time, Dr. Gold also taught music for eight years at Rutland High School, and then at St. Joseph's Catholic School for seven years.

Dr. Morton Gold - The Michigan, Vermont and Maine Years: 1982-Present (cont.)

The “Retirement” Years: Springvale, ME: 2007-Present: Morton and Esther moved back to Maine in 2007 to be near their younger daughter, Beth, and their granddaughters. Beth remembers that she could not understand why they would move at that particular time. She worried they would not be able to re-establish themselves in a new community. Her concerns centered on whether her parents would be involved or have enough activities to remain healthy.

Beth watched her Mom and Dad competently make their own way in this new Maine community. She marveled at her father’s ability to jump right in and find a steady position for substitute teaching. He adapted some of his compositions for the high school band and is accompanist for the high school chorus. He serves as organist and choir director at St. George’s Episcopal Church. He made his way to Congregation Etz Chaim, our little synagogue on Bacon Street in Biddeford, and usually leads the Shabbat musaf service. In addition, he writes music reviews for both the local newspaper and a column for an online source, the Jewish Post and Opinion.

When he moved back to Maine, Dr. Gold thought his composing career was over. He packed up his copies of musical compositions and various other career memorabilia. He mailed all of the boxes to the Judaica Sound Archives at Florida Atlantic University. Originally he intended to retire from composing as well as teaching. For several reasons, this was not a comforting thought.

In 2007, Gold received a commission to compose an anthem for the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, his former employer in Rutland. He finished the piece and traveled back to conduct the premiere. Next, he composed a bassoon sonata. The Shrewsbury Wind Quintet in Vermont premiered the piece. In the following year, he conducted the premiere of his newly composed Concert March with the Strafford Wind Ensemble in New Hampshire. Before long, he realized he could continue to compose and conduct even in “retirement.” That is a comforting thought!

Morton Gold continues to compose and conduct to this day. He regularly participates in Shabbat services at Congregation Etz Chaim in Biddeford and Temple Beth El in Portland, ME. His beautiful tune for Adon Olam is my favorite!

I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to learn from Dr. Gold: Music theory, Yiddish (his first language), and, best of all, singing many of his liturgical compositions. They are a wonderful balance of traditional and modern musicality, which brings new meaning to each prayer. I sang eight at my Senior Recital at Hebrew College in March of 2017. Dr. Gold accompanied me on piano.

NEXT TIME: The Making of The Music: Dr. Gold’s Unique Style

Jewish Customs: The Month of Elul & Its Historical Events

Adapted from <jewishagency.org> & <jewfaq.org> by Cantor Beth Strassler

The Month of Elul Sunday, August 12th, marked the beginning of the period of repentance, the beginning of the month of Elul. Today, August 13, is Elul 2.

The Zodiac sign for the month of Elul is Virgo (a young girl), which is reflected also in the verse, 'Return, young girl of Israel, return to these towns of yours!' (Jeremiah 31:20).

This concept is behind the designation of the month of Elul (the last month of the year before Rosh Hashanah) as the time of Teshuvah - Repentance, literally "return". The Prophet Jeremiah uses this parallel between a 'young girl' and Israel on several occasions, as does Isaiah. The Prophets use of the term 'return' implies 'returning to God', or repentance.

In Aramaic (the vernacular of the Jewish people at the time that the month names were adopted), the word "Elul" means "search," which is appropriate, because this is a time of year when we search our hearts.

"Elul" in Hebrew may also be understood as an acronym of the first four Hebrew words of Song of Songs "I belong to my beloved and my beloved is mine" 'My beloved' is interpreted allegorically as a reference to G-d, and 'I' as referring to Israel. Each of these four Hebrew words ends in the letter yod, which has the numerical value of 10: using gematria, four tens make 40, and this is said to refer to the 40 days of Teshuvah - repentance, from the first of Elul through the tenth of Tishrei.

When Moses was about to present the first set of Tablets to the Children of Israel, he witnessed their sin over the Golden Calf and broke the tablets in anger (or did they slip from his hands?). **The shofar was sounded before Moses went back up Mount Sinai** and begged for God's mercy and forgiveness for the peoples' sins. At the end of 40 days, God was appeased and told Moses to 'Hew out two stone tablets, like the first ones' (Ex 34:1, Deut 10:1).

On the 10th of Tishrei (Yom Kippur), Moses came down from the mountain with the second set of Commandments on this pair of Tablets.

The 40 days (30 days of Elul and the first 10 of Tishrei) have therefore been designated as days of repentance, so that sins can be forgiven. Selichot, additional prayers, are said to ask for forgiveness. The Ashkenazi custom is to say selichot first on the Sunday or Saturday night immediately preceding Rosh Hashanah. But, if like this year, RH falls on Monday, Selichot is said a week earlier to allow for the prayers to be said for at least four days. This year selichot are said on Saturday evening, September 1.

At the end of the morning and evening prayers during the month of Ellul, Psalm 27 is said. From the second day to the 28th day of Elul, the shofar (a hollowed out ram's horn) is blown after weekday morning services to remind people that the Day of Judgement is approaching. Rambam explains that the very piercing sound of the shofar is as a wake-up call to sleepers, designed to rouse us from our complacency. It is a call to action. It is a call to repent.

Adapted from <jewishagency.org> & <jewfaq.org> by Cantor Beth Strassler



Elaina's Bat Mitzvah



Samuel Osher Memorial Library
at Congregation Etz Chaim

Jewish Books, Music & Movies
for the
York County Community

Visit our website:

<http://etzchaimme.org>

Shabbat

Join us for:

Shabbat Services

*The first Friday evening, and the
third Saturday morning of the month*

Cantor Beth Strassler

Torah Study Session

The second Saturday of the month

Ritual Committee

Board of Directors at Congregation Etz Chaim

Julie Campisi
Linda and Frank Federman
Alan Fink
Maureen King
Cynthia Kurtz
Jeff Levy
Leah Macomber
Pamela Small Oliver
Sue Rubin
Jack Schraeter
David Strassler

York County (YC) Jewish Community

This newsletter is published twice each year. It is intended to announce and report on Jewish community events in York County, and especially at Congregation Etz Chaim in Biddeford. It offers local perspectives on historical and contemporary aspects of Jewish life.

Adrianne Levy, Editor & Layout Design Consultants:

Levy family & Board members

mail@etzchaimme.org

If we have your email address, you have been removed from the snail mailing list.

If you wish to continue to receive a paper newsletter, just write/email us.

High Holidays 5779 Fall 2018

Congregation Etz Chaim 36 Bacon Street Biddeford, ME

Rosh Hashanah Day 1

Evening Service: Sunday, Sept 9: 7 pm

Morning Service: Monday, Sept 10: 9:15 am

• Torah Service: 10:15 • Hineni: 11:15

• Service ends: 12:15 • Tashlich follows: 12:30

Rosh Hashanah Day 2

Morning Service: Tuesday, Sept 11: 9:15 am

• Torah Service: 10:15 • Hineni: 11:15

• Service ends: 12:15

Yom Kippur

Evening Service: Tuesday, Sept 18

• Kol Nidre: 6:30 pm

Morning Service: Wed, Sept 19: 9:15

• Yizkor: 11:15 am

Afternoon Service: 5 pm

Community Break Fast: Approx. 6:45 pm

www.etzchaimme.org

Questions? Call 967-5833

A Note From the Board

President David Strassler and the Board of Directors of Congregation Etz Chaim wish you and your family a healthy, happy and peaceful New Year.

Our Synagogue

Our community programs are available to all members of the York County Jewish Community and are driven by the following mission statement:

“We promote Jewish cultural, social, educational and religious activities in southern Maine. Our primary goal is to make available a range of activities that facilitate the expression of what each individual finds valuable in the Jewish experience.

We attempt to accommodate individuals along the entire spectrum of Jewish practice and theology. We value and support the existence of a local formal congregation, but view our community programs as open to all interested people, regardless of whether or to what congregation they may be formally affiliated.”

Synagogue Contacts

Please mail Membership dues to:

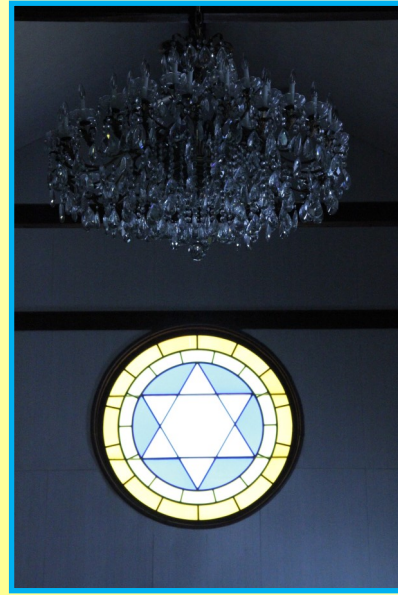
*PO Box 905,
Kennebunk, ME 04043*

Memorial Plaques, Prayer books,
Etz Chaim books of Torah:
Hebrew School/Services:
Shabbat Potlucks:
Library

*David Strassler:
Beth & David Strassler:
Linda Federman:
Maureen King*

*967-5833
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somlibrarymaine@gmail.com*

York County Jewish Community News



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