TEMPLE BETH EL
בית אל

August 6 - 12, 2021
28 Av - 4 Elul 5781

tbe-mail

RE-OPENING UPDATES

In-Person Shabbat Morning Services are Back!

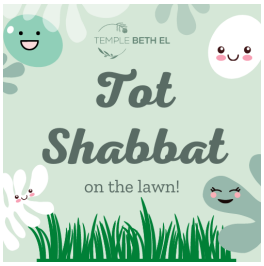
Saturday, August 7
9:30am
In-person indoors, masks required. Kiddush outdoors.

They're back! Shabbat morning services, and the incredible Kiddush that the Kiddush Krew provides are back live, in-person in our newly renovated sanctuary. Join Rabbi Braun and the Shabbat morning crew as they break in the new space before the August b'nai mitzvah and the High Holidays shortly after! For reference, here is our current COVID-19 policy.

Can't join us in-person? Join on the livestream!

Tot Shabbat on the Lawn

Friday, August 6
5-6pm
In-person outdoors, masks required



Led by Debbie Kanter, the evening will start with half an hour of playtime, which will be followed by services starting at 5:30pm.

Please RSVP to morahdebbie@hotmail.com.

Driveway and Parking Lot Paving: Update

As the pandemic has taught us, it is important to be flexible. While we thought the driveway and parking lot would begin to be repaved starting last Monday (August 2), it instead began today (August 5), making both areas inaccessible for about the next week. For Kabbalat Shabbat Services, Shabbat Morning Services, and Morning Minyan, we ask that you use the Susan T. Goldberg Courtyard to enter the building. Please email office@tbemaine.org with any questions.

Courtyard Cookout

The deadline to RSVP for the Courtyard Cookout on August 11th is approaching quickly! Act now to reserve your chicken shawarma or falafel to guarantee an evening not only filled with wonderful friends, but also delicious food.

RSVP

From Rabbi Braun

Shalom Chevreh! Though it's been a while since I last wrote my "I've Been Thinking" article, it's not that I've stopped thinking! As so many of you know, and as I am learning, recovery is a longer process than we think, and healing is a lot more tiring than expected… but it's all good! I can't thank you enough for your cards, your offers to help, the laughter, the advice, the food… I am very grateful to all of you.

This week we read Parshat Re'eh, which is the fourth *parashah* (weekly portion) in the last book of the Torah, Deuteronomy. That means we have only seven more parshiot to go until we finish the Torah and begin all over again at Simchat Torah. Finally, the month of Elul start this week and, most amazingly, only five weeks from Rosh Hashanah! We are in a Jewish whirlwind of emotions, expressing enormous loss, consolation, and beginnings. With the destruction of the Temple on Tisha B'Av, we experienced the loss of Judaism as it had been observed for hundreds of years. Later traditions added the murder of Jews, from the Crusades to the Holocaust as part of the day's observance. From that sad day until Rosh Hashanah, all the Prophetic readings on Shabbat (Haftarot) share the theme of consolation and repair. Each week the Prophet Isaiah assures us that even though life has been difficult and at times tragic, it will not always be that way. We will experience joy, rebirth and connection to one another; we will survive and thrive. And then, before we know it, we shift our focus to Rosh Hashanah and the High Holidays. Our tradition gives us clear ways to prepare - take the month of Elul to examine our actions: go to others to ask for forgiveness and be sure to forgive ourselves; get the ingredients for beautiful Rosh Hashanah meals; and wish one another a *Shanah Tovah* (Happy New Year). No matter whether the holidays fall in July, August or September, the sequence of Jewish holidays remains the same - Tisha B'Av, Elul, and High Holidays; despair, faith in the future, *teshuva*, a new year.

Perhaps our everyday lives parallel the Jewish calendar more than we think. For most of us, thank God, it's not Tisha B'Av, though life, is changing and unsettled. As predicted, COVID-19 still has not gone away, even for those who are vaccinated. This is a time when we have all - from the youngest to the oldest - felt loss. For some the loss has been profound, for others it has been annoying; yet, it has changed the way we all live. From where does our consolation come? I have felt it from the kindness of others. I have also been honored to perform weddings, b'nai mitzvah, baby namings, and conversions. We have welcomed many new and wonderful members. We have created some beautiful, comfortable, welcoming, and prayerful spaces in our building. Our building has been teaming with life from Art Camp and Mad Science. Life, with its many promises, has persevered.

So now we focus on the High Holidays. Each year, several of us work tirelessly to create physical and spiritual space where we might have a moment where we can touch the Divine. Whether it is through connecting with others, scents, food, physical space, Cantor, Rabbi or Machzor, no matter one's age or experience with Judaism, we strive to find the right balance, the right meanings, and the right environment for a meaningful experience. Last year, we knew we would have to reimagine everything. This year, we are hoping and planning for something more usual even as we keep our eyes on current COVID situations.

Every year is different - some more different than others! What is consistent, though, is the Jewish timing. We are always a few weeks out of Tisha B'Av, a few weeks before Simchat Torah, and well into Deuteronomy when we begin planning for the holidays. Unlike the Prophets, we have no way of looking into the future, and have no way of knowing exactly what our COVID precautions will look like. But we do know a few things: We will be safe. We will have tents, good weather, beautiful spaces,

and good *ruach* (spirit), if everything goes according to plan. Rabbi Shoshana and I will join with our talented community and together we will touch the Divine and affirm life. All services in the sanctuary will be live streamed for those who can't join us in person. And if we have to adjust some aspects, we will do what we have to do to keep us as safe as possible; check out our new website for ongoing updates. I'm looking forward to seeing you soon!

Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi

This Shabbat:

Friday, August 6
8:00am Virtual Morning Minyan
5:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat
7:38pm Candle lighting time

Saturday, August 7
9:30am Shabbat Morning Services
9:30am Shabbat Morning Livestream
8:45pm Havdalah

Parashat Re'eh
פרשת ראה
Shabbat Machar Chodesh

Deuteronomy 11:26 - 16:17
Triennial: 12:29 - 14:29
Haftarah: I Samuel 20:18-42

JTS Torah Online

This Week @ TBE

TOT SHABBAT ON THE LAWN

5:00pm in-person Friday 8/6

Parents and kids ages 6 and under are warmly invited to join us for this fun, interactive Family Kabbalat Shabbat service!

Led by Debbie Kanter, we will meet in the playground at 5pm for to start the evening with outdoor play with rumpus equipment. At 5:30pm, we will transition to the front lawn for the family service and story time. Please note that while the event will be held outside, masks will still be required for attendees 3 and older. Please review our current COVID-19 policy before joining us.

RSVP to morahdebbie@hotmail.com.

IN-PERSON KABBALAT SHABBAT

5:30pm in-person Friday 8/6

Please come around back to the Susan T. Goldberg Courtyard.

5:00pm - 5:30pm
Kabbalat Shabbat Oneg Schmooze will be held in the Susan T. Goldberg Courtyard.
Masks optional.

5:30pm
Kabbalat Shabbat services will be held outdoors.
Masks optional, but required at all times when in the building.

Please review our current COVID-19 policy before joining us.

IN-PERSON SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

9:30am in-person and on livestream Saturday 8/7

Join Rabbi Braun and the Shabbat morning crew as they daven the Shabbat morning services in our new sanctuary. After services, we will have Kiddush, prepared by the Kiddush Krew, outside in the Susan T. Goldberg Coutyard.

Please note that masks are required whenever inside our building, except for fully vaccinated services leaders. Please review our current COVID-19 policy for more information.

IN-PERSON MORNING MINYAN

8:00am on Sunday 8/8, Tuesday 8/10, and Wednesday 8/11

Please note: Due to the re-paving of the driveway and parking lot, we ask that you use the courtyard entrance to access the building starting Monday, August 2.

Join Tom Berman (and Darrell Cooper on Tuesdays) for an in-person morning minyan! Meet in the small chapel at TBE. **Please note that you are required to wear a mask indoors at all times** and also that services will continue to be streamed as the Virtual Morning Minyan service. Please email Tom with any questions.

VIRTUAL MORNING MINYAN

8:00am on Zoom Sunday 8/8 thru Friday 8/13

Join Tom Berman and the minyanaires for the only daily minyan in Maine! The service lasts about 30 minutes and is a great chance to start the day in reflection and community.

Upcoming TBE Programs:

Friday, August 13 at 5:30pm
Saturday, August 14 at 9:30am
In-Person
Temple Beth El

Friday, August 20 at 5:30pm
Saturday, August 21 at 9:30am
In-Person
Temple Beth El

A wise woman once said: "Make time for the good times, the bad ones take care of themselves."

As we begin to emerge from the most restrictive days of the pandemic, we have a lot of *l'chaim*'s, high fives, and even some fully vaccinated hugs to make up for. Join us on **August 18th** for some delicious Kosher food (chicken shawarma or falafel on homemade pita anyone?), Sonja and Friends (a swinging jazz band), craft-making for the kids, and most importantly, many friendly faces.

This event is our gift to you (and your friends - invite them!), we just ask that you RSVP no later than August 11th.

RSVP

High Holiday Sponsorship Opportunities

Interested in helping support the High Holidays? We are looking for sponsors of all levels, to fund security, food, tents, and more! Click here to see available sponsorship opportunities.

Contact Kate Shalvoy at director@tbemaine.org or by calling 207-774-2649 ext. 204 to lock down your sponsorship today!

The Giving Corner

Have you considered making a lasting contribution to our community through a planned gift? We would love to talk with you. Contact us by email at giving@tbemaine.org by phone at 207-774-2649 and speak with Kate Shalvoy, ext. 204.

July Donations & Tributes

Special Announcements

Bruchim Haba'im
A warm welcome to new members, Anne Osher and David Herman!

Todah Rabah!
Thank you to Fred Barlow for being a shomer last Friday evening.

Thank you to Paul and Sarah Muscat for sponsoring our first Saturday Kiddush in nearly 18 months! And thank you to Barbara Dichter and the Kiddush Krew for preparing it.

Lulav & Etrog Orders Open Now!
Shake things up this year and order your lulav and etrog set today! Sets ($43.75 each) can be ordered by going to www.tbemaine.org/lulav-etrog or by calling the office at (207) 774-2649. **Orders must be placed by Friday, August 27.**

Sponsor a Kiddush
Did you or your family celebrate a *simcha* this past year? Want to honor a loved one's yahrzeit? With in-person services just around the corner, we are now opening up kiddush or oneg sponsorship opportunities once again. Deb has worked hard to develop a few different kiddush/oneg levels that you can choose from, each a little bit different, but all of them equally delicious. For more information, visit our website.

Kiddush Krew
With our first in-person Shabbat morning services starting up again on August 7, the Kiddush Krew has regrouped and come up with a delicious plan (in conjunction with Deb) to provide mouth-watering Kiddush luncheons after services. But! after a long sojourn, we need some new people power. So! we are asking you, lovely TBE members, if you would like to join the Kiddush Krew! Whether you love to cook, can't cook but like shopping, or just want to help, the Kiddush Krew is for you. Contact our new Kiddush Krew Chair Barbara Dichter for more information.

KJFS Food Box Pickups & Deliveries
Michael Klahr Jewish Family Services is thrilled to announce that, beginning April 27th, they will be offering food box pickups at the JCA, along with deliveries directly to homes of individuals and families in Cumberland & York Counties. The food boxes have been generously provided by Wayside Food Programs and include a variety of non-perishable items. We will be delivering twice weekly, on Tuesday and Thursdays. If you are in need, or if you know of any individuals/families who are homebound and in need of food, please contact us at 207-772-1959 or kjfs@mainejewish.org.

COVID-19 Vaccination Location Website
If you are eligible for a vaccination under current state guidance, but are having trouble find a vaccine location, please visit Maine's Vaccination Sites website to find a vaccination location near you and/or make an appointment.

TBE Kids

This Friday!

Tot Shabbat on the Lawn

Friday, August 6
5-6pm
Services led by Debbie Kanter

Parents and kids ages 6 and under are warmly invited to join us for this fun, interactive Family Kabbalat Shabbat service led by Debbie Kanter!

Meet in the playground at 5pm for outdoor play with rumpus equipment. 5:30-6:00pm family service and story time on the front lawn.

Please note that while the event will be held outside, masks will still be required for attendees 3 and older.

RSVP to education@tbemaine.org

Kadima Beth El Registration for 5782 (2021-22)

Looking for a way to engage and strengthen your child's Jewish identity? Look no further! Kadima Beth El, TBE's religious school, is now accepting registrations for next school year. With a focus on holistic Jewish education, KBE strives to meet each student where they are and provide them with the instruction and support that will create the best learning environment possible. To learn more and/or register, please click on the buttons below.

If you have any questions, please contact KBE Director Abby Halpern at education@tbemaine.org.

קדימה
kadima
BETH EL
HOLISTIC JEWISH EDUCATION

Learn More **Register Now**

Quick Links

Zoom/Livestream Links | Simcha List | Weekly Yahrzeit

KBE School | Amazon Smile | Kiddush Sponsorship

How to Reach Us

Office staff will continue to work from home Mondays and Fridays (where they will check messages and answer emails), but will be in the office Tuesdays-Thursdays.

TBE Office Hours
Tuesday-Thursday
9am-2pm

By Phone
(207) 774-2649

By Email

- Rabbi Braun - rabbi@tbemaine.org
- Kate Shalvoy - director@tbemaine.org
- Zoe Levine Sporer - office@tbemaine.org
- Sherri Quint - controller@tbemaine.org
- Abigail Halpern - education@tbemaine.org
- Deb Criden - events@tbemaine.org

TEMPLE BETH EL

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