



December 18 - 24, 2020
3 - 9 Tevet 5781

tbe-mail



SPECIAL THIS WEEK

Last night of Chanukah!

The absolute shining star of Chanukah this year has been hearing members share moving stories of awe-inspiring moments in their lives before we light the the chanukiyah together each night. If you haven't caught one of these, tonight is your last chance!

Join us on [Zoom](#) at 5:30pm this evening.
Our storytellers tonight will be Barry and Lori Saltz.
Chag urim sameach! Happy Festival of Lights!

From Rabbi Braun



Rabbi Carolyn Braun

If you joined us for our virtual menorah lightings, you'll know that we invited people to share a story responding to the prompt: describe a time when someone did something for you that totally restored your faith in humanity or opened your

heart in a way you didn't feel was possible. I want to thank each person who shared and each person who joined to listen. I found each of the stories to be meaningful, beautiful, and uplifting. As such, I wanted to spotlight their words, instead of mine this week - I hope you find them to be as inspiring as I did.

From TBE Member Alisha Goldblatt:

This wasn't done for me. I don't know who it was for really, maybe the children that live inside all of us, sedimentary layers forming right when we first begin remembering. And I remember that even though Judaism wasn't quite compatible, my parents had no problem letting me go trick or treating. It used to get cold by late October, even in Philadelphia, those stupid winter coats obscuring the costumes, but the thrills of running at night and the gorgeous sugar highs were still attainable.

This year has been full of disappointments that we aren't always supposed to acknowledge, because to do that might diminish the real suffering, won't it? Our kids know they are fortunate to be healthy, and they've learned to stop complaining, sometimes. They make do with what they have. At school, my early-teenaged students stay masked up and stand six feet apart during the lunch break. There's nothing really to do, so they try creating entertainment with the stray rocks on the ground. One group devised some elaborate game, passing the stones with their feet. They'll find the joy somewhere, most of them.

There wasn't anything earth shattering taking place in our neighborhood, just some families out with their Solo stoves and carefully separated chairs. We hit a cold spell just in time for Halloween and no one had their winter blood quite warmed up yet. The candy was placed strategically on tables, contact-free, in the parlance of the times. I was able to walk around the neighboring streets with [my son] Zev, who at the last minute abandoned his tried and true Harry Potter costume for a leaf bag with holes cut out for eyes. It was a nice companion to our neighbors' potted flower-plant costume.

I don't even know many of the people who live on the adjacent streets, but I think I know their hearts. There were a surprising number of neighbors who were sitting on their porches and steps, freezing, greeting the few trick-or-treaters with only their eyes but so much warmth in their voices. Masks finally made sense in this context, and even though no one could openly smile, it was clear we were all smiling, exchanging knowing looks that said that *this* was one way to open doors, to heal ourselves a little. One family had hung bags of candy from an oak tree, free for the taking, and for some reason this cracked my own heart open a little, that they took the time to wrap each bag and tie it into a ghost shape. What kind of place maintains a tradition that involves ringing the doorbells of strangers and taking candy from them in the middle of a global pandemic? This flawed, wounded, heartening, stretched-thin, contradictory, loving place we live.

This Shabbat:

Friday, December 18

8:00am [Virtual Morning Minyan](#)

3:48pm Candle lighting time

Saturday, December 19

9:30am [Shabbat Morning Services](#)

4:56pm Havdalah

Parashat Miketz

פרשת מקץ

Genesis 41:1 - 44:17

Triennial: Genesis 41:53 - 43:15

Haftarah: I Kings 3:15 - 4:1

JTS Torah Online

This Week @ TBE



SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

9:30am on [Zoom](#) Saturday 12/19

Join Rabbi Braun and the Shabbat morning crew as they daven the traditional Shabbat morning services.



VIRTUAL MORNING MINYAN

8:00am on [Zoom](#) Sunday 12/20 through Friday 12/25

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:

Shabbat Bachutz

Saturday January 2 - 10:00am

An outdoor Shabbat experience

led by Rabbinic Intern Lorin Troderman



[More Information](#)

[Registration](#)



The Giving Corner

This week we celebrate Chick and Sharon Levine. Lifelong Mainers and passionate supporters of several Jewish institutions across the state, they finally settled in Portland a few years back and we had the great fortune to officially welcome them as members in 2018. Thanks to their thoughtful generosity we have been able to: create the Tot Spot - a place for little ones to play while we pray; provide security for this year's in-person High Holiday events; stay on track to meet our annual dues budget goal during this challenging year; and install beautiful new signage (coming Spring 2021!). Our community is more joyful, inviting, and safe because of you. Todah rabah!



[November Donations & Tributes](#)

Special Announcements

Our New Bin!

Remember that unwieldy trash can that we kept Clynk bags in? Well, it's no more! Thanks to a generous donation by Elaine Kahaner, we have recently invested in a larger, more water-tight, less ugly bin that we have placed to the left of the front door. Not only will you be able to regularly find Clynk bags inside, but we will also employ it for pick-ups and drop-offs when needed as we continue to work from home.

Programming Survey Synopsis

Thank you for participating in our programming survey. The results were tremendously insightful. Here are some takeaways:

- We, as a community, are experiencing high screen fatigue and don't really want a ton of digital programming
- We are excited about Tikkun Olam, specifically in regards to programming focused on racial justice, community dialogue, and LGBTQ inclusion
- Families are looking for safe ways to engage their kids in person
- Top Project/Initiative interests are: Chesed (Acts of Caring), the Edible Garden, and Design Projects

Mazel Tov!

Mazel tov to Shirley Rosen on celebrating her 90th birthday on December 16!

Bruchim Haba'im

Welcome to new members Zoë Babian and David Klein!

Todah Rabah

We have many thank yous this week: to Tom Berman for running tech for Chanukah; to the Bernstein family for lovingly making donut holes for our in-person Chanukah event; to all of the Chanukah speakers: Daniel Heinrich and Alex Kimmel, Abby Halpern, Alisha Goldblatt, Ginny & Wayne Eklund, Sam Zager, Irwin Gratz, and Barry and Lori Saltz; to Isabella & Gabriella Filler for singing Chanukah songs on the first night of Chanukah; to Jon and Fred for helping with the pop-up gift shop; and to Elaine Lewis for helping lead morning minyan.

Abbey of Hope: Interfaith Holiday Reflections Call for Entries

Abbey of Hope, an interfaith cooperation circle, is looking for reflections on the Jewish holidays throughout 2021. Please contact Lindy Gifford at lindyg@tidewater.net if you are interested in contributing.

Quick Links:

Zoom Links

Simcha List

Community Programs & Events

KBE School

Amazon Smile

Weekly Yahrzeit

How to Reach Us

We are continuing to primarily work from home due to COVID-19. We will be checking our emails regularly and will check the voicemail daily.

By Phone

(207) 774-2649

Because we are working from home, we will often return your call from our personal numbers. Please note that Zoe's cell phone area code is from out-of-state, so if you have left us a message and are getting a call from a 650 number, it's probably Zoe!

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



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