



January 15-21, 2021
2 - 8 Sh'vat 5781

tbe-mail

SPECIAL THIS WEEK



Jews of Color Initiative

JoCsurvey.org

COUNT ME IN

Count Me In - Jews of Color Initiative Survey

The Jews of Color Initiative just launched their Count Me In survey to help them better understand the experiences and perspectives of Jews of Color across the US. The goal of this survey is for Jews of Color to share how they "think about Jewish identity, how systemic racism has shaped their experiences, how we want the Jewish community to better reflect the diversity of U.S. Jews, and more." If you identify as a Jew of Color, or know someone who does, take the survey and help JoCI reach their goal of 1,000 participants!

Visit www.jocsurvey.org for more information and/or to participate in the survey.

From Rabbi Braun



-Rabbi Carolyn Braun



As I write, I am listening to the arguments for and against impeachment. I can't say that I was surprised that there was violence on January 6th...but seeing it and hearing it - even from my phone - was pretty

horrifying. While it's not my place to talk about my politics in this venue, I will say that seeing the Confederate flag being waved in the Capitol Rotunda, and reading sweatshirts saying that "6 million was not enough" is frightening, sickening, and angering. I have no doubt that "we shall overcome someday," but until then....well, I'm just processing.

The world has changed since I was ordained in 1988, and so have I, and I hope you have as well. The Conservative Movement as a whole is thinking more broadly about what it means to be a Conservative Jew today and what our place in the American Jewish community is; parenthetically, I really prefer, *Masorti*, 'traditional' Jew - but even that doesn't really describe us. It's complicated. The past month, I have been exploring the concept of truly being inclusive, specifically around LGBTQ Jews and Jews of Color. I have been challenged to think about people who identify as non-binary or gender fluid and its implications for our rituals. For example, when we call people to the Torah, we ask them to rise as a man or a woman. When we speak about the ceremony that celebrates a young person becoming an adult, again it refers to a boy or a girl. As I look out at our community, I wonder if there are those who assume

that they don't belong; perhaps because of their skin color or their gender or their abilities. There was a time when I might have been skeptical of these distinctions or when I decided that there were more important issues to tackle. Today, I want to lean in, learn about, and celebrate every facet of a person's identity. I envision TBE as Southern Maine's hub for a diverse Conservative Judaism, and I want to better understand and respond to the many kinds of diversity within our Jewish community.

Interestingly, this notion of feeling like an outsider came up years ago, when the non-Jewish partners of our members told me that they felt invisible in our community. As a way to acknowledge and embrace our non-Jewish partners and outline what that means in our community, together we created a pamphlet called, "You are welcome here." At the time, they wanted to understand Conservative (*Masorti*) parameters of inclusion and communicate them broadly. I have always wanted to continue that series in some fashion and create avenues through which we can begin to understand the diverse experiences and identities those in our community possess.

On Monday, as a country, we remember Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. His words and actions are an inspiration for me every day. These words, in particular, resonate with me right now:

"...I am convinced that men hate each other because they fear each other. They fear each other because they don't know each other, and they don't know each other because they don't communicate with each other, and they don't communicate with each other because they are separated from each other."

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa
October 15, 1962

We must learn from each other, so that we can live in a world with less hatred and fear and more compassion and understanding. Some of our community may feel uncomfortable or threatened or feel that this kind of exploration is unnecessary, but I see it as a challenge and an opportunity to really live *Masorti* Judaism. Perhaps, as a believer, I see this exploration as a *tikkun*, as an antidote to the hatred and name calling, bias, and fear that surrounds us. I hope to come out of this pandemic - not just the virus, but our pandemic of fear and oppression - stronger and wiser.

So I invite you to join Rabbi Sruli, Rebbetzin Lisa, and me, on Saturday night as we celebrate Havdalah and bring the spirit of freedom and redemption into a week which, I pray, will be safe for us all.

This Shabbat:

Friday, January 15

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

4:12pm Candle lighting time

Saturday, January 16

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

5:22pm Havdalah

Parashat Vaera

פְּרָשַׁת וְאֶרְאָה

Exodus 6:2 - 9:35

Triennial: Exodus 7:8 - 8:15

Haftarah: Ezekiel 28:25 - 29:21

JTS Torah Online

This Week @ TBE

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES



9:30am on Zoom Saturday 1/16

We recently added Closed Captioning through Rev. If you'd like to use them, click on the "CC" button in the control bar at the bottom of the video. Click [here](#) for a more detailed guide on how to turn the captions on.

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



HAVDALAH, TOGETHER

6:00pm on Zoom Saturday 1/16 (*pre-registration required*)

Statewide Havdalah is here! Join Rabbi Braun, Rabbi Sruli Dresdner, Rebbetzin Lisa Mayer, of and community members from across the state as we say goodbye to Shabbat and welcome a new week. This gathering is sure to be spirited and musical!



VIRTUAL MORNING MINYAN

8:00am on Zoom Sunday 1/17 through Friday 1/22

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:

Missed our email earlier this week with details of our upcoming programs?

View it [here](#)!

Hearty Mainers Havdalah

[January 23 at 5:30pm](#)

DIY Tu BiShvat Seder Workshop

[Sunday, January 24 at 9am](#)

Judaism for the Curious

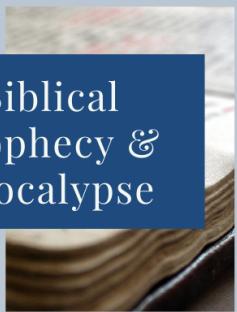
[Thursdays, January 28 - May 6 from 7-8pm](#)



Shabbat Bachutz



Kabbalat Shabbat



Biblical Prophecy & Apocalypse

[February 6 at 10am](#)
[March 6 at 10am](#)

[February 12 at 5:30pm](#)
[March 12 at 5:30pm](#)

[Sundays, February 21 - March 14,](#)
[at 10am](#)

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.

[December Donations & Tributes](#)

Special Announcements

Mazel Tov!

Mazel tov to Harriet and Michael Turkanis on the birth of their grandchild, Jacob Daniel Turkanis. Jacob was born July 18, 2020 to parents Molly and Andrew Turkanis.

Shalach Manot

The giving of *Shalach Manot*, gifts of food to friends and family, is one of the four mitzvot performed on Purim. It is a heartfelt way to emphasize the Jewish unity that lies at the core of the Purim holiday, and to create meaningful connections within our own community at the same time. Each year at Temple Beth El, volunteers prepare containers of goodies (including hamantashen) for all of our members. Each recipient family will receive one container with a card listing the names of all the families who have contributed in their honor. A portion of all proceeds will be donated to tzedakah.

It breaks our hearts that we can't be together to celebrate Purim in person this year, but giving Shalach Manot and being a part of this massive volunteer effort is a great way to keep us connected during this challenging time. Here's how you can get involved:

- **Send Shalach Manot:** Look for an email from Olivia & Elliott with ordering instructions. Non-TBE members can contact [Olivia & Elliott](#) directly, or click [here](#) to join TBE.
- **Volunteer to assemble (on 2/14) and/or deliver gift bags (on/around 2/21):** Contact [Olivia & Elliott](#) to let them know that you're willing to help!

Digital Resources from the USM Judaica Collection

Explore the rich archive of historical photographs, documents and materials available digitally through USM's Judaica collection. Presented by Susie Bock - USM Library Coordinator of Special Collections. We're proud to be a partner with Congregation Bet Ha'am, Temple Beth El, Shaarey Tphiloh, and the Maine Jewish Museum on this event organized by USM and the JCA.

Wednesday, 1/27 at 12pm - advanced registration required by Tuesday, 1/26. [Register today!](#)

Closed Captioning on Zoom

We are excited to announce that we are now be able to offer closed captioning for all Zoom events! Just click on the "CC" icon at the bottom of your Zoom screen and the auto-generated captions will appear at the bottom of your Zoom screen. The service that we are using doesn't capture Hebrew perfectly, but we are working on teaching the program Hebrew and expect that feature to continually improve. Click [here](#) for more detailed instructions on how to turn on the captions.

The only exception to this is Morning Minyan, which is broadcasted from a different Zoom account. If you would appreciate having closed captioning available for those services as well, please [let us know!](#)

TBE Kids

Upcoming Events for Kids

Rumpus Time @ TBE

It's winter in Maine, it's a pandemic, and your kids are itching to work out their wiggles. Meanwhile, you would love nothing more than to sit down with a cup of something warm and read, work, or just stare into space while your kids enjoy some good clean fun, running wild in a wide open space. Rumpus Time @ TBE is just what the doctor ordered!

Play equipment, a speaker for music, paper goods, and coffee/tea/water will be provided. BYO vegetarian snacks. One family or pod per 2 hour session. Please see the registration form for detailed COVID guidelines and precautions.



\$10 for 2 hours of rumpus time. Pre-registration 48 hours in advance is required:
<https://forms.gle/sK1ypkh74fRjHyQA8>



Camp Ramah Prayer-eoke - Sunday, February 7 at 9am.

Representatives from Camp Ramah will be leading Karaoke style virtual T'filot. All you need to bring is your *Ruach* (spirit)! Camp Ramah's rich and varied programming offers campers the opportunity to grow, learn, and develop life-long friendships as they connect to Judaism in a unique way. To learn more, you can always reach out to [Pamela Kekst](#) or sign up for an online tour of our facilities! Visit our website: www.campramahne.org.

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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