



March 26 - April 1, 2021
13 - 19 Nisan 5781

tbe-mail

Sending Light and Love to the Rowles Family

Our friend, colleague, and TBE member Molly Curren Rowles announced this week that her son Declan was recently diagnosed with leukemia. As we process this difficult news, we are also rallying around their entire family to make sure they know that we will do all that we can to support them on the challenging road ahead. The JCA has set up a community fund to provide care and support. Funds will be routed to areas of need including meals, house cleaning, and anything else that will allow the family to focus on healing and supporting one another.



[Show Your Support](#)

From Rabbi Braun



-Rabbi Carolyn Braun



My original intent for this column was simply to share some of my random thoughts; thoughts that don't necessarily have a conclusion or that can be tied up with a bow. Probably because I like to have

things basically tied up, I don't send out these columns until I have accomplished my task. This week, with the change of seasons, preparation for Passover (an experiment that for the first time ever will bring my Aunt, Uncle, and generations of cousins together for a Seder), my Dad's 4th yahrtzeit, thinking about reopening the synagogue at some point, and the two mass shootings that occurred last week, I find myself standing before the Sea of Reeds, mesmerized by the rush of the waters, and believing they will part....eventually. My mind is swimming.

Top on my mind is cleaning for Pesach: There are many reasons that I can't wait for the holiday to start, but getting to the point of sitting at the table with the Seder plate, the Haggadot, and the salt water in front of each person is a lot of work. On the one hand, I feel happier in a clean and organized space. I love that feeling at the Seder as I look around to a simpler, and newly cleaned, house. I love the table with mismatched utensils and the old dishes that I only use for one week a year. For some reason I am always surprised by how clean and new my pots and pans look when I unpack them. Yet, on the other hand, I miss the comfort and convenience of my regular cooking utensils. As much as I love the order and simplicity of the house during Pesach, I also love all the tchotchkas and cool things I've collected over the years. At Pesach, however, they become a chore to dust and clean or even

move if I need the space. I don't mind cleaning, but what I really want is to be Jeannie (the genie). I want to blink and have everything ready. Looking around my house, I am a little overwhelmed. I remember a Kabbalistic teaching that *chametz* (leavening) is compared to the 'leavening' in our souls. It is that part of us that "puffs us up," or makes us feel better than others. The Kabbalists equated *chametz* to our *yetzer ha ra*, our evil inclination; the part of us that causes harm to ourselves and to others. And so, before Pesach, we try to rid ourselves and our homes of whatever keeps us from our best selves. As we clean out the *chametz* in our house, as we simplify and purify our lives, I'm reminded of *tashlich*, when we toss out the breadcrumbs on Rosh Hashanah. And using new cooking utensils? Change is good for us so we don't get stuck in a rut. Speaking of *chametz*, what is that on the side of the refrigerator?

Next is the change of seasons: All of a sudden, time is moving fast. It's been four years since my father died? 20 years since my mother died? How could that be? How long has it been since I've seen my cousins and my Aunt and Uncle in person? I remember this weather from last year....it brings back memories of feeling a little lost at sea, and a little sad. Thinking about it now, I realize that last year too, I found myself standing in front of the Sea of Reeds wondering if it would part...or if we had permission to step through it. There was a silver lining to Passover last year though - a small Seder was more like an intimate dining experience; I didn't need to go crazy over preparing the food (I let my sister do that anyway; she and her husband are great cooks) or trying to entertain a multitude of ages and interests. This year will be similar to 2020 for me, only now I'm a computer expert and can connect to family in Colorado and California and Oregon and Brooklyn, all without having to do too many dishes.

Atlanta and Boulder, two mass shootings in a week: This is where the Passover experience, Haggadah and all, get real. Why do we clean, change our dishes, and purchase new foods? Why do we reenact parts of the Exodus at the table? Why do we speak so much of enslavement and of redemption? Why do we go beyond the words of the Haggadah and ask one another questions? Why do we get so excited when we open the door for Elijah? What is the purpose of these long and intense rituals? Why am I a stickler for continuing through to the end of the Seder and not stopping at dinner? I suppose it is so I can experience all of the tensions, the emotions, the tastes, and the rituals of my people. Passover is one of the holidays that is observed by most Jews in some fashion or another. It is one ritual that we do ourselves in our own homes, without ritual authorities watching over us. We observe it in many ways - in our own ways; this holiday truly belongs to the people.

So the question, the thought, that I land on this week is: What does it mean to me to be a Jew in 2021 during the second year of COVID, a year of tremendous political and social turmoil, a year where so many feel the pains of prejudice, bias, and poverty? I am thinking about Moses and Aaron standing up to Pharoah. What must they have felt before, during, and after their meetings with the Pharaoh? What must it have been like for those who escaped Egypt to taste that freedom and the promise of a new land? What was it like for their children and their grandchildren...and for us.

All in all, maybe these are the most important questions that we can ask ourselves and one another, as we sit at the Seder Table - perhaps not as ornate as other years, perhaps filled with faces on a screen - but a table where we can be together, feasting, reclining, and reflecting.

May your Pesach be sweet and filled with good questions.

This Shabbat:

Friday, March 26

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

6:43pm Candle lighting time

Saturday, March 27 - Erev Pesach

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

Parashat Tzav

פָרָשַׁת צָו

Shabbat HaGadol

Leviticus 6:1 - 8:36
Triennial: Leviticus 7:11-38
Haftarah: Malachi 3:4-24

Sunday, March 28 - Pesach I**9:30am [Passover Morning Services](#)****7:53pm Candle lighting time****Monday, March 29 - Pesach II****9:30am [Passover Morning Services](#)****7:55pm Havdalah**

This Week @ TBE

**OFFICE CLOSURE****Friday 3/26 and Monday 3/29**

TBE's office will be closed tomorrow (March 26) and Monday (March 30) in observance of Passover. We will be back to emails on Tuesday, March 31.

**SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES****9:30am on [Zoom](#) Saturday 3/27**

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

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.

**PASSOVER MORNING SERVICES****9:30am on [Zoom](#) Sunday 3/28 and Monday 3/29**

Join Rabbi Braun and friends as they daven the yontif morning services in celebration of Passover.

VIRTUAL MORNING MINYAN**8:00am on [Zoom](#) Tuesday 3/30 through Friday 4/2**



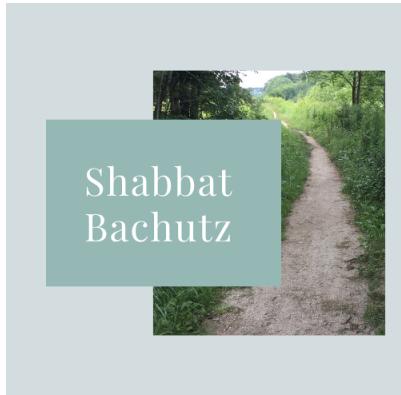
Join Tom Berman and the minyanaires for the only daily minyan in Maine! The service lasts about 30 minutes and is a great chance to start the day in reflection and community.

Upcoming TBE Programs:



Passover Morning Services

[Saturday, April 3 at 9:30am](#)
[Sunday, April 4 at 9:30am](#) (including Yizkor)



Shabbat Bachutz

[April 3 at 10am](#)
[May 1 at 10am](#)



Kabbalat Shabbat

[April 9 at 5:30pm](#)
May 14 at 5:30pm



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.

February Donations & Tributes

Special Announcements

Bruchim Habaim!

Welcome to new members, Jane Sloven and Joseph Py!

Todah Rabah!

A big thank you to Lorin Troderman for his d'var Torah last Shabbat. A big thank you to Ariel Bernstein for organizing Passover children's book bundles.

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.

Passover Community Programs

Check out our Community Programs and Events quick link at the bottom of this email for upcoming programs and events related to Passover. The button is located below TBE Kids and the relevant events are highlighted in green!

TBE Kids

Upcoming Opportunities for Teens

The [Be'chol Lashon Tzedek Teen Fellowship](#) is for ethnically and racially diverse Jewish teens ages 12-18 who want to create community with those who have similar experiences. You will be matched with a mentor, also a Jew of Color, who will help you explore and expand your understanding of who you are, who you want to be, and how you want to change the world.



To learn more, sign up, or nominate someone, click [here](#).

[CityStage 2021: Transformational Summer Program for High School Students](#)

[CityStage](#) is a unique performing arts pre-college summer institute, where rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors explore theater through a Jewish lens, led by experts in the field. As part of this online one college credit* program, participants will train in acting techniques, playwriting, script analysis, and more while creating a meaningful Jewish community. CityStage students will also explore the history of Jewish identity in the performing arts field and on stage while creatively analyzing Jewish texts and rituals.

Program runs June 27 - July 11. **Application due May 1.** Learn more [here](#).

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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