

TEMPLE
BETH EL's

SIMCHAT TORAH WISDOM PROJECT



A video compilation of our collective wisdom.

Feeling weird about submitting your own wisdom? That's okay! Steal it from a friend! Pass it on from a partner! Nab it from a neighbor (across the lawn, of course)!

We know that this community has some really wonderful nuggets of wisdom and would love your help in tracking them down. So whether it's something that you learned this year or something you heard someone else say in passing, record it, submit it, and share it with us.

Deadline is Thursday, October 8.

Be a part of it - it's easy as 1, 2, 3!

Step 1

Reflect on the question:

What is a piece of wisdom that you have learned in the past year?

Step 2

Go to <https://www.tribute.co/tbe> to **record your response**, or you can record a video your response on your own device if you prefer.

Step 3

Follow the directions at <https://www.tribute.co/tbe> to **upload your video no later October 8**. That's only one week away!

This video compilation will serve as our Torah during Simchat Torah services on October 11. It will also be distributed to our email subscribers and shared on Facebook.

Please do not let technology be a barrier to your participation, we are here to help! Email office@tbemaine.org or call 207-774-2649 and we will make this as easy as possible for all who wish to participate.

“For each soul, by the time of his or her final hour,
the Torah is complete, the teaching done.”

- Lawrence Kushner, *God Was in This Place and I, I Did Not Know* (177)

What is it?

“[E]very soul has a Torah. To hear another say Torah is a precious gift.”
ibid.

The holiday of *Simchat Torah* is filled with joy and dancing, eating and drinking. We celebrate the end of the Torah reading cycle; we celebrate the circle of life, and though the Rabbis may not have intended this, we celebrate the end of the long and intense observance of the High Holidays. On this day, everyone from the eldest to the youngest, receives an *aliyah* to the Torah, and then goes to the food table to grab something sweet and maybe a l'chayim to drink!

As I thought about how to celebrate Simchat Torah this year - without the Torah and without in-person singing and dancing - I went back to the core meaning of *Torah*. The word derives from the Hebrew root: yud-resh-hey, meaning *to learn*, and when we use the term, we mean teaching or instruction. Rabbi Kushner offers a mystical teaching that each one of us has or is a Torah. We are filled with wisdom, teachings and experiences and it is a “precious gift” to give one another Torah.

With that in mind, we want to rejoice in our collective Torah. We want you - from the eldest to the youngest - to record your favorite piece of wisdom. It could be a story and something you learned from that story. It could be a one-liner, perhaps it is a song, or even a word. You don't have to be Jewish to share your wisdom, just be you! No one is judging your wisdom and we can all learn so much from one another.

-Rabbi Carolyn Braun

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