



CENTER FOR
SMALL TOWN
JEWISH LIFE

Virtual & Vibrant

Support Maine
Jewish Life

Tumbling Sukkot: A Letter and A Request from Rabbi Rachel Isaacs

Dear Friends,

This year, we have three sukkot in Waterville, Maine, but we are not quite sure how long they will stay standing. In the short number of days between Yom Kippur and the fall harvest festival, we rushed to build our sukkot as early as possible. With amazing efficiency and superhuman energy, fueled by the joy of the success of the High Holidays, our Hillel students and staff put up our sukkot the day after Yom Kippur. Though we knew there would be some much-needed rain between our sukkah-building days and the start of Sukkot, we had no idea how fierce the incoming storm or how powerful the gusts of wind would be. And so the next morning, despite the best planning and most sincere intentions, all three sukkot were down for the count, a mess of mangled metal, strewn blue tarps, and rolled bamboo mats.

[Read More Here](#)

Program Updates: Relevance in a New Reality

When the pandemic hit in March, we were ready to transition to an online format to continue serving the Maine Jewish community. The clergy leaped into action, organizing to lead statewide Shabbat services just three weeks after the virus closed our buildings. More than 200 computer users—an estimated 500 people

from all over the state—joined for a joyful service. It was clear that people loved being together, and they commented that seeing one another lifted their spirits and gave them a sense of being part of the broader Jewish community. Each month since April, the Center has run one statewide Shabbat service that connects the Maine community and gives congregational clergy a chance to lead with one another.



[Read the Rest of the Story Here](#)

Home at Hillel: A Letter from Colby Hillel's Student Presidents



We are so grateful to be back on campus with our Colby and Waterville Jewish communities right now. If things seem uncertain and precarious, the flip side of that is that we feel a renewed appreciation for what our Jewish home on campus offers us: rootedness in who we are and a deep community network made up of Beth Israel congregants, faculty, staff, and peers committed to building colorful and meaningful Jewish life on the Hill.

[Read Our Letter Here](#)

Support the Jewish Communities of Maine

We accomplish our work with your support and participation. We hope you will join one

of our upcoming Center programs, no matter where you are in the country or world at this moment. We recognize that the world is filled with many needs at this time, but if you have the capacity, please help us continue our work in strengthening and building the Jewish communities of Maine. Every dollar helps us increase Jewish literacy, connection, resiliency, and leadership in our state, and showcases to the larger Jewish world what is possible when we work together.



Support the Center

[The Center for Small Town Jewish Life](#)



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