



## Welcome to Temple Beth El of Augusta, Maine

*embracing a spirit of community, lifelong Jewish learning, commitment to inclusiveness, and active participation in Jewish life in Central Maine*

artwork by Lenora Leibowitz

Adar-Nisan-Iyar 5778/March-April 2018

*From the desk of Rabbi Asch*

"But Rabbi what should I do about that issue of Jewish law?" is not a question I hear often. While I have discussions with people about their practice, they rarely ask me to make a decision for them. When it comes to issues of Jewish law, Reform rabbis do not wield sole authority. As stated in the Central Conference of American Rabbis Responsa, "Each Reform rabbi functions, in his or her congregational community, as the *mara d'atra*, the local religious authority. This status, to be sure, does not grant the rabbi autocratic power to decide questions of religious practice. In our movement these are resolved cooperatively between the rabbi and the congregation. Yet, within the cooperative model the rabbi enjoys a certain sphere of authority over issue of practice." (NYP No. 5761.3)

I have been inspired by this responsa and the call by Dr. Mark Washofsky (head of the Responsa Committee) for Reform communities to decide together on many matters of Jewish law. I can provide traditional texts for us to study, ask questions, and answer them, but in many cases it is up to the community to decide issues of practice. We tried this in our discussion during Yom Kippur afternoon. We studied texts related to the prohibition of saying *Aveinu Malkeinu* on Shabbat, a practice which we, as a community, have followed. After studying the texts and looking at the reasons for this prohibition, the 50 or so people there decided that we should still sing the melody, but not say the words. This was a way to honor the tradition of not petitioning on Shabbat while still keeping the power of the familiar melody.

I am pleased that we will have our second conversation about ritual practice in the coming month. The conversation will be about having *kitniyot* in the Temple on Passover. *Kitniyot* include legumes (peas and beans) and rice, and they are traditionally prohibited during Passover. However, the Reform and Conservative movements now permit eating these foods during Passover. Please join us for one of two conversations where we will look at traditional and modern sources about this prohibition and make a communal decision. If you have strong feelings about this issue or you want to help set our Temple policy, please plan on attending. One session will take place on Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am (during Torah study). The other will be on Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at noon. Feel free to bring your lunch.



We will have another conversation sometime before Rosh Hashanah about if we should require people to wear a tallit on the *bimah*. I hope that the process of learning from traditional sources, discussing as a community, and reaching a decision together will help us be more mindful of how we act in areas of Jewish law and model what a decision-making process can look like for us individually. Please join us for these conversations.



## *TBE Schedule: March—April*

### **Services**

*Saturday, March 3*

10:30am Shabbat Services

12:30pm Potluck Kiddush Lunch

*Friday, March 9*

7:00pm Shabbat Services

*Friday, March 23*

6:00pm Shabbat Services

7:00pm Potluck Dinner

*Saturday, March 24*

9:00am Tot Shabbat

*Friday, April 6*

7:00pm Shabbat Services

*Saturday, April 7*

9:00am Tot Shabbat

10:00am Matzah Brei Brunch

10:45am Passover Service with Yizkor

*Friday, April 27*

6:00pm Shabbat Services

7:00pm Potluck Dinner

### **Meditation Service/ Torah Study**

*Saturday, March 10*

9:15am Meditation Service

10:30am Torah Study

*Saturday, March 24*

9:15am Meditation Service

10:30am Torah Study

*Saturday, April 21*

9:15am Meditation Service

10:30am Torah Study

*Saturday, April 28*

9:15am Meditation Service

10:30am Torah Study

### **TBE Activities**

*Thursday, March 14*

6:00pm Board Meeting

*Wednesday, March 21*

6:30pm Book Club

*Saturday, March 31*

5:30pm TBE Community Seder

*Saturday, April 7*

9:00am Tot Shabbat

10:00am Matzah Brei Brunch

10:45am Passover Service with Yizkor

*Wednesday, April 25*

6:00pm Board Meeting

### **Hebrew School**

*Sunday, March 4, 10:00am — Purim Carnival!*

*Sunday, March 11, 9:30am*

*Sunday, March 18, 9:30am*

*Sunday, March 25, 9:30am*

*Sunday, April 1, 9:30am*

*Sunday, April 8, 9:30am*

*Sunday, April 22, 9:30am*

*Sunday, April 29, 9:30am*

***No Hebrew School on April 15***

### **Interfaith Activities**

*Every Tuesday*

12:30pm Volunteering at Addie's Attic

*Wednesday, March 14*

11:00am Interfaith Study

*Wednesday, April 11*

11:00am Interfaith Study



## *Your Rabbi in Action!*



*Rabbi Asch is from southern California. Winter is hard for someone who grew up with 11.75 months of sunshine and 70 degrees. She makes up for it by filling the winter months with people-filled activities, such as:*

- *celebrating Purim as many times as possible*
- *taking the Temple teens to lobby in D.C.*
- *hiking in the woods for Shabbat in the Wild*
- *sharing Tot Havdallah with the littlest Jews in town*
- *praying for our state legislators*
- *and, of course, going back to San Diego for a little reprieve from the snow and ice!*





## What's Happening at TBE



### Party Time at TBE — Todah Rabbah, Everyone!

When it gets frigid outside, we heat things up at TBE. This winter, we celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Ice Storm Wine Tasting, as well as a fun Tu B'Shevat seder and multiple Purim parties, including a rollicking (sometimes raunchy!) spiel at The Maine House in Hallowell. Thank you to **Matthew Rolnick and The Maine House** for organizing!

Thank you to our amazing crew which made the Wine Tasting possible. The fabulous committee: **Deb Sewall, Syd Sewall, Nancy Kelly, Emily Bessey, Peter Rosenberg and Suzanne Rosenberg**. **Fran Rudoff** for organizing the auction and many of you donated items. **Chuck Cohen** organized the program booklet. We loved the music of amazing band of **Ethan Bessey** and his friends--they even got us up and dancing! The **Learning English Through Cooking** class provided wonderful food. **Nan Salvino** took care of RSVP's, money, and making sure the kitchen was stocked. What a success!





## Lunch with Nathan Bennett from the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

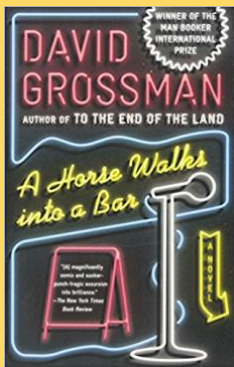
Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 12pm—1pm

Join Senior Legislative Assistant, Nathan Bennett as he talks about the work of the Religious Action Center, social justice in the Reform Movement and how we can make a difference nationally.

*Bring your lunch — we'll provide drinks and desserts.*



### TBE Book Club Wednesday, March 21 6:30pm @ TBE



We will be discussing *A Horse Walks into a Bar* by David Grossman. This hilarious book won the 2017 National Jewish Book Award for Fiction. We chose a book for May — *Lioness: Golda Meir and the Nation of Israel*, by Francine Klagsbrun. This book won the 2017 National Jewish Book Award for Jewish Book of the Year. The date for the meeting in May will be determined later. Come join the discussion. It is open to all. Email Nan to RSVP: [bethelaugusta@gmail.com](mailto:bethelaugusta@gmail.com).

### Beth El in Action Meets with School Boards

Beth El in Action has been meeting with local school boards to ask them to adopt a policy respecting religious differences. We have had successful meetings in Hall-Dale and Winthrop and are meeting with other school boards in the months to come. If you would like to get involved with Beth El in Action, please contact Rabbi Asch.





# Pesach is coming! Spring is almost here!

## TBE Community Decision Making: Should we eat *kitniyot* on Passover?

Temple Beth El has historically prohibited *kitniyot* (legumes and rice) to be in our kitchen at Passover. However, the Reform and Conservative movements both permit eating *kitniyot* during the holiday. Come to one of two conversations where we will study biblical and rabbinic texts about this prohibition and make our own community decision about what we want to have (and not have) at the Temple during Passover.

**Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> 10:30am (during Torah study)**

**Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup> 12-1pm. Bring a lunch.**



## Passover Presentation with J. Collins

**Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am**

Join us Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-11:00 for a **Passover Preparation Presentation led by J. Collins**. People are encouraged to stay from 11:30-noon for a special Passover themed circle time with the Hebrew school.

## Passover Community Seder Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 5:30pm

Come celebrate Passover at Temple Beth El on Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. Please arrive by 5:30pm — the seder will start promptly at 5:45pm. **All ages are welcome!** *Be on the lookout for more information and sign-up*



## Celebrate the end of Passover with TBE

**Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am**

- 9:00am: Tot Shabbat
- 10:00am: Matzo Brei brunch  
Please bring a side dish to share
- 10:45am: Passover service with Yizkor



## Shalom from the Library!

**By Li'el Boudreau**

New books are coming in all the time! Please check out our great selection. It only *looks* small! Also, we are still in need of used mailers for selling books. Please leave in the shul office if you have any.

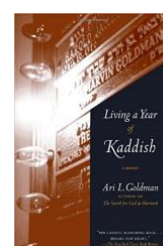
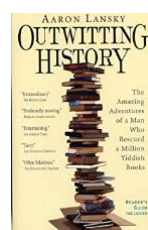
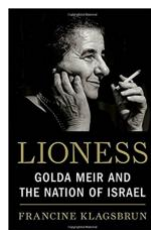
Below is a list of book suggestions, some from our library and some from the Jewish Book Council's 2017 book award winners. Treat yourself - try out a new Jewish author or genre!

### 2017 NATIONAL JEWISH BOOK AWARDS

**Jewish Book of the Year:** *Lioness: Golda Meir and the Nation of Israel* (Klagsbrun, Francine)  
**American Jewish Studies:** *Jews on the Frontier: Religion and Mobility in Nineteenth-Century America* (Rabin, Shari)  
**Biography:** *The Choice: Embrace the Possible* (Eger, Dr. Edith Eva)  
**Book Club Award:** *The Weight of Ink* (Kadish, Rachel)  
**Contemporary Jewish Life:** *The Torah of Music* (Weisenberg, Joey)  
**Debut Fiction:** *Barren Island* (Zoref, Carol)  
**Education and Jewish Identity:** *The Origin of the Jews: The Quest for Roots in a Rootless Age* (Weitzman, Princeton)  
**Fiction:** *A Horse Walks into a Bar* (Grossman, David)  
**History:** *The Many Deaths of Jew Suss: The Notorious Trial and Execution of an Eighteenth-Century Court Jew* (Mintzker, Yair)  
**Holocaust:** *The Book Smugglers: Partisans, Poets, and the Race to Save Jewish Treasures from the Nazis* (Fishman, David E.)  
**Modern Jewish Thought & Expression:** *Consumer Culture and the Making of Modern Jewish Identity* (Reuveni, Gideon)  
**Poetry:** *Waiting for the Light* (Ostriker, Alicia Suskin)  
**Scholarship:** *Pious Irreverence: Confronting God in Rabbinic Judaism* (Weiss, Dov)  
**Sephardic Culture:** *Across Legal Lines: Jews & Muslims in Modern Morocco* (Marglin, Jessica)  
**Women's Studies:** *Coming of Age in Medieval Egypt: Female Adolescence, Jewish Law, and Ordinary Culture* (Krakowski, Eve)  
**Writing Based on Archival Material:** *Confessions of the Shtetl: Converts from Judaism in Imperial Russia, 1817-1906* (Schainker, Ellie)

### LI'EL'S PICKS FROM OUR SIFRIA

- **Outwitting History: The Amazing Adventures of a Man Who Rescued a Million Yiddish Books** (Lansky, Aaron)
- **If All the Seas Were Ink: A Memoir** (Kurshan, Ilana)
- **My Adventures with God** (Tobolowsky, Stephen)
- **House of Windows: Portraits From a Jerusalem Neighborhood** (Hoffman, Adina)
- **A Pigeon and a Boy: A Novel** (Shalev, Meir)
- **Sacred Trash: The Lost and Found World of the Cairo Geniza** (Hoffman, Adina)
- **I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor's Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity** (Abuelaish, Izzeldin)
- **Living a Year of Kaddish: A Memoir** (Goldman, Ari)
- **See me: Elul poems** (Barenblat, Rachel)
- **A Letter in the Scroll: Understanding Our Jewish Identity and Exploring the Legacy of the World's Oldest Religion** (Sacks, Rabbi Jonathan)
- **Who Is A Jew?: Conversations, Not Conclusions** (Hyman, Meryl)
- **Abraham** (Feiler, Bruce)





## *What's Happening at TBE*



## **Temple Teens Take Washington by Storm**

This past month the teens of Temple Beth El traveled to Washington, D.C., with Rabbi Asch as a part of the Religious Action Center's L'Taken program. The students learned about issues facing our country and visited Capitol Hill to lobby our senators. In a meeting with Senator Collins, the teens shared their feelings about topics such as immigration, health care, and reproductive rights.





## Keeping Kosher with the French Grandkids

**By Chris Zinck**

Thea and I flew to France a few days after the tragic massacre in Las Vegas. We were going to a country that lost 40,000 of its Jewish population in the last twelve years (out of 500,000), a country where soldiers guard synagogues and study houses. We were coming from the USA where one person could kill more than 50 people and hurt more than 500. All that sounds slightly depressing, but we were going to see our new grand-child Ezekiel. So, we forgot all negativity to celebrate the new life awaiting us.

Going from Augusta to Créteil, a Paris suburb, was a huge change of scenery and culture. Augusta has a population of 19,000, one synagogue, and is on the fringes of American Jewish life. Créteil has a population of 91,000, eleven synagogues and is one of the centers of Jewish presence in France. Upon our arrival, we had to adapt to an orthodox lifestyle. I was afraid to touch anything in the kitchen. There were three different sponges, two sets of flatware, dairy pots, meat pots, and pareve items all in one small kitchen. G-d forbid one should touch the other. After convincing our children that we could learn and work in a 'Cachère' (Kosher) kitchen, we were permitted to help out. After one week we graduated to 'Sépharade Kashrut.' I had a simple graduation, Thea graduated with honors.

Finding Kosher food in Créteil is much easier than in Augusta. We had a 'Cachère' bakery, a 'Cachère' butcher, and a 'Cachère' grocery store in the small shopping center next door. I would get up early and bring back a 'Cachère' baguette and 'Cachère' croissants for breakfast from the bakery downstairs. Several 'Cachère' restaurants were around the corner.

Too soon it was time to leave just as I was getting used to our new 'Cachère' environment. We left on a Sunday morning so naturally we had to start the packing *before* sunset Friday and finish (the packing) *after* sunset Saturday. It was the best of times. We are looking forward to our next visit.



*The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Shabbat in the Wild featured singing, chanting, hiking, and eating. The woods wore their winter finest. A big "Todah Rabbah" to Susan Bakaley Marshall and Chris Marshall for hosting and to all the chefs who prepared the wonderful food.*





# Maine Conference for Jewish Life

June 8-10, 2018

Thomas College \* Waterville, Maine



Join Jews from around the state to experience the best of Jewish learning, culture, and life



CENTER FOR  
SMALL TOWN  
JEWISH LIFE

**Early Bird Registration  
ends March 31st!**

Register now  
<http://www.colby.edu/jewishlife/>



## Hebrew School

### Murder, Mitzvot, Wonder Woman. . . Hebrew School has it all!

In **Amy's Judaica class** we have continued to learn about important Jewish figures through their *mitzvot*. Together, we have learned about the *mitzvot* of *Talmud Torah*, *K'lal Yisrael*, *Tzionut*, *Tikkun Olam*, *Ometz Lev*, and *Herut* by studying the actions of people like Sandy Kofax, Golda Meir, and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel.

**Bria's class** has been exploring the *mitzvot* of *g'milut chasadim* (personal acts of loving-kindness) and *tzedakah*, as well as *derech eretz* (here defined as respectful, polite behavior), and the Torah teaching of "Love your fellow as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18). We've learned that when we show patience, take turns, and include others, we are not only doing good things, we are doing Jewish things. These are all acts of *g'milut chasadim*, and when we do them we become Jewish heroes and make our world a better place. Class discussions around the question, "What does a Jewish hero (*gibor/gibora*) do?" have been quite animated! We even discussed our favorite superheroes (Jewish and non): Captain Underpants, Dog Man, Black Panther, and Wonder Woman (and many more!).

Since December, **Rich's class** has been studying in-depth Genesis Chapters 1 through 5, the story of Adam and Eve, Eden, and Cain and Able. We have explored the themes of love, knowledge, disobedience, punishment, family, murder, and responsibility to others, while questioning how the treatment of these themes is relevant to our lives today. We have paid particularly close attention to these statements:

- a) *"it is not good for man (a person) to be alone..."*
- b) *"but God knows that as soon as you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like divine beings who know good and bad"*
- c) *"And the Lord said to Cain, Why are you distressed, And why is your face fallen. Surely, if you do right, there is uplift. But if you do not do right, sin couches at the door. Its urge is toward you. Yet you can be its master."*
- d) *"Am I my brother's (society's) keeper?"*

In **All School Time**, the music group has been learning several new songs including *Halleli* by Noam Katz and *Hava Nashira* by Josh Nelson. Not only are these songs fun to sing, but they also relate to the Jewish value of gratitude: *Hoda'ah*!

### Teens — Learn to Make Babka & Kugel!

Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 12:15—2:15

**Come to the teen cooking program.** Join Nick from Colby College to learn how to make babka and kugel. RSVP to Rabbi Asch.





## Donations

### **Rabbi Discretionary Fund**

- Deborah Sandler

### **Terumah**

- Kathy & Rob Hoey
- Kala Ladenheim
- Stephanie Ward & Jeff Rubin

### **Yahrzeit/Memorials**

- Rabbi Erica & Chris Myers Asch in memory of Virginia Seager
- Emily & Ethan Bessey in memory of Ezra David Bessey
- Emily & Ethan Bessey in memory of Leo Bessey
- Emily & Ethan Bessey in memory of Richele Gross
- Li'el Boudreau in memory of Hyman Cohen
- Karen Calloway in memory of Elaine Kaduson
- Richard Dana in memory of Jacob Dana
- Sarah & Michael Drickey in memory of Davis Spalding
- Janika Eckert & Rob Johnston in memory of Rose Eckert
- Andrea & Em Freed in memory of Leah Freed
- Joan & Lowell Freiman in memory of Laura Goldstein
- Jane & Richard Golden in memory of Rose Golden
- Anya & Allen Goldey in memory of Laura Goldstein
- Charlotte & Julius Goos in memory of Cynthia Haderski
- Charlotte & Julius Goos in memory of Elizabeth Lipman-Winter

### **Yahrzeit/Memorials**

- Ellen Grunblatt & Stephen Bien in memory of Jacques Grunblatt
- Tinker & Reg Hannaford in memory of Henry Thielman
- Ellen Bader Kandel & Laurence Bader in memory of Dorothy Bader
- Elizabeth Koopman in memory of Jane Bridgman Koopman
- Felicia Leibman in memory of Theo Leibman
- Yale Marienhoff in memory of Bernard and Yetta Marienhoff
- Kate McLinn in memory of Ruth McLinn
- James Montell & family in memory of Faye Golden Montell
- Nan Salvino & Jon Mittelman in memory of Frank Salvino
- Beth & Steven Shapiro in memory of James Carvutto
- Beth & Steven Shapiro in memory of Rose Golden
- Beth & Steven Shapiro in memory of Faye Goldberg Montell



Making a donation to Temple Beth El is a special way to honor family and friends.

### **Terumah**

This fund includes the former General Fund and Dues and covers all temple operating expenses.

### **Building Fund**

This fund is for major repair and rebuilding of our facilities.

### **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

This fund helps Rabbi Asch meet special needs in the community.

### **Yahrzeit/Memorials/Honoraria**

These contributions are made in memory or honor of family and friends.

### **Memorial Plaques**

Remember a loved one with a memorial plaque in the synagogue. Donation: \$250

*Payment due at time of order.*

### **Tree of Life**

Acknowledge a life milestone in a special way by adding a personalized, inscribed leaf to the Tree. Donation: \$36.

*Payment due at time of order.*

Please make checks payable to Temple Beth El. Indicate the fund to which you want to contribute and mail to TBE, Box 871, Augusta, ME 04332. Undesignated checks will go to the General Fund. *Temple Beth El accepts Visa & Mastercard. Please contact the office with any questions.*



## Temple Beth El

Phone 207-622-7450  
 Rabbi Erica Asch 207-242-9792  
 Email: [bethelaugusta@gmail.com](mailto:bethelaugusta@gmail.com)

### President

Chuck Cohen

### Vice President

Emily Bessey

### Immediate Past President

Anya Goldey

### Treasurer

Hildie Lipson

### Secretary

Peter Rosenberg

### Hebrew School

Emily Bley

### Yad B'Yad

Judith Plano

### Membership

Robert Adler

### Building

Syd Sewall

### Board of Directors

Bob Adler, Jerry Bley, Mike Drickey, Richard Goldman, Nancy Kelly, Judith Plano, Fran Rudoff, Lila Solomon, Chris Zinck

### Honorary Directors

Julius Goos, Sumner Lipman, Stanley Sclar

## March Yahrzeits

March 1	Helen Hannaford
	Bernice Golden Stone
March 3	Samuel L. Gershon
	Hyman Norken
	Bill Viles
March 4	Margaret Kovacs
	Adele Swarzman
March 5	Louis Smith
March 6	Jacqueline Golden
	Daniel Clifford Gross
March 7	Joseph Shapiro
March 8	Victor Feldmus
March 9	Perry Bakaley
	Dora Brittain
	Edwin Aaron Macy
	Ethel Porter
March 10	Lillian Freiman
March 11	Cynthia Haderski
March 13	Patricia Manley
	Milton Prager
March 16	Shirlie Goldman
	Toby Rudginsky
	Elizabeth Sax
	Elenor Sylvia Slosberg
March 17	Charles Bader
March 18	Lewis Brown
	Lowell Fried
March 19	Jonathan Schiff
March 20	Lillian Lerman
March 21	Bruce Letizia
	Rhya Seligman
	Miriam S. Woolner
March 23	Raymond Torch
March 26	Irving Berman
	Frank Salvino
March 27	Daniel Cooper
	Shirley R. Siegel
March 28	Margaret Manuel
March 29	Leonard Dansky

## April Yahrzeits

April 1	Morris Weiss
April 2	Larry Saul cohen
	Lillian Shapiro
April 4	Robert Sandler
April 5	Lena Slosberg Lait
April 7	Sten Jespersen
	Hyman Sandler
April 10	Lillian K. Sussman
April 11	Ann O'Donnell
April 12	Israel Feldmus
	Henry S. Price
	Shawn Walker
April 13	Martin Evenchik
	Irving Weiss
April 14	Abraham Slosberg
April 15	Sidney Goldstein
	Eleanor Mayer
April 17	Edith Sclar
April 18	Arthur Flynn
	Ephraim Horvitz
	Anthony Imondi
April 20	Samuel Weiss
April 21	Sylvia Parker
April 23	Melvin Bacon
	Jean Dietz
	Michal Lewin
April 28	Tishelle Glant-Scheinman
	John Marshall
	Emily Winkeller
	Elizabeth Lipman-Winter
April 30	Marie Corner

### *Refuah Sh'lemah (Get Well) to:*

Carol Graham  
 Julius Goos  
 Harriet Katz  
 Michael Libby  
 Judy Plano  
 Nick Scott

## Portland Chevra Kadisha

Jewish Funeral Home  
 471 Deering Ave.  
 Portland, ME 04103  
 207.774.2722

