

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

Elul-Tishrei-Cheshvan 5778-79/Sept.-Oct. 2018

From the desk of Rabbi Asch

When non-Jews talk about this time of year, they generally discuss returning to school, harvesting from the gardens, and enjoying the last burst of summer activities. When Jews talk about this time of year, we are referring to the High Holidays. Many nights for the past month I have watched the moon as it progressed from just a sliver of silver to a beautiful, round orb, now shrinking once again. As the moon changes in the sky, we draw closer to our New Year, a time of reflection and introspection, but also of community and family.



This year, we are launching into the new year with some new looks. Our website has been recently updated. Please be sure to visit www.bethelaugusta.org to find all the latest happenings — we hope the new and improved calendar section and layout will make it easier for you to find events. Stay tuned for a brand-new look to our weekly email as well. Additionally, we will have a new set up for our Erev Rosh Hashanah services. We'll be facing the eastern wall, just as we will when we complete the renovations on the building.

At this time of year we read the verse from Lamentations, *Hashiveinu Adonai elicha v'nashuva*. *Chadeish yameinu k'kedem*. Return us to you, O God, and we shall return. Renew our days (or make our days new) as they were in the past. The second half of this verse is interesting. Make our days new implies that we are ready for something completely different. But we ask not for a total revolution, but that it will all be as it used to be.



I think that this seeming contradiction implies that we travel in a spiral rather than a circle. While we might want to return to exactly where we have been, it is not possible. We are always moving and changing. However, in the midst of the newness—a new website, new seating, new tunes, and new people, we also find that which is like it was before—a warm community, thought provoking conversations, meaningful rituals, and ancient prayers. As we journey into this year of 5779 together may we all be blessed with that which is new and hold onto the values and community that help to give our lives meaning.

TBE Schedule: September—October

High Holidays

See page 6 for the full High Holidays Schedule!

Services

Friday, October 5
7:00pm Shabbat Service with guest speaker
Professor Xu Xin

Saturday, October 20 9:00am Tot Shabbat 10:30am Shabbat Service and Kiddush Lunch

Torah Study

Saturday, October 13 10:30am Torah Study & Kiddush Lunch

Hebrew School

Sunday, Sept. 16, 9:30am
(Potluck lunch begins at 11:45am)
Sunday, Sept. 23, 9:30am
(Sukkot Celebration followed by class)
Sunday, Sept. 30, **4:00pm**(followed by pizza dinner at 5:30pm and
Simchat Torah Service at 6:00pm)

Sunday, Oct. 7 — NO HEBREW SCHOOL Sunday, Oct. 14, 9:30am Sunday, Oct. 21, 9:30am Sunday, Oct. 28, 9:30am

TBE Activities

Wednesday, September 26 5:30pm Soup & Study in the Sukkah 7:00pm TBE Book Club

Wednesday, October 3
6:00pm TBE Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 17 5:30pm Soup & Study

Interfaith Activities

Every Tuesday
12:30pm Volunteering at Addie's Attic

Thursday, September 13 11:00am Interfaith Study

Thursday, October 11 11:00am Interfaith Study

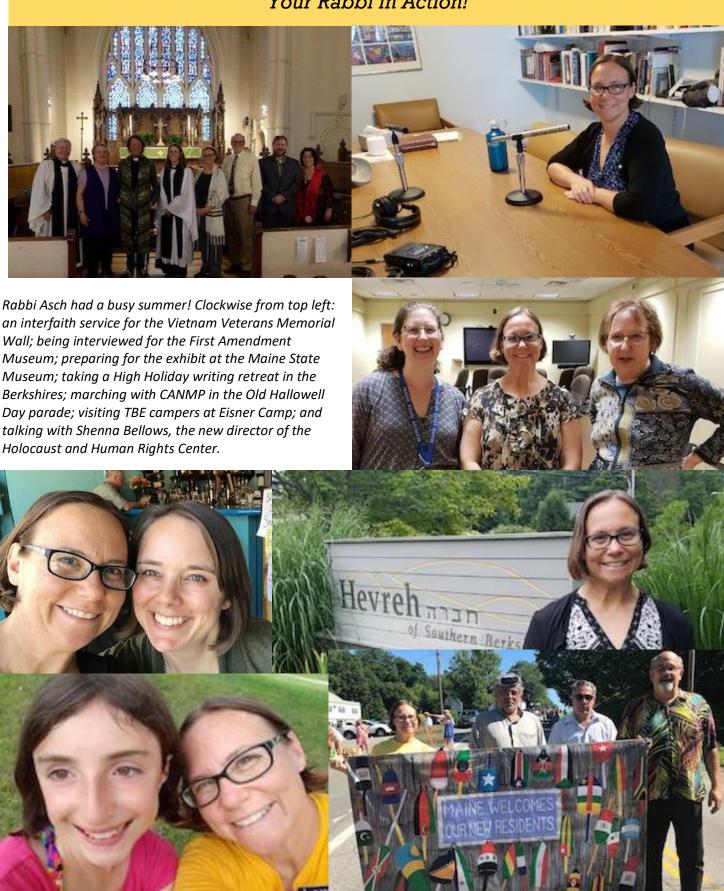
TBE Book Club

Wednesday, September 26 7:00pm-8:30pm

Isaac's Army: A Story of Courage and Survival in Nazi-Occupied Poland, by Matthew Brzezinski

Starting as early as 1939, disparate Jewish underground movements coalesced around the shared goal of liberating Poland from Nazi occupation. For the next six years, separately and in concert, they waged a heroic war of resistance against Hitler's war machine that culminated in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. In *Isaac's Army*, Matthew Brzezinski delivers the first-ever comprehensive narrative account of that struggle, following a group of dedicated young Jews-some barely out of their teens-whose individual acts of defiance helped rewrite the ending of World War II.

Your Rabbi in Action!



What's Happening at TBE

The time has come to renovate the Temple

By Jerry Bley

It has been seven years since Temple Beth El embarked upon its building project to meet the space needs of our community. The project began with the purchase of the neighboring Powell property (now the lower parking lot), a necessary first step to give us space to grow.

We originally had planned to add an addition to the Temple, but that idea was shelved when the house on the other side of the Temple came on the market. We determined that TBE could address its primary space needs – classrooms, offices and storage – in a more cost-effective manner by acquiring and renovating what would become the Nancy and Charlie Shuman Center for Jewish Learning. Dedicated in the fall of 2014, the Center has proven to be an invaluable asset for TBE's Hebrew School and administrative operations.

After giving ourselves a year to catch our breath, we initiated plans for Phase II of the building project – renovating the Temple. The impetus for renovation is the following three pressing needs:

- **Major deferred maintenance:** The Temple's roof, siding, and furnace are well beyond their expected life span and could fail at any moment;
- Accessibility: The building, including our bimah, our bathrooms and our entrance, is not fully accessible to those with disabilities; and
- **Energy Efficiency:** The building is not insulated, even to minimal standards, and has an antiquated heating system.

In working creatively with our *pro bono* architect, Peter Bethanis, we discovered that addressing the above needs also provided an opportunity to improve the functionality of the Temple. What began as a spiritually based proposition to reorient the synagogue to the East, as is Jewish tradition, evolved into a design endeavor with multiple benefits including:

- A more intimate gathering place for services with a semi-circular seating arrangement;
- The ability to create a function space separate from the synagogue which will greatly improve the transition between services and food;
- A more welcoming entranceway away from the street and a more spacious entrance area.

We are now in the process of finalizing all of the design plans and gathering cost estimates for the construction. This fall, we will initiate a fundraising campaign for the project with the hope of raising the necessary funds in time to initiate construction in June 2019 after the last of the spring b'nai mitzvah, with the goal of having it completed in time for Rosh Hashanah.

You will be hearing more about our plans and our funding needs in the coming weeks. With everyone's support, we can renew our community's home so that it can better serve our needs for many years to come.



Yom Kippur food drive for Augusta Food Bank

Please put your Yom Kippur nonperishable food donations in the white laundry basket in the lobby. We will get it over to the Food Bank. If you would rather give a cash donation, please put your check made out to Augusta Food Bank into the white box or give it to Nan. Thank you in advance for your help!

TEMPLE BETH EL

HIGH HOLIDAYS 5779



ROSH HASHANAH

Sunday, September 9 7:00pm Erev Rosh Hashanah Services

Monday, September 10

8:15am Children's Service (birth to grade 2)

9:30am Morning Services followed by Lipman Kiddush Lunch

9:30am Service for grades 3-7 (at

2:00pm Taslich at the Hallowell waterfront park

Tuesday, September 11 9:30am Morning Services followed by



SHABBAT SHUVAH

Saturday, September 15 10:30am Torah Study followed by Kiddush Junch



VOM KIPPIIR

Tuesday, September 18 7:00 pm Kol Nidre Wednesday, September 19

8:15am Children's Service (birth to grade 2)
9:30am Morning Services with Yizkor 9:30am
Service for grades 3-7 (at the Shuman
Center)

1:00pm Text study and discussion led by member Bob Adler

2:45pm Meditation Service

4:00pm Afternoon Services with discussion

5:30pm Musaf (Additional) Service

6:30pm Neilah Services

7:15nm Haydallah

7:30pm Break Fast



Sunday, September 23 9:30am Sukkah building and decorating with the Hebrew School students

Wednesday, September 26 5:30pm Soup & Study in the Sukkah

Friday, September 28 5:00pm Sukkot celebration with cider pressing, crafts and stories 6:00pm Shabbat services followed by potluck dinner in the sukkah

Saturday, September 29 10:30am Torah study followed by potluck lunch in the Sukkah

Sunday, September 30 5:15pm Pizza dinner

6:00pm Atzeret/Simchat Torah services

Monday, October 1 8:30am Atzeret/Simchat Torah services with Yizkor

Join Us for the High Holidays

As the dog days of summer wind down (hopefully), our thoughts turn to the upcoming High Holidays, which fall early this year on the Roman calendar. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I'd like to extend an invitation to all members, the Central Maine community, and visitors to the area to attend our all of our holiday services. As a preview to the new seating configuration that will be part of the Temple's building renovation project, we will have our seats arranged in an amphitheater style facing east for the Erev Rosh Hashanah service. Our seating will be like normal for the rest of our services. As always, the Temple will not require tickets or membership to attend any of our High Holiday Services. Of course, donations or new memberships are always welcome.

I look forward to seeing you at the Temple,

Chuck Cohen, TBE President

High Holiday Parking

Parking in the lot closest to the Temple is reserved for congregants who have challenges with mobility. Everyone else may park in the second lot or on the east side of Sewall Street (closest to the river). Please be considerate of our neighbors and do not park on Woodlawn Street.

Food Contributions

For the **Lipman Kiddush Lunch** on Monday, Sept. 10, the Lipman family again will supply the majority of the food. We ask you to contribute by bringing fruit or a dessert to share. For the **Break Fast** on Wednesday, September 19, Yom Kippur, contributions of fruit, salads, kugels, or desserts would be welcome. Please bring something to share for these community meals.





Preparing for the High Holidays Wednesday, Sept. 5th, 6-7:30 pm

Please join us to prepare for the Days of Awe. We'll start with a brief service and then hear from Pastor Chrissy Cataldo of Winthrop Congregational Church and Rabbi Asch, who will explore the concepts of sin and forgiveness from both Christian and Jewish perspectives. There will then be time for Q & A and discussion. After that, we'll take 10 minutes for people to write their own confessions that we will use in our Yom Kippur service, accompanied by harpist Deborah Sandler. *Please bring a snack to share at a brief social time after.*

Celebrate SUKKOT with TBE!

Sukkah building, decorating, and Torah study Sunday, September 23rd

ALL WELCOME!

- 9:30am-10:30am Join the Hebrew School for sukkah building and decorating
- 10:30am-11:30am Adult Torah study with Rabbi Asch in the synagogue
- 11:30am-12pm Sukkot songs, stories and

Sukkot Party! Friday September 28th

Come celebrate Sukkot with Temple Beth El! 5:15pm-6pm Stories, arts and crafts and cider pressing

6pm-7pm Services **7pm** Potluck dinner



And don't forget about Simchat Torah!

Sunday, September 30th

Join us for a pizza dinner, dancing, and song-filled services as we celebrate Simchat Torah! 6:00pm Service with singing and dancing 5:15pm Pizza dinner



What's happening at TBE







SOUP AND STUDY

In the Sukkah!

Judaism and
Environmentalism: What does
the Torah about to say about the
environment?

JOIN FOR A DELICIOUS DINNER AND STUDY AND DISCUSSION
OF JEWISH TEXTS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH * 5:30-7:00PM * TEMPLE BETH EL

PLEASE RSVP TO THE OFFICE SO WE HAVE ENOUGH FOOD!

Why are the Chinese so interested in the Jews? Find out on Friday, Oct. 5th @ 7:00pm

TBE will host a special Shabbat service with a guest lecture from Professor Xu Xin, the Diane and Guilford Glazer Chair Professor of Jewish and Israel Studies and Dean of the Institute of Jewish/Israel Studies, Nanjing University. This lecture will present an analysis of Chinese knowledge about and attitudes toward the Jewish people in the 20th century. Most Chinese are fascinated by the Jews and how they survived, were revived, and have achieved so much in modern times even though they have been persecuted throughout the ages. The image of the Jews in the Chinese mind serves as an "other," which remains a mirror and model for the Chinese to judge or construct themselves as they consider paths of modernization that maintain tradition.





Cultivating Jewish Community in Rural Maine

FALL SHABBATON

OCT. 26-27, 2018 COLBY COLLEGE, WATERVILLE

Featuring the Torah of Music with Joey Weisenberg of Building Singing Communities, and Tizmoret, the premier Jewish a cappella group from Queens College, New York.

MAINE CONFERENCE FOR JEWISH LIFE

MAY 31-JUNE 2, 2019 THOMAS COLLEGE, WATERVILLE

Details at colby.edu/jewishlife/ Contact us at JewishLife@colby.edu

f/MaineJewishLife



Make Time for the Fall Shabbaton at Colby College

Fri.-Sat., Oct. 26th-27th

The Fall Shabbaton at Colby College with Joey
Weisenberg, Creative Director of Hadar's Rising Song
Institute. "Having come to cherish the imperfectly
beautiful music of normal people singing together, Joey
works to empower communities around the world to
unlock their musical and spiritual potential, and to make
music a lasting and joy-filled force in shul and in Jewish
life." Also featuring Tizmoret, the nationally acclaimed
Jewish a cappella group from Queens College, to perform
Saturday night.



We're SOOOOOOO excited! Hebrew School starts at 9:30am on Sept. 16th Potluck lunch begins at 11:45am — please bring a dish to share!

We are thrilled to welcome a new b'nai mitzvah class this year. In addition to our parent/child b'nai mitzvah classes Rabbi Asch will be teaching about Jewish texts and history, Emily Bley will be teaching about becoming a Jewish adult, and Rich Goldman will be taking a deep dive into one aspect of our tradition. We encourage our students to attend services at the Temple and to share in each other's b'nai mitzvah ceremonies.

Hebrew Through Movement

TBE will be introducing a new way of learning Hebrew for our middle and upper classes, Hebrew Through Movement. These 15-minute lessons will be taught be Rabbi Asch and will be focused on the Total Physical Response way of learning language. This focuses on hearing and following basic commands (stand, sit, turn, point, etc.). It does not focus on speaking or reading. The idea is that through building up a vocabulary, the transition to reading is much easier. Students will have sight words that they know and will learn to identify words in Hebrew. During the rest of Hebrew time they will focus on reading and prayer fluency. We are excited to introduce this new way of learning Hebrew.

Learning Values from Stories

Bria's class will study stories from the Torah, beginning with B'reishit (Genesis). What values can we learn from the stories of our Jewish ancestors? From Abraham and Sarah we learn the importance of welcoming guests (hachnasat orchim); from Rebecca, kindness; and from Jacob and Esau, reconciliation. Our class will also learn Jewish blessings and Hebrew vocabulary through fun games and movement activities!

Traveling Back in Time

Amy's class will be traveling back in time to learn about the history of the Jewish people. In the fall we will journey through the land of Canaan and learn about the nomadic tribes of the Israelites, King Saul, and the building of the first temple. We will discuss the foundations of the Jewish religion and how they still affect us today as modern Jews. All of this, and more, will be learned through games, discussion, role-playing, and group projects in class.



Four TBE kids attended Union of Reform Judaism sleepaway camps this summer!

Donations

Building Fund

Suzanne and Peter Rosenberg

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

Sarah and Michael Drickey

Yahrzeit/Memorials

- Sarah & Michael Drickey in memory of Dorothy Spalding
- Pauline & Reginald Hannaford in memory of Lydia Thielman
- Elizabeth Koopman in memory of Bernard Osgood Koopman
- Yale Marienhoff in memory of Blanche Marienhoff
- Yale Marienhoff in memory of Rose Schwartz Finkelstein
- James Montell in memory of Gertrude Goldberg
- Susan & David Offer in memory of Edith Gershon
- Nancy & Charles Shuman in memory of Gertrude Lerman
- Nancy & Charles Shuman in memory of Esther Shuman
- Bertine & Ken Slosberg in memory of Lynn Slosberg



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 Plagues

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

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Honorary Directors

Peter Bickerman Julius Goos Sumner Lipman

September Yahrzeits

September 1	Elma Samuels Rosenberg	October 1	Albert Kleiman
September 2	Marian Honigman	October 6	Nancy Diamond
September 4	Warren Heald		Deborah Gail Sclar
September 6	Ted Grossman	October 7	Frances Horvitz
	Harry Shuman	October 8	Richard Kelly
September 7	Lucille Rutberg	October 9	Nancy Bien
September 8	Harry Graham		Bertha Plano
September 10	Joan P. Morse		Mary Slosberg Feldman
September 11	Sarah Goos	October 10	Lena Weiner-Sorgman
September 14	Thelma Lipman	October 11	Jack Bishoff
September 15	Julia Sandler Ray	October 13	Elizabeth Dana
	Sam Slosberg	October 15	Max Dansky
September 16	James Brown		Jacob Epstein
	Edwin Moser		Herman Greenhut
September 19	Neal Buford	October 16	Lionel Lazerow
	Jess Yoder		Stanley Lerman
September 20	Maurice Ross	October 17	Robert Johnston, Sr.
September 21	Abraham Nekris	October 19	Frieda Cohen
	Nathan Schneider		Dorothy Cohen Moser
September 23	Irene Rubinstein	October 20	Sally Gilbert
September 26	Evelyn Berman		Marie Salvino
	Belle Grodinsky	October 23	Celia Norken
September 27	Samuel B. Gass	October 24	Joseph Sclar
September 28 Benjamin Cottrell Schepps		October 25	Sophie Goldberg
September 30	Joan Goldberg	October 26	Herbert Gross
	Elaine Kaduson	October 27	Evelyn M. Kaplan
	Shirle Offer		Martha Simmons
	Joseph S. Reich	October 28	Albert Nolin
	Lynn Slosberg	October 29	Bennett David Katz

Portland Chevra Kadisha Jewish Funeral Home 471 Deering Ave. Portland, ME 04103 207,774,3733



Refuah Sh'lemah (Get Well) to:

October Yahrzeits

Hope Cohen Julius Goos Harriet Katz Michael Libby Judy Plano