



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-Nissan-Iyar 5780/March – April 2020

From the desk of Rabbi Asch...on sabbatical!

As we begin the month of Adar, I am reminded of the saying Mishenichnas Adar Marbim B'Simcha: "One who begins Adar increases in joy." I had a wonderful sabbatical and it is a joy to be back at Temple Beth El. I must start with a huge thank you to everyone who took on extra responsibilities during this time. The sabbatical committee, the board, and all of you who coordinated our classes, Torah study, and services, taught adults and children alike, visited and cooked meals, gave rides and more.

I appreciate the chance to have some time away from the Temple and I thank all of you for truly making it a time away. I appreciated not only the time to be away from the day-to-day tasks of my job but also for the opportunity to take a mental break from this work that is fulfilling, meaningful, and important — but also can be overwhelming. It is a pleasure to return to the office (which is not hosting Torah study or services now that our renovation is complete!). I look forward to seeing all of you in the coming month.

You will no doubt hear more about my time away in the coming months, but I wanted to give you a brief overview of what I've been doing. As you know, my family and I spent a month in Israel. It had been a long time since I had been back and it was a wonderful opportunity to see family, work on my Hebrew, and get a sense of what life is like there. I also was able to take a tour through the South, including a visit to the new National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama. It memorializes the victims of lynching in the United States and is a powerful reminder of how much work we still have to do in the area of racial justice. On Sunday mornings I attended five different church services. I also took the opportunity to study Talmud and midrash and will continue this learning now that I am back at work.



On a personal note, it was wonderful to spend more time with my family, including being able to see them on the weekends. I tried out a lot of new recipes, read some good books, and was able to spend more time outdoors.

I look forward to seeing all of you this month as we increase our joy together. Make sure you attend one of our three (!) Purim events and have a joyous Adar!

At left, Rabbi Asch and the kids visit Hebrew Union Congregation in Greenville, Mississippi, where her rabbinical journey began.

TBE Schedule: March – April

Services

Saturday, March 7

10:00am Shabbat Together with Bath

Friday, March 13

6:00pm Shabbat Service

7:00pm Potluck Dinner

Friday, March 27

6:00pm Shabbat Service

7:00pm Potluck Dinner

Friday, April 3

6:00pm Shabbat Service

7:00pm Potluck Dinner

Saturday, April 11

10:30am Shabbat Service

12:00pm Kiddush Lunch

Torah Study

Saturday, March 14, 21, 28

Saturday, April 4, 18, 25

10:30am & Kiddush Lunch

Hebrew School

Sunday, March 1, 15, 22, & 29

9:30am Hebrew School

Sunday, March 8

10:00am – 11:30am *Purim Carnival*

Sunday, April 5, 12, & 26

9:30am Hebrew School

No Hebrew School on Sunday, April 19!

TBE Activities

Monday, March 2, 16, & 30

Monday, April 13 & 27

6:30pm Intro to Judaism class

Saturday, March 7

6:00pm Pre-Purim Party

Monday, March 9

5:30pm Purim with Waterville

Wednesday, March 11

Thursday, April 16

6:00pm TBE Board Meeting

Sunday, March 15

12:30pm Teen Cooking in Augusta

Wednesday, March 18

Wednesday, April 29

5:30pm Soup & Study

Wednesday, March 25

5:30pm Book Club @ HHRC

Thursday, April 9

5:30pm Passover Seder

Todah Rabbah

- **The Sabbatical Committee:** Jay Richardson, Hildie Lipson, Fran Rudoff, Chris Zinck
- **Our President, Chuck Cohen**, who filled in in numerous ways (even though he retired from his job, he didn't retire from his work at TBE!)
- Darlene Zimmerman for her flexibility, patience and hard work.
- Everyone who did an extra job (or two) during the sabbatical: Chris Myers Asch, Amy Bley, Emily Bley, Emily Bessey, Jay Collins, Mike Drickey, Ellen Freed, Rich Goldman, Nancy Kelly, Cree Krull, Susan Marshall, Rabbi Susan, Bria Watson, Chris Zinck, Thea Zinck
- All the congregants who taught and lead services
- Our guest teachers and service leaders: Shenna Bellows, Rabbi Sruli Dresdner and Lisa Mayer, Rabbi Darah Lerner, Sarah Rockford, Rabbi Lisa Vinikoor

Notes from Brooklyn

By Robert Katz

I am writing down my thoughts as the bus is pulling away from 42nd Street and turning onto Second Avenue in New York City, on its way back to Maine. For the past few days, I was visiting my daughter who lives in a brownstone apartment in the Brooklyn neighborhood of Crown Heights. At the end of her street and across Bedford Avenue next to our favorite pizza shop is a plaque commemorating the site of Ebbets Field, the home to the legendary Brooklyn Dodgers. It was here that Jackie Robinson picked up his bat and became the first African American to play on a major league baseball team.

Crown Heights has always been known as a tapestry of diversity. On my daughter's block, most of the small, brick homes are owned by families who immigrated to New York from the West Indies. About a block away where the African American community begins is a local college named after the civil rights activist Medgar Evers who was murdered in his fight for social justice.

Eastern Parkway is the common thoroughfare that leads us to the nearby neighboring ultra-Orthodox Jewish community that houses synagogues and kosher butcher shops. Every now and then, tempers flare, but mostly the various communities, each with their unique traditions, tolerate their differences. Yet today, Crown Heights is a tinder box ready to explode as acts of violent anti-Semitism is threatening the fragile coexistence that has defined the uniqueness of this Brooklyn neighborhood and reflecting the disturbing trend in American society.

Almost daily, there are reports of violence. Jewish women and old men are being struck, pushed to the ground and beaten. I observe the fear in the eyes of Jewish families who once felt relatively safe walking down the tree lined streets. The same fearful glances that are reminiscent of the faces of the Jews in the streets of Berlin in the late 1930's who were being targeted by Nazi supports.

Having grown up in Brooklyn, it is shocking for me to return to these familiar streets and learn of these unprovoked attacks. As I pass by the numerous synagogues, each are now surrounded by patrol cars. Police carrying assault rifles by their side stand guard at the entrances to the Hebrew schools. I watch the faces of the small children as they pass by these heavily armed sentinels. Even as we visit our favorite Jewish delicatessen, we feel the uneasiness. Police stand on alert, guarding the entrance to this popular restaurant in the middle of New York. On Sunday afternoon, we attended a family birthday party at a Jewish community center on the outskirts of the city. Even here, the memory of recent attacks against Jews compels the center to lock all doors and hire an armed guard.

A friend of mine, who serves on a board of directors at a Long Island synagogue, tells me how just this week they have revisited their annual budget to include a \$150,000 allocation for a permanent armed guard and an additional \$300,000 to increase security to their building. They do not yet know where this money will come from, but the fear of recurring attacks on Jewish institutions compels them to take this unprecedented action.

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Notes from Brooklyn (cont. from page 3)

The level of violence that is now occurring in our communities is real and alarming. I have witnessed this anti-Jewish hate during my travels in Germany, France, England and Poland, but not in my childhood neighborhoods of Brooklyn.

As we crossed the river on a bright Sunday morning, the Brooklyn Bridge shimmered in the sunlight. 25,000 people would be marching across the bridge in defiance of hate on this day, bringing a moment of hope. The politicians expressed their outrage, but can only assure us that they would increase protection in Jewish neighborhoods. These promises, as well-intentioned as they may be, do little to dispel the wave of anti-Semitism that now seems to have become part of our American experience in 2020.

Late afternoon, we finally cross the bridge at Kittery and the sign reads, "MAINE. WELCOME HOME." However, even in Maine, our Jewish community for the first time felt the need to hire police to stand guard during our recent religious services.

I am sadly reminded of the words of Eli Wiesel who stood before a gathering of Holocaust survivors at the Western Wall in Jerusalem and said, "we have told our story, but the world remains the same." For those of us whose hearts are in the right place, we continue to support the efforts of the HHRC. But for a moment, let us not become complacent. If we believe that the work is done and that anti-Jewish pogroms and "Nights of Broken Glass," book burnings, hate, and intolerance are in the past, just put on a yarmulke and take a walk with me as a Jew through the streets of Crown Heights.



We need YOU for the choir at TBE

May 2014

Rabbi Asch's installation was the impetus that finally made a choir come together at TBE. Rabbi Asch's request gave us little more than a week to practice. She chose four pieces and, not knowing any of them, I foolishly said "Of course!" However, once I sat down at the piano I quickly realized what I had committed us to do. They were not easy pieces. But, thanks to YouTube, we were able to hear many of them in performance which helped greatly.

Four women agreed to sing: Chris Fluriel, Linda Kallen, Edda Thiele, and Thea Zinck. With my voice added to the mix plus the violin of Syd Sewall and the piano playing of Peter Rosenberg we were a choir! Of course we were all altos except for Thea who has a lovely lyric soprano voice (I hope you appreciated the high A which she hit with no trouble at all!). We practiced Sunday afternoon, Monday evening, Thursday evening, and Saturday prior to the service. Whew!! But we received a lot of positive feedback after the service so all that hard work paid off.

Everyone agreed that they want to continue singing together. Anyone who wishes to join us is more than welcome! Even though Chris and I can carry the tenor part if needed, men, please do not be shy. You do not have to be able to read music but you should be able to sing on pitch. At the present time we will be rehearsing on Monday evenings at 5 starting on Monday, June 2. We will be preparing music for the High Holidays. Please join us!

Judith Plano

Since this letter was written in May of 2014, much has happened. Emily Bley, a trained musician joined us and added her voice and viola wherever she was needed. Linda started a new business and had to give her time to that. Chris and Edda both moved out of town/state. Thea's hearing was compromised and she has sadly been unable to sing. And I became suddenly quite ill needing emergency open heart surgery which started a two-year cascade of illnesses.

Emily and I sang sporadically and only as a duet and we still practiced every week until I became too ill.....BUT we now have the perfect opportunity to "sing to Adonai a new song." **MAY 15, 2020** is the dedication of our beautiful reconfigured worship space. I can think of no better way to welcome this lovely space than through prayer and music.

WE NEED YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Sopranos, altos, tenors basses

WE WILL ONLY SING ON THE 15TH.

Judith Plano

215-3573





**SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH
BETH ISRAEL, BATH**

Shabbat Together!

You are welcome to come to
one or all of these events:

10:00am Shabbat Services

11:15am Torah Study

12:30pm Lunch

Please bring a side dish, salad
or dessert to share.

1:30pm Holiday Activities

All ages welcome!



**RSVP FOR LUNCH TO
OFFICE@BETHISRAELBATH.ORG**

Shabbat Services and Torah Study at the
synagogue: 862 Washington St.

Lunch and Activities at the Minnie Brown
Center: 902 Washington St.



**CENTER FOR
SMALL TOWN
JEWISH LIFE**

Sponsored by the Center for Small Town Jewish
Life in partnership with Beth Israel Congregation
(Bath) and Temple Beth El (Augusta)

TEMPLE BETH EL PRESENTS...

(PRE-) PURIM PARTY!!!

This is it, peeps: the blow-out, adults-only, open-bar, highly-hyphenated Pre-Purim Party

What to expect: an original Purim spiel! Special announcements that won't make the newsletter! A contest involving a GONG! All in the comfort of our newly-renovated, ever-so-warm-and-comfy synagogue. Line up your taxi and break out the crazy costumes because Purim is finally here!

What to bring: Groggers, wigs, crazy clothes or costumes for yourself and socks, sweatpants and canned goods to donate!

Come with a full stomach, because it'll be open bar BUT appetizers/nosh food only

SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH AT THE TEMPLE
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Join Temple Beth El Hebrew School for
our annual...

PURIM CARNIVAL

Fun and games for all ages, prizes,
and of course, tasty hamantaschen.

Don't forget your costume!

SUNDAY MARCH 9TH, 2020

10:00AM - 11:30AM

At Temple Beth El, Augusta



Soup and Study: Israel



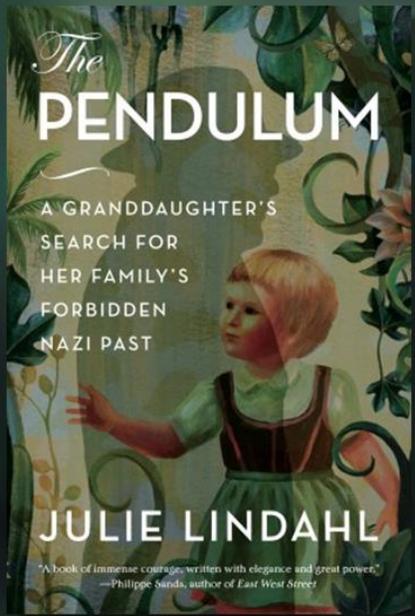
*Reflections with Rabbi
Asch on her recent trip to
Israel*

JOIN US FOR A DELICIOUS
DINNER AND STUDY AND
DISCUSSIONS OF JEWISH TEXT

WEDNESDAY MARCH 18TH
FROM 5:30-7:00PM

TEMPLE BETH EL, AUGUSTA
PLEASE RSVP TO THE OFFICE SO WE HAVE
ENOUGH FOOD

What's happening at TBE



The Holocaust and Human Rights Center and Temple Beth El present this special one-hour Webinar Book Talk by Julie Lindahl.

**Wednesday, March 25th
5:30 to 6:30 PM.**

**Holocaust and Human Rights Center.
46 University Drive, Augusta**

Interested in reading and discussing important Holocaust history in community with other HHRC members? We invite you to sign up to read this riveting book and then join us at the Michael Klahr Center with a live webinar conversation with the author and new friends day and neighbors.

A Brazilian-born American, Lindahl now lives in Sweden. In *The Pendulum*, she explains her grandparents' roles as members of Hitler's elite, the SS. In order to uncover this hidden past, she spent six years traveling through Germany, Poland, Paraguay, and Brazil learning that her grandfather had been a fanatic member of the SS since 1934. During WWII he was responsible for enslavement and torture in occupied Poland. After the war, he fled to South America to evade war crime trials. This book also exposes life in Nazi Germany and Poland during the war.

TEMPLE BETH EL
WELCOMES
RABBINIC INTERN
MADELINE COOPER

FUN FACTS ABOUT MADELINE



- Before rabbinical school, Madeline worked as a political organizer in New Hampshire and met several presidential candidates-
- As a child, Madeline spent two summers at camp in Maine, where she developed a love of swimming in lakes and Gifford's ice cream
- Madeline spent her first year of rabbinical school living in Jerusalem
- In her free time, Madeline loves to cook, create art, and watch classic films
- Madeline loves musical theater, and knows all of the words to many musicals. Some of her favorites include Hamilton, the Sound of Music, and Les Miserables.

*Madeline will be joining us
March 27th-29th*

Thank you to the Center for Small Town Jewish Life for making
Madeline's visit possible.

Donations

Building Fund Capital Campaign

- Susan Bakaley Marshall/Chris Marshall
- Marcia & Michael Parker
- Chris & Thea Zinck

In Honor Of

- Judith & Mark Lurie in honor of Jerry Bley and Syd Sewall
- Katherine McLinn in honor of Joel Davis and the Davis/Shed family
- Katherine McLinn in honor of Seth Freed-Wessler and his family

Yahrzeit/Memorials

- Rabbi Erica & Chris Myers Asch in memory of Robert P. Myers and Jarvey Gilbert
- Carol Barlow in memory of Walter Barlow
- Richard Dana in memory of Jacob Dana
- Andrea Free in memory of Leah D. Freed, Harriet R. Werlin, and Fred P. Freed
- Ellen Freed in memory of Leah Freed
- Ellen Freed & Carol Barlow in memory of Louise Macy
- Joan & Lowell Freiman in memory of Louise Macy
- Seth Greene in memory of Louise Macy
- Theresa Kerchner & James Perkins in memory of Louise Macy
- Elizabeth Koopman in memory of Jane Bridgman Koopman
- Katherine McLinn in memory of Ruth McLinn
- Yale Marienhoff in memory of Yetta Marienhoff
- Susan & David Offer in memory of Louise Macy
- Peter & Suzanne Rosenberg in memory of Louise Macy
- Nancy Ross & George Viles in memory of Louise Macy
- Deb & Syd Sewall in memory of Louise Macy
- Doretta Shapiro in memory of Louise Macy
- Steven & Beth Shapiro in memory of Faye Goldberg Montell
- Steven & Beth Shapiro in memory of James Carvutto
- Steven & Beth Shapiro in memory of Harold Shapiro
- Steve & Beth Shapiro in memory of Louise Macy
- Sarah Shed in memory of Louise Macy
- Martin Weiser in memory of Louise Macy



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

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Rabbi Erica Asch 207-242-9792
Email: bethelaugusta@gmail.com

President

Chuck Cohen

Vice President

Mike Drickey

Treasurer

Hildie Lipson

Secretary

Judith Plano

Board of Directors

Emily Bessey, J. Richardson
Collins, Mike Drickey, Richard
Fein, Ellen Freed, Richard
Goldman, Nancy Kelly, Cree
Krull, Fran Rudoff, Lila
Solomon, Chris Zinck

Honorary Directors

Peter Bickerman
Sumner Lipman
Deb Sewall

Committee Chairs:

Emily Bley (Hebrew School)
Judith Plano (Yad B'Yad)
Fran Rudoff (Fundraising)

March Yahrzeits

March 1: Hyman Cohen
March 3: Samuel Gershon
March 3: Hyman Norken
March 4: Laura Goldstein
March 5: Rose Golden
March 10: Helen Hannaford
March 13: Joseph Shapiro
March 15: Daniel Clifford Gross
March 16: Elizabeth Sax
March 16: Elenor Sylvia Slosberg
March 18: Perry Bakaley
March 18: Edwin Aaron Macy
March 19: Lillian Freiman
March 20: Cynthia Haderski
March 23: Nick Scott
March 25: Shirlie Goldman
March 25: Toby Rudginsky
March 26: Charles Bader
March 27: Lewis Brown
March 28: Jonathan Schiff
March 29: Lillian Lerman

April Yahrzeits

April 4: Hyman Sandler
April 4: Irving Berman
April 7: Leonard Dansky
April 10: Morris Weiss
April 12: Harry S. Price
April 12: Shawn Walker
April 13: Robert Sandler
April 14: Lena Slosberg Lait
April 21: Lillian Shapiro
April 22: Martin Evenchik
April 22: Irving Weiss
April 23: Abraham Slosberg
April 23: Sidney Goldstein
April 23: Eleanor Mayer
April 26: Edith Sclar
April 27: Anthony Imondi
April 28: Tishelle Glant-Scheinman
April 28: John Marshall
April 29: Samuel Weiss
April 30: Sylvia Parker



The following were overlooked in the last newsletter:

*December 31: Pauline Cohen
January 14: Dorothy Bader*

We apologize for the error.

Portland Chevra Kadisha Jewish Funeral Home

471 Deering Ave.
Portland, ME 04103
207.774.3733

Refuah Sh'leimah (Get Well) to:

Carole Fitzgerald
Julius Goos
Michael Libby
Judy Plano