



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 5781/September-October 2020

From the desk of Rabbi Asch

Fall is in the air! As I write this the days have turned cooler, a sure sign that the High Holidays are almost here. This month is a time of reflection and introspection--of preparation for the holidays. This year, our preparations at the Temple have looked a little bit different. The yizkor book is already at the printers, we are numbering *machzorim* to lend out and investing in video cameras and microphones. Some things will also look the same. We will still prepare by cooking our favorite holiday foods, calling to wish friends a *shana tova* and hearing the sound of the shofar in Elul.

Part of our preparation each year is internal. We examine our actions so that we are not caught by surprise when the holidays come. I've been reading some of the wonderful Elul resources put out by the CCAR and the URJ. This piece, by Rabbi Debra J. Robbins, is from her book *Opening Your Heart with Psalm 27* (CCAR Press, 2019), pp.26-27.

Psalm 27:4 I'm Asking God One Question: Achat Shaalti

If I could ask only one thing of God, what would it be?
It's nearly impossible to decide.
My prayer bends toward gratitude, not supplication.
"Thank You, Strength, for the steps I take as I walk the dog."
"Thank You, Wisdom, for the opportunity to study Torah."
"Thank You, Generosity, for abundance in my life."
"Thank You, Protection, for keeping us alive and allowing us to reach this moment."
Endless gratitude, every new day of every New Year.
If I could ask God for only one thing, what would it be?

I have no requests, only questions . . .
Maybe . . .
Who can . . . ?
When will . . . ?
What if . . . ?
Where was . . . ?
Why did . . . ?
No. Now I know my question.
If I could ask God something,
not for something,
The one thing I would ask is:
"How can I help?"

I am grateful that in the past few months, so many of you have reached out to ask how you could help. This High Holiday season would not be possible without the incredible work of so many members of our community. So what else do we ask of you?

- **Patience.** The online format is new for us. There will be bumps along the way. Stay with us as we work things out.
- **Flexibility.** Our services will look a little bit different this year. A favorite prayer or tune may be missing. New readings will be added. Open yourself up to some new experiences.
- **Gratitude.** Our high holiday committee (Chuck Cohen, Linda Kallin, Cree Krull, Fran Rudoff, Deb Sewall, and Liz Sizeler), Sue Offer, and Dawn Fecteau, have spent countless hours preparing for this holiday season. Our Covid Task Force (Chuck Cohen, Fran Rudoff, Ben Gottlieb, Scott Schiff-Slater, and Syd Sewall) have made sure our holidays are safe. Extend your thanks to them. This year has truly been a team effort.
- **Ruach (spirit).** While the holidays are a time of introspection, they are also a joyful time to gather in community. Bring your *ruach* with you to services. Sing along or clap along (on mute!), get dressed up and log on a little early so you can join a breakout room to talk with others.

I am looking forward to observing a very memorable High Holidays with all of you this year. *Shana tova u'metukah*. A happy and sweet new year!

TBE Schedule: September—October

Services

High Holiday Services / Events:

See next page

Havdallah

Saturday, September 26th at 7:30 pm

Saturday, October 3rd at 7:30 pm

Saturday, October 10th at 7:00 pm

Saturday, October 24th & 31st at 6:30 pm

Shabbat Services

Friday, September 4 at 7:00pm

Friday, September 11 at 6:30pm (in person)

Friday, October 9 at 6:00pm (Simchat Torah)

Friday, October 23 at 7:00pm

Adult Study

Daf Yomi

Saturday, September 12 & 26 at 10:00am

Saturday, October 3, 24, & 31 at 10:00am

Torah Study

Saturday, September 12 & 26 at 10:30am

Saturday, October 3, 24, & 31 at 10:30am

Study for Simchat Torah

Saturday, October 10 at 10:15am

Hebrew School

Sunday, September 13 at 9:30am

No School on September 20

Sunday, September 27 at 9:30am

Sunday, October 4 at 9:30am

Sunday, October 11 at 9:30am

Sunday, October 18 at 9:30am

Sunday, October 25 at 9:30am

TBE Activities

Meet and Greet with Rabbinic Intern Frankie Sandmel

Monday, September 7 from 4:30 – 5:30pm

Joyful Judaism with Jenna

Friday, September 11 from 5:30 – 6:15pm

Friday, October 9 from 5:30 – 6:00pm

Selichot Sevice with the Center for Small Town Jewish Life

Saturday, September 12 from 8:00 – 9:00pm

Family High Holiday Experience with the Center for Small Town Jewish Life

Friday, September 25 from 6:00 – 6:30pm

Festival Service with Yikzor

Saturday, October 10 from 9:00 – 10:00am

TBE Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 14 from 6:00 – 8:00pm

Getting onto Zoom

Unless otherwise noted, all TBE activities will take place via Zoom. The link and password for the meeting remain the same. Please contact the office for the login information or if you need help setting up Zoom. You must register for Center events to receive the unique link for those programs.

Today Rabbah

- To all the wonderful volunteers who helped out on TBE's Work Day
- Sue Offer for compiling the yizkor book

TBE Schedule: September—October

TEMPLE BETH EL, AUGUSTA

HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

2020 / 5781

Erev Rosh Hashanah Friday, September 18th

6-6:35pm Welcoming Rosh Hashanah
Songs, sermon and blessings

Rosh Hashanah Saturday, September 19th

8:45-9:30am Children's Service

10-11am Block #1: Service and sermon

11:30am-12:45pm Block #2
Torah Service, Kaddish, blessing for a new year

*3pm *Tashlich*: **Sign up** to join us outside at the
Gardiner Waterfront, or join us on Zoom

Rosh Hashanah #2 Sunday, September 20th

10-11:15am Aveinu Malkeinu and Torah Study

*Afternoon Shofar Services: **Sign up** to join us
outside or join us on Zoom
- 1pm Litchfield
- 2:45pm Capitol Park
- 4:30 Union

Erev Yom Kippur Sunday, September 27th

7-8:15pm: Yom Kippur Service
Kol Nidre, confessions and sermon

***Note:** All services are available on Zoom

Zoom Information:

Meeting ID: 605 792 8965

Contact the office for the password

Yom Kippur Monday, September 28th

8:15-9am Children's Service

9:30-10:30am Block #1
Service, confessions and sermon

11am-12:15pm Block #2
Aveinu Malkeinu and Torah Service

12:15-12:30 Slideshow

12:30-1:15pm Block #3: Yizkor Service

2-2:45pm Lay-led study

2:45-4pm Meditation time on your own

4-4:45pm Afternoon Service: Torah reading and study

5-5:30pm Musaf (additional service)
Grand Aleinu, confessions

5:45-6:30pm Nei'lah: Concluding Service

6:30-7:15pm Time for meditation or travel

*7:15pm *Havdallah*: In-person at Capitol Park
or join us on Zoom

Sukkot - Opportunities for study and a meal
in the TBE Sukkah. More information to
come!

Simchat Torah Friday October 9th

6pm: Simchat Torah Service for all ages

Saturday, October 10th

9-10am Atzeret/Simchat Torah Service with
Yizkor and Torah reading

10:15am-12pm Special Torah Study

Traditions New and Old During the High Holidays

By Hildie Lipson, TBE Board Member

We all know why the High Holidays this year will be different than previous years. To make sure that I will still be able to feel the *naches* (pleasure) of the holiday and observe the new year, I will do at least two things. I will double down and make more of the traditional foods I associate with Rosh Hashanah including my mom's honey cake and a side dish of Moroccan carrots. There is a tradition at Rosh Hashanah to eat symbolic foods meant to help ensure a good new year. Of course, we know about apples and honey for a sweet new year. In addition, eating carrots, especially cut into rounds or coins, are meant to symbolize increased blessings in the new year. And more often eaten in Israel than here, pomegranates, filled with seeds, are said to represent an increased multitude of virtues for us in the coming year.

I will also make the effort to go see the live shofar service in Augusta, one of three locations to hear it this year. Hearing the shofar is one of my favorite Jewish traditions. For me, it signifies, in its unique way, a separation from one year to the next. The sounding of the shofar is familiar, comforting, energizing, and filled with expectation. More than anything, hearing the shofar is how I know it is a new year, a happy ritual the High Holiday planning committee made sure to include amidst challenging circumstances.

To find some new High Holiday recipes, I highly recommend you purchase the new *Temple Beth El Augusta Members and Friends Cookbook*. Stacey Mondschein Katz gathered together a wonderful book of recipes provided by our community members. I plan to look for a few new dishes to make this year, especially to use the abundant produce available at this time of the year. This cookbook is also comforting, knowing many of the people who contributed recipes.

If you need another reason to get the cookbook, my mother's honey cake recipe is in it. Let me know how your version comes out!

L'Shana Tova Tikatevu



Ranked Choice Voting in Maine

By Carrie McCarter for the Civic Engagement Workgroup

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is not a new concept, although it may still feel new to many of us. RCV actually has been around in Maine since 2011 (and in New England since the late 1800s!), when Portland used RCV to elect its mayor and experienced a 40% higher than projected turnout. As we look forward to the general election on Tuesday, November 3, Mainers will be making history as the first voters to use RCV for a presidential election. This comes after RCV opponents did not turn in enough valid signatures to put a people's veto on the November 2020 election ballot.

What is RCV?

If you are new to RCV or just are not sure you fully understand how it works, here's an explanation from RCV Maine: Ranked choice voting gives you the power to rank candidates from your favorite to your least favorite. On Election Night, all the ballots are counted for voters' first choices. If one candidate receives an outright majority, he or she wins. If no one receives a majority, the candidate with the fewest first choices is eliminated and voters who liked that candidate the best have their ballots instantly counted for their second choice. This process repeats and last-place candidates lose until one candidate reaches a majority and wins. Your vote counts for your second choice only if your first choice has been eliminated.

What races use RCV?

Mainers have voted in favor of RCV twice: first, in 2016, by the second largest referendum vote of the Maine people, and second, in 2018. When it passed in 2016, ranked choice applied to races for the U.S. Senate and House, Governor, and Maine Senate and Assembly beginning in 2018.

In the upcoming 2020 General Election, RCV will be used for the U.S. House and Senate races, and the Presidential race. If you voted in the primary, you probably noticed that RCV was used for Maine General Assembly races as well, but will not be used in the General Election for those races. Requirements for those races in the primary are dictated by statute, as opposed to the General Election which is dictated by the Maine Constitution. Changes to voting in the General Election therefore would require an amendment to the Constitution. [You can do more research yourself on the Maine Ranked Choice Voting Page (<https://legislature.maine.gov/lawlibrary/ranked-choice-voting-in-maine/9509>). It gets somewhat confusing but if you've been reading the Talmud, you should have no problems.]

Want an absentee ballot?

If you are all set to request your absentee ballot for the General Election, you should know that you can go ahead and request it now. In fact, you could have requested it as early as August 3rd, three months before the election. Mainers can request absentee ballots electronically (<https://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl>) or via downloadable mail-in form (<https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/upcoming/index.html>).

Requests also can be made by calling your town clerk (<https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/munic.html>). Absentee ballots will be mailed out one month prior to the election. The ballots can be requested up to three business days before the election - by October 15 is recommended. They must be **returned by election day, not postmarked by election day**.

Where can I get more information?

For more info, review Maine's Ranked Choice Voting webpage (<http://www.rcvmaine.com/>) or the Secretary of State's website (<https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/upcoming/rcv.html>).

Get ready to vote!!!!



TEMPLE BETH EL
WELCOMES
RABBINIC INTERN
FRANKIE SANDMEL

FUN FACTS ABOUT FRANKIE



- If it were up to me, I would never live more than 15 minutes away from a lake I could swim in. Currently, I have a pond 12 minutes away.
- My favorite Jewish holiday is Sukkot - an underrated holiday full of feasting and sitting outside with friends and family.
- Because I moved so much in my life (Philly, Baltimore, Chicago, Israel, Minnesota, and Boston), Maine - where I was born and have returned every summer - has always felt like home.
- I love to bake cookies.
- My way to cope with hours in zoom classes this spring and summer has been crocheting small stuffed animals. Most recently an octopus.

Frankie's crocheted creations (right).

Thank you to the **Center for Small Town Jewish Life** for making Frankie's online visits possible this year!



We're Back!

Hebrew School starts Sunday, September 13th at 9:30am. School will be in person until the weather gets too cold to be outside. Parents, look for a mailing with more details. We look forward to seeing you soon!



Hebrew school help needed!

We need one adult or teenager to volunteer on Sundays from 9:30-12 with our Hebrew school. You can volunteer one Sunday or many Sundays. You will run one small group and read them stories, and generally help out with the kids. No lesson planning needed. Contact Rabbi Asch for more information.

Donations

General Fund

- Seth Greene Donation to the General Fund
- Seth Greene Donation of Sanctuary Clock in Honor of Rabbi Asch
- Sumner Lipman Special High Holiday Donation

Building Fund Capital Campaign

- Susan Bakaley Marshall
- Chris and Thea Zinck

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

- Chuck Cohen & Mary Beth Paquette in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Chuck Cohen & Mary Beth Paquette in memory of Yale Marienhoff

Yahrzeit/Memorials

- Sue Offer in memory of Edith Gershon
- Li'el Boudreau in memory of Rebecca Schneider Cohen
- Nancy and Charles Shuman in memory of Gertrude Lerman
- Yale Marienhoff in memory of Blanche Marienhoff
- Yale Marienhoff in memory of Rose Schwartz Finkelstein
- Nancy Ross and George Viles in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Lauren Orenstein in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Avra and Daniel Novarr in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Estelle and Harvey Cooperstone in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Ellen and Matthew Parker in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Peter Rosenberg in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Margery and Alfred Margolis in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Jerryanne Laperriere in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Li'el Boudreau in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Steven and Beth Shapiro in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Sue and David Offer in memory of Charlotte Goos
- The Chester and Clayton Families in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Martin Weiss in memory of Linda Weiss Manson
- Robert Bellman and Carole Osterer in memory of Charlotte Goos
- David and Nancy Berman in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Marty Weiss in memory of Charlotte Goos
- James and Lisa O'Donnell in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Geraldine Roley in memory of Charlotte Goos
- James, Faye and Susan Montell in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Ellen Freed in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Randall and Marjorie Patkin in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Seth Greene in memory of Bill Weisberger
- Seth Greene in memory of Linda Weiss Manson
- Seth Greene in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Deb Sewall in memory of Yale Marienhoff
- Randi Eisner in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Terrance Flynn in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Linda Kallin in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Linda Kallin in memory of Yale Marienhoff
- Ellen Freed in memory of Yale Marienhoff
- Claudia Shilo in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Emily and Jerry Bley in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Emily and Jerry Bley in memory of Yale Marienhoff



Yahrzeit/Memorials

- Emily and Jerry Bley in memory of Robert Bley
- Emily and Jerry Bley in memory of Susan Bley
- Cree Krull in memory of Yale Marienhoff
- Julie Shuman in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Susan and David Offer in memory of Yale Marienhoff
- Martin Weiss in memory of Yale Marienhoff
- Sarah and Mike Drickey in memory of Dorothy Spalding
- Jerry Popham and Nadine Nakazono Popham in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Pamela Rodman Paro in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Joe O'Donnell in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Elizabeth Koopman in memory of Bernard Osgood Koopman
- Elizabeth Koopman in memory of Yale Marienhoff
- Joyce and Irving Tessler in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Patrick and Deborah Joyce in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Brenda Shaw in memory of Todd Michael Greene
- Brenda Shaw in memory of Joan (Jet) Price
- Richard and Jane Golden in memory of Gerald Golden
- Deborah and Sydney Sewall in memory of David Macy
- Deborah and Sydney Sewall in memory of Berni Macy
- Deborah and Sydney Sewall in memory of Sylvia Fain
- Deborah and Sydney Sewall in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Kenneth and Bertine Slosberg in memory of Lynn Slosberg
- Nancy and Charles Shuman in memory of Esther Shuman
- Chris and Thea Zinck in memory of Charles Zinck
- Deborah Sandler in memory of Joline Sandler
- Joe O'Donnell in memory of Thelma Alpert Price
- Barda Leavitt in memory of Dick Faucher
- Barda Leavitt in memory of Janice Leavitt
- Toby Adelman in memory of Charlotte Goos

Donations

Terumah Pledges

Louisa Barnhart and Michael Klein
Emily and Ethan Bessey
Emily and Jerry Bley
Lisa Bradley and Michael Popkin
Jonathan and Victoria Cohen
J. Richardson (Jay) Collins
Richard Dana
Janicka Eckert and Rob Johnston
Jay Franzel
Roger Katz
Paul Kuehnert and Judith Graber
Jerryanne LaPerriere
Sumner Lipman & Dawn Lieb
Margery and Alfred Margolis
Yale Marienhoff
Susan Bakaley Marshall and Chris Marshall
Kate McLinn
Solomon Nethers
Price O'Donnell Family Fund
Sue and David Offer
John and Blair Rubinstein
Francine Rudoff
Lena Rutberg
Sarah Shed
Carl Suchar and Phyllis Santer
Charles and Nancy Shuman
Jonathan and Dace Weiss
Marty Weiss
Heather Wolfe and Daniel Friedland

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

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Vice President

Cree Krull

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Committee Chairs:

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Judith Plano (Yad B'Yad)
Fran Rudoff (Fundraising)

**Portland Chevra
Kadisha
Jewish Funeral
Home**
471 Deering Ave.
Portland, ME 04103
207.774.3733

September Yahrzeits

Sept. 2: Emma Levy
Sept. 6: Gertrude Goldberg
Sept. 8: Joe Hausner
Sept. 10: Elma Samuels Rosenberg
Sept. 15: Harry Shuman
Sept. 15: Julia Sandler Ray
Sept. 15: Sam Slosberg
Sept. 16: Lucille Rutberg
Sept. 17: Harry Graham
Sept. 19: Joan P. Morse
Sept. 20: Sarah Goos
Sept. 23: Thelma Lipman
Sept. 25: James Brown
Sept. 25: Edwin Moser
Sept. 27: Samuel B. Gass
Sept. 28: Jess Yoder
Sept. 30: Abraham Nekris
Sept. 30: Nathan Schneider
Sept. 30: Shirle Offer

October Yahrzeits

October 2: Irene Rubinstein
October 5: Evelyn Berman
October 5: Belle Grodinsky
October 9: Joan Goldberg
October 9: Bertha Plano
October 9: Mary Slosberg Feldman
October 10: Albert Kleiman
October 13: Carol Eckert
October 15: Nancy Diamond
October 15: Deborah Gail Sclar
October 17: Richard Kelly
October 18: Nancy Bien
October 19: Lena Weiner-Sorgman
October 20: Marie Salvino
October 22: Elizabeth Dana
October 23: Richard Kelly
October 23: Celia Norken
October 26: Robert Johnston
October 28: Dorthy Cohen Moser
October 28: Albert Nolin
October 29: Sally Gilbert



Condolences

- To the **Goos Family** on the death of Charlotte Goos on July 2nd.
 - To the **Marienhoff Family** on the death of Yale Marienhoff on July 20th.
- To **Deborah Sandler** on the death of her mother, Joline Sandler, on August 3rd.
- To the **Suchar Family** on the death of Norman Suchar on August 3rd.