



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

Cheshvan-Kislev-Tevet 5781/November-December 2020

From the desk of Rabbi Asch

It comes as a surprise to no one that we are in the midst of an election. I, like you, have been overwhelmed by TV ads, mailings to my house and phone calls reminding me to vote, and making an argument about who to support. I, like you, might be ready for this election to be over! However, on this eve of Election Day I wanted to say a few words about voting and our Civic Engagement efforts at Temple Beth El.

Our amazing Civic Engagement team was led by Jay Collins with help from Bob Adler, Chuck Cohen, Ellen Freed and Mike Levey. They provided detailed information about voting to all of you through our weekly email and a mailing to every member of the congregation. Their efforts were part of a national effort by the [Religious Action Center of the Union for Reform Judaism](#). You can learn more about the campaign [here](#) and join in the [post election call](#) on November 11th to hear how we, as a Reform Movement, engaged almost 500,000 voters. That is impressive! I want to encourage everyone to vote (if you have not already) and invite you to fill out this very [brief survey](#) from our Civic Engagement Team. It will help us track our congregational efforts. Finally, I want to remind you that it is likely we will not know the results on November 3rd. Please be patient and encourage others to be patient as we wait for every vote to be counted.

As we head past the election and into the winter at TBE, we have a lot planned. Look for more information about our Hanukkah celebrations, another visit from Frankie Sandmel, our newly imagined online Ice Storm Wine Tasting, and more. While the changing of seasons brings some excitement, it also might bring dread or anxiety for many of you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I or the Temple can be of any help in the months to come. The phone lines and video links are always open.

The last few weeks we have heard from Rabbis Isaacs, Saks, and Solochek about why they vote. I wanted to close this column with my answer to that question.

Ever since I can remember, my parents took me with them to vote. Voting day was special. We walked to our polling place, cast our ballots, and got our stickers. Now, as a parent, I look forward to taking my children to vote with me. As we drive around town in the months leading up to an election, they ask me which offices people are running for and who their opponent is. They love to count how many yard signs they see. Aaron recently remarked that Central Street was Maureen AuCoin territory while Academy Street is for George LaPointe (both are candidates for mayor of Hallowell). For me, voting is one piece of being an informed and engaged citizen. I am conscious that my Jewish ancestors were not allowed to be citizens of the countries in which they lived. I am so grateful to live in a democratic country where my religion does not limit my political involvement. My husband serves on the school board, and I lobby my representatives and bring my Jewish values to bear on the issues of the day. Our democracy requires that we bring our full selves, including our Jewish values, into the voting booth and the civic arena. Much as we are commanded to pass the Torah down to our children, I believe we must pass down to them the importance of being informed and engaged citizens who vote, lobby their representatives, and stand up for what they believe. Voting is my civic duty and Jewish responsibility.



TBE Schedule: November—December

Services

Havdallah @ 5:00pm

Saturday, November 14th & 21st
Saturday, December 19th

Shabbat Services @ 7:00pm

Friday, November 6th & 20th
Friday, December 11th

Adult Study

Daf Yomi @ 10:00 am

Saturday, November 7th & 21st
Saturday, December 12th & 19th

Torah Study @ 10:30am

Saturday, November 7th & 21st
Saturday, December 12th & 19th

B'not Mitzvah

Jane Rubin-Irish

Saturday, November 14th @ 11:00am

Miriam Asch

Saturday, December 5th @ 10:30am

Hebrew School

November 1st, 8th, 15th, & 22nd at 9:30am

No School on November 29th

Sunday, December 6th, 13th, & 20th at 9:30am

No School on December 27th

Parents, look for an email about when we will be moving to online school for our oldest classes.

TBE Activities

Prophets Study @ 11:30am

Thursday, November 5th, 12th, & 19th
Thursday, December 10th, & 17th

Fall Shabbaton with the CSTJL

November 7th & 8th

Joyful Judaism with Jenna @ 5:30-6:15pm

Friday, November 13th and December 11th

Intro to Judaism Class @ 7:00-8:30pm

Wednesday, November 18th

TBE Board Meeting

Monday, November 16th from 6:00 – 8:00pm
Monday, December 21st 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's Rabbah

- To Chuck Cohen, Linda Kallin, Cree Krull, Fran Rudoff, Liz Sizeler, and Deb Sweall for planning the High Holidays
- To Mike Drickey, Beck Freed-Barlow, Linda Kallin, Ava Katz, Noah Katz, Cree Krull, and Rabbi Susan for tutoring our students in Hebrew.

JOIN US FOR

Racial Justice Discussions

COME FOR ONE OR FOR ALL

Thursday, November 19th

Thursday, January 7th

Tuesday, February 23rd

Monday, April 5th

Wednesday, May 26th

7:00–8:30pm

Readings will be
provided in advance of
each discussion.

These discussions are part of our effort to understand racism
and work to make our congregation and community more just.

Our Temple is a Special Community

By Ellen Freed, TBE Board Member

When I arrived in Central Maine, many years ago, and found Temple Beth El, I was stunned by a place so different from the congregation I had left behind. I came from Newton, Massachusetts, "the old country," as described by Rabbi Susan and Jet Price. I was invited into the Sisterhood by the elegant elders, Charlotte Goos, Lila Segal, Edith Katz, and Lenora Dana. I was never able to pour tea with the finesse expected of me. Having sat behind the mehitzah in my grandmother's shul, I wasn't comfortable with the strict separation of gender roles. I was told, at TBE, "This is how we've always done it." How we've evolved.

There were many years when I participated in meetings as a TBE Board Member which included the hard-fought decision to affiliate with the Reform Movement. That was a period of challenge and change for our congregation. I rode through times of visiting rabbis, some more skilled than others. We progressed toward hiring our own Rabbi Susan and then Rabbi Asch. They have blessed us with their presence and guided us through the growth we've experienced as a congregation.

Time has moved quickly for my family. There were years of Hebrew school, starting with Bella Sewall tutoring eight year old Nate before he was in class with Gabe Freiman who is now his neighbor, friend, and fellow dad in Brooklyn. This congregation held me through the deaths of close family members and friends, a divorce, a conversion, a marriage, and family B'nai Mitzvah. I think back on preparing for my own with Nancy Schatz and Lynn Slosberg and am left chuckling.

We've mourned the loss of many congregants, spouses, parents, siblings and children. Ours is a community that lets us lean when we need to. We care for each other with compassion and humor under the guidance of our Rabbi and Board of Directors. The strength of our community builds with each new member and the relationships we nurture amongst those who have longstanding connection to TBE.

We've taken on significant challenges to function as a congregation during a worldwide pandemic. Our Hebrew School thrives, services and study sessions continue. We celebrate our holidays and will gather in new formation for our annual ice storm commemorative wine tasting and auction. The synagogue remodeling project was more extensive, costly, and time consuming than we had thought it would be but the results are impressive. We continue to reach out to congregants in need and encourage our cohorts to become civilly engaged by taking seriously the right to vote. We continue to explore social justice issues in our discussions and plans for action.

Our strength lies in the relationships we build here. Friendships flourish. Many of us can't be with family members so, as Stephen Stills sang, "if you can't be with the one you love.... Love the one you're with...." For those who indulge my mothering and grand mothering needs, I thank you. On the Board, Judy Plano, Deb Sewall, and I are the "women of a certain age" as labeled by the wise and generous Sarah Shed. We may not be as elegant or able at the tea table as the elders who came before us, but we show up and offer what we can. I love our TBE Community and can't imagine still being in the congregation of thousands from my youth. This is where I belong. I encourage you to increase your connections to our community in whatever ways you can. Share your strengths and talents.

All Are Welcome to Join Us on Zoom for Two Important Simchas!



Celebrate the Bat Mitzvah of
Jane Rubin-Irish
Saturday, November 14th @ 11am

By Jane Rubin-Irish

Some things about myself: I think I'm pretty fun but that's just my opinion. I really like to play soccer. This is my 3rd year on my school team and it's been so fun. I also read a lot, sometimes arguably too much. Just this week I read two books straight through. I think of myself as a pretty social person. I have lots of friends and love spending time with them, in person or not. I am really excited for my Bat Mitzvah because I have been practicing for a long time and I feel pretty ready. I'm kind of sad that my camp friends can't come to the Bat Mitzvah, as well as my family and other

Celebrate the Bat Mitzvah of
Miriam Asch

Saturday, December 5th
@ 10:30am

By Miriam Asch

My name is Miriam and I am in eighth grade at Hall-Dale Middle School. I like to read, walk in the woods, and cuddle with my cat, Thunder. In school, my favorite classes are math and science. I especially like astronomy. I play the clarinet and am a part of the math team. I also play soccer. I am looking forward to my bat mitzvah. I want to say a special thank you to my tutor, Morah Mel.



JOIN US ONLINE FOR

The Fall Shabbaton

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 –
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2020



Register here for the upcoming Fall Shabbaton!

RITUAL

- Musical Havdallah at Saturday at 7pm followed by a concert with [Deborah Sacks Mintz](#)

MUSIC

- Sunday at 2pm with guest artist Deborah Sacks Mintz

STUDY

- Sunday at 1pm hear the Rabbinical Student Fellows share their visions of a post-pandemic Jewish community

FOOD

- Sunday at 11:30 make veggies stuffed with rice with chef Daniel Heinrich

SOCIAL JUSTICE

- Sunday at 10am learn with Yoshi Silverstein about racial equity in our Jewish community

KIDS

- Special programming at 1pm with Mel Weiss (if you want more fun after Hebrew School!)

[Register now](#) for this amazing event. Did I mention it is **FREE**?



Ice Storm Wine Tasting

Saturday, January 30th @ 6pm

This year we visit **Italy!** Wine and food will be available for you to pick up. We also will have a live auction!

Intro to Judaism Class

Wednesday, November 18th 7-8:30

Interested in learning more about Judaism? Thinking of converting? Born Jewish but want to learn more? This class is for you. Join Rabbinic Intern Frankie Sandmel and Rabbi Asch once a month for our Intro class. Learn more about Jewish history, holidays, life cycle events and more. Email Rabbi Asch if you are interested or just attend the class!



Office closed

Nov 26th and 27th

December 25th

January 1st

Dawn is in the office
Tuesdays, Wednesdays
and Fridays.

Masked and Ready to Learn

The Hebrew School students are proving to be hardy, adaptable Mainers. They come out to the temple on Sunday mornings masked up and ready to learn about Judaism. Thank you, parents and caregivers, for being so supportive!



Donations

General/Other

- Francis Harrigan, Yom Kippur – Yizkor
- Deb & Syd Sewall and Barbara Macy in honor of Louise Macy on what would have been her 96th birthday
- Mike Levey for High Holiday Donation
- Vivian Flamm for Tzedakah
- Seth Green, for special Hanukkah Donation

Building Fund Capital Campaign

- James Daybock
- Stanley Sclar
- Bruce and Nancy Shatz
- Sarah Shed
- Charlie and Nancy Shuman

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

- Charlene Cleven
- Cree Krull
- Nancy Ross and George Viles
- Bruce and Nancy Schatz

Yahrzeit/Memorials

- Brenda Rosenbaum in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Stanley Levine in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Larry Bader & Ellen Kandel in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Doretta Shapiro in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Doretta Shapiro in memory of Yale Marienhoff
- Kenneth & Bertine Slosberg in memory of Sam Slosberg
- Avra Novarr in memory of Julius Goos
- Randi and Bill Cohen in memory of Julius Goos
- Jacquelyn Furman in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Deb & Syd Sewall in memory of Julius Goos
- Andrew & Lauren Orenstein in memory of Julius Goos
- Cree Krull in memory of Julius Goos
- Beth Greenberg in memory of Julius Goos
- Andi Shaw in memory of Julius Goos
- Geraldine Roley in memory of Julius Goos
- Pauline Hannaford in memory of Charlotte & Julius Goos
- Jerryanne Laperriere in memory of Julius Goos
- Cheryl Maiuri in memory of Charlotte & Julius Goos
- The Montell Family in memory of Julius Goos
- Lynne Garone in memory of Charlotte & Julius Goos
- Marty Weiss in memory of Julius Goos
- David and Sue Offer in memory of Julius Goos
- Judy & Jonathan Chester and Maryann Clayton in memory of Julius Goos
- Stephanie Elkind in memory of Julius Goos
- Brenda and Paul Rosenbaum in memory of Julius Goos
- Lucile Shimkus in memory of Julius Goos



Yahrzeit/Memorials

- Bruce & Nancy Schatz in memory of Alan & Joel Davis
- Bruce & Nancy Schatz in memory of Charlotte & Julius Goos
- Marjorie and Randall Patkin in memory of Julius Goos
- Stephen Diamond in memory of Nancy Diamond
- Jeff Frankel in memory of Carol Eckert
- Steven & Beth Shapiro in memory of Belle Grodinsky
- Steven & Beth Shapiro in memory of Richard Kelly
- Maplewood at Weston in memory of Charlotte & Julius Goos
- Abbie Fuchs in memory of Julius Goos
- James Montell in memory of Joan Goldberg
- Wendy Price in memory of Charlotte and Julius Goos
- James & Lisa O'Donnell in memory of Julius Goos
- Deb & Syd Sewall in memory of Lila Segal
- Nancy Ross and George Viles in memory of Lila Segal
- Marty Weiss in memory of Lila Segal
- Ellen & Matthew Parker in memory of Julius Goos
- Gail Fels in memory of Charlotte and Julius Goos
- Seth Greene in memory of Julius Goos
- Seth Greene in memory of Lila Segal
- Joyce and Irving Tessler in memory of Julius Goos
- Iris and Ted Barten in memory of Charlotte and Julius Goos
- Ellen Kandel in memory of Julius Goos
- Al and Margie Margolis in memory of Julius Goos

Donations

Terumah Pledges

- Scott and Camille Davidson
- Janika Eckart and Robert Johnston
- Vivian Flamm
- Richard Goldman and Linda Hermans
- Seth Greene
- Roberta (Birdie) Katz
- Matthew Rolnick
- Marie Sacks
- Bruce and Nancy Schatz
- Rebecca Schnur and John Schlottman
- Deb and Syd Sewall
- Doretta Shapiro
- Nancy Weingarten and Stephen Diamond



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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Chuck Cohen

Vice President

Cree Krull

Treasurer

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Sumner Lipman
Deb Sewall

Committee Chairs:

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

November Yahrzeits

November 2 Clare Nolin
November 2 Joseph Sclar
November 2 Helen Bicknell Shed
November 3 Sophie Goldberg
November 4 Herbert Gross (Chaim)
November 5 Martha Simmons
November 6 Dorothy Drickey
November 7 Bennett David Katz
November 10 Marjorie Curtis
November 11 Elizabeth "Betty" Lieb
November 12 Malvin Mayer
November 12 Harold Rubinson (Yitzhak Chaim)
November 14 Beatrice Freiman
November 16 Daniel Bulba
November 17 Bart Bakaley
November 18 John Ray
November 19 Abraham Goldberg
November 19 Sam Goos
November 20 Lenora Q. Dana
November 20 Cathy Mattin
November 21 Anthony Plano
November 21 Pasyah Fersht Schneider
November 22 Bernice Pollack
November 22 Sylvia Rudoff
November 23 Iris Brock
November 25 Jeanette Johanssen
November 25 Pierrette Zinck
November 25 Lucille Zisquit Goldman
November 28 Harold Lipman

December Yahrzeits

December 2 Julia Feldman
December 2 Murry M. Freed
December 4 Robert Sax
December 5 Beatrice Sewall
December 5 Sydney Katz
December 5 Fanny Yoder
December 9 Eli Bulba
December 11 Rosemary Marshall
December 14 Harriet Katz
December 14 Fannie Weiss
December 16 Anna Norcken Lipman
December 17 David Slosberg
December 18 Arlene Fine
December 18 Edith Katz
December 19 David S. Goldman
December 19 Sydney Katz
December 21 Harriet Katz
December 23 Hayden Goldberg
December 24 Max Cohen
December 24 Genevieve Kus
December 26 Robert P. Myers, Jr.
December 27 Alexander "Alex" Davis
December 30 Samuel Lipman
December 31 Pauline Cohen
December 31 Howard Director



Portland Chevra Kadisha Jewish Funeral Home

471 Deering Ave.
Portland, ME 04103
207.774.3733

Condolences

- To the **Goos family** on the death of Julius Goos on Monday, September 21, 2020.
- * To the **Segal family** on the death of Carolyn Lila Segal on Tuesday, October 6, 2020.