



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-Iyyar 5781/March-April 2021

From the desk of Rabbi Asch

Mishna: Pirke Avot 2:5

הלל אומר אל תפרוש מן הצבור ואל תאמן בעצמך עד יום מותך ואל תדין את חברך עד שתגיע למקומו ואל תאמר דבר שאי אפשר לשמוע שסופו להשמע ואל תאמר לכשאפנה אשנה שמא לא תפנה:

Hillel taught:

Do not withdraw from the community;

Do not be sure of yourself till the day of your death;

Do not judge your fellow human being till you stand in his situation;

Do not say, "It is not possible to understand this," for ultimately it will be understood;

Do not say, "When I have leisure I will study," for you may never have leisure.

As we enter the beginning of our second year of this pandemic, I've been thinking about what wisdom Jewish texts have to share with us today. The text above was in the Kabbalat Shabbat section of the prayer book we used at college, so for four years, I read it nearly every week. I think it can offer us some wisdom today.

Do not withdraw from the community. We aren't seeing many people in person, and that means it is harder to make social connections with those outside of our immediate circles of family and close friends. But we need social connection more than ever. This month, take the time to pick up the phone and call someone you haven't spoken with in a while or come to a TBE event. Create an even broader community.

Do not be sure of yourself until the day of your death. There are so many things we do not know and it can be hard to live with uncertainty. This text points out that not being too sure of yourself can actually be positive. This past year has certainly taught us that we do not know what the future brings.

Do not judge your fellow human being till you stand in his situation. This year has been rife with political divisions and judgment. Not judging others (or not giving too much mental energy to those with opposing points of view) frees us from a cycle of frustration and hatred. Many TBE members have stopped tuning into the news on Shabbat and report feeling happier on Saturday than they do most of the week. A break from judgement means a mental break for us as well.

Do not say, "It is not possible to understand this," for ultimately it will be understood. This past year has shown us that scientific ingenuity is thriving. From the creation of Covid vaccines in record time, to the recent landing of the Perseverance on Mars, we have seen our understanding of our world and beyond grow. While there are plenty of mysteries still out there, we humans have an amazing ability to learn, adapt and discover.



See Rabbi's Message, page 5

TBE Schedule: March—April

Services

Havdallah

Saturday, March 6th & 13th at 6:30pm

(Statewide on the 13th)

Saturday, March 20th @ 8:00pm

Saturday, April 3rd @ 8:00pm

Saturday, April 10th @ 8:00pm

Shabbat Services @ 7:00pm

Friday, March 5th

Friday, March 19th

Friday, April 2nd

Friday, April 9th

Friday, April 16th (at 5:30pm with Center for Small Town Jewish Life)

Adult Study

Daf Yomi @ 10:00 am

Saturday, March 6th, 13th, & 20th

Saturday, April 3rd, 10th, & 24th

Torah Study @ 10:30am

Saturday, March 6th, 13th, & 20th

Saturday, April 3rd, 10th, & 24th

Hebrew School

Sunday, March 7th, 14th, 21st, & 28th at 9:30am

Sunday, April 4th, 11th, & 25th at 9:30am

No School on April 18th!

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.

TBE Activities

Beth El In-Action Meeting

Monday, March 1st, 7:15pm

Prophets' Study @ 11:30am

Thursday, March 11th, 18th & 25th

Thursday, April 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th

TBE Board Meeting @ 6:00pm

Thursday, March 18th

Tuesday, April 13th

Intro to Judaism Class @ 7:00—8:30pm

Thursday, March 11th

Wednesday, April 21st

TBE Racial Justice Meeting @ 7:00—8:30pm

Monday, April 5th

Today Rabbah

- To everyone who helped during Rabbi Asch's Sabbatical:
 - **The Committee:** Susan Bakaley Marshall, Chuck Cohen, Nancy Kelly, Cree Krull
 - **Those who taught:** Madeline Cooper, Carrie McCarter, Eileen Ringel, Frankie Sandmel, Jon Weiss, Chris Zinck
 - **Hebrew School:** Rich Goldman, Jenna Greenbaum, Bria Watson
 - **Other help as needed:** Mike Drickey, Dawn Fecteau, Rev. Carie Johnsen
 - **Beth Israel Bath**, for welcoming us for Friday night services

- To our amazing Purim Team:
 - **Writer/Director/Editor:** Ben Gottlieb & Cree Krull
 - **Actors:** Aaron Asch, Chris Myers Asch, Rabbi Asch, Robin Asch, Daisy Bessey, Emily Bessey, Ethan Bessey, Ruby Bessey, Peter Bickerman, Chuck Cohen Vivian Flamm, Ellen Freed, Sol Heifets, and Amy Lawson.
 - **Mishloach Manot Crew:** Aaron Asch, Rabbi Asch, Vivian Flamm, Ellen Freed, Ben Gottlieb, Cree Krull, Matthew Rolnick, Deb Sewall.

We raised over \$700 through our gift baskets!

Hello from New Board Member Mike Levey

By Mike Levey

Hello Temple Beth El. Although I have been on your Board for one year, COVID-19 has taken away our opportunity to get to know each other in person. As a result, I still feel quite the newcomer to the Congregation and the Board. This, then, is my way of introducing myself.

First and foremost, I am retired (although sometimes it doesn't feel that way). My first spouse, Cheryl Harrington, and I are divorced. We have two grown children with spouses/ partners and three grandchildren, two of whom are either driving or taking driver's ed! I am married to Michael Susan Brown, and we had our 33rd anniversary last August. Mike Brown is best stepparent in the history of the world.

I have lived and worked in Winthrop since 1975. I practiced law in a general practice law office on Main Street in Winthrop, known primarily as Levey and Wagley, more recently and now known as Levey, Wagley, Putman and Eccher. Most of our clients were from the central Maine area. I practiced mostly in the District and Superior Courts in Augusta.

I was on the Winthrop School Board, and the Winthrop Recreation Committee (many years ago). I was an active member of the YMCA in Augusta (the old one on Winthrop Street). I was a member of Maine's Family Law Advisory Commission, appointed by two Maine Chief Justices, which met in Augusta. I served on Maine's Commission on Sexual Assault and Domestic Abuse, appointed by Governor King. I shopped at the big grocery stores in Augusta (I am now loyal to the not-so-brand-new Hannaford in Winthrop). I spent lots of time shopping at Mr. Paperback, and now at Barnes and Noble in Augusta. I am on the Board of the Maine Justice Foundation, located in Hallowell, a foundation which helps fund legal aid. As you can see, my personal and professional life for almost 50 years has been situated right in the middle of the Winthrop/Augusta/ central Maine area.

Have you noticed something missing from this substantial local history? Almost 50 years, and where is the Temple in this story? Where are the Jews? What gives? Here then is my Jewish history.

During childhood, and college, I had a connection with Jewish life. I was active in the Parkersburg, West Virginia reform Temple, B'nai Israel. It was 50 families, plus or minus, congregation with several of the families having school age children in the age range of me, my older sister and younger brother. These families were very close and spent a huge amount of time together. (The reason for this is a worthwhile separate discussion.) I feel like I was raised by the Leveys, the Gottliebs, the Robbins, the Sterns, the Cremers, the Irvins, the Blockers, the Ardmans, and many others.

In addition to the local close Jewish community, my extended family Jewish connection was strong. My parents were from Brooklyn (Conservative/Orthodox Jews), and moved to WV in 1941, three years before I was born. We visited New York, before there was a New Jersey Turnpike, several times a year to see Grandma Kate Levey and many aunts, uncles and cousins. My WV home was distinctly Jewish. I attended Sunday School, was Bar Mitzvah and Confirmed. I was active in Temple Youth Group and attended lots of state-wide and regional conclaves and camps (OVFTYtoot two-week summer camp in Zionsville, Indiana, remember that anyone?)

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What's happening at TBE

"Hello from New Board Member Mike Levey," continued from page 3

I attended college at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. I was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity, one of the three Jewish Fraternities on campus. Miami U was strongly affiliated with Fraternity/Sorority life, and my life at college involved mostly Jewish friends associated the Fraternity. I did not participate in services or other religious events. College was also, in retrospect, a time during which I noticed a contrast from my small-town Jewish background, from the urban/ big city suburban Jewish life which existed in my Fraternity. Two different Jewish experiences. (By the way, I liked my childhood and college lives immensely! Don't get me wrong. I recognize the two different worlds in which I was travelling.)

My participation in Jewish life began to diminish at the time I went to law school. I went to law school at the University of Cincinnati and did not affiliate with Jewish groups or a Temple. I did not participate in Jewish rituals or activities. I met and married my first wife, Cheryl, who is not Jewish. We respected each other's ethnic and religious feelings, and neither of us imposed on the other. We celebrated Chanukah and Passover, in an ethnic way, and visited lots with my extended Jewish family and friends. We celebrated Christmas without church and spent time with Cheryl's Protestant extended family. Our children did not have a Temple or a Church. They were raised without a religious upbringing.

After 5 years of practicing law in Ohio, we moved to Maine, moved to Winthrop in 1974, a community with very few Jewish people, and that's where I have been ever since. Mike Brown and I married in 1985. She is not Jewish. We fully accept each other's religious feelings and do not ask each other to "come my way."

My work and community activities brought me in touch with local Jews. Jewish lawyers. Jewish clients. Jews involved in community activities. You can't be Jewish and not know other Jews in your neighborhood. The Jewish connection, from a distance, remained a part of my life. I continued my ethnic emotional loyalty. I maintained close relationships with my family and my childhood and college Jewish friends. I also met and made friends with Jews in the community. After my first law partner in the practice moved away, I teamed up in practice with Steve Wessler, then married to Ellen Freed (of whom you might have heard). We were good friends with Nancy Ross and George Viles. I knew George before he was Jewish! And I liked him even then. Sumner and David Lipman, Roger Katz, Harold Shapiro, Richard Goldman, Peter Bickerman (my kitchen cabinet, friend, and golf partner), Seth Greene, (I'm sure I'm overlooking other names) became known to me and very much liked by me.

I did not join or participate in the Temple but was aware of it. I volunteered to assist the Temple from time to time with social service activities. I delivered some meals with other Temple volunteers at free mealtime events. I washed pots and pans as a part of the Temple volunteer corps. I assisted the Temple with its acquisition of some adjacent property, the parking lot, and saw the Board in action. Jerry Bley roped me into that. It was a pleasure. I got to know Rabbi Susan, which was and is a great honor for me. (Ask me about the time she and I went to an event at a Temple in Portland- it's a great story for another time!) My contact with Rabbi Susan led me to join the Temple, more to participate with financial support than to become active. My membership caused the Temple to become more visible. Its commitment to social service and social justice was attractive. The Temple appeared to be a blend of Jews, converts, partners and "fellow travelers" which felt tolerant and open, a good thing in my opinion.

Continued on page 5

What's happening at TBE

Rabbi's Message, continued from page 1

Do not say "when I have leisure I will study," for you may never have leisure.

We don't know what tomorrow may bring, so we need to prioritize what is important to us. Some of us have faced a lot of leisure in the last year and some are busier than ever. No matter what your situation, finding time to do what you love is important. For the ancient rabbis that was study. It might be something else for you!

We have a packed few months ahead of us at TBE. I hope to see you virtually on Zoom. I also welcome the chance [to meet with you individually](#). Thank you all for being a part of our community.



"Hello from New Board Member Mike Levey," continued from page 4

As my legal work wound down and retirement arrived about two years ago, I turned my attention to the subject of "What do I want to do when I grow up?" The Temple became an area of interest. I became a part of the Temple's effort at Addie's Attic. I helped lug things around and push a wheelbarrow as the Temple renovation occurred. I served as a "greeter" following the Pittsburgh murders. Throughout all this, I became acquainted with other members of the Temple. Some of them I liked better than my Jewish lawyer friends! I have become acquainted with a Syrian family, with help from my consultants Chris Myers Asch and Nancy Kelly.

In the fall of 2019, I attended "Judaism 101," taught by Rabbi Asch and others. I developed an interest in a better understanding of Jewish history, and our rituals and holidays. And then in late 2019, much to my surprise I was asked to consider becoming a member of the Board. Thanks, Ellen Freed! I said yes and jumped into the deep end.

I view this as an opportunity and a challenge. The Temple Board is smart, loaded with talent, morals, and values, all a little intimidating! It is a pleasure to serve. My goal is to learn, and to help the Temple and the Jewish religion be fully accepted as a part of the community and to be separately recognized as an important well-respected faith.

Enough about me. Let's talk about you. What do you think of me?

TEMPLE BETH EL'S
**PASSOVER
SEDER**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 28TH
5:30PM**

Songs. Discussion. Lots and Lots of Matzah.

Celebrate with Us.

Check the weekly email for more details.

LEARN WITH RABBINIC INTERN FRANKIE SANDMEL

**FRIDAY, MARCH 5TH
SERVICES @ 7:00PM**

Followed by a festive
Zoom-oneg.
Bring a drink and nosh
and chat with Frankie.

**JOIN FOR ONE EVENT
OR ALL OF THEM**

**SATURDAY,
MARCH 6TH
DAF YOMI @ 10AM
TORAH STUDY @ 10:30AM
HAVDALAH @ 6:30PM**

**JOIN US FOR
CONVERSATION AFTER
HAVDALAH SATURDAY
EVENING**

**FRANKIE WILL ALSO
JOIN US APRIL 9TH &
10TH. CHECK THE
WEEKLY EMAIL FOR
MORE DETAILS**

What's Happening at TBE

Programs this month from the Center for Small Town Jewish Life

Passover Community Training, Sunday, March 7, at 10 a.m.

Now that Purim has passed, it's time to start imagining Passover! Join Rabbi Rachel Isaacs and Rabbinical Student Fellow Madeline Cooper to learn and discuss tips and tricks for running your own zoom-based seders this year. You will leave with materials and strategies to lead your own seder with your families, friends, and communities this year. This program will be geared toward those who are newer to leading seders (or newer to leading on Zoom), although all are welcome! [Register to attend by clicking here.](#)

Statewide Healing Service with Cantor Sheila Nesis, Monday, March 8, at 6:30 p.m.

Prayers, music and the warm embrace of friends help us renew our sense of hope, strength, and healing as we continue to navigate these unprecedented times. This service is for those of us struggling with our physical or spiritual health, those of us struggling with sadness and grief, and those of us who are caregivers seeking inspiration as we pray for our loved ones. Special prayers will be recited for a refuah sh'leimah for our dear Rabbi Darah Lerner of Congregation Beth El in Bangor as she faces health challenges. [Register here.](#)

Who Counts & Why It Matters: Understanding our Multiracial Jewish Community with Ilana Kaufman Tuesday, March 16, 7:15 p.m.

Ilana Kaufman, Executive Director of the Jews of Color Initiative, will discuss the growing racial diversity in the Jewish community and the implications for the Jewish now and the Jewish future. Ms. Kaufman's work, which sits at the center of Jewish community, racial equity, and justice, is anchored by the voice and experiences of Jews of Color and is focused on grant making, research and field building and community education. [Register here.](#)

Havdalah, Together, Saturday, March 13, at 6:30 p.m.

Our March Havdalah, led by Rabbi Jared Saks of Bet Ha'am, Portland, and Rabbi Lisa Vinikoor of Beth Israel, Bath, comes at the one-year anniversary of the beginning of the pandemic. Grounded in story, reflection, and song, we'll lift our voices to bring comfort, gratitude, and hope. Join us with your candles, spices, and wine or juice. [Register here.](#)

JYC Program for Maine Teens, Sunday, March 14, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Join us on March 14 on Zoom for an evening of fun! We'll start with some Jewish learning together about bedikat hametz, the search for leavened items right before Passover arrives, then get those searching skills going with a crazy scavenger hunt! This is a great chance to connect with friends from across the state! [Register here.](#)

Pesach Patisserie, Sunday, March 21, 3 p.m.

Facing the prospect of a second year of seders in relative isolation, we could all use some special treats—and ways to make the holiday special and meaningful. Daniel Heinrich, a Hornstein fellow at Brandeis University and a former chef, will return to the kitchen to lead us all in making delicious, kosher-for-Passover desserts that will brighten your Pesach table. No experience necessary! [Register here.](#)

Colby Berger Lecture: Jewish Responses to the Rise of Hitler, Tuesday, March 30, 7 p.m.

Join Professor Michael Brenner of American University for the annual Berger Family Holocaust Lecture. The challenges that Jews faced with the rise of the Nazi party in Germany remain relevant today amidst dramatic political and social changes in Europe and the United States. When do we recognize political danger, and how do we react to it? [Register here.](#)



Pur'üm!



Hebrew School Zooming Along Nicely

Our kids are doing an amazing job adapting to our Zoom Hebrew School. For the first part, they split into classes. Our youngest class has been focusing on stories, songs, and Hebrew, our middle class has created their own news show to tell about events in Jewish history, and our oldest class has been studying creation. After a brief break, we come together for a 30-minute Circle Time prayer service. The kids are quite skilled at leading prayers (look for them to be leading a Friday night service before the end of the year!). We have also enjoyed voting on our favorite tunes. Recently [this Mi Chamocha](#) took first prize (note the pug wandering around!) After services we welcome a special guest (that could be you!) and finish up with some games. We celebrated Tu BiSh'vat with a special Zoom seder and had a great time with our online Purim. Up next, Passover preparations!

**Special Guests
needed – It will
only take 10
minutes!**

We need you to spend 10 minutes talking with our fabulous Hebrew School students about something Jewish. A favorite recipe, the history of TBE, your favorite holiday, a song you love. Anything! Contact Rabbi Asch if you can help out with this mitzvah Sunday mornings at 11am!



Donations

General/Other

- Karen and Jeffrey Boston
- Deborah Felder
- Vivian Flamm
- Joan and Lowell Freiman, in honor of their son Gabriel's marriage to Ari Wohlfeiler
- Seth Green
- Solomon and Danielle Heifets
- Linda Kallin
- David Klein
- Cree Krull, in honor of Rabbi Asch
- Elizabeth LaCouture & Jason Petrusis, in honor of Clio Petrusis
- Sumner Lipman and Dawn Lieb, in honor of Rabbi Asch's new five-year contract
- Marcia and Michael Parker
- John and Blair Rubinstein
- Carl Suchar & Phyllis Santer, in appreciation of Rabbi Asch
- Jonathan Weiss, in honor of Rabbi Asch

Building Fund Capital Campaign

- Marsha Bell, in honor of Leah Bley
- Steve Bley, in honor of Leah Bley
- Ellen Freed
- Seth Greene
- Greene-Milstein Family Foundation
- Elizabeth LaCouture & Jason Petrusis, in honor of Clio Petrusis

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

- Richard Dana
- Rebecca Diamond
- Judith Feinstein
- Jim Goldman and Ronna Tapper-Goldman
- Seth Green
- Ariel Linet, in honor of Rabbi Asch
- Rabbi Peter Rubinstein Charitable Fund, in honor of Rabbi Asch being nominated as an officer of CCAR

Yahrzeit/Memorials

- Carol Barlow in memory of Walter Barlow
- Emily Bessey in memory of Rick Gross
- Emily Bessey in memory of Leo Bessey
- Li'el Boudreau in memory of Hyman Cohen
- Li'el Boudreau in memory of James Carvutto
- Claudia Braunstein in memory of Julius & Charlotte Goos
- Rabbi Susan in memory of James Carvutto
- Chuck Cohen in memory of Selma Prager

Yahrzeit/Memorials (cont.)

- Richard Dana in memory of Jacob Dana
- Richard Dana in memory of Selma Dana
- Sarah & Mike Drickey in memory of Davis Spalding
- Ellen Freed in memory of Leah Freed
- Andrea Freed in memory of Leah Freed
- Andrea Freed in memory of Harriet Werlin
- Andrea Freed in memory of Fred Freed
- Joan Freiman in memory of Laura Goldstein
- Richard and Jane Golden in memory of Rose Golden
- Anya and Allen Goldey in memory of Laura Goldstein
- Seth Greene in memory of Todd Greene
- Pauline Hannaford in memory of Henry Thielman
- Pauline Hannaford in memory of Helen Hannaford
- Solomon & Danielle Heifets in memory of Leonid Heifets
- Deborah and Patrick Joyce in memory of Julius Goos
- Ellen Kandel in memory of Dorothy Bader
- Elaine Katz-Hanish in memory of Harriet & Sidney Katz
- Elizabeth Koopman in memory of Jane Bridgman Koopman
- Paul Kuehnert in memory of Eunice Kuehnert
- Paul Kuehnert in memory of Ted Kuehnert
- Jerryanne LaPerriere in memory of James LaPerriere
- Jerryanne LaPerriere in memory of Sylvia LaPerriere
- Judith Lee in memory of Judith Plano
- Kate McLinn in memory of Ruth McLinn
- Catherine Murray & Michael Waters in memory of Joel Davis
- Catherine Murray & Michael Waters in memory of Allen Davis
- James Montel in memory of Faye Goldberg Montell
- Deb & Syd Sewall in memory of Louise Macy
- Deb & Syd Sewall in memory of Sydney Sewall
- Stephen & Beth Shapiro in memory of Faye Goldberg Montell
- Stephen & Beth Shapiro in memory of James Carvutto
- Stephen & Beth Shapiro in memory of Rose Golden
- Brenda Shaw in memory of Todd Greene
- Gail & Gary Weiss in memory of Max and Natalie Cohen

Terumah Pledges

- Nancy Fox
- Kayla Ladenheim
- Barbara Mayer and Chuck Acker
- Karen Montell
- Eileen & Edward Ringel
- Scott & Nancy Schiff-Slater

Temple Beth El

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Rabbi Erica Asch 207-242-9792
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Vice President

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Honorary Directors

Peter Bickerman
Sumner Lipman
Deb Sewall

Committee Chairs:

Emily Bley (Hebrew School)
Fran Rudoff (Fundraising)

March Yahrzeits

March 1st	Naomi Faigin
March 2nd	Daniel Moyer
March 3rd	Samuel L. Gershon
March 3rd	Daniel Clifford Gross
March 3rd	Hyman Norken
March 6th	Perry Bakaley
March 6th	Dora Brittain
March 6th	Edwin Aaron Macy (Alchanah ben David)
March 7th	Lillian Freiman
March 8th	Cynthia Haderski
March 10th	Milton Prager
March 10th	Shirlie Goldman
March 13th	Susan Knowlton
March 13th	Toby Rudginsky
March 13th	Joseph Shapiro
March 14th	Charles Bader
March 15th	Lewis Brown
March 16th	Elizabeth Sax
March 16th	Jonathan Schiff
March 16th	Elenor Sylvia Slosberg
March 17th	Lillian Lerman
March 23rd	Irving Berman
March 23rd	Nick Scott
March 24th	Shirley Siegel
March 26th	Leonard Dansky
March 29th	Morris Weiss

April Yahrzeits

April 1st	Robert Sandler
April 2nd	Lena Slosberg Lait
April 4th	Hyman Sandler
April 9th	Ann O'Donnell
April 9th	Henry S. Price
April 10th	Martin Evenchik
April 10th	Irving Weiss
April 11th	Abraham Slosberg
April 12th	Sidney Goldstein
April 12th	Eleanor Mayer
April 12th	Harry S. Price
April 12th	Shawn Walker
April 14th	Edith Sclar
April 15th	Anthony Imondi
April 17th	Samuel Weiss
April 18th	Sylvia Parker
April 20th	Jean Dietz
April 20th	Jean Dietz
April 21st	Allen Davis
April 21st	Lillian Shapiro
April 22nd	Maria King
April 25th	Elizabeth Lipman Winter
April 28th	Tishelle Glant- Scheinman
April 28th	John Marshall
April 28th	Meyer Schwartz

Portland Chevra Kadisha Jewish Funeral Home

471 Deering Ave.
Portland, ME 04103
207.774.3733



Condolences

Our condolences go out on the death of **Judith Plano** on Thursday, February 11. Zichrona l'vracha, may her memory be for a blessing.