



## 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

Iyyar-Sivan-Tammuz 5781/May-June 2021

### *From the desk of Rabbi Asch*

Growing up in California, I did not experience the change of seasons. Nice crept into nicer, crept into nicest. The advantages were many—no snow pants, snow tires, ice storms, mud season, black flies, well, you get the picture. The disadvantage is that you do not really appreciate the changing of the seasons. There is no burst of euphoria at the first nice spring day, no marveling at the fall foliage or the first blossoming of forsythia.

This year, I am feeling the coming of spring even more keenly as it offers us the opportunity to once again gather together in person. While we have done an admirable job offering online opportunities for community, worship, and study online, I, like many of you, are looking forward to seeing one another (masked) face to (masked) face.



As we move toward holding more in-person events, I would like to lift up the work of the Covid task force and the Board for creating and implementing our plan. The technology committee is also playing a large role in making sure we have the equipment and connections needed to stream our services. I also want to extend a huge thank you to Susan Bakaley Marshall, who has been coordinating our Bikkur Holim/Caring Committee. She has recruited and coordinated volunteers so we could continue supporting one another during this past year, even when we could not see one another in person. A special thanks to the board for reaching out to so many members of the congregation as well.

Now that we plan to host some in-person events, I have a few things to ask of all of you.

1. **Be flexible.** Things will not always go smoothly. Our calendars might have to be changed. It might take us awhile to find our groove. Please be patient.
2. **Give feedback.** I welcome comments from you. Do you want more in-person events? Fewer? If you are attending online, is the format working for you? In addition to your suggestions, we welcome your work to make those suggestions a reality. Which leads us to...
3. **Volunteer.** It will take extra volunteers to make our in-person events work. We will need help with set up and clean up as there are a lot more moving pieces. We will probably also need some technical assistance running Zoom. As you know, our community runs on volunteers.
4. **Be a mensch.** We'll all mess up occasionally. When someone reminds you to wear your mask properly, do it. RSVP to events so we can be ready for you. Make an effort to meet some new people.

We have had quite a year together. As we move into spring it can be tempting to want to jump right back into our pre-Covid lives. But, we know we have to move more slowly both for our own physical and mental health. It has been a difficult year for many of us. Some of us are still struggling. Some will struggle even more in the year to come. Jewish tradition reminds us that we, as a people, have gone through ups and downs. We are now in the period of the omer, the counting from our release from slavery Egypt to our moment of covenant at Mount Sinai. And right after the revelation we built the Golden Calf. We were forgiven, and then we were told we had to wander for 40 more years before entering the Promised Land. We entered, but Moses was not leading us. Our entire story has been one of these oscillations. This moment in time is no different. Wherever the next year takes us, we are privileged to support one another on our journey.

## *TBE Schedule: May—June*

### Services

**Shabbat Services @ 6:00pm**  
**In-person (outdoors) and on Zoom**  
**Please RSVP if attending in person**  
*Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>*  
*Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>*

**Shavuot Services with Yizkor**  
*Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am*

**Havdalah**  
*Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> @ 8:45pm*  
*Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> @ 9pm*  
*Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup> @ 9:15pm*

### Adult Study

**Daf Yomi on Zoom @ 10:00 am**  
**Torah Study on Zoom @ 10:30am**  
*Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, & 29<sup>th</sup>*  
*Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, & 26<sup>th</sup>*

**Prophets' Study @ 11:30am on Zoom**  
*Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, & 27<sup>th</sup>*  
*Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, & 24<sup>th</sup>*

### Hebrew School

*Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, & 23<sup>rd</sup> — In person!*

**Hebrew School will take a trip to Three Level Farm on May 16<sup>th</sup>! See your email for more details.**

**Funtensive with TBE June 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>. Email Rabbi Asch to sign up!**

### 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.*

### TBE Activities

**In-Person Social Gatherings at TBE @ 10:00am**  
*Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>*  
*Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>*  
**All in-person events will follow our Covid Guidelines as developed by our Covid Committee.**  
**The complete guidelines are [here](#).**

**Learning with Frankie @ 7:00pm**  
*Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup>*  
This is also a chance to say thank you to Frankie for spending the year with us!

**TBE Board Meeting @ 6:00pm**  
*Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>*

**Shavuot Program @ 6:30pm**  
*Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>*

**Intro to Judaism Class @ 7:00—8:30pm**  
*Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>*

**Annual Meeting @10am**  
*Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>*

**TBE Racial Justice Meeting @ 7:00—8:30pm**  
*Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>*

**Calendar subject to change —  
please check the TBE website and weekly email  
for the most up-to-date information.**

#### Today's Rabbah

- **Chris Marshall** for leading our workshop on how to respond to prejudiced comments
- Our Passover Planning Team: **J. Richardson Collins, Mike Drickey, Sarah Drickey, Ilana Gilg and Deb Sewall**
- Our Passover Actors: **Chris Myers Asch, Robin Asch, Daisy Bessey, Eleanor Gagne, Vivian Flamm, and Cree Krull**
- The Nominating Committee: **Emily Bessey, Chuck Cohen, Ellen Freed and Cree Krull**

## Thanks For The Memories

***By Chuck Cohen, Soon To Be Immediate Past President***

If all goes according to plan, on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, the date of our annual meeting, Cree Krull will be elected as Temple President. After four years as president, this the right time for a change both for me personally and for the Temple as an institution. I have the utmost confidence that Cree will be an excellent president and that he is the right man to lead us forward at this time.

While I'm not totally riding off into the sunset (I'll still be board member and will fill the role of Immediate Past President) I want to take this opportunity say thank you. First, I want to thank the current Board as well as each of the prior Boards during my presidency. Each of the Boards have been diligent, patient and a pleasure to work with. Individually, Board members have shown themselves to be of both great intellect and integrity. While there have been disagreements over the years, we have done so without being disagreeable.

Second, I want to thank you all, the Temple Beth El Congregation. Thanks for having confidence in me and giving me the opportunity to serve. Thanks for being receptive to new ideas and being flexible and adaptive during uncertain times and changing circumstances. I have said on a number of occasions that this is a special community. After four years as being the president, I feel stronger in this belief than ever.

Finally, I want to thank Rabbi Asch. During the past four years, she has been a mentor, partner and inspiration. We are so lucky to have her as our rabbi and spiritual leader.

It is through all your efforts that we have accomplished what I consider to be some big things, including:

- Successfully implementing the Terumah, or free will offering, system of financial support. By doing so, we have the eliminated the barrier of fixed dues to membership, added many new members while at the same time maintaining the Temple's financial affairs in good order.

- Completely renovating our shul. The project addressed a number of maintenance items which had long been deferred, safety and accessibility issues, and created a truly stunning and welcoming place to conduct our worship services and meetings.

- Taking on a number of social justice issues and projects such as: being a lead participant in proposing and advocating that local school districts adopt a religious holiday observance policy; participating in the Religious Action Center's Civic Engagement project which provided our congregation with information and tools on how they could safely vote in the election being held during the pandemic; and instituting an ongoing discussion among our congregation on racism and diversity and how we, on an individual and community basis might be able to address these issues.

- Quickly and smoothly transitioning to the Zoom platform to conduct our services, celebrations and meetings shortly after the beginning of the COVID pandemic. This included conducting meaningful High

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## What's Happening at TBE

### *Thanks for the Memories , continued from page 3*

Holiday services, bat mitzvah services and joyous Hanukkah, Passover, and Purim celebrations. We were even able to do our annual wine tasting virtually (well thanks to Syd Sewall's ingenuity, the wine was definitely real).

-And last, but certainly not least, entering into a new contract with Rabbi Asch which will commence on July 1, 2021 and which will keep her here at TBE until June 30, 2026.

Being your president has provided me with an opportunity for personal growth and development. I walk away from the job believing that I am a better person and Jew as result of the experience. While there certainly have been a number of challenges along the way, overwhelmingly, I have fond memories of our shared experiences. So in the words of late comedian Bob Hope, "thanks for the memories."

## Nominations of the Nominating Committee

Pursuant to Article 5, Section 1 of the Temple Beth El Bylaws, the Nominating Committee, provides notice to the Temple's members that it intends to submit the following slate of candidates to be members and officers of the Temple's Board of Directors.

1) For Board membership, for a three year term commencing upon election:

- a) Emily Bessey
- b) J. Richardson Collins
- c) Hildie Lipson
- d) Elizabeth Sizeler
- e) Chris Zinck

2) For officers of the Board, for a one year term commencing upon election:

- a) Cree Krull, President
- b) Emily Bessey, Vice-President
- c) Mike Drickey, Treasurer
- d) Mike Levey, Secretary
- e) Chuck Cohen, Immediate Past President



## *What's happening at TBE*

### **NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE**

Pursuant to Article 4 and Article 11 of the Temple's Bylaws, notice is provided to TBE's membership that the TBE Annual Meeting has been called for May 23, 2021 commencing at 10:00 a.m. As part of the Annual Meeting the following amendments to TBE's Bylaws shall be proposed by the TBE Board of Directors:

1. Amend Article 6, Section 1 by eliminating the second sentence that reads: "He/she shall appoint all committees and committee chairs."
2. Amend Article 6, Section 1 by eliminating the third sentence and replacing it with the following language: "With the exception of the Rabbi Committee, the president shall be an ex-officio member of all committees established pursuant to the provisions of Article 9. In addition, the president shall carry out such duties as usually pertain to this office."
3. Amend Article 9, Section 1 by renumbering the subsections so they run consecutively.
4. Amend Article 9, Section 1(a) by eliminating "Hebrew School Committee" and replacing it with "Building and Security Committee."
5. Amend Article 9, Section 1(c) by eliminating "Special Events Committee" and replacing it with "Social Justice Committee."
6. Amend Article 9, Section 2 by striking the first sentence and replacing it with: Standing committees shall consist of a minimum of three members, at least one of which shall be a Director. Standing committee members and the chairpersons of such committees shall be appointed by the Board and shall serve for terms of 3 years with terms to be staggered to ensure continuity. The Board may appoint other ad hoc committees as needed. To the extent feasible, in making such appointments, the Board shall seek the advice of the Nominating Committee established pursuant to the provisions of Article 5, Section 1."

As a result of such amendments Article 6, Section 1 shall now read:

"The president shall preside at all meetings of Temple Beth El. With the exception of the Rabbi Committee, the president shall be an ex-officio member of all committees established pursuant to the provisions of Article 9. In addition, the president shall carry out such duties as usually pertain to this office."

Article 9, Section 1 shall now read:

"There shall be the following standing committees:

- a. Building and Security Committee
- b. Ritual Committee
- c. Social Justice Committee
- d. Development (fund raising) Committee
- e. Rabbi Committee

Article 9, Section 2 shall now read:

"Standing committees shall consist of a minimum of three members, at least one of which shall be a Director. Standing committee members and the chairpersons of such committees shall be appointed by the Board and shall serve for terms of 3 years with terms to be staggered to ensure continuity. The Board may appoint other ad hoc committees as needed. To the extent feasible, in making such appointments, the Board shall seek the advice of the Nominating Committee established pursuant to the provisions of Article 5, Section 1. No committees, subsidiary units, or members shall incur any debt or liability upon Temple Beth El without approval of the Board of Directors."



SUNDAY,  
MAY 23RD

10:00 AM

JOIN US!

# Annual Meeting

*Regular Temple Zoom link*

Congregational updates \* A financial report \* Service award  
Thank outgoing board members \* Highlights of the past year  
BYOB: Bring Your Own Bagels

# In Person Events this Spring @ TBE!

All events will follow our [Covid Guidelines](#) and require an RSVP to the office. Events are subject to change. Check our website for the most updated information.

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## Indoor Events

Social events every other Wednesday at 10am for those who have been fully vaccinated. This is a time to catch up with your Temple Beth El friends!

## Outdoor Services

Join us outdoors Fridays at 6pm for Shabbat services. Please arrive by 5:50 to get settled. The service will also be broadcast via Zoom. We can't wait to welcome Shabbat with you in person.

## Outdoor Social Events

Look for a variety of social events in the next few months  
Shabbat morning hikes  
Memorial Day Social Gathering  
And more...  
Check your weekly email for more details.

# WHAT WAS REVEALED AT SINAI?

THE MOMENT OF CONNECTION  
BETWEEN GOD AND THE PEOPLE  
AT SINAI IS MYSTERIOUS AND  
VAGUE. JOIN US TO EXPLORE  
THEORIES, STORIES, AND OUR  
OWN IDEAS ABOUT REVELATION,  
AND WHAT THESE CAN INFORM  
OUR OWN RELATIONSHIP TO  
TORAH AND JUDAISM.

## WITH FRANKIE SANDMEL

Monday, May 10th at 7pm



Sunday, May 16th  
6:30-8:30pm

# SHAVUOT: OUR STORIES

HEAR FROM 9 CONGREGANTS, EACH IN A  
DIFFERENT DECADE OF THEIR LIFE,  
ABOUT THEIR JEWISH JOURNEY

CHECK YOUR WEEKLY EMAIL  
FOR A COMPLETE SCHEDULE

## Sign Up Now for Summer FUNtensive!

Funtensive is our summer camp-like program with games, Hebrew, and a lot of fun!

### **In-Person Funtensive with TBE and Rabbi Asch**

June 21-25th.

Registration information and exact times to come, but mark your calendars!

### **State-wide In-Person Funtensive with the Center for Small Town Jewish Life**

July 19-23rd.

We are awaiting the final word from Colby College on the guidelines, but save the date. Rabbi Asch will be leading this week with Morah Mel. Registration information and exact time to follow.



## Hebrew School Field Trip

*Sunday, May 16th.*

The Hebrew School will be visiting [Three Level Farm](#) in South China where Temple members Sol and Danielle (and their daughter Clara) live and work. We'll arrive at 10am for a tour of the farm, and a hike visiting the orchard, goat pasture, beaver dam, and sugar shack. We'll have a chance to identify plants and trees on the way! We'll also have time for Shavuot stories and we'll talk about how Shavuot is a holiday of first fruits and what we are harvesting in Maine. We'll end at 11:30am.

## We love you, Hebrew School Teachers!!

Thank you to our fabulous teachers, Rich Goldman, Jenna Greenbaum, and Bria Watson who kept our kids engaged, having fun, and learning on Zoom the past six months. Rich's class delved deeply into the story of creation, making art, reading about the cosmos, and pondering big questions about the universe. Jenna's class created JNN (the Jewish News Network) and the crack reporting team covered the destruction of the First and Second Temples, introduced us to famous Jews, and took us on a trip through Israel. Bria's class expanded their Hebrew vocabulary, learned new Hebrew songs and games, and explored the holidays. We are so thankful to have such a talented and dedicated team of teachers are TBE!

## Donations

### General/Other

- Asch Family, in honor of the "Purim Crew"
- Paul Linet, in honor of granddaughter's naming ceremony
- Sarah Linet and Dylan Maeby, in honor of Rabbi Asch performing their daughter's naming ceremony
- Nancy Ross and George Viles, in honor of the Wine Tasting Committee
- Doretta Shapiro, in honor of Miriam Asch's Bat Mitzvah
- Doretta Shapiro, in honor of the great work of the Purim Committee

### Building Fund Capital Campaign

- Bruce and Nancy Schatz

### Rabbi Discretionary Fund

- Richard Dana
- Ellen Freed
- Thomas Kelley & Lucinda White, in memory of Judith Plano
- Kayla Ladenheim
- Carrie McCarter

### Yahrzeit/Memorials

- Maureen Boston, in memory of Judith Plano
- Marcia Bronsnick, in honor of Judith Plano
- Jael Wagener and Lee Bronsnick, in honor of Judith Plano
- Mike and Sarah Drickey, in memory of Shawn Walker
- Christine Fleuriet in memory of Judith Plano
- Joan and Lowell Freiman, in memory of Sidney Goldstein
- Anya and Allen Goldey, in memory of Lillian Freiman
- Anya and Allen Goldey, in memory of Sidney Goldstein
- Seth Greene, in honor of the yahrzeits of Anne O'Donnell and Joel Davis
- Linda Kallin, in memory of Martin Evenchik
- Linda Kallin, in memory of Jean Evenchik
- Ellen Kandel, in memory of Charles Bader
- Judith Graber & Paul Kuehnert, in honor of Susan Knowlton
- Hildie Lipson, in memory of Judith Plano
- Joseph O'Donnell, in memory of Ann O'Donnell
- Joseph O'Donnell, in memory of Henry Price
- David and Sue Offer, in memory of Judith Plano
- Sue Offer, in memory of Samuel Gershon
- Peter Rosenberg, in memory of Judith Plano
- Deb & Syd Sewall, in memory of Judith Plano
- Doretta Shapiro, in memory of Harold Shapiro
- Steven & Beth Shapiro, in memory of Shirley Siegel
- Jon and Dace Weiss, in memory of Dr. Irving Weiss

### Terumah Pledges

- Sarah Rockford
- Bria Watson

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.*

**Big welcome to our newest member,  
Sarah Rockford!**

**Thank you for becoming part of  
the TBE family!**



## Temple Beth El

Phone 207-622-7450  
 Rabbi Erica Asch 207-242-9792  
 Email: [bethelaugusta@gmail.com](mailto:bethelaugusta@gmail.com)

### President

Chuck Cohen

### Vice President

Cree Krull

### Treasurer

Mike Drickey

### Secretary

Emily Bessey

### Board of Directors

J. Richardson Collins, Richard  
 Fein, Ellen Freed, Ben  
 Gottlieb, Richard Goldman,  
 Nancy Kelly, Cree Krull, Mike  
 Levey, Hildie Lipson, Chris  
 Zinck

### Honorary Directors

Peter Bickerman  
 Sumner Lipman  
 Deb Sewall

### Committee Chairs:

Emily Bley (Hebrew School)  
 Fran Rudoff (Fundraising)

## May Yahrzeits

May 1st	Robert Bien
May 1st	Rebecca Slosberg
May 3rd	Max Slosberg
May 6th	Carol Bernstein Hecht
May 8th	Clara Miller Weiss
May 8th	Dorothy Moyer
May 10th	Erika Ellen Briggs
May 10th	Marion Fusco
May 11th	David Boughton
May 11th	Benjamin R. Slosberg
May 12th	Fred Slater
May 13th	Gertrude Rudoff
May 14th	Albert Freiman
May 14th	Tyler Lessard
May 14th	Fred Sewall
May 15th	Jean Bakaley
May 15th	Leigh Ann Lee
May 16th	Edwin Eckert
May 16th	Samuel Lerman
May 18th	Stuart Boughton
May 18th	Julian Sacks
May 21st	Robert Powell
May 21st	Joan "Jet" Price
May 22nd	Julius Sussman
May 23rd	Howard S. Slosberg
May 29th	Matthew Peter McLinn
May 29th	Albert Abraham
	Rosenberg
May 30th	Aviva Schnur

## June Yahrzeits

June 1st	Reginald Hannaford
June 6th	Jack Drickey
June 6th	David Pollack
June 7th	Joseph Schatz
June 7th	Joseph Leroy Shed
June 10th	Beatrice Director
June 11th	Ruth Gross
June 11th	Miriam Weiss
June 12th	Paul Adler
June 12th	Beverly Gass
June 13th	Sol Moser
June 15th	Gloria Mondschein
June 18th	Seymour (Sy) Mondschein
June 20th	Charlotte Goos
June 21st	Linda Weiss Manson
June 21st	Benjamin Rubinstein
June 23rd	Fred Hannaford
June 25th	Anthony A. Imondi
June 28th	Marcia Allen
June 28th	David James Macy
June 28th	Dora R. Slosberg

## Portland Chevra Kadisha Jewish Funeral Home

471 Deering Ave.  
 Portland, ME 04103  
 207.774.3733

