



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

Tammuz-Av-Elul 5781/July-August 2021

From the desk of Rabbi Asch

For the last two years I have been spending an hour a week in text study with my friend and rabbinical school classmate, Rabbi Ana Bonnheim. This is a time for me to learn something new and keep my text skills fresh. Lately, Rabbi Bonnheim and I have been studying famous rabbis of the Talmud, including Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai, who, the Talmud reports, saved Judaism. As the Second Temple was about to be destroyed, he approached the Roman general (and later emperor) Vespasian to ask that the town of Yavne and its sages be spared. These sages built rabbinic Judaism.

I'll admit, the destruction of the Second Temple is not a focal point of my religious or spiritual practice (although we are joining with five other small congregations for a Tisha b'Av Commemoration — see page 8). However, we recently studied an interesting passage about practices that were instituted in the Temple and then carried into the cities after the destruction. For example, on Shabbat the shofar was only sounded in the Temple, but after the destruction Rabbi Yochanan said it should be sounded in other cities after the destruction. He took practices that were *only* done in the Temple and expanded their use. These things were done "in memory of the Temple." In fact, much of what we do today — from having an *ner tamid* (eternal light), to standing on *bima* (raised platform) for services, to how the Torah is dressed — is supposed to remind us of the Temple.

For me, this brings to mind an interesting question: if we still observe these rituals, but don't know that they are in memory of the Temple, do the rituals really fulfill their intended purpose? Do we have to know why we historically did something for it to have meaning, or is the meaning we currently make enough?

All of this is on my mind more now as we transition back to in-person events at TBE and look forward to our Renovation Celebration (join us on August 20th!) and the first High Holidays in our new sanctuary. We have many traditions as a congregation and we will certainly create some new ones. I have no doubt that generations in the future will hear of how the kids used to turn off the eternal light, or about the golem in the basement (the loud sound the sink used to make). Rabbi Yochanan reminds us that traditions and rituals do not magically emerge out of thin air. He specifically crafted rituals to make meaning for people in a time of upheaval. And, he reminds us that we cannot move on after a tragedy as if nothing happened. We need time and space to make sense of what we have experienced.

As we move into this next year, I invite you on a congregational journey where we will create rituals and make meaning out of our experiences during Covid. Look for announcements of special Shabbat services, Torah studies, and events where we will have the opportunity to reflect on where we have been and on where we are going. I am so looking forward to being in person with many of you for the High Holidays. And, I would do myself a disservice if I ignored the feeling of loneliness I had leading in front of a computer screen last High Holidays. As we move forward, I hope you will join with the TBE community in making sense of where we have been. This process is, I believe, part of how we build resilience.

TBE Schedule: July—August

Services

Shabbat Services

In-person (indoors) and on Zoom

Please RSVP if attending in person

Friday, July 9th @ 6pm in-person only

Friday, 23rd @ 6pm

Friday, August 13th @ 6pm

Tisha b'Av @7pm on Zoom

July 17th (See weekly email for login information)

Adult Study

Daf Yomi in person and on Zoom @ 10:00 am

Torah Study in person and on Zoom @ 10:30am

Saturday, July 10th in-person only & 24th

Saturday, August 7th & 14th

Saturday, August 21st in-person only

Join for a Potluck Kiddush lunch after Torah study

Prophets' Study @ 10:00am on Zoom

Thursday, July 1st

Thursday, August 12th, 19th & 26th

Hebrew School

Funtensive with TBE July 19-23. Email Rabbi Asch to sign up!



TBE Activities

Board Meeting @ 6:00pm in person and on Zoom

Thursday, July 22nd & Thursday, August 16th

Shabbat Hike in person (location TBA)

Saturday, July 31st

Ice Cream Social and Book Sale @ 3:30-5pm

Sunday, August 15th in person

Greeter Training @5-7pm in person

Sunday, August 15th

Building Dedication @ 7pm

Friday, August 20th in person and on Zoom

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



Todah Rabbah

- To our volunteer greeters: **Chuck Cohen, Mike Drickey, Sarah Drickey, Mike Levey and Mary Beth Paquette.** We appreciate all you do to keep TBE running!
- To our Friday night oneg bakers: **Robin Asch, Vivian Flamm, Carol Fitzgerald, Nancy Kelly, Sue Offer, and Chris Zinck**
- To **J. Richardson Collins, Beth Koopman, and Liz Sizeler** for planning our Shavuot Service and to all who participated in sharing music, poetry or their own Jewish journey.

Naked Exhaustion.

By Cree Krull, President

It took several days to name it. The feeling started last Thursday, June 17th: the first day with absolutely no students in the high school where I work. Most of my colleagues were out of the building; those in for an hour or two had this look on their face, harried and drawn, like they couldn't wait to get out, or lie down, or just sleep.

What surprised me first was the fatigue. It was hard to focus and muster enthusiasm. Then came the sense of meh. As my son Robin would put it, conversations with others felt like I was talking to the color beige. Oof.

Tonight, I put voice to it for the first time, dropping the big e-word in a Zoom meeting. Did anyone else feel it? Judging by the nods around my Hollywood Squares gallery view, the answer was yes. Here we are, Covid tapering off in the US, and our collective parasympathetic system is deciding - haltingly, and not all at once for everyone, to be sure - that the saber-toothed tiger is no longer pacing outside our cave of refuge. The vigilance we've taken on to cope with Covid has relented, and we're left with...meh. Sheer exhausted. Meh.

But that's not all. Alongside the meh, there's a hunger for the comfortably predictable, things that are reliable and will bring pleasure with a modicum of effort. Go out to the movies? Why do that when the couch is so comfortable, and it's already paid for? And that new movie on Netflix? Nah. Why roll the dice when "The Office" delivers every single time?

People, I believe we're at a point in our society where the demands of the day-to-day for the last sixteen months have surpassed our emotional reserves. Everyone I know is a little toasted, and some are burnt out. What we need, as impractical as it sounds, is a three-month Shabbat for everyone, so we can collect ourselves, re-energize and find the resilience we've used up.

Unfortunately, my powers as TBE President are limited in that regard, as much as I might want to make a 'Shabbat for all' declaration. What is in my purview, though, is to point toward the High Holy Days that will wrap up about ninety days from now. Barring a calamitous return of Covid, *we're going to be together in our own shul for the first time since 2018.*

Did you have to read that last sentence twice? It's kind of amazing. What will feel familiar will also feel new and possibly even a tad disorienting. The bimah is re-oriented toward the east, and we'll have seating on three sides of it. Our driveway now allows for the ability to drop off in front of the building and then circling around to park. For the first time ever, we have proper access to the synagogue and bimah for those using wheelchairs and walkers. And yet you'll still come in through the same wooden doors, and read from the machzorim (prayerbooks) you've held in years past. The bathrooms are more or less in the same place, but they're bigger and better, as is the kitchen and the event space at the back of the shul.

We have all summer to get ready for the new, and I encourage you to come to the synagogue for services, Torah study or certainly the Temple's renovation dedication on August 20th. Don't wait for the High Holy

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What's Happening at TBE

Naked Exhaustion, continued from page 3

Days! Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur will be even more meaningful once you've worked through a little of the hesitancy of in-person events. And let's be clear: the renovations to the Temple are beautiful, and you owe it to yourself to see what so many of you helped make possible through your generosity to the Campaign.

You could say there's a new mandate on us, one that replaces the masks we're able to set aside in most places: we must embrace the new as well as the familiar, because the future will not look exactly like the past we left abruptly a year ago March. At the same time, we must give ourselves the time to recover and find a new equilibrium, both as individuals and as a Temple community. What matters to us may have changed, and may yet change again, but we'll find out together what that is by taking those first steps into our beautifully renovated building - the same and yet different, but still recognizably Temple Beth El.

Whether a handshake, elbow tap or full-on hug, the chance to see you all again soon will be the re-energizing antidote to the post-pandemic malaise. Please join me and your fellow TBE members in exploring what this summer can reveal about what we want to return to, and what we want to create afresh. There are good things to look forward to again - let's gear up for celebrating our return to togetherness!

The High Holidays are coming! The High Holidays are coming!

Mark your calendars and plan to spend the holidays **in person** with TBE.

- Monday, Sept. 6th: Erev Rosh Hashanah
- Tuesday, Sept 7th: Rosh Hashanah Day #1 followed by the Lipman Kiddush and tashlich
- Wednesday, Sept. 8th: Rosh Hashanah Day #2 and outdoor shofar service
- Wednesday, September 15th: Kol Nidre
- Thursday, Sept. 16th: Yom Kippur Services

More details about our services for these holidays and Sukkot will appear in your weekly emails at the beginning of August.



Terumah Reminder

Everyone received their terumah mailing this month. Thank you for your payment of terumah. We could not do all we do without your financial support. If you have any questions or did not receive a letter, please contact the office.

Rabbi Susan Kvells!

From Rabbi Susan: I am kvelling over the election of our little community's Rabbi as President Elect of the CCAR (Organization of Reform Rabbis). It is amazing for the rabbi of such a small, rural community to be recognized for her talents of organization, creativity, and communication skills. It is a triumph for our community as well as for Rabbi Asch, who was described to me, recently, by an official at the CCAR, as a rock star. We've always known that about her. I am proud to have Rabbi Asch as my successor and colleague. We make good trouble, together.



Books piling up at your place?

Sift through the stacks
and
donate some to TBE's
book fundraiser!

If you have any good quality books you would like to donate to TBE's fundraiser, please contact the office by **email** or phone (207-622-7450) to arrange a time to drop them off. If you are unable to bring them, please contact Li'el at LACohen2021@gmail.com to arrange a pickup.

All books in good condition are fine (not just Jewish books), with the exception of romance novels and

Rabbi Asch on Vacation

Rabbi Asch will be on vacation from Saturday, July 3 through Sunday, July 18. During this time she will not be responding to email. In the case of death or serious illness, please reach out to Dawn Fecteau in the Temple office (207-622-7450 or bethelaugusta@gmail.com). If you need immediate assistance, you may reach Rabbi Asch on her emergency cell phone (207-242-9792) and leave a message. We will put you in touch with a local rabbi who can help you.

Rabbi Asch will also be serving as faculty at Crane Lake Camp from July 25th -August 8th. She will have some access to email and will be reachable on her emergency cell if there is a death or serious illness.

Note: We will have lay leaders for Friday night services and Torah study while Rabbi Asch is on vacation. These events will be in person only. Please come and support your fellow congregants who are leading! **Please RSVP to Dawn if you are attending Friday night or Saturday morning. We need at least 10 people to have these events.**

Our Covid Protocols
changed in May. See
the latest update [here](#).



Buy some books!

BOOK SALE & ICE CREAM!



Eat some ice cream

SUNDAY, AUG 15TH
TEMPLE BETH EL
3:30-5PM



TBE's Renovation Celebration



Friday,
August 20th

7pm Service
8pm Oneg



What's Happening at TBE



Tisha b'Av



While we are
all in our own
place, bring a
source of
light (candle,
flashlight,
yahrzeit light)
for this time
together

Join

Rabbi Michael Birnholz

Rabbi Erica Asch

Rabbi Courtney Berman

Rabbi Estelle Mills

Rabbi Elizabeth Bahar

Rabbi Robin Nafshi

Beth Shalom Vero Beach, FL

Beth El Augusta, ME

Beth El Ormond Beach, FL

Beth Jacob Plymouth, MA

Beth Israel Macon, GA

Beth Jacob Concord, NH

**We Remember, We Study,
We Lament, We Repair
July 17th at 7pm**

Contact our Temple Beth Shalom Office (772-569-4700)
or your congregation for log in information

For More information

Temple Beth Shalom Vero Beach, Florida 772-560-4700 tbsvero.org

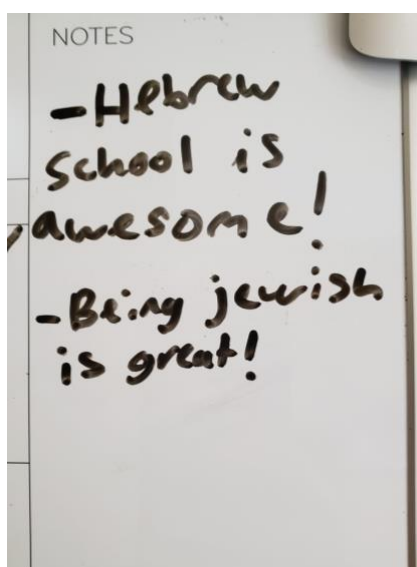
Hebrew School

Sign Up Now for Summer FUNtensive! July 19-23rd!

Funtensive was fun, and intense. We had a blast learning about art, sports, music, science and politics. The kids learned a lot of Hebrew, played games and got a chance to be together. Thank you to Sarah Drickey and Noah Katz for their help. Also thank you to special guests Vivian Flamm who taught Yiddish songs and Miriam Asch who did a science experiment.

Statewide In-Person Funtensive with the Center for Small Town Jewish Life, July 19-23rd

We will meet from 9 to 3 each day at TBE. Rabbi Asch will be leading this week with Morah Mel. Each day we'll explore a different book of the Torah. Register [here](#).



Donations

General/Other

- J&C Goos Charity, Living Legacy in honor of Julian and Charlotte Goos
- Sewall, Deb & Syd, for TBE Technology Upgrades
- Rosenberg, Peter, A special thank you for including a remembrance for Suzanne Rosenberg at the May 28th service

Building Fund Capital Campaign

- Greene, Seth
- J&C Goos Charity
- Suchar, Carl & Santer, Phyllis - in honor of the baby naming ceremony
- Zinck, Chris & Thea

Yahrzeit/Memorials

- Bessey, Emily & Ethan in memory of Ezra David Bessey
- Carvutto, Susan in memory of Jean Dietz
- Dana, Richard in memory of Elizabeth Dana
- Freiman, Joan & Lowell in memory of Albert Freiman
- Hannaford, Pauline in memory of Reginald Hannaford
- Harrigan, Susan and Frank & Family in memory of Marcia Chuckrow Kaplan
- Krull, Cree in memory of Judith Plano
- Levey, Mike in memory of Joan (Jet) Price
- McLinn, Kate in memory of Matt McLinn
- Moss, Rosette in memory of Judith Plano
- O'Donnell, Joe in memory of Joan (Jet) Price
- Ross, Nancy & Viles, George in memory of Suzanne Rosenberg
- Sacks, Marie in memory of Julian Sacks
- Sewall, Deb & Syd in memory of David Macy
- Shuman, Nancy in memory of Samuel Lerman
- Swanson, Deb in memory of Yale Marienhoff
- Weiss, Jonathan & Dace in memory of Clara Miller Weiss
- Weiss, Marty in memory of Samuel Weiss
- Weiss, Marty in memory of Linda Weiss Manson
- Weiss, Marty in memory of Miriam Weiss

Terumah Pledges



- Gidley, Ariya and Allen
- Hannaford, Pauline (Tinker)
- Lipson, Hildie
- McLinn, Kate
- O'Donnell, Joseph
- Ringel, Ellen
- Rockford, Sarah
- Sandler, Deborah
- Seager, Jean and Bill
- Weiss, Jon and Dace
- Young, Sam
- Zinck, Chris and Thea

Temple Beth El

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

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 Hildie Lipson, Liz Sizeler, Chris
 Zinck

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 Sumner Lipman
 Deb Sewall

Welcome to our New
 Board Member:
Liz Sizeler!

Portland Chevra Kadisha Jewish Funeral Home

471 Deering Ave.
 Portland, ME 04103
 207.774.3733

July Yahrzeits

July 1st	Rose Aransky LaPenna
July 2nd	Harry Lait
July 2nd	David L. Young
July 4th	Gertrude Lerman
July 4th	Lillian Lieba Sandler
July 5th	Bernigolde Macy
July 6th	Naomi Shore
July 8th	Yale Marienhoff
July 11th	Thelma Alpert Price
July 12th	Blanche Marienhoff
July 12th	Leon Simmons
July 13th	Kent R. Katz
July 13th	Lydia Liechty Thielman
July 15th	Sylvia K. Fain
July 15th	Rose Schwartz
July 16th	Finkelstein
July 16th	William "Bill"
July 16th	Weisberger
July 17th	Nonie Barber
July 17th	Rivka Schneider Cohen
July 19th	Julia Weiss
July 20th	Pearl Bien
July 21st	Robert Bley
July 21st	Edith Gershon
July 21st	George Graber
July 22nd	Joline Kaplan Sandler
July 22nd	Norman Suchar
July 24th	Ed Jones
July 24th	Joel Douglas Wells
July 26th	Harold M. Grodinsky
July 28th	Harold Franzel
July 28th	Lynn Slosberg
July 28th	Howard Faigin
July 28th	Joel Davis
July 29th	Dora (Gittel) Cohen
July 30th	Barnett Cohen
July 31st	Dick Faucher

August Yahrzeits

August 1st	Thelma Alpert Price
August 2nd	Rae Weiss
August 4th	Stephen Fusco
August 6th	Gerald Golden
August 8th	Esther Shuman
August 11th	Adelle Rubin
August 11th	Charles Zinck
August 12th	Dorothy Spalding
August 13th	Esther Kominers
August 14th	Hylan Bickerman
August 14th	Gerald Brock
August 16th	Leonard Brittain
August 18th	Bernard Osgood
August 18th	Koopman
August 20th	Joel Davis
August 21st	Emma Levy
August 22nd	Renee Schecter
August 25th	Gertrude Goldberg
August 27th	Joe Hausner
August 29th	Elma Samuels
August 29th	Rosenberg

