



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

5782/November-December 2021

DEAR READERS:

We had a substitute newsletter editor this month so the layout is different than what you would typically see. Never fear, our regular (much better) editor will be back for the January-February edition!

From the Desk of Rabbi Asch

After a September full of holidays, you might be thinking you've had enough! However, I hope after a few months of rest you are ready for Hannukah. While Hanukkah is known for fried foods (and more recently crazy sweaters), it is also about bringing light to a dark time of year. The sages of the Talmud, and the later commentators discuss the proper way to light the Hanukkah candles. While our custom is to light one candle (plus the shamash [helper candle]) for each night of Hanukkah, that is not the only way to light. We learn that the mitzvah of Hanukkah can be fulfilled by lighting just one candle each night of the holiday. Of course, just because that fulfills the mitzvah does not mean it is the best way to celebrate Hanukkah. We learn from Hillel that we should light one the first night all the way up to eight the second night. However, there was a concern that so many candles (especially if you do this for each person) could get confusing. So, the rabbis ruled much later that there had to be a visual recognition of which night of Hanukkah it is; in other words, if you have multiple people lighting candles they have to be separated. Today, we can do that easily with our hanukkiyot. This very long discussion about how to light candles reminds us that an important part of Hanukkah is publicizing the miracle. Not only does it remind us of the miracles that happened way back when, but the miracles which happen even today. This year as you light your Hanukkah candles, take some time to reflect on the modern-day miracles you have experienced. Wishing you a Hanukkah filled with light, joy and some delicious fried food!

Temple Beth El

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By Emily Bessey, Board Vice President

Since I was a young girl, I have struggled with a great affliction: Jewish guilt. Whether it came as a pointed question from my parents while I was in college, “so, Emily, where are you attending High Holiday services this year?” or as an innocent passing question from my uncle “are you keeping Passover this year?”. I have always done a great job internalizing all the guilt and judgment from whoever wanted to send some my way. More often than not, this guilt is self-imposed. There are countless ways I can pass judgment on myself harsher than any judgment from a loved one. A source of most of my self-imposed Jewish guilt stems from a little secret: I am not always the best Jewish person. I definitely attend way more TBE committee meetings than I do TBE services. I have not been the greatest student of the Torah. And I dread eating Matzah for a week during Passover. All of these deep dark confessions provide me with plenty of guilt material. But I have to believe, all is not lost. There is one area where I must admit I earn a Jewish gold star and maybe, just maybe it’s enough to balance out the areas in which I fall short: I make a darn good challah.

Honestly, making challah is a highlight of my week. Three strand, four strand, six strand, circular... get me some flour, yeast, oil, and eggs and I’ll turn them into a golden masterpiece. My mother made great challah, too. As a kid I loved walking into her kitchen after school, smelling the fresh baked challah. It is the coziest smell. It smells like family. It smells like my mom. Once my daughter Daisy was born, I decided I wanted to be more intentional about celebrating Shabbat on Friday nights. This was the start of my challah baking learning process. I’d get out my mom’s challah recipe- the one written in her handwriting that she had given to me when I left for college. My first few challahs were admittedly not great. Dry. Overbaked. Sometimes I’d forget to paint the egg wash on top and they would come out of the oven with a matte finish rather than looking shiny and inviting. But over the years, I honed my craft. The challahs began to be “fine”. Better than what you’d find at Hannaford, but not out-of-this-world good. And then one day it happened. My friends from college and I were discussing challah recipes and I realized something that I have had to spend a lot of time and a few therapy sessions coming to terms with. It was a shocking discovery- one that rattled me to my core, giving me waves of Jewish guilt of the worst kind. Are you ready? Okay, I’ll just say it: My mom’s challah recipe is not the best challah recipe. There. It’s out in the open and I cannot take it back.

I will never forget the day I branched out and tried some random recipe that my friend from college passed along to me. The recipe is titled “Tami’s Challah Recipe”. Do I know who Tami is? Absolutely not. Does Tami make a fantastic Challah? Yes. Yes, she does. It is light and sweet and bakes to the most gorgeous shade of light brown. Out of one batch of dough I can bake 2 loaves. It freezes beautifully. Tami’s challah is not temperamental. It is never dry. And despite the fact that the recipe is simply typed up in a word document and not lovingly handwritten by the very woman who gave me life, I love it. And I love Tami, whomever she is. I will tell you; I still carry a bit of guilt every time I pass over my mom’s recipe to pull Tami’s Challah Recipe out onto the counter. But that guilt dissipates each Friday night as I watch my kids light the candles and gently pull off a corner of the challah to say the Hamotzi, my gold star glittering in the light of the candles.

Tami’s Challah Recipe

Step 1 1.5 Tbsp Yeast (active dry yeast) 2 Tbsp Sugar ¾ Cup Warm Water	Step 2 ¾ Cup Sugar ½ Cup Oil ½ Tbsp Salt 1 Cup Warm Water 3 ¾ Cups Flour 2 eggs	Step 3 Around 3 ¾ Cup Flour ½ Cup Warm Water
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Yields 2 loaves of Challah

Combine items from Step1: yeast, sugar, and warm water (bathwater warm) in a bowl and let stand for 5 minutes. You will know your yeast is good to use if you see it bubbling and frothing. Set the yeast mixture aside. In a separate bowl, combine all the ingredients from Step 2 and knead together until your dough begins to form. When your mixture has become dough-like add the yeast mixture. Once you have added the yeast mixture to the dough, add the rest of the ingredients in Step 3 but do not add all the flour at once. You will need to judge the consistency as you add

flour and you may find you need slightly less or slightly more flour than the recipe suggests. You can start with 2.5 cups of flour. Knead everything together for a few minutes until you get smooth, not sticky, dough. Add flour as needed to get the right consistency. You do not want to add too much flour as it will become heavy and hard to work with. Choose a large bowl for your dough to rise. Spray the bowl with cooking spray, place the dough in the bowl, cover with wax paper that has been sprayed, and then cover with a damp, clean towel. Place in a warm area to rise until it doubles in size. That should be approximately 2 hours. Once your dough has risen, punch the dough down removing all of the air bubbles.

Shape your challah. You can bake them immediately, or let rise again until they approximately double in size for an airier challah. Once they are ready to be baked, brush them with a beaten egg, which will give them a beautiful sheen once baked. Place them in a preheated oven at 350 degrees for about a half hour. Every oven is different, so check your challah to see if they are golden brown and sound hollow when tapped. Shabbat Shalom!

Chanukkah Fun

It's almost here (Yes, Chanukkah is in November this year). Open flame, fried foods, gambling, what could be better? Join us at TBE for some very special Chanukkah celebrations. Be sure to check your weekly emails for all the details!

Sunday, November 28th, (time TBA)

Zoom Chanukkah Celebration with music and stories from the URJ. Log onto the Temple Zoom to light your chanuyikot together, and enjoy a video featuring music and stories from amazing Reform Jews from across America.

Wednesday, December 1st, (6-7pm)

Parking Lot Chanukkah. Bundle up, bring your chanukkiah, candles, and mittens and join us for some fun. A crazy Chanuakkh outfit costume parade, doughnuts to go, songs and Family Feud Chanukkah style. You won't want to miss this.

Friday, December 2nd, (6:00pm)

Bring your chanukkiah and join us at 6pm for Shabbat services, candle lighting and a Chanukkah teaching.

Saturday, December 3rd: Daf Yomi (10am) and Torah Study (10:30am) will feature some Chaukkah tidbits!

Saturday, December 3rd, (5:30pm)

Chanukkah with the Center for Small Town Jewish Life. Enjoy a new original play performed by Jewish professionals from across Maine and writing by Rebbitzin Lisa Mayer! Also featuring music by Rabbi Sruli, candle lighting and more! Zoom in for the fun.

Sunday, December 4th, (11:15am)

Hebrew School celebrates Chanukkah with games, crafts, and a play. Parents should join us to experience the Chanukkah fun.

More Details in the Weekly Email

FUN FOR ALL

Hanukkah 2021

Sunday 11/28 Zoom Candle lighting

Friday 12/3 Shabbat services

Wednesday 12/1 Parking Lot Fun

Featuring Family Feud

Saturday 12/4 Daf Yomi Torah Study

Sunday 12/5 Hebrew School Party

Need Hanukkah Swag?

We have you covered!

You can purchase items from the TBE gift shop on:

Sunday, November 14th, 9:00am-noon

Wednesday, November 17th, 5:00pm-7:00pm.

Need candles? We have those. Dreidels and Chocolate Gelt? We have those! You will also find Mezuzahs, Kippot, Jewelry and other amazing Hanukkah paraphernalia.

If you are unable to pick up your needed items during these times, please contact Dawn in the TBE office to arrange a time to stop by.

What's Happening at TBE in November and December!



November 2nd (on Zoom)

Ethics Task Force @ 11:30-1:00pm

November 5th (on Zoom)

Shabbat services with Beth Israel (Bath) @ 7:00pm

*See the weekly email for the login information

November 6th (in person and on Zoom)

Daf Yomi @ 10am led by Carrie McCarter

Torah Study @ 10:30am led by Eileen Ringel

Tea, Coffee and Conversation @ noon

November 17th (in person and on Zoom)

Board Meeting @ 6-7:30pm

November 19th (on Zoom)

Shabbat services with Beth Israel (Bath) @ 7:00pm

*See the weekly email for the login information

November 20th (in person and on Zoom)

Torah Study @ 10am led by Jonathan Weiss

Shabbat Services @ 10:50am led by Miriam Asch on the anniversary of her Bat Mitzvah

Bagel Brunch (outside) @ noon sponsored by the Asch Family

November 28th (on Zoom)

Chanukkah Celebration with the Union for Reform Judaism

December 1st (in person and on Zoom)

Chanukkah Parking Lot Party @ 6-7pm

December 3rd (in person and on Zoom)

Chanukkah with the Center for Small Town Jewish

Life @5:30pm

December 4th (in person and on Zoom)

Daf Yomi @ 10am

Torah Study @ 10:30am led by Eileen Ringel

Tea, Coffee and Conversation @ noon

December 7th (on Zoom)

Ethics Task Force @ 11:30-1:00pm

December 8th (on Zoom)

Racial Justice Meeting with Chris Myers Asch @ 7-8:30pm

December 11th (in person and on Zoom)

Torah Study @ 10am

Shabbat Services @ 10:50am

Tea, Coffee and Conversation @ noon

December 16th (in person and on Zoom)

Board Meeting @ 6-7:30pm

December 17th (in person and on Zoom)

Shabbat Service @ 6:30pm with Alex Matthews

December 18th (in person and on Zoom)

Daf Yomi @ 10am

Torah Study @ 10:30am

Tea, Coffee and Conversation @ noon

Hebrew School Calendar

9:30am on the following Sundays:

November 7th, 14th, and 21st
(no school on Nov 28th)

December 5th, 12th, and 19th
(no school on Dec 26th)

Hebrew School Update By Rabbi Asch

We are off to a great start at Hebrew School! Based on parent conversations we have introduced a few new blocks this year.

1. We have a new value we explore every two weeks. The students get to learn about the value through stories, holidays and more!
2. We now have a "skill building" time where we teach our students skills they will need to be Jewish adults. These include how to bless and shake the lulav, how to act around the Torah, what to do when you have an aliyah, and how to do the Shabbat blessings.
3. Our combined art time has been a lot of fun. Our projects will be up around TBE soon.

I have been teaching the oldest class and we are delving into the Tanach. First, we learned what the Tanach is (hint, it has three parts!) The students have completed a Tanach scavenger hunt, reviewed the important people and events in the Torah, read and written midrashim, and discovered that each Torah portion has a haftarah that goes with it. They even did a dramatic reading of the prophets. We'll also be exploring the writings as well as Jewish law. This month, Rich Goldman will take over the teaching of this class. It is so fun to have such an enthusiastic group of learners. They make me excited to wake up early every Sunday morning.

Covid Policy Updates

As we continue to gather in person a reminder about our Covid Protocol at Temple Beth El:

- All attendees of in person events who are 12 or over must be fully vaccinated. Note: Fully vaccinated does not include getting a booster shot. While we recommend you get those if eligible, they are not required to attend events at TBE.
- Attendees under 12 may attend big events with a negative Covid test in the last 36 hours (at home rapid tests are fine). We will clearly communicate when a negative test is needed.
- Masks will be required inside the synagogue building unless you are on the bimah leading the congregation. Please ensure that seats are spaced far apart. We'll be opening windows to increase ventilation so bundle up!
- There will be no eating inside the Temple except for a brief Kiddush and motzi after Friday night services and Torah study. Hebrew School snacks will take place outside and distanced. We'll be providing "grab and go" treats after Friday night services.
- We have a new "Coffee, Tea and Conversation" opportunity after Saturday morning Torah study. This is an invitation to pull up a chair outside or in our lobby, chat and enjoy a hot beverage. We'll ask that your mask remains on between sips, but this will give us a chance to talk with one another.
- Hebrew School will move inside once the weather is colder. Hebrew School families will get an updated email with our protocols.
- Zoom will be available for almost all our Temple events. If you are sick, we ask that you stay home and participate via Zoom.

Rabbi Asch's Sabbatical November 1st – November 28th

Rabbi Asch is on sabbatical from Nov. 1st – Nov. 28th as part of the sabbatical time included in her contract for the 2020-2021 year. TBE's sabbatical committee will be covering regular events, meeting pastoral needs, and answering any questions. Who is in charge of what during the sabbatical:

Torah Study and Daf Yomi: Cree Krull

Services: We are invited to join with Beth Israel (Bath).

Hebrew School: Bria Watson and Rich Goldman

Pastoral Care: Susan Bakaley Marshall (wiserock@fairpoint.net), contact Susan if you have a need for calls or meals.

Death and Serious Illness: Nancy Kelly (622-4076), Nancy will have a rabbi get in touch with you.

Weekly Email: Julia Underwood, (juliamunderwood@icloud.com)

Discretionary Fund: Pastor Chrissy Cataldo, Winthrop Congregational Church (UCC) (865-773-5151)

General Questions: Dawn Fecteau, Temple Office, contact Dawn with questions about services, learning, Hebrew School or anything else. She can put you in touch with the correct person (622-7450) (bethelaugusta.org).





Hola! Save the Date!

TBE Wine Tasting and Auction Saturday, January 29, 2022

The TBE Annual Ice Storm Wine Tasting will be held on Saturday evening, January 29, 2022, on Zoom. We will be virtually transported to gorgeous Spanish wineries as we explore wines and sherry from around Spain. As is tradition, we will have an online auction with the world-renowned auctioneer, Chuck Cohen. Raffle prizes and a wine pull will also be featured! Please see the auction donation information below; we need your creativity and generosity to make this a success!

This is an event you won't want to miss! More details to come! **SALUD!**

Auction Donation Information

Please help us make this a success by donating something special. We'd like to auction 10-12 special items valued at \$50 and up (please save your smaller items, art and jewelry for the 2023 in person silent auction!).

Here are some ideas:

- ❖ Gift cards for a special meal to go from a local restaurant
- ❖ Gift cards to local businesses
- ❖ Vacation rentals (preferably within a safe driving distance)
- ❖ Pandemic appropriate outdoor activities, such as a round of golf or a ski pass
- ❖ Extraordinary, one-of-a kind home-baked items (your very best apple pie, your grandmother's hamantaschen, that chocolate babka!)
- ❖ Special Themed Baskets (for example: *Made in Maine, Coffee/Tea Time, Gardening, Cookie Baking, Water Color Painting, your wonderful creation!*)
- ❖ Sports memorabilia
- ❖ A beautiful handcrafted quilt
- ❖ Your idea!



→ Please send an email to Fran Rudoff at frudoff@gmail.com or call her at 207-212-9544 with your donation idea **by January 7, 2022**.

Share the Road with Carol

Temple members Sarah and Mike Drickey and Chuck Cohen rode in the Share the Road with Carol memorial bike ride on September 19th. The annual ride honors the memory of Dr. Carol Eckert, wife of TBE member Jeff Frankel, who was killed while bicycling near her home in Windsor in 2016. Want to ride next year? Let Jeff know!



Many, many thanks!

A huge thank you to everyone who made our high holiday celebrations possible. We could not have done it without all the people who set up, cleaned up, helped with food, served as greeters, put up and took down the sukkah, helped lead services, created the yizkor book, created our Covid protocols, brought goats to our celebration, and more.



A special thank you to our High Holiday Committee: Linda Kallin, Cree Krull, Fran Rudoff, Deb Sewall and Liz Sizeler.

They helped to envision our holidays to make this a meaningful experience online and in person. It was wonderful to see so many people in person and get to reconnect. I am so grateful to all the people who joined us online and were a part of our communal observance.

Donations

Building Fund Capital Campaign Donations:

Schatz, Nancy and Bruce

General / Other:

Bessey, Emily and Ethan - display board

Bley, Jerry and Emily - display Board

Caesar, Richard and Lynn - High Holiday donation

Drickey, Sarah and Mike - High Holiday donation

Flamm, Vivian - High Holiday donation

Frankel, Marsha - High Holiday donation

Jespersen, Betty - in appreciation of Rabbi Asch

Ross, Nancy & Viles, George - in honor of Lilah Goldey's Bat Mitzvah

Seager, Jean & Bill - in honor of the Rabbi and Chris' Wedding Anniversary



Rabbi Discretionary Fund Donations

Dana, Richard

Goldey, Anya and Allen, in honor of Lilah's Bat Mitzvah

Plano, Larsen and Zuckerman, Julia, in recognition of the kindness shown to the family of Judy Plano

Slosberg, Kenneth and Bertine, in memory of Sam Slosberg

Terumah Pledges for 2020-2021

Adler, Bob and Nolin, Ann-Marie

Bley, Jerry and Emily

Goldman, Richard and Hermans, Linda

Graham, Carol

Grunblatt, Ellen and Bien, Stephen

Klein, Michael and Barnhart, Louisa

Ladenheim, Kala

Mayer, Barbara and Acker, Chuck

Sacks, Marie

Sclar, Stanley

Yahrzeit/Memorials

Cohen, Li'el - in memory of James Brown

Diamond, Stephen - in memory of Nancy Diamond

Greene, Seth - in memory of Julius Goos

Greene, Seth - in memory of Sam Slosberg

Greene, Seth - in memory of Lila Segal

Koopman, Elizabeth - in memory of Clover Koopman

Leavitt, Barda - in memory of Janice Leavitt

Shapiro, Steven & Beth - in memory of Belle Grodinsky

Shapiro, Steven & Beth - in memory of Richard Kelly

Shuman, Nancy * Charles – in memory of Harry Shuman

November Yahrzeits

November 2nd	Beatrice Freiman
November 2nd	Clare Nolin
November 2nd	Helen Bicknell Shed
November 4th	Daniel Bulba
November 4th	Bart Bakaley
November 6th	Julia Feldman
November 6th	Dorothy Drickey
November 7th	Abraham Goldberg
November 7th	Sam Goos
November 8th	Lenora Q. Dana
November 8th	Cathy Mattin
November 9th	Pasyah Fersht Schneider
November 9th	Selma Prager
November 10th	Bernice Pollack
November 10th	Sylvia Rudoff
November 11th	Elizabeth "Betty" Lieb
November 13th	Jeanette Johanssen
November 13th	Pierrette Zinck
November 13th	Lucille Zisquit Goldman
November 18th	John Ray
November 20th	Lipman Simmons
November 21st	Anthony Plano
November 23rd	Beatrice Sewall
November 23rd	Sydney Katz
November 23 rd	Iris Brock
November 27th	Eli Bulba
November 28 th	Harold Lipman

December Yahrzeits

December 2nd	Julia Feldman
December 2nd	Murry M. Freed
December 2nd	Fannie Weiss
December 4 th	Robert Sax
December 6th	David Slosberg
December 7th	Arlene Fine
December 7th	Edith Katz
December 8th	David S. Goldman
December 8th	Mavis Graber
December 11th	Rosemary Marshall
December 12th	Hayden Goldberg
December 13th	Max Cohen
December 13th	Genevieve Kus
December 14th	Harriet Katz
December 16th	Anna Norken Lipman
December 18th	Milton Metzger
December 19th	Sydney Katz
December 20th	Alan Sandler
December 22nd	Rhoda Boughton
December 23rd	Dorothy Bader
December 24th	Faye Goldberg Montell
December 24th	Annie Slosberg
December 26th	Bernard Marienhoff
December 26th	Robert P. Myers, Jr.
December 29th	Myron Shulman
December 30th	Evelyn Apogi Bickerman
December 30th	Samuel Lipman
December 31st	Pauline Cohen
December 31st	Philmore Schiff

**Portland Chevra Kadisha
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