



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

May Calendar

May 1 (in person & on Zoom)

Rosh Hodesh @ 4pm

May 4 (on Zoom)

Bikkur Holim @ 7pm

May 9 (in person & on Zoom)

Smoothie and Study @ 6pm

May 13 (in person & on Zoom)

Shabbat Services @ 6pm

May 14 (in person & on Zoom)

Torah Study @ 10am
 Shabbat Services @ 10:55am

May 15 (in person & on Zoom)

Social Justice Torah Study @ 4pm

May 18 (in person)

Lag B'Omer Bonfire @ 5pm
 Board Meeting @ 6pm
 (Also on Zoom)

May 21 (in person & on Zoom)

Daf Yomi @ 10am
 Torah Study @ 10:30am

May 27 (in person & on Zoom)

Shabbat Services @ 6pm

May 31 (in person & on Zoom)

Smoothie and Study @ 6pm

From the desk of Rabbi Asch...

There was much excitement amongst the children and adults of Hallowell when The Local Scoop opened recently. When ice cream shops open once again, it is a sign that summer (okay, spring) is finally here. Just as we wait for ice cream shops to open, kayaks to get back on the lakes, and the opportunity to transplant our seedlings into our outdoor gardens, our Jewish lives are also “in waiting.”

During this period of the omer we journey between Passover of Shavuot and we count each day, marking time between these two holidays. After the celebration of Passover, our ancient ancestors journeyed through the desert on their way to Mount Sinai. Their path was full of twists and turns, and even as they stood at the foot of the mountain they faced uncertainty. But they found strength in community and in being there with one another.



Tradition tells us that all Jewish souls were present at Sinai. This beautiful teaching pictures us receiving the Torah as one community, but it also means we were all together during the moments of anxiety as well. We learn that when Moses was late coming down from the mountain, the Israelites panicked. Just how late was Moses? Both the Talmud (Ta'anit) and Rashi tell us that this could have been a miscounting and Moses was a mere hours late. But that delay was enough for fear to set in.

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June Calendar

June 4 (in person & on Zoom)

Shavuot Study @ TBD

June 5 (in person & on Zoom)

Shavuot Morning Service with
Yizkor @ 10am

Ice Cream Social to Follow

June 10 (in person & on Zoom)

Shabbat Services @ 6pm

June 11 (in person & on Zoom)

Daf Yomi @ 10am

Torah Study @ 10:30am

June 12 (in person & on Zoom)

Annual Meeting @ TBD

Moving TBE Forward @ TBD

June 17-19 (in person)

Maine Conference for Jewish
Life in Waterville

June 22 (in person & on Zoom)

Board Meeting @ 6pm

June 25 (in person & on Zoom)

Bar Mitzvah of Alden Gilg

@10:30am



Rabbi's message, continued from page 1

We have all been living in times of uncertainty, and like our ancient ancestors we may be frustrated with delays. But we can draw strength from the fact that we are all on the journey together. And there are some wonderful opportunities for gathering in the months ahead. Our adult study (now with smoothies!) returns in person and on Zoom. We'll have a chance to gather together for our Annual Meeting and our first Moving TBE Forward event on June 12th. From June 17th-19th we'll return to Colby College for an in-person Maine Conference for Jewish Life.

Although being able to meet in person has been delayed, perhaps far past when we anticipated, we will have much to celebrate together in the months to come. I look forward to seeing you in person.



A group of TBE members have been working with Alex Matthews to build a raised bed at TBE. It is now newly installed next to the Shuman Center. Our Hebrew School students filled it up this past weekend. Thank you Chris Marshall and Susan Bakaley Marshall for donating the materials and building it!

We're looking for people to water and weed our garden for one week over the summer. If you can help out, please sign up [here](#). We can't do this without your help!

All Kidding Aside: Our Temple Needs YOU!

By Cree Krull

It's one of those times when people in my position write summative essays about the year that's nearly over. In January, we get the annual spectacle of the State of the Union address; in the May-June newsletter, there's a better than even chance your Temple President will discuss what's happened over the past year, and what's to come.

By now, you all probably know my natural voice in these matters skews to the irreverent. Whether generational or personal, I find it hard to adopt the neutral tone that bespeaks an institutional voice, or one that is formal. Growing up in the 70s and 80s, the media I stewed in felt inauthentic, ripe for nothing but lampooning and satire. An ironic tone allowed me to raise a fist in the face of vacuous expression.

Nevertheless, different contexts demand different speech. Double-entendre has become more difficult to manage outside of weekly emails or a Purim spiel. I've learned that sometimes one just has to speak simply. So, with my comments about double-meaning fresh in your mind, let me state that **everything you read from here forward is offered in a spirit of seriousness**, and stated with as little equivocation as I can muster.

Over the years, our Temple Presidency has become a bigger and bigger job. Former President Chuck Cohen and I have had many discussions about the amount of responsibility this position has accumulated and how much work it requires. It has become, in fact, unsustainable in its current form. To rectify that, **the Board is engaged in a process of decentralization**. Doing the Temple's business will involve the broader community through committees composed of Board and non-Board members alike.

This has always been the case to a certain extent. There is, however, a generational shift taking place within the Temple that forces this redefinition of our standard operating procedures. To wit, our cohort of dynamic Boomers has taken this Temple to an extraordinary place unthinkable for many in the 90s: a full-time rabbi, a part-time office administrator, a staffed Hebrew school, and a renovated Temple *with* a learning center. I'm not speaking out of turn to say that many of the congregants involved in these achievements are ready to hand the baton over to a younger generation. Commensurate with that handoff will be a reappraisal of how we've been getting things done, to make sure that we're not asking too much of some and too little of others.

As simply as I can put it, there will be many more opportunities for non-Board members to be involved in committee work going forward. If you are interested in helping out, there is space for you at the table. **You are invited to play an active role because - and there's no other way to say it - your Temple needs you.**

Continued on page 4

All kidding aside, continued from page 3

At the same time, we open opportunities at the committee level, we're increasing the portfolios for the Vice President and Secretary while expanding responsibilities for non-officer Board members. Of all the officers, only the Treasurer's position appears to be right-sized at present.

And the President's job, where this all started? It's going to become more manageable through more aggressive delegation. **Think of it less as Doer-in-Chief and more as Delegator-in-Chief**, the one who collects and coordinates the information and understandings that allow the committees to do the work that must be done.

When I took this position last May, I knew it was a big job. Several of you told me so without mincing words. I hoped to do it for three years. And then, as we say in Yiddish, *Man macht, Gott lacht*. **I went down to Philadelphia in July and fell in love.** By October, it was clear to me that the time spent traveling between the two states would most likely mean I had to make a difficult decision. I announced to the Board in January my intention to step down at the end of this fiscal year, and with that, another process of transition in my life got started.

Being part of this community has been one of the most amazing experiences in my life. As a convert to Judaism, I carry within me trepidation about my status, which feels like something I must negotiate and renegotiate with myself on a regular basis. Who am I? There is no family history behind me. My sons? Supportive, but not part of this journey with me. The woman I love? Wonderfully, lovingly Jewish-adjacent. What is the core of my faith, my membership in Am Yisrael, and how do I observe that? And where, oh where will I find a community like this one, where my anxious negotiations fade in the warm embrace of you all?

What TBE has created is remarkable: a space where converts, born Jews and Gentile partners alike are all welcome. What you or I can offer this community is what matters most of all, and I hope that never changes. It must not change, for the world needs spaces like TBE more than ever. In that spirit, **it gives me great pleasure and relief to announce that David Offer will stand for nomination as President this June.** As a former Temple President and business executive, David has the experience to drive this transformation forward. He has agreed to take on this role for the 22-23 fiscal year, after which it will be time for new leadership to step into the position.

David's success in this role will be dependent not just on his skills, which are many, nor the collaboration of an active board. It will build on the efforts of all of you who step forward to help organize holiday gatherings and events; take on responsibility for things like lay-led Torah Study and services; and volunteer to share your understanding of Judaism with the curious minds in our Hebrew School. We cannot put it all on any one or even a handful of people to make TBE function. We must each find where we can plug in, and lever ourselves into place.

All I can assure you is that it will be worth it, and you will get back so much more than you give.

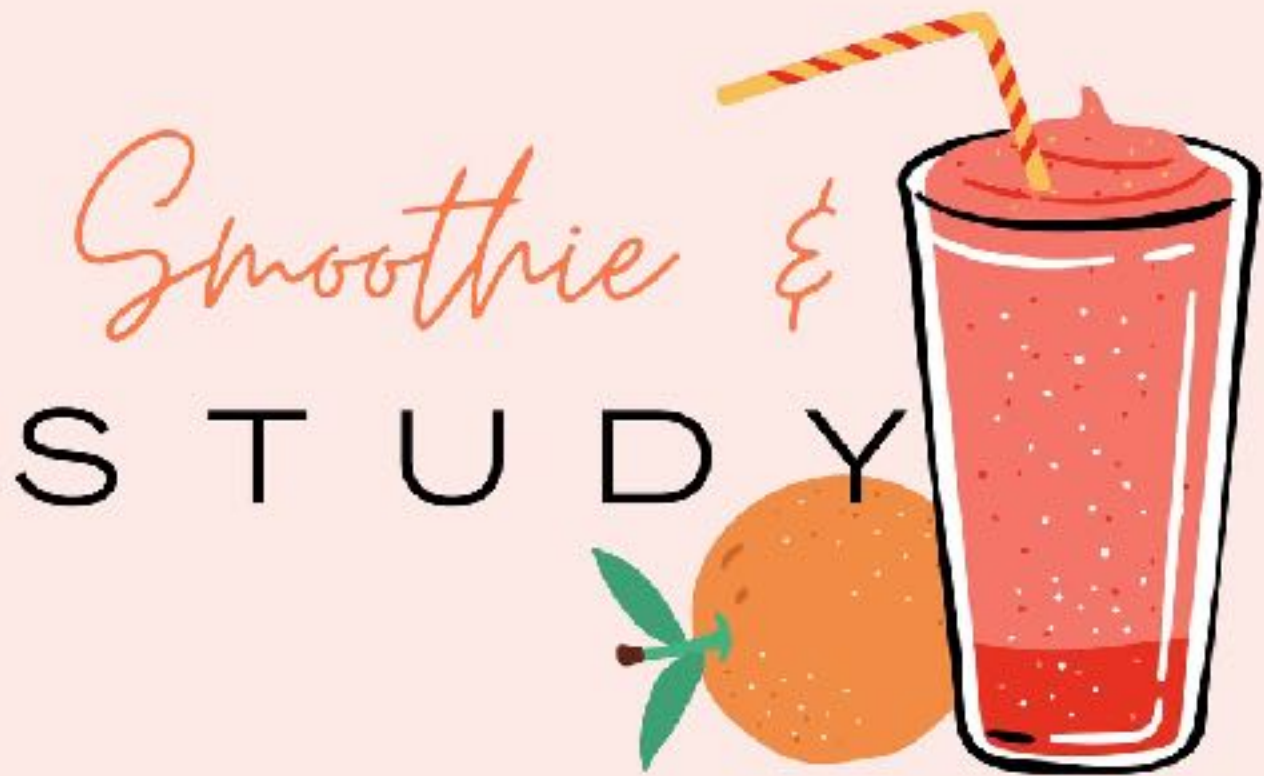
TBE'S
YOM
HA'ATZMAUT
PARTY

Join as as we celebrate
Dancing * Food
Activties * Songs

SUN. MAY

8

11AM-NOON



Mon, May 9 @6pm
Early Women Rabbis
Tues, May 31 @6pm
Science and Faith

In person
& on Zoom

RSVP to
the office

We need 10 attendees to hold this program



Join Us for Alden Gilg's Bar Mitzvah

June 25th
10:30am @ TBE

Hi, my name is Alden Gilg and I'm an eighth grader at Gardiner Regional Middle School. I like to play music. I've been playing violin for 8 years and oboe for 3 years. Playing music has allowed me to travel and perform in some really cool places, like Japan, Cape Breton, and the Shetland Islands. I also like to read, go on nature walks, build Lego sets, and play video games with my friends. I'm looking forward to my Bar Mitzvah but I'm also a little nervous because I am shy speaking in front of people. Rabbi Asch and Richard Goldman have helped me a lot over the last year and I'd like to thank them for all their help.

Annual Meeting

June 12th @ 10am
(in person & on Zoom)

Join us for the Annual Meeting on June 12th in the morning. We'll discuss Temple business, including our budget, honor our volunteer of the year, and have time to talk with one another.

Whether you've been a member for longer than you can count or are new this year, we need your presence to hear congregational updates, vote on our new board members, and help us envision the next year for TBE. Check your weekly email for all the details.

Moving TBE Forward A Living Legacy of Charlotte and Zeci Goos Inaugural Program on June 12

Thanks to a generous gift from the Goos family, we have the opportunity to honor Charlotte and Zeci Goos and their commitment to Temple Beth El. This event will bring an artist or musician to TBE each year for a program of connection and joy. We know that Charlotte and Zeci loved dancing and music and were dedicated to helping TBE prosper. This event builds on their love of the arts. We are thrilled to have our first annual event this June.

Stay tuned to your weekly email for more details and save our tentative date of the afternoon of **Sunday, June 12th (following the annual meeting).**

Greeters Needed!

Are you interested in welcoming both new and old members of our Congregation as they enter the Temple for services and events? Then being a TBE Greeter is the right volunteer opportunity for you. TBE Greeters play a critical role in fulfilling our mission of providing a safe, secure and welcoming place for TBE congregants and guests. In addition, they provide invaluable help to our Rabbi as she gets ready for services and events.



While we currently have a good roster of Greeters, it would be great to get a few more volunteers to spread the work around. If you're interested in joining our Greeter corps please contact Dawn at the Temple and we'll set you up with the needed materials and training. If you are interested in being a Greeter, please know that we we'll have upcoming Greeter Security Trainings with Officer Brad Chase of the Augusta Police Department. We'll give you all the information you need to serve and even a nifty name tag. We hope you'll join us!



The Excitement is Real! Terumah Packets are Ready!

Terumah packets for the 2022-2023 fiscal year will be sent in May. Be on the lookout for your packet to arrive in the mail shortly. To better help TBE budget for the year ahead, when you receive the packet, please complete and return your pledge form to the Temple office as soon as possible. If you have any questions, you may contact Dawn Fecteau at the TBE office.

Celebrate Lag B'Omer With a TBE Bonfire! Wednesday, May 18th from 5-6pm

Join us for Lag B'Omer (the 33rd day of the omer). We'll meet outside at TBE for refreshments, socializing and a bonfire. We hope you'll join us for a chance to see one another and to learn what exactly this holiday is all about!

SAVE THE DATE

SHAVUOT:
RECEIVING THE
TORAH

SATURDAY, JUNE 4TH

CHECK YOUR WEEKLY EMAIL
FOR A COMPLETE SCHEDULE

"All the Joy Grows" in Hebrew School

by Ava Katz

As the children enter through the opening doors, they are all overjoyed to meet their weekly pals for what seems like the first time again. We've been using our colorful packets full of games, discussions, tales, and more fun for the kids as my class fills up with enthusiasm! We've "debated" myths vs. realities, such as whether the Red Sea parting was true, and then had discussion-based recaps to ensure that each child can express their views and ideas on each of the readings we've done. Having the opportunity to read and engage in their own piece of our lesson is a surprisingly exciting activity for the kids! We have a weekly story time, and this week's story was about a tiny girl who couldn't reach the shabbat candles or unveil the challah because she was too small. But when it came to the four questions at Passover, it was her turn to shine! We then slowly, but steadily learned how to memorize each question one by one.

Additionally, we recently had a temple intern (Alex) who had eagerly presented the idea for a community garden! Ideally, we would like to have each family come in for a week to water, weed, and nurture the garden before handing it onto the next family. All the joy grows, from our outdoor time to our student-made Purim plays, the spreading through each and every Scooby Doo cracker, to eager flower-making in arts and crafts time. Hebrew school instills in the kiddos essential Jewish values, new sides of their culture, and, of course, Hebrew!



Hebrew School Schedule

Day 1, 8, 15 and 22

Hebrew School students are invited to join us for Shavout morning services at 10am on June 5th followed by an **ice cream social!**



Supporting TBE

Building Fund Donations

Seth Greene

Rabbi Discretionary Fund Donations

Cynthia & Gregg Bernstein, *in memory of Jack Gustafson and Irving Berman*

Richard Dana

Carrie McCarter

Sue and Dave Offer

General / Other

Ellen Freed, *in honor of Carrie McCarter*

Paul Linet, *in honor of Rabbi Asch*
conducting the baby naming ceremony

Terumah

Carrie McCarter

Bria Watson

Yahrzeit/Memorials

Cynthia and Gregg Bernstein, *in memory of Jack Gustafson and Irving Berman*

Jay Collins, *in memory of Anna Imondi*

Sarah and Mike Drickey, *in memory of Shawn Walker*

Seth Greene, *in memory of Ann O'Donnell*

Laurence Kandel, & Ellen Bader, *in memory of Charles Bader*

Judith Kuehnert & Paul Graber, *in memory of Susan Knowlton*

Joe O'Donnell, *in memory of Ann O'Donnell*

Joe O'Donnell, *in memory of Henry Price*

Susan and David Offer, *in memory of Samuel L. Gershon*

Steven and Beth Shapiro, *in memory of Rose Golden and Shirley Siegel*

Jonathan and Dace Weiss, *in memory of Dr. Irving Weiss*



Board of Directors

President

Cree Krull

Vice President

Emily Bessey

Treasurer

Mike Drickey

Secretary

Mike Levey

Board of Directors

Chuck Cohen, J. Richardson Collins, Ellen Freed, Ben Gottlieb, Richard Goldman, Nancy Kelly, Mike Levey, Hildie Lipson, Liz Sizeler, Chris Zinck

Honorary Directors

Peter Bickerman
Sumner Lipman
Deb Sewall

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Rabbi

Rabbi Erica Asch
207-242-9792

The TBE office is open
Tuesday, Wednesday and
Friday.

May Yahrtzeits

- May 1 Aaron Frankel
- May 1 Sidney Goldstein
- May 1 Eleanor Mayer
- May 1 Rebecca Slosberg
- May 3 Edith Sclar
- May 3 Max Slosberg
- May 4 Anthony Imondi
- May 6 Samuel Weiss
- May 7 Sylvia Parker
- May 9 Jean Dietz
- May 10 Allen Davis
- May 11 Benjamin R. Slosberg
- May 14 Tyler Lessard
- May 14 Elizabeth Lipman Winter
- May 15 Leigh Ann Lee
- May 16 Edwin Eckert
- May 17 Meyer Schwartz
- May 18 Julian Sacks
- May 20 Robert Bien
- May 21 Daniel Moyer
- May 21 Dorothy Moyer
- May 25 Carol Bernstein Hecht
- May 27 Clara Miller Weiss
- May 29 Erika Ellen Briggs
- May 29 Marion Fusco
- May 29 Matthew Peter McLinn
- May 30 David Boughton
- May 31 Fred Slater

June Yahrtzeits

- June 1 Gertrude Rudoff
- June 2 Albert Freiman
- June 2 Justin Blauner
- June 2 Fred Sewall
- June 3 Jean Bakaley
- June 4 Samuel Lerman
- June 6 Stuart Boughton
- June 6 Jack Drickey
- June 7 Joseph Schatz
- June 7 Joseph Leroy Shed
- June 9 Robert Powell
- June 9 Joan "Jet" Price
- June 10 Julius Sussman
- June 11 Howard S. Slosberg
- June 12 Paul Adler
- June 12 Beverly Gass
- June 14 Webster Shipley, Jr.
- June 17 Albert Abraham
Rosenberg
- June 18 Aviva Schnur
- June 20 Reginald Hannaford
- June 25 David Pollack
- June 28 Dora R. Slosberg
- June 29 Beatrice Director
- June 30 Ruth Gross
- June 30 Miriam Weiss

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Jewish Funeral Home

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