



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

July Calendar

Note: "Hybrid" means we are offering both in person and Zoom participation

July 6

Smoothie & Study @ 6pm
(hybrid)
Bikkur Holim Committee @
7pm (Zoom)

July 8 (in person)

Shabbat on the Lake @ 6pm

July 9 (in person)

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

July 11-15 (in person)

Funtensive @ 9am — 3pm

July 12 (in person)

Sea Dogs Game @ 6pm

July 18 (hybrid)

Board Meeting @ 6pm

July 20 (Zoom)

Intro to Judaism @ 9am

July 24 (hybrid)

Rosh Chodesh Av @ 5-6:15pm

July 26 (hybrid)

Smoothie & Study @ 6pm

July 29 (hybrid)

Shabbat Services @ 6pm

July 30 (hybrid)

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

From the desk of Rabbi Asch...

What do you think of when you think of summer in Maine? Berry picking and jam making? Fairs? Hiking and camping? Fresh garden produce? If you are like many people, coming to Temple might not be at the top of your to-do list for the summer months. Never fear, TBE is entering into the season of summer with some events designed to get you outside and meeting with other TBE members.

After two years of Covid, we want to see one another. The Temple Board, at their recent retreat, identified recruitment and engagement as a goal for the coming year. This means we want to build leadership within the congregation, get all of you more involved, and reach out to potential

members. That is where our Summer of Fun comes in. Thanks to the hard work of volunteers, we will have the opportunity to gather together for baseball, outdoor Shabbat, a field day, movies, and a mezuzah hanging. See all the details on page 5. There is something for everyone and I hope you will join us for at least one of these events this summer.

There is a story of a village in Poland (where many Jewish stories take place) where the only son of the town's only rabbi was getting married (the rabbis were all men back then). The townspeople were thrilled. The mayor declared that a huge barrel should be built in the middle of the town square with a ladder ascending to

Rabbi's message, continued on page 2



August Calendar

August 3 (Zoom)

Bikkur Holim Committee @ 7pm

August 13 (in person)

Shabbat Walk @ 10am
(Vaughan Woods)

August 15-19 (in person)

Funtensive @ 9am-3pm

August 17 (hybrid)

Board Meeting @ 6pm

August 19 (TBD)

Shabbat Services @ 6pm

August 20 (in person)

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

August 21 (in person)

Movie Night @ TBA

August 24 (Zoom)

Intro to Judaism @ 9am

August 27 (hybrid)

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

August 28 (hybrid)

Rosh Hodesh Elul @ 5-6:15pm

August 29 (hybrid)

Smoothie and Study @ 6pm

August 31 (Zoom)

Intro to Judaism @ 9am



Rabbi's message, continued from page 1

the top of the barrel. Over the next few weeks before the wedding, each family was supposed to bring a bucket of their best wine to pour into the barrel. That way, on the eve of the wedding celebration, there would be sweet and plentiful wine.

The wedding went off without a hitch. After the ceremony, the music played, and the villagers danced to the town square. With great anticipation, the mayor tapped the barrel of wine to the shouts of mazel tov. He put his mug under the spigot, turned the handle and out came....water. (You might have guessed that already!)

What happened? Each family thought that they, alone, could get away with putting in water and it would not be noticed amongst all the sweet wine. Each expected others to do their part, thinking they could do nothing. [Adapted from a story by Rabbi Steven Z. Leder in *Three Times Chai*]

Your presence matters to our community, and I hope you'll make engaging with TBE a priority this summer. We won't even ask you to bring any wine; in fact we'll provide the snacks! No matter how you spend your summer, I hope you find time to relax, to appreciate the beauty all around us, and to connect with TBE.

Rabbi Asch – Summer Schedule

Rabbi Asch will be on vacation July 21-August 6. During this time, she will not be checking email, but will have access to her emergency cell phone. If you have a pastoral emergency, please call her and she can put you in touch with someone who can help.

Rabbi Asch will be serving on faculty at [Crane Lake Camp](#) August 7-14. During this time, she will be checking email, but may have slower response times than usual as she will be busy teaching, praying, and supervising bunk clean up (really!) while at camp. She'll be back in the office the week of August 15th when she'll be working at Funtensive.

Get Involved at TBE – It's Fun & Rewarding!

By David Offer

I was watching a television program recently that included an interview with the prime minister of Finland. She is 36 years old. The prime minister of New Zealand is 41. Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is 46. I don't think Temple Beth El should have an 80-year-old president – but now we do.

I am president again because the Nominating Committee was unable to find anyone else to take the job. I understand that people are busy with jobs and families but that does not change the fact that the future vitality of the Temple demands that we have younger leadership. If Finland, New Zealand, and Canada can do it, Temple Beth El can too.

Despite these misgivings, I am honored to serve as president for the next year – just as I was when I was president eight years ago. I don't think there is a greater honor than being asked to help lead the congregation that has become an important part of my life. I promise to do all I can not to disappoint you.

But I think the Temple would be better served by presidents who can focus on the long-term health and future of the congregation – and who can expect to be part of that future -- who can recruit other young people and families to membership, who understand what needs to be done to assure that TBE is as vibrant 20 years from now as it is today. I'll work on that for the next year, consulting with members who have kids in school and in Hebrew School, who have jobs that take time and energy – and who are also interested in the long-term success of Temple Beth El.

Let me start that process by telling you that being involved with Temple Beth El is not a chore, it's a privilege and it can be a lot of fun. Of course, it takes some work, but the rewards are great and worth the effort.

First is the reward of seeing your Temple succeed. In this diverse congregation we have many views of what being Jewish means, but all of us understand that whatever our approach to Judaism, we need a strong Temple as a unifying focal point for the Jewish people of Central Maine. You can help make that happen.

Second is the reward of working with truly terrific people you would not otherwise get to know, including our wonderful rabbi and the members of our board. They are smart, dedicated and welcoming to new participants. They may start as acquaintances but will soon become friends.

The way to start getting involved is to be part of a Temple committee. Perhaps you can help plan for how we celebrate Hanukkah, or raise funds with a wine tasting party, or have an absolute blast at Purim, or take steps to keep our congregation safe in these days of Covid and extremists who wish us ill, or to help find a visiting scholar, or host our rabbinic intern for dinner, or – well, you get the picture.

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Get Involved, continued from page 3

Twenty years ago, when I came here for a job interview, Sue toured the city with Realtor Bill Sprague. I'm sure some of you know him. Bill is not Jewish, but Sue asked him about the Jewish community. He paused for a moment and said: "It's small, but strong." Bill was right then, and he is right now.

We've made great progress in the last few years. We have remodeled our temple, we have an excellent Hebrew school, we are involved in important social action, we continue to manage our way through Covid. We have programs and services to interest every member of the congregation. We also have a world-class rabbi.

It is an honor to us that Rabbi Asch has been elected national president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. That's a wonderful recognition of her dedication, intellect, and talent. All of the Reform rabbis in the United States look to Rabbi Asch for leadership – just as we do. Working with Rabbi Asch is another reward for getting involved with Temple Beth El.

We finance our Temple with Terumah, not dues. It's a system that asks each member to do all he or she can to support the congregation. I doubted that this system would work when Hilde Lipson proposed it. I was wrong.

Terumah works because members understand that to operate – to exist – we need financial support. The same is true for leadership support – maybe you can call it leadership Terumah. Working together in the spirit of Terumah, we can assure a bright future for Temple Beth El.

A Warm TBE Welcome for Sarah Rockford!

Sarah Rockford is a second-year rabbinical student at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. Before moving to the Big City, she worked for the Center for Small Town Jewish Life supporting vibrant Jewish life in Maine. She is a proud member of Beth Israel Congregation in Waterville and a Colby alum. Sarah will be with us for the end of July and beginning of August. While Rabbi Asch is on vacation, Sarah will be teaching at Smoothie and Study, leading services and Torah study, and guiding us on a Shabbat hike. Read more about Sarah below. We hope you'll give her a warm welcome!



Sarah's Programs

- Tuesday, July 26th Smoothie and Study @ 6pm (hybrid)
- Friday, July 29th Shabbat Services @ 6pm (hybrid)
- Saturday, July 30th Daf Yomi @ 10am and Torah Study @ 10:30am (hybrid)
- Saturday, August 13 Shabbat hike @ 10am (in person)



TBE'S SUMMER OF FUN

**Outdoor activities designed
for all ages!
RSVPs are appreciated!**

Friday 7/8 Lake Shabbat 6pm

Join us at the home of Marty Weiss for a short Shabbat service followed by a potluck dinner. RSVP for directions.

Tuesday 7/12 Sea Dogs Game 6pm

Buy a general admission ticket and meet us at the park in section 308 anytime after 5:30pm. Let us know your coming; we'll save you a seat!

Saturday 8/13 Shabbat Hike 10am

Join Sarah Rockford and TBE members for a prayerful time in Vaughan Woods. Meet at the tennis courts behind Hall-Dale High School.

Sunday 8/21 Movie night 7pm

An outdoor double feature on the big screen. First a short kids' movie, next a longer movie for the adults. Snacks and bug spray provided.

Friday 9/16 Mezuzah! 5-7pm

Carrie and Dave McCarter will host a mezuzah hanging at their home in West Gardiner. Come for food and company.

Date TBA Field Day 10am-12pm

Join us at a park for softball and a variety of summer games followed by a picnic. See the weekly email for details.

Charlotte and Zeci Goos Are Still Moving TBE Forward

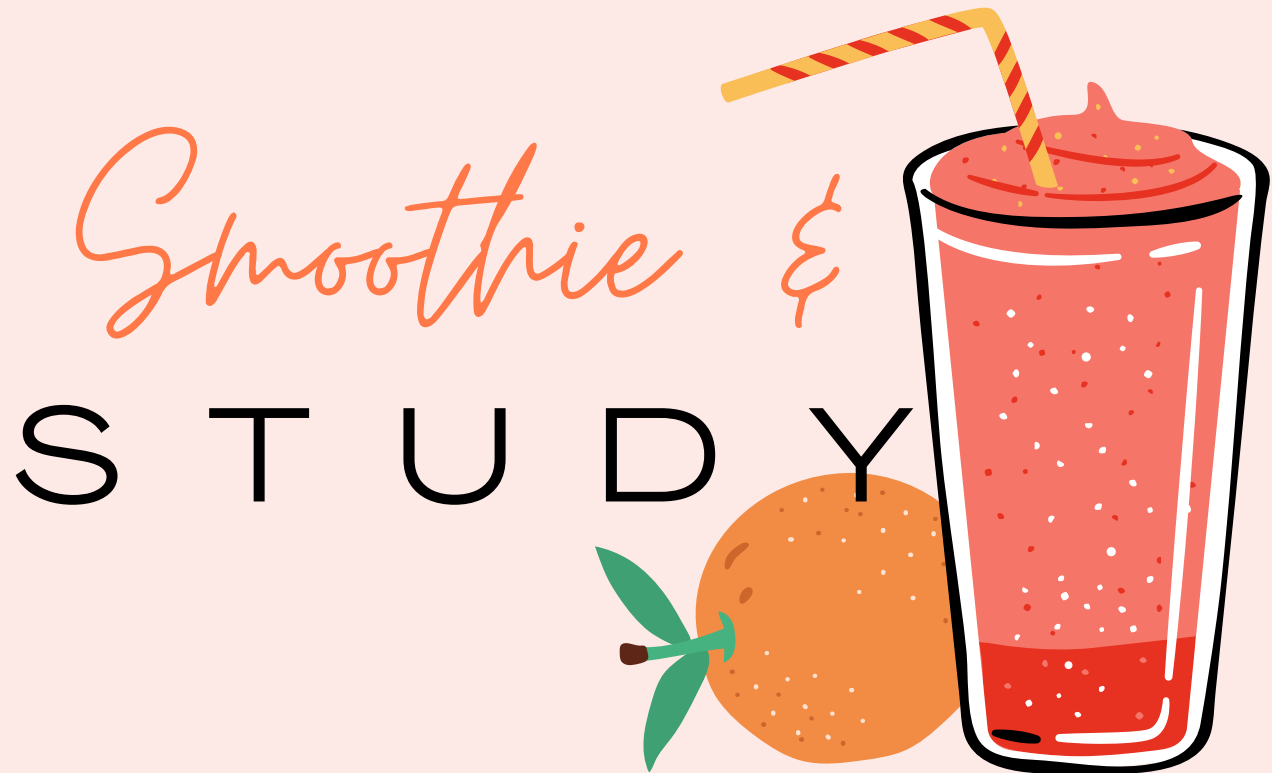
We got our groove back with the Goos Moving TBE Forward event in June. The Casco Bay Tumblers serenaded us with some amazing tunes and Barbara Merson led us in Israeli dancing. We were tired by the end of the day, but we loved every minute of it!



Annual Meeting Recap

Thank you to all who attended the annual meeting. It was wonderful to study some Torah and hear from outgoing president Cree Krull and incoming President David Offer (see his remarks on page 3-4). We got a comprehensive financial update from Treasurer Mike Drickey and nominated a new board. Mazel tov to Cree Krull, our volunteer of the year!





7/9: Judaism and Activism

7/26: Torah by Heart

with Sarah Rockford

8/29: Inside the Machzor

@ 6pm

Hybrid

RSVP to

the office

We need 8 attendees to hold this program

There are so many opportunities to get involved at TBE. We would love your help. A few hours a month talking to prospective and new members, helping set up, taking care of our garden, or providing meals can make a big difference. Please let us know how you want to be involved. Mail forms to the office or scan and email them. Thank you in advance!

Temple Beth El Volunteer Opportunities

Temple Beth El relies on volunteers to make our community run. Everything that happens at TBE involves volunteer work. We need you to help. Get involved and make friends while doing. Please sign up for one or more of these opportunities to help the life of our synagogue.

Name _____

Email _____ Phone Number: _____

Bikkur Cholim (Caring) Committee: Meals, phone calls and visits to members as needed

- _____ serve on the committee which meets monthly via Zoom and contact volunteers
- _____ cook and deliver meals
- _____ make visits
- _____ provide rides to congregants for doctor appointments, grocery store, etc.
- _____ dog walking and pet care

Building and Garden: Help keep our space looking amazing

- _____ take care of the TBE garden for a week during the summer/fall
- _____ weed the TBE grounds a few times during the spring/summer/fall
- _____ help to keep our kitchen clean by putting away dishes, restocking, etc

Worship and Ritual

- _____ make a minyan for Shiva as needed. Generally evenings. We will call you.
- _____ make a minyan for holidays as needed. Generally mornings three times a year
- _____ lead or co-lead services (Rabbi Asch will work with you)
- _____ lead Torah study
- _____ help set up for holidays
- _____ tutoring a student in Hebrew

Membership and Outreach

- _____ serve on the membership committee to recruit and welcome new members
- _____ reach out to potential new members (we will give you contact information)
- _____ connect with those in the process of conversion
- _____ serving as a greeter

Other Temple Work

I am interested in

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| _____ social action | _____ Goos Moving TBE Forward (music) |
| _____ finance and development | _____ Hannaford Education (scholars) |
| _____ building and security | _____ serving on the board of directors |

Please mail this form to the TBE office or drop in the white box in the lobby of the synagogue.

Rosh Chodesh: The Minor Jewish Holiday for Women

As you may or may not know depending on how closely you read the weekly newsletter, and how intently you listen to Rabbi Asch's enthusiastic announcements at the end of services and other TBE events, TBE once again has a Rosh Hodesh group. Rosh Hodesh, or "head of the month" is the minor holiday that marks the beginning of every Hebrew month (My Jewish Learning). Rosh Chodesh has long been considered a special holiday for women. According to Rashi, this is because the women of Israel refused to contribute their jewelry for the creation of the Golden Calf (My Jewish Learning).



TBE has a long history with Rosh Hodesh groups.

Twenty years ago, under Rabbi Susan, the group met consistently, addressed topics of particular importance to women (including a particularly memorable conversation about what halacka says about premarital and marital sex!), and engaged in community-minded projects, such as making a fabric collage huppa, which is still around. The group continued during the beginning of Rabbi Asch's tenure.

To me, TBE's Rosh Hodesh group feels like coming home after a long journey. I have a somewhat mixed history with all-women's groups. When considering what colleges to apply to in my Junior and Senior years of high school, I was drawn to the idea of an all women's college. I made the perhaps less than great decision to only apply to one all-women's college, and it happened to be the most difficult one to get into. You can probably see where this is going. Yes, my brilliant self was not accepted. In an odd turn of events my friends' daughter is now a freshman at that same college. I am happy to hear that the college does live up to its reputation, and luckily any negative feelings I might still hold are easily assuaged by her parents' generous willingness to share the tasty mochi donuts they bring back after visiting her at school.

My next more successful experiment with attending an all women's group was a Rosh Chodesh celebration held around Selichot two years ago. It was wonderful. I was immediately comfortable jumping into the conversation and knew that I was with a group of people who truly understood where I was coming from. I felt safe sharing my thoughts and feelings about topics that can be a bit challenging. I wanted to experience that again. And now, luckily, I can.

TBE's renewed Rosh Hodesh group, which is open to all women and nonbinary persons, meets the last Sunday before Rosh Hodesh. We welcome the new moon, remember our matriarchs, check in with each other, and tackle topics related to the upcoming month. It is a beautiful and comforting experience, and I count myself lucky to have this time to be in community with a group of wonderful, smart, caring people. This group also allows us to form connections outside of Torah study and services, and has become an important support system for me. I hope others feel the same. Please feel welcome to join us and share in this experience.

Closing Out Hebrew School

Our Hebrew School year ended with a blast as we celebrated Yom Ha'atzamut, Israel's Independence Day. We made delicious Israeli food, wrote prayers for the Western Wall, created art in Sfat, did science projects in the Negev and learned to write in Hebrew and Arabic. We had a great time this year in Hebrew School and can't wait to see everyone in September. If you can't wait that long, join us for Funtensive. [July 11-15](#) and [August 15-19](#). Please register today!



Supporting TBE



Terumah

Agee, Arwen and John
 Asch Family
 Bayer, Mary & Bresloff Leon
 Bessey, Emily and Ethan
 Dana, Richard
 Drickey, Sarah and Mike
 Faigin, David and Carol Ann
 Fels, Gail
 Frankel, Jeff
 Freed, Ellen and Barlow, Carol
 Friedland, Dan and Wolfe, Heather
 Gilg, Ilana and Kerstin
 Goldey, Anya and Allen
 Gross, Robert and Ava
 Hanish, Martin and Katz, Elaine
 Hannaford, Pauline (Tinker)
 Heifets, Danielle and Solomon
 Kallin, Linda & Peter
 Kelly, Nancy
 Koopman, Nancy
 Kuehnert, Paul & Graber, Judith
 Levey, Michael
 Linker, Carol
 Margolis, Margery
 Metzger, Louis and Margaret
 O'Donnell, Joseph
 Offer, David and Sue
 Orenstein, Karin and Jamie
 Ringle, Eileen and Ed
 Rosenberg, Peter
 Rutberg, Lena and Eric
 Sandler, Deborah
 Schiff-Slater, Scott and Nancy
 Sewall, Deb and Syd
 Shuman, Nancy and Charles

Terumah (continued)

Sizeler, Liz
 Weingarten, Nancy and Diamond, Stephen
 Weiss, Dace and Jon
 Zinck, Thea and Chris

Rabbi Discretionary Fund Donations

Richard Dana
 Betty Jespersen
 Nancy Ross & George Viles
 Sam Young, *in memory of David Young*

General / Other

Ellen Freed, *in honor of Dawn Fecteau*
 Rebecca & Marc Herdsman, *in honor of the 80th birthday of Jon Weiss*

Yahrzeit/Memorials

Richard Dana, in memory of Elizabeth Dana
 Mike and Sarah Drickey, in memory of Jack Drickey
 Joan Freiman, in memory of Sidney Goldstein
 Lowell Freiman, in memory of Albert Freiman
 Richard Golden, in memory of Rose Golden
 Anya & Allen Goldey, in memory of Sidney Goldstein
 Pauline Hannaford, in memory of John Thielman
 Pauline Hannaford, in memory of Reginald Hannaford
 Joe O'Donnell, in memory of Joan (Jet) Price
 Marie Sacks, in memory of Julian Sacks
 Deborah Sandler, in memory of Robert Sandler
 Nancy & Charles Shuman, in memory of
 Gertrude Lerman
 Nancy & Charles Shuman, in memory of Samuel
 Lerman
 Jonathan & Dace Weiss, in memory of Clara Miller
 Weiss
 Marty Weiss, in memory of Miriam Weiss
 Marty Weiss, in memory of Sam Weiss

Board of Directors

President

David Offer

Vice President

Chris Zinck

Treasurer

Mike Drickey

Secretary

Mike Levey

Board of Directors

Chuck Cohen, David Faigin,
Ellen Freed, Ben Gottlieb,
Richard Goldman, Nancy
Kelly, Mike Levey, Hildie
Lipson, Liz Sizeler, Chris
Zinck

Honorary Directors

Peter Bickerman
Sumner Lipman
Deb Sewall

Contact Us

Office Manager

Dawn Fecteau
207-622-7450
bethelaugusta@gmail.com

Rabbi

Rabbi Erica Asch
207-242-9792

The TBE office is open
Tuesday, Wednesday and
Friday.

July Yahrtzeits

July 2nd	Sol Moser
July 2nd	David L. Young
July 4th	Gloria Mondschein
July 4th	Lillian Lieba Sandler
July 7th	Rosalyn Rubin Kaminsky Joseph
July 7th	Seymour (Sy) Mondschein
July 9th	Charlotte Goos
July 10th	Linda Weiss Manson
July 10th	Benjamin Rubinstein
July 12th	Fred Hannaford
July 14th	Anthony A. Imondi
July 17th	David James Macy
July 20th	Rose Aransky LaPenna
July 21st	Rose Barlow
July 21st	Edith Gershon
July 21st	Harry Lait
July 23rd	Gertrude Lerman
July 24th	Bernigolde Macy
July 25th	Naomi Shore
July 26th	Harold M. Grodinsky
July 27th	Yale Marienhoff
July 29th	Kent Katz
July 30th	Thelma Alpert Price
July 31st	Blanche Marienhoff
July 31st	Leon Simmons

August Yahrtzeits

Aug 1st	Kent R. Katz
Aug 1st	Lydia Liechty Thielman
Aug 3rd	Sylvia K. Fain
Aug 3rd	Rose Schwartz Finkelstein
Aug 4th	William "Bill" Weisberger
Aug 5th	Nonie Barber
Aug 5th	Rivka Schneider Cohen
Aug 6th	Robert Bley
Aug 7th	Julia Weiss
Aug 8th	Pearl Bien
Aug 9th	Norman Evenchik
Aug 9th	George Graber
Aug 10th	Joline Kaplan Sandler
Aug 10th	Norman Suchar
Aug 12th	Ed Jones
Aug 12th	Dorothy Spalding
Aug 12th	Joel Douglas Wells
Aug 13th	Esther Kominers
Aug 14th	Hylan Bickerman
Aug 14th	Gerald Brock
Aug 16th	Joel Davis
Aug 16th	Howard Faigin
Aug 16th	Harold Franzel
Aug 16th	Lynn Slosberg
Aug 17th	Dora (Gittel) Cohen
Aug 18th	Barnett Cohen
Aug 18th	Bernard Osgood Koopman
Aug 19th	Dick Faucher
Aug 20th	Joel Davis
Aug 20th	Renee Schecter
Aug 21st	Janice Leavitt
Aug 21st	Rae Weiss
Aug 23rd	Edith Bresloff
Aug 23rd	Stephen Fusco
Aug 25th	Gerald Golden
Aug 27th	Esther Shuman
Aug 30th	Adelle Rubin
Aug 30th	Jaime Cabezas Garcia
Aug 30th	Charles Zinck

Portland Chevra Kadisha Jewish Funeral Home

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Portland, ME 04103
207.774.3733