



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

September Calendar

Note: “Hybrid” means both in person and Zoom.

HHD schedule on page 3.

September 6 (Zoom)

Covid Committee @ 6pm
Bikur Holim Committee @ 7pm

September 9 (hybrid)

Shabbat Services @ 6pm

September 10 (hybrid)

Daf Yomi @ 10am
Torah Study @ 10:30am
Potluck lunch @ 12pm

September 14 (in person)

Finance Committee @ 10am

September 16 (in person)

Mezuzah hanging at home of Carrie & Dave McCarter @ 5-7pm

September 17 (hybrid)

Selichot Service @ 7pm

September 18 (in person)

Share the Road Bike Ride (Windsor) @ 9am
TBE on the Road in Belfast @ 4pm

September 20 (in person)

TBE on the Road in Farmington @ 5pm

From the desk of Rabbi Asch...

This time of year is full of new beginnings, and I usually take this space to talk about the High Holidays. But this year I wanted to focus some attention on other fall holidays that I’m looking forward to: Sukkot and Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah. While the holidays always fall at the right time of year, it is somewhat serendipitous when they begin on Sunday evenings. Our Jewish schedule lines up with our secular schedule for once! I invite you (momentarily) to look past Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and join us for these two other fall holidays.

Sunday, October 9th, marks the beginning of Sukkot. The prayer book refers to Sukkot as *z’mān simchateinu*, the season of our rejoicing and the Torah mentions joy twice specifically in relation to this festival. We’ll delve into the joy of Sukkot

more at Soup and Study, but know that this sometimes-overlooked holiday is a big deal. It was referred to as *ha-hag* (the holiday) and was the holiday chosen by King Solomon to consecrate the temple in Jerusalem. Our celebration won’t be as grand, but we will put up and decorate the Sukkah, join together for a festive meal, and celebrate the holiday on Sunday. You’ll also have a chance to enjoy the sukkah all week long.



One week later, on October 16th, we mark Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah. These two holidays are celebrated concurrently in Reform tradition (ask me why later and I’ll talk your ear off!) Shemini

Rabbi’s message, continued on page 2



October Calendar

October 1 (hybrid)

Torah Study @ 10am
Shabbat Service @ 11am
Potluck Lunch @ 12pm

October 12

Intro to Judaism @ 5:15pm
(Zoom)
Soup & Study @ 6pm (hybrid)

October 13 (in person)

Landscaping Committee @ 5pm

October 14 (hybrid)

Picnic Dinner @ 5:30pm
Sukkot Services @ 6:15pm

October 15 (hybrid)

Daf Yomi & Torah Study @ 10am
Potluck Lunch @ 12pm

October 19 (hybrid)

Board Meeting @ 6pm

October 20 (in person)

Goos Committee @ 2pm

October 22 (hybrid)

Torah Study @ 10am
Shabbat Service @ 11am
Potluck Lunch @ 12pm

October 23 (Zoom)

Rosh Chodesh Group @ 5pm

October 28 (Zoom)

Intro to Judaism @ 5:15pm

October 28 (hybrid)

Shabbat Service @ 6pm

October 29 (hybrid)

Daf Yomi & Torah Study @ 10am
Potluck Lunch @ 12pm

Atzeret is a one day festival during which we start to recite prayers for rain. The better-known Simchat Torah translates to "celebration with the Torah" and consists of reading the end of the scroll and starting right back again at the beginning. We'll join together for a meal (yes, we are all about the food) and then we'll celebrate the Torah with songs, dancing, and some trivia. We'll also be together October 17th for a morning festival service including a recitation of yizkor.

I know the fall can be a busy time for everyone, but I hope you'll make time to join us after the High Holidays for the rest of our celebrations in the Jewish month of Tishrei. Our *simcha* (joy) is increased when we are able to gather together in community.



Hebrew School Schedule

Hebrew School starts back up on Sunday, September 11! We will hold regular Hebrew School **in person** from 9:30am-12:00pm on the following dates:

- September 11, 18
- October 2, 23, 30

We also will have special Hebrew School on the following dates:

- October 9th @ 4-5pm followed by a Sukkot Celebration
- October 16th @ 4-5:30pm followed by Simchat Torah



JOIN TEMPLE BETH EL FOR THE HIGH HOLIDAYS

We'll prepare for the High Holidays with **Selichot services** at Temple Beth El in partnership with Beth Israel Congregation-Waterville the evening of **Saturday, September 17th**.

**Sun.
09/25**

Erev Rosh Hashanah

5:00pm: Join a Picnic Dinner and
Create a Community Art Project
6:15pm: Candle Lighting and Apple
Dessert
7:00pm: Services

**Mon.
09/26**

Rosh Hashanah Day 1

9:00am: Morning Service
~12:30pm: Lipman Kiddush
~1:30pm: Tashlich in Hallowell

**Tue.
09/27**

Rosh Hashanah Day 2 at the home of Fran Rudoff (outside)

10:00am: Morning Service
11:30pm: Study
12:15pm: Brunch

**Tue.
10/04**

Kol Nidre

7:00pm: Service

**Wed.
10/05**

Yom Kippur

9:00am: Morning Service
1:30pm: Lay Led Study
2:30pm: Meditation Service
3:45pm: Stories about our Personal Heroes
~4:45pm: Afternoon Service
~6:00pm: Neilah
~7:00pm: Havdalah & Break Fast

**Sun.
10/09**

Erev Sukkot

4:00pm – 5:00: Hebrew School
5:00pm – 5:30: Sukkah Decorating
5:30pm: Candle Lighting and dinner
provided by TBE
6:15pm – 7:00: Sukkot Service

**Fri.
10/14**

Sukkot Celebration

5:30pm: Picnic Dinner
6:15pm: Evening Service

**Sat.
10/15**

Shabbat

10:00am: Daf Yomi
10:30am: Torah Study

**Sun.
10/16**

Erev Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah

4:00pm – 5:30: Hebrew School
5:30pm: Candle Lighting and dinner
provided by TBE
6:15pm: Evening Service

**Mon.
10/17**

Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah

9:00am: Morning Service with Yizkor

Services will be held in person and on Zoom.
Please check our website for updates.

Woven, Together

By David Faigin

Some of the most meaningful moments of our lives, when we are moved to some new significant place within ourselves or in the world, come from a confluence of forces. This has certainly been the case for me and my family in the past year, and I write to all of you simply to share some of what I've seen and felt as this confluence of forces has brought us deeper into Judaism and deeper into TBE connections and involvement. Seeing as the May newsletter brought you words from a grateful outgoing president asking you to get involved, and the July newsletter brought you words from a grateful incoming president asking you to get involved; I thought it apropos to take my time in this space to share as a fairly new TBE member and very new board member what it has been like, what it has FELT like, and what it has meant for our family to get involved.

Growing up as a member of the Bethesda Jewish Congregation in Maryland, I was shaped in my early experiences by a Reform community that taught me a tremendous amount. When I reflect on that time now, in my 40's, I find a new awareness on the meaning of that membership. I have always enjoyed the sweet memories of making hamantaschen at Hebrew school, the folk songs, the light through the windows of our gathering spaces, the solemn yet delightful feeling of entering Temple in the evening for services, wondering where my place was as a small person in the setting of adult reverence. I remember the special experience of singing in the choir alongside my parents, the chance to sit that much closer to the cantor as his rendition of Kol Nidre broke me open and made me whole at the same time. The silk threads of my great-grandfather's tallit on my shoulders for the first time at my Bar Mitzvah. Though now I appreciate more of what I didn't see back then. The hard work behind the scenes of temple leadership and the Hebrew school teachers. The work my father did as treasurer to help keep things afloat. The joyful gatherings of my mother's B'nai Mitzvah group deciding on the next project or Torah study. I now see more clearly the arrangements and efforts and volunteers that were all so fundamental to the creation and nurturance of that community I held dear. I now experience the personal joy and meaning that can come from those efforts of service.

So as new members to TBE (safe to say our family has mostly been "long time listener, first time caller" with TBE since we arrived in Maine in 2010), I was honored to get Cree's call with an invitation to join the Bikkur Cholim committee, and later the board. This was the point where the outward force of invitation from a leader met with the tides of two other forces: the inner process in me yearning anew for the soul's food within Torah and Jewish ritual, and the forces of joy and connection sprung up from our son Westley's experiences in Hebrew school. So, the "yes" for me and Carol Ann to help with board and committee was easy. When you feel a calling and you love the community that calls, it is not a hard decision to respond, even with the costs of the ask.

Temple Beth El is a family, and I find my heart responds to membership now in the same way one lives within a loving family. Family that truly manifests a nurturing and transformative love seems

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to me to have several core elements. It respects the sovereignty of the individual while boldly asking for a helping hand to honor interdependence. It honestly and consistently is interested in the gifts of your heart and your mind. It embodies a deep and enduring welcoming and grounded safe home, far beyond words on the doormat or a chair set at the table. It says at once "we've been here over 75 years and you can trust we are not going anywhere; we endure and create, for you" and also "never forget that you are the beloved hands that build our helpfulness." My family and I feel all of that from the TBE family. Many of you know of what I speak after years and years at Temple Beth El. What is remarkable to me is how quickly the gifts of family and community are felt as soon as one steps through the door.

As the chair of the newly created Membership Committee, I find myself reflecting more about what membership means in general and feeling a huge amount of gratitude for those who have volunteered their time, caring, ideas, and presence to our committee and all the others. Like the silk threads of my first tallit, our family is but one thread in the cloth of the temple now. You could have explained to me in a new member packet, a newsletter article, or a friendly kiddush conversation that there are transformative gifts one receives from engagement at TBE. That your time, caring, ideas, and presence given, generates deepened resource, palpable community and connection, and surprises of growth you couldn't see coming. But until I *lived* it, I wouldn't really get it. It's almost ineffable, but I'll give it a try with a return to the metaphor: When we allow ourselves to be a thread, we get to experience the *whole* strength, warmth, and holiness of the entire cloth.

I thank you so much for being in this woven cloth together, and I can't wait to see the beauty in our patterns ahead.

Save the Date! Nov. 4-5: Shabbaton @ Colby

The Center for Small Town Jewish Life Fall Shabbaton will be November 4-5th at Colby College in Waterville. We'll be joined by musical guest Batya Levine. Friday will feature dinner and musical services. Saturday we will have services, study, a hike, kids programming and a delicious lunch. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information.



TBE Committee Updates

Wine Tasting Committee

The Wine Tasting Committee is a super fun group of congregants who come together to help raise money for the Temple. Our group starts meeting in September and the event typically happens in late January. We work with Syd Sewall, our resident Sommelier, to come up with a theme for the event. Fran heads up the auction portion of the evening. Our event used to take place in person at the Temple, but since COVID, we have moved the festivities online. Hope to see you at a future committee meeting!

~Emily Bessey, Chair

Finance Committee

The finance committee develops and monitors the annual budget for Temple Beth El. The committee works with the Temple's financial advisor, The First National Investment Services, to monitor the Temple's investment portfolio, which includes our reserve funds. The Finance Committee also helps determine fundraising (development) needs for the Temple and steers fundraising campaigns for any annual operating needs or larger projects, like the outside landscaping/outdoor worship and event space.

~Hildie Lipson, Chair

Bikkur Cholim-Caring Committee

We meet monthly and are assisting Rabbi Asch with certain pastoral needs and reaching out to our community with phone calls and sending cards. Our fabulous TBE volunteers have been cooking meals, driving for medical appointments, making visits, and helping with animal care when congregants have a need. We are grateful for our caring community and those who step up to do mitzvahs with rachamim -loving compassion.

A huge Toda(h) Raba(h) to our volunteers! Without you we couldn't offer these important community services. If you signed up recently to volunteer but haven't received any emails this past month or you'd like to volunteer to assist other congregants, please contact us to be sure you're on the notification list.

~Susan Bakaley Marshall, Chair: wiseroock@fairpoint.net 207-589-4632

Information Technology Committee

We work with staff and outside agencies and organizations to provide a safe and secure computing environment. Our work includes support for computers, printers, and other equipment, software, cloud-based services, and the Ethernet, WiFi, and Internet networks that allow us to work inside and outside TBE.

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Membership Committee

This is a new committee created to assist with a variety of goals related to new and existing members. We are thrilled to be able to play a role in enhancing welcoming, outreach and connections among members and prospective members. The initial focus of the committee is to:

- § Help the Rabbi with planning for outreach activities / new member contacts
- § Help develop new member materials and methods for welcome
- § Explore ways to integrate new member welcoming into the ritual schedule and TBE events
- § Explore ways to grow and sustain member engagement

Given that we are a new committee and get to be creative in our activities, we are very open to new ideas and would love your input and involvement!

~David Faigin, Chair

Security Committee

We work with congregants, staff, and outside agencies and organizations to provide a safe and secure environment. Our work includes facility security (such as locks and cameras), information sharing and coordination (including Augusta Police Department), training (including security and first aid), exercises (to stay current), and education (to make congregants aware).

~Mike Drickey, Chair

Rabbi Committee

We like to say that our goal is to help the Rabbi be successful. We meet periodically with the Rabbi to confidentially discuss her aspirations, concerns, and various matters in between. We also work with the Rabbi to formulate her yearly work plan and review it over time.

~Rich Goldman, Chair

Visiting Scholar Committee

Our committee works with Rabbi Asch to identify scholars who can come to TBE to share their Jewish learning with our community. We will implement the Hannaford Visiting Scholars program, which was generously endowed in memory of Reginald Hanford. *~Chris Myers Asch, Chair*

Building Committee

The Building Committee oversees the Temple's buildings and grounds. Now that the building project is largely complete, the work of the committee focuses on maintenance and improvements, done by both contracted professionals and TBE volunteers,

Ad Hoc Landscape Committee

The remaining phase of the TBE Building Project is focused on developing the outdoor space behind the Temple to complement our renovated buildings. The committee is working to develop a design for this space, with the assistance of professional landscape architects. We expect to finalize the design this fall and construct the project after funding has been secured.

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One Last Summer of Fun Event

Friday, September 16th

5-7pm

Join at the home of Carrie and David McCarter in Gardiner as they celebrate with a mezuzah hanging. They'll provide delicious treats and we'll have a chance to relax together after a busy week. We hope you'll join us for this last even in our summer of fun! Please RSVP to the office and we'll provide directions. The weekly email will also have more details.



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Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee looks for ways that our congregation can meaningfully and effectively apply the Jewish principle of Tikkun Olam (healing the world). In doing so, we seek to engage the congregation in both education and action activities in areas which are important to us as reform Jews, are realistic given our resources, and which are consistent with the teachings of the Torah. In doing so, we look for ways to coordinate with both national organizations, such as the URJ's Religious Action Center (the RAC), other synagogues in the state, and local organizations, such as the League of Women Voters. In those instances where the Committee is recommending that the Temple take position on a policy issue, such recommendations are done consistent with the requirements of Temple Policy and subject to Board approval.

~ Chuck Cohen, Chair

Goos Moving TBE Forward Committee

Using a generous grant from the family of Charlotte and Julius Goos, the Goos Moving TBE Forward Committee, working with Rabbi Asch, will develop a program or programs to enrich the congregation with music, dance or another form of the arts.

~ David Offer, Chair

Are you interested in joining one of these committees? We are always looking for new committee members. If you want to serve, contact David Offer for more information. You can reach him at davidboffer@hotmail.com.



TBE Hits the Road to Farmington & Belfast

We are so thankful we have members from all over Central Maine and we know that many of you drive 45 minute to an hour (or more) to get to us. This September we're taking TBE on the road. Join us at one of our gatherings to talk with Rabbi Asch and board members and enjoy time together. All TBE members are invited as well as any interested people in the area! Please invite your friends to join us.

Sunday, September 18th 4-5:30pm in Belfast

Tuesday, September 20th 5-7pm in Farmington

Please contact the office to RSVP and we'll send you directions and give you all the details. More information will also be provided in the weekly email. We look forward to seeing you a little closer to your home in September!

Join Us for Selichot Services and Program

Saturday, September 17th

7:00-8:15pm

We'll join with Rabbi Rachel Isaacs and Beth Israel-Waterville as we prepare for the holidays. Join us for a brief service, some text study, and a teaching by our guest Cheryl Townsend Gilkes (Pronounced "Jillks"). Dr. Gilkes is the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Professor Emerita of African-American Studies and Sociology at Colby College. An ordained Baptist minister, she is an assistant pastor for special projects at the Union Baptist Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Her research, teaching, and writing have specifically focused on the role of African American women in generating social change and on the diverse roles of black Christian women in the twentieth century. Dr. Gilkes will speak about joy, as we look at how this holiday season can be a time of freedom and happiness. We'll close out our evening together with music and havdallah. Please RSVP to the office so we can know to expect you.

Selichot Services

GUEST SPEAKER

CHERYL TOWNSEND GILKES

SERVICES

MUSIC

TEXT STUDY

HAVDALAH

Join us for this evening of preparation
for the High Holidays

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

7-8:15PM



**TBE WELCOMES
RABBINIC
APPRENTICE
NICOLE FIX**

**FUN
FACTS
ABOUT
NICOLE**



- Prior to attending the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC), Nicole co-founded a theater company where she spent ten years developing and producing the works of emerging playwrights.
- When Nicole isn't wrestling with Torah, you can find her writing her novel or running.
- Nicole lives in Philadelphia with her wife Bronwen and two beautiful cats, Yeti Yentl and Griffin Gamliel.
- Nicole likes old movies, physical comedy, really 'out there' theater, and has a mild obsession with old Volvos.
- Nicole would love to explore with you the ways that the arts have historically played and continue to play an essential role in Judaism.

Yizkor Registration Form

If you would like your loved one's name to appear in the Temple Beth El's Yizkor (Memorial) Book, to be read during Yizkor service at Yom Kippur, please print out this form and return it, along with a check made payable to Temple Beth El, no later than Thursday, September 8th, to:

*Sue Offer
11 Stickney Terrace, #136
Hallowell, ME 04347*

You may reach Sue at offersusan@hotmail.com or by phone at: 207-314-4402.

The deadline for your submissions is Thursday, September 8th. Please note that Sue will be unable to take last minute requests.

The cost **per name** is \$10.00 **Amount Enclosed:** _____

Your name(s) _____

Phone (in case clarification is needed) _____

Email (in case clarification is needed) _____

Name(s) of deceased

Would you like a printed copy of the Yizkor Book? ☐ Yes ☐ No

All names will be read at services. We are happy to print copies of the book for anyone who wants one. Please indicate above if you would like a printed copy of the Yizkor book. We will also make a PDF copy of the book available online.

Supporting TBE



Terumah

Jerry and Emily Bley
 Chuck Cohen and Mary Beth Paquette
 Jay Collins
 Andrea Freed
 Ellen Freed and Carol Barlow
 Joan and Lowell Frieman
 Seth Greene.
 Ellen Grunblatt and Stephen Bien
 Lauren Hall
 Abbot Kominers
 Joey LeBlanc
 Sumner Lipman and Dawn Lieb
 Hildie Lipson
 Chris Marshall and Susan Marshall
 Carrie McCarter
 Matthew Rolnick
 Julie and Mark Rosculp
 John and Blair Rubinstein
 Peter and Kerry Rubinstein
 Shari Sage
 Jean and Bill Seager
 Sarah Shed
 Carl Suchar and Phyllis Santer
 Julia Underwood

General / Other

James Dayboch, *in appreciation of TBE*
 Sarah and Mike Drickey, *in support of Funtensive*
 Anya and Allen Goldey, *in honor of Alden Gilg's Bar Mitzvah*
 Brian Harding, *in support of TBE.*
 Rabbi Peter and Kerry Rubinstein *in appreciation of TBE*
 Nancy and Charles Shuman, *in appreciation of TBE*

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

Richard Dana
 Seth Greene

Yahrzeit/Memorials

Jerry & Emily Bley, in memory of Kent Katz
 Jerry & Emily Bley, in memory of Lauraine Goodrich
 Jerry & Emily Bley, in memory of Robert Bley
 Jerry & Emily Bley, in memory of Sue Bley
 Leon Bresloff & Mary Bayer, in memory of Edith Bresloff
 Jay Collins, in memory of Anthony A. Imondi
 Jay Collins, in memory of Anthony Imondi
 Jay Collins, in memory of Marion Fusco
 Sarah & Mike Drickey, in memory of Dorothy Spalding
 Judith Graber & Paul Kuehnert, in memory of George Graber
 Seth Greene, in memory of Charlotte Goos
 Seth Greene, in memory of Harold Grodinsky
 Seth Greene, in memory of Linda Weiss Manson
 Seth Greene, in memory of Lynn Slosberg
 Seth Greene, in memory of William "Bill" Weisberger
 Pauline (Tinker) Hanford, in memory of Lydia Thielman
 Beth Koopman, in memory of Bernard Osgood
 Paul Linet, in memory of Ardith Garland
 Stacey Mondschein Katz, in memory of Sy and Gloria Mondschein
 Joe O'Donnell, in memory of Thelma Price
 Susan and David Offer, in memory of Edith Gershon
 Deborah Sandler, in memory of Joline K. Sandler
 Deb and Syd Sewall, in memory of Bernigolde Macy
 Deb and Syd Sewall, in memory of David James Macy
 Charles and Nancy Shuman, in memory of Esther Shuman
 Nancy and Charles Shuman, in memory of Gertrude Lerman
 Kenneth Slosberg in memory of Lynn Slosberg
 Carl Suchar & Phyllis Santer, in memory of Norman Suchar

Board of Directors

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Chris Zinck

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Ellen Freed, Ben Gottlieb,
Richard Goldman, Nancy
Kelly, Liz Sizeler, Julia
Underwood, Chris Zinck

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Peter Bickerman
Sumner Lipman
Deb Sewall

Contact Us

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Rabbi

Rabbi Erica Asch
207-242-9792

Rabbi Emerita

Rabbi Susan Bulba Carvutto

The office is open Tuesday,
Wednesday and Friday.

September Yahrtzeits

September 3rd	Harry Graham
September 4th	Leonard Brittain
September 4th	Winifred (Clover) Koopman
September 4th	Alan Nemlich
September 9th	Emma Levy
September 10th	Beulah Shipley
September 13th	Gertrude Goldberg
September 15th	Joe Hausner
September 15th	Julia Sandler Ray
September 15th	Sam Slosberg
September 17th	Elma Samuels Rosenberg
September 20th	Fredrick Orenstein
September 22nd	Harry Shuman
September. 23rd	Lucille Rutberg
September 25th	Paul Barnhart
September 26th	Joan P. Morse
September 27th	Sarah Goos
September 28th	Julius "Zeci" Goos
September 30th	Thelma Lipman
September 30th	Shirle Offer

October Yahrtzeits

October 2nd	Edwin Moser
October 6th	James Brown
October 7th	Lois Evenchik
October 7th	Nathan Schneider
October 9th	Mary Slosberg Feldman
October 9th	Bertha Plano
October 9th	Irene Rubinstein
October 12th	Evelyn Berman
October 12th	Belle Grodinsky
October 13th	Carol Eckert
October 13th	Carolyn Lila Segal
October 16th	Joan Goldberg
October 17th	Albert Kleiman
October 20th	Stella Evans
October 22nd	Nancy Diamond
October 22nd	Hilda Grunblatt
October 22nd	Deborah Gail Sclar
October 24th	Richard Kelly
October 25th	Nancy Bien
October 26th	Lena Weiner- Sorgman
October 29th	Elizabeth Dana

