



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

March Calendar

March 6 (hybrid)

Purim @ 7:00pm

March 8 (in person)

UMA Event @ 5:00pm

March 11 (hybrid)

Torah Study @ 10:00am
Shabbat Services @ 11:00am
Potluck lunch @ 12:15pm

March 12 (in person)

Fiber Arts @ 1:00pm
Teen Program @ 2:00pm

March 15

Intro Class @ 5:15pm (hybrid)

March 19 (Zoom)

Rosh Hodesh @ 4:00pm

March 21 (hybrid)

Multi-Media Club @ 4:00pm

March 22 (Zoom)

Intro Class @ 5:15pm

March 24 (hybrid)

Shabbat Services @ 6:00pm

March 25 (hybrid)

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

March 27 (hybrid)

Soup & Study @ 6:00pm

March 31 (hybrid)

Potluck Dinner @ 5:45pm
Shabbat Services @ 7pm

From the desk of Rabbi Asch...

Returning from a wonderful month of sabbatical straight into Purim is perhaps the best way to come back to TBE. While Purim is a minor holiday, it is one of my favorites. I appreciate any excuse to dress up, laugh heartily, eat cookies, and remember not to take ourselves too seriously.

I started my sabbatical month gathering in Colorado with a group of seven rabbinic colleagues for a retreat where we were able to connect deeply with one another as we talked about how to make our work better reflect our rabbinic purpose. I am so thankful to have this group of colleagues, led by an amazing coach, with whom I can share challenges, triumphs, and everything in between. I meet with them on Zoom weekly and we are able to meet in person yearly. It was a wonderful way to gain perspective and clarity as I begin my role as CCAR president.

Our family trip to Israel was wonderful. It is an honor to be formally installed and to serve my colleagues for the next two years. It was very special to have Chris, Miriam, Robin, and Aaron with me for the special day and for them to meet all the people with whom I work. I am grateful for a talented staff and dedicated lay leaders, and I'm excited for the year ahead.

Our trip to Israel came during turbulent times. We joined Women of the Wall to pray at the *kotel* (Western Wall) and faced harassment, including shouting and spitting from Orthodox girls and men who did not want us to pray as a group or wear a tallit. On Saturday, we joined more than 150,000 people on the streets of Tel Aviv as we marched for democracy and against the government takeover of the courts. We were privileged to hear Rick Jacobs, the President of the Union for Reform Judaism, address the crowd and share our support of Israel and our conviction that Israel must remain both Jewish and democratic. Those protests continue today, more than two months after they started, as the Knesset decides if it will enact laws that severely limit the power of the Israeli courts. Our last day in Israel brought the devastating news of settler attacks on Palestinians in Hawara. All Jewish denominations have spoken out forcefully against these awful attacks.

Continued on page 3

April Calendar

April 1 (hybrid)

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

April 2 (in person)

Fiber Arts @ 1-3pm

April 6 (hybrid)

Passover seder @ time TBA

April 8 (hybrid)

Torah study @ 10am
Shabbat services @ 11am
Potluck lunch @ 12:15pm

April 13 (hybrid)

Passover services with Yizkor
@ 9am

April 16 (Zoom)

Rosh Hodesh @ 4-5:15pm

April 19 (Zoom)

Board Meeting @ 6pm

April 21 (hybrid)

Shabbat services @ 6pm

April 22 (hybrid)

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

April 23 (in person)

Goos Moving TBE Forward
Festive lunch @ 12pm
Music performance @ 1:00pm

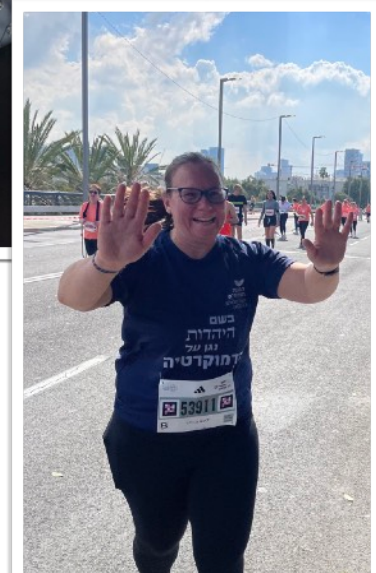
April 24 (hybrid)

Soup and Study @ 6pm

April 30 (in person)

Fiber Arts @ 1-3pm

Rabbi Asch Installed as CCAR President



Rabbi's Message, continued from page 1

Despite the complexities of my trip to Israel, I left finding places of hope.

I was heartened by the chance to listen to and learn from the Jerusalem Youth Chorus, which brings together Jews, Muslims, and Christians to sing and to get to know one another and have difficult conversations.

I was uplifted by a chance to hike in the Judean Hills with poet Alden Solovy, hear his words, and do some writing of my own.

I ran the Tel Aviv Marathon/10K with thousands of others. The spirit was wonderful and it was heartwarming to see the diversity of Israel represented in the runners, from Orthodox to secular, from Jewish to Muslim.

We were hosted in Shoham by Rabbi Rina Safania and her congregation for a joy-filled Shabbat service and a wonderful Shabbat dinner (with many courses) at a congregant's home. The father just finished his first semester in rabbinical school! It was encouraging to see how this congregation, and many like it throughout Israel, are reaching to let people know of another way to be Jewish.

I look forward to sharing more about my trip with all of you during Soup and Study this month. I am very grateful to the time away from TBE, which allowed me to take a breath before jumping into my new role. I offer tremendous thank to the Sabbatical Committee and all who helped make things run smoothly from leading Torah study and Services, to teaching at Hebrew School, to meeting pastoral needs and making sure the weekly email went out it was truly a team effort. I'm looking forward to laughing with all of you as we celebrate Purim together!

Condolences

We offer our condolences to Bob and Ava Gross on the death of Bob's mother, Alice Gross on January 27, 2023.

We offer our condolences to the Montell family on the death of James "Jim" Montell on January 29, 2023. Jim is survived by his children Susan Montell, Alan Montell, and Karen Montell (Donald Brown), and grandchildren Zachary Montell (Bethany Burgess), Garrett and Eliana Brown, Aaron, Renata, Juliana and Yana Montell and his great-granddaughter, Aubrey Montell.



Purim: “A blurry night, and a queasy morning”

From the rusty desk of Benjamin Gottlieb

On a cold silent night in dark depths of winter, a cacophonous and bacchanalian event invites us. It's Purim; a blurry night, and a queasy morning. A night where, within the immediate vicinity of the synagogue, laughing can be heard. What makes TBE laugh at Purim? As it turns, lots: Chuck as the host of anything, Cree in drag, and unsolicited bogus announcements. All of which reflects on you, the TBE community. And we, the Purim committee, thank you from the bottom of our funny bones.

My involvement in Purim started several years back when the Rabbi and Cree invited me to help out planning a Purim party for the Temple. He and I would get together and compile lists of activities, jokes, spiel ideas, and other ways of trying to bring a smile to our community. Our wild well of unfortunate humor was deep, and thanks to careful filtering from the Rabbi, it never made anyone who attended sick. Countless people, since my involvement, have put numerous hours of effort into making baskets, recording videos for the spiel, or acting in a spiel when we can. Wonderful folks have worked behind the scenes baking hamantaschen, working tech, setting up tables, and cleaning. This corps of volunteers is what make Purim at TBE the wonderful night of frivolity it is. From the volunteers who help put on the event, we say it's great to hear you laugh!

As we all know, Jews love to laugh. Jews love to tell jokes and have loved to for a long time. Before teaching, the Talmudic sage Rabbah would begin with a joke for his students to get them in the mood for learning. And I think we can all agree, we all can use a good laugh now and again. That said, I have a challenge for the TBE community and others who dare to try! After Pesach, tack a sheet of matzah or a cookie to your family corkboard, wall, or other surface. This sacrificial snack will serve as a reminder to prepare for the dark coming of next winter by finding something humorous you want to share with others next Purim. This could be a classic joke, an anecdote, an impression, etc. Whatever you think will make someone else laugh. When the winter arrives, and seasonal depression begins, take your phone to the corkboard, and rip down that cookie. Stare into the camera, bite into the cookie, and with the screams of a thousand insulted taste buds tell your joke or story... If the joke didn't make us laugh, your contorted face and cookie cotton mouth will. Alchemy may not exist, but some of your best friends communally choking on stale cookies and telling jokes is small town comedy gold.



Celebrate Passover with TBE

Thursday, April 6

Join with TBE for a wonderful second night seder on Thursday, April 6th. We'll join in person or on Zoom for a festive seder and potluck meal. More details will come in the weekly email. For now, save the date and plan to join us as once again experience our people's story of freedom.



Charlotte and Zeci Goos: Moving TBE Forward Welcomes Middle Eastern Ensemble Sunday, April 23 Middle Eastern Food @ 12 noon Music @ 1:00pm

Save the date of Sunday, April 23rd, for a Temple-wide celebration of the Middle East made possible by the generous donation of the Goos Family Endowment in memory of Charlotte and Zeci for Moving Temple Beth El Forward events. Featured will be a performance of Eric LaPerna and the Maine Middle Eastern Ensemble with special engagement for our children and students.

Mr. LaPerna is a faculty member of Bates College and director of the Bowdoin College Middle Eastern Ensemble and is accomplished on middle eastern hand drums and stringed instruments. At noon we will have a Taste of Middle Eastern Food to complement the music which will begin at 1 pm. This promises to be a delicious and enjoyable afternoon for all.



Wine Tasting & Auction 2023

By Emily Bessey and Fran Rudoff

I'm going back to Cali, to Cali, to Cali... to get more of those delicious wines Syd Sewall picked out for our Annual Wine Tasting! What a great night.

In the battle between New Zealand Wines and California Wines, we had a clear winner, and the winner was...Syd Sewall!!!! Syd, our sommelier, got to taste test every single wine made in New Zealand and California in order to find the 6 best wines to battle it out. The actual winner was (drum roll, please): CALIFORNIA!!!! It was a close one, though. We may need to travel to New Zealand to do our own research.

Besides getting to sample some tasty reds and whites, we got to learn many new and interesting facts about wine, there were some edge-of-your-seat raffle drawings, and we participated in an incredible auction led by the formidable Chuck Cohen.

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the wine tasting, bought raffle tickets, and donated raffle and/or auction items. We are proud to share that we raised **\$11,217.91** for Temple Beth El. How amazing!! A super fun night that raised funds for a special place in all of our lives... what could be better???



**Israel's Judicial Coup:
Understanding the
Israeli Political Crisis**
Monday, March 27th
6:00-7:15pm



SOUP AND STUDY

JOIN US FOR A DISCUSSION IN
PERSON OR ON ZOOM.
SOUP PROVIDED!
RSVPS WELCOME



**Don't talk too much
with women:**

**Exploring
Mishna Avot 1:5**

**Monday, April 24th
6:00-7:15pm**

Next Up for Multi-Media Club: “The U.S. and the Holocaust”

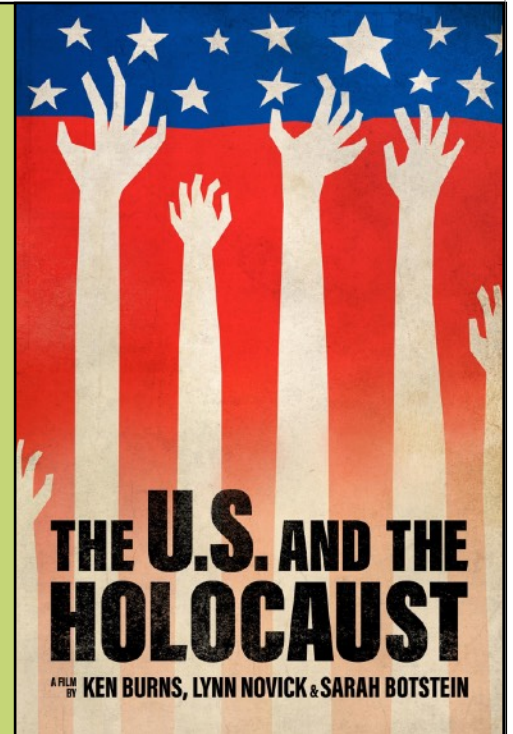
March 21 @ 4:00pm

By Peter Rosenberg

Recently the Multi-Media group had an in-depth discussion of Chaim Potok's book *Davita's Harp*. We had a total of 11 participants. Now we are looking forward to the next gathering which will take place on March 21st, from 4:00pm - 5:30pm.

We are asking everyone to watch the three-part, six-hour series, “The U.S. and the Holocaust,” directed by Ken Burns. The series premiered on PBS in September of 2022. Through interviews with Holocaust survivors, historians, and witnesses, this series examines the United States response to the rise of Adolf Hitler and the Holocaust and concludes with recent events that describe our position today. The first episode “The Golden Door” chronicles the early years to 1938 including Eugenics and racism. “Yearning to Breathe Free” covers the years from 1938 to 1942 and “The Homeless - The Tempest Tossed” continues until recent events are presented.

It is relatively easy to watch this series now. It is available on PBS and PBS passport. The series can be purchased or borrowed from libraries. On the internet there are numerous trailers, reviews and discussions. I believe that this series presents many problems that we Jews in America have to face today. I urge you all to watch this series and come to the discussion in March. We can conclude our discussion with our own experiences with antisemitism.



Next Fabric Art Meetings

The group will meet at Temple Beth El on Sunday, March 12th, Sunday, April 2nd, and Sunday, April 30th, from 1 - 3 p.m. Bring your knitting, crocheting, sewing, embroidery, or whatever you are working on! If you have a project in mind but don't have the materials, or want to learn a particular skill, bring your requests and it is likely somebody will be able to help. If you have an idea for a project for the group to work on together, perhaps to donate to a particular group, bring that idea! Mostly, bring yourself and be ready to relax in pleasant company.

MARCH 31ST

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P O T L U C K

5 : 4 5

S E R V I C E S

7 P M

CONNECT | REFRESH

CELEBRATE | ENJOY

Hebrew School Students Explore Tzedakah & Shomrei Adamah

By Rabbi Solochek

The past month of Hebrew School has been so much fun! Our students have focused on the values of *Tzedakah* and *Shomrei Adamah* (protecting the earth). These values have helped animate our learning both in class and with our grownups during circle time. In our journey through Jewish history, we've gotten to know the Judges, the Prophets, and some of the kings of Israel. We also explored two different stories about the Destruction of the Temple – one focused on the historical efforts to preserve Judaism, and one that asked us to consider how fighting and hating each other leads to our own downfall. The highlight, according to the students (aside from donuts at snack one day) was the Tu B'shvat Seder, where we tasted different fruits and learned about the New Year for the Trees. When we come back from break, we'll start a brand-new Jewish value -- *al tifrosh min hatzibur*, don't separate yourself from the community -- and get ready for PURIM!!

Hebrew School Schedule

Hebrew School will be **in person** from 9:30am until 12:00pm on:

- March 5, 12, 19, & 26
- April 2, 9, 23, & 30



Shabbat Walk in the Woods

We had a wonderful Shabbat walk in the woods at Augusta's gorgeous Viles Arboretum on Saturday, February 18th. The sun was out, the packed-snow trails were easy to navigate with grippers, and there were clear views to the North from the top of the open field. In the photo above, Judy Feinstein, Hildie Lipson, Brian Harding, and Chuck Cohen enjoy the Outer Loop Trail.

Supporting TBE



Building Fund

- Seth Greene
- Greene-Milstein Family Foundation

General / Other

- Seth Greene, in memory of Todd Michael Greene
- Brian Harding
- Brian Harding, in support of Temple Beth El
- Betty Jespersen
- Mike Levey
- Carrie McCarter, in honor of Ellen Freed
- Joseph O'Donnell
- Karin and James Orenstein
- Patrice Putman
- Matthew Rolnick
- Fran Rudoff, in honor of Robin Asch's bat mitzvah

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

- Rich Dana
- Seth Greene, in memory of Todd Michael Greene
- Deb Sandler, in honor of Robin Asch

Terumah

- Judith Feinstein
- Deborah Felder
- Seth Greene
- Kala Ladenheim
- Kate McLinn

Yahrzeits/Memorials

- Carol Barlow, in memory of Walter Barlow
- Emily & Ethan Bessey, in memory of Leo Bessey
- Emily Bley, in memory of Lauraine Goodrich
- Jay Collins, in memory of Ed Jones
- Jay Collins, in memory of Nonie Barber
- Jay Collins, in memory of Stephen Fusco
- Dana Richard, in memory of Jacob Dana and Selma Dana
- Sarah & Mike Drickey, in memory of Davis Spalding
- Ellen Bader Kandel & Laurence Bader in memory of Dorothy Bader

Yahrzeits/Memorials (continued)

- Judith Feinstein, in memory of Morris and Martha Feinstein
- Andrea Freed, in memory of Harriet Werlin
- Andrea Freed, in memory of Leah Freed & Fred Freed
- Ellen Freed, in memory of Leah Freed
- Rich Goldman, in memory of David S. Goldman
- Seth Greene, in memory of Todd Michael Greene
- Seth Greene, in memory of Faye Montell
- Seth Greene, in memory of Harold Shapiro
- Seth Greene, in memory of Jacob Dana
- Pauline (Tinker) Hannaford, in memory of Henry Thielman
- Robert & Stacey Katz, in memory of Sidney & Harriet Katz
- Elaine Katz-Hanish in memory of Harriet & Sidney Katz
- Beth Koopman, in memory of Jane Bridgman Koopman
- Paul Kuehnert in memory of Eunice and Ted Kuehnert
- Kate McLinn, in memory of Art McLinn
- Kate McLinn, in memory of Ruth McLinn
- James Montell, in memory of Abraham Goldberg
- James Montell, in memory of Faye Montell
- James Montell, in memory of Gertrude Goldberg
- James Montell, in memory of Hayden Goldberg
- James Montell, in memory of Joan Goldberg
- Marcia Parker, in memory of Genevieve Kus
- Fran Rudoff in memory of Sylvia Rudoff
- Deb & Syd Sewall, in memory of Edwin Macy
- Deb & Syd Sewall, in memory of Ezra Bessey
- Deb & Syd Sewall, in memory of James Montell
- Deb & Syd Sewall, in memory of Louise Macy
- Steven & Beth Shapiro, in memory of Faye Montell
- Steven & Beth Shapiro, in memory of James Carvutto
- Marty Weiss, in memory of Jim
- Sam Young, in memory of Bette Young

Board of Directors

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David Offer

Vice President

Chris Zinck

Treasurer

Hildie Lipson

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Mike Levey

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Mike Drickey, David Faigin,
Ellen Freed, Ben Gottlieb,
Richard Goldman, Nancy
Kelly, Liz Sizeler, Julia
Underwood, Chris Zinck

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Peter Bickerman
Sumner Lipman
Deb Sewall

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Rabbi Emerita

Rabbi Susan Bulba Carvutto

The office is open Tuesday,
Wednesday and Friday.

March Yahrtzeits

March 1st	Laura Goldstein
March 2nd	Rose Golden
March 3rd	Milton Prager
March 3rd	Samuel L. Gershon
March 3rd	Sadie Frankel
March 3rd	Hyman Norken
March 6th	Molly Libben
March 7th	Joan Graber
March 7th	Helen Hannaford
March 9th	George O'Brien
March 10th	Naomi Faigin
March 11th	Daniel Moyer
March 12th	Daniel Clifford Gross
March 13th	Joseph Shapiro
March 13th	Susan Knowlton
March 15th	Perry Bakaley
March 15th	Dora Brittain
March 15th	Edwin Aaron Macy
March 16th	Lillian Freiman
March 16th	Elizabeth Sax
March 16th	Elenor Sylvia Slosberg
March 17th	Cynthia Haderski
March 17th	Mildred Tapp
March 22nd	Shirlie Goldman
March 22nd	Toby Rudginsky
March 23rd	Charles Bader
March 23rd	Nick Scott
March 24th	Lewis Brown
March 25th	Jonathan Schiff
March 26th	Lillian Lerman
March 28th	Naomi Faigin

April Yahrtzeits

April 1st	Irving Berman
April 2nd	Shirley Siegel
April 4th	Leonard Dansky
April 4th	Hyman Sandler
April 7th	Morris Weiss
April 8th	Lillian Shapiro
April 10th	Robert Sandler
April 11th	Hymen Bresloff
April 11th	Lena Slosberg Lait
April 12th	Shawn Walker
April 14th	Ken Allen
April 15th	Jane Kaminsky Millette
April 16th	Martin Evenchik
April 18th	Daniel Cohen
April 18th	Ann O'Donnell
April 18th	Henry S. Price
April 19th	Irving Weiss
April 20th	Abraham Slosberg
April 21st	Sidney Goldstein
April 21st	Eleanor Mayer
April 22nd	Maria King
April 23rd	Edith Sclar
April 24th	Louise D. Cohen
April 24th	Anthony Imondi
April 24th	Rose Parkin
April 25th	Rita Friedman Pepper
April 26th	Samuel Weiss
April 27th	Sylvia Parker
April 28th	Tishelle Glant- Scheinman
April 28th	John Marshall
April 29th	Jill Bresloff
April 29th	Jean Dietz
April 30th	Allen Davis

Portland Chevra Kadisha Jewish Funeral Home

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