



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

July 1 (hybrid)

Daf Yomi (10am), Torah Study (10:30am), & Potluck (12pm)

July 7 (hybrid)

Shabbat service @ 6:00pm

July 8 (hybrid)

Daf Yomi (10am), Torah Study (10:30am), & Potluck (12pm)

July 9 (in person)

Pre-K gathering @ 4pm
Intro Class @ 5:30pm

July 13 (in person)

Board Retreat @ 5:30pm

July 14 (hybrid)

Dinner @ 5:00pm
Shabbat service @ 5:45pm

July 15 (hybrid)

Bar Mitzvah of Gunner Suchar @ 10am

July 16

New Member Welcome Event @ 10am (in person)
Rosh Hodesh Av @ 4pm (Zoom)
Intro Class @ 5:30 (in person)

July 18 (hybrid)

Soup and Study @ 6pm

July 22 (in person)

Shabbat Hike @ Viles @ 10am

July 23 (in person)

Fiber Arts @ 1-3pm

From the desk of Rabbi Asch...

The following is excerpted and slightly edited from Rabbi Asch's remarks at the Annual Meeting. You can find her [entire talk here](#).

First, I want to share a few highlights from the past year. We have a number of **new members** who are bringing new energy and excitement about TBE. While it is always good to have some more money to do the things we need, I cannot tell you what a difference it makes to have a full house at Torah study or three rows of chairs at Shabbat services! Our community is small and mighty and that means that an additional two or three or four people at an event makes a big difference.

This year we have jumped back into in-person programming with an amazing variety of activities. Our newly started **Fiber Arts Group** meets monthly for projects and discussion. You don't have to be a professional to join this group, which gives us a place to connect with one another. We have had a wonderful year with our **Hebrew School**, not only our amazing b'mizvah class which celebrated four ceremonies, but with the start of a new program for our pre-K students and parents. We have four families in this new group which meets monthly for connection, learning, and a lot of play. We have had an amazing **Intro to Judaism** class. So many people who are exploring Judaism who have become part of our community. It has been such a joy to get to know them and walk with them on their journey. Look for many celebrations in the next year as they officially join the Jewish people.

I usually end my board report with a "what can you do" section. I'd like to share that with all of you. Those of you who volunteer and come to everything, **thank you**. Keep doing it and if you need a break, please ask! We don't want to wear you out you have my permission to step back a little bit. To those of you have come a little less regularly, this is not an attempt to lay on Jewish guilt. But

August Calendar

August 1 (in person)

Movie Night @6pm

August 4 (in person)

Shabbat Singing @ 6pm

Potluck Dinner @ 6:45pm

August 5 (hybrid)

Daf Yomi (10am), Torah Study

(10:30am), & Potluck (12pm)

August 8 (in person)

Movie Night @ 6pm

August 11 (hybrid)

Shabbat services with Rabbi

Solochek @ 6pm

August 13 (Zoom)

Rosh Hodesh Elul @ 4-5:15pm

August 14-18 (in person)

Funtensive @ 9am-3pm

August 14 (hybrid)

Board Meeting @ 6pm

August 19 (hybrid)

Torah study @ 10am

Shabbat services @ 11am

Potluck Lunch @ 12:15pm

August 20 (in person)

Fiber Arts @ 1-3pm

August 22 (hybrid)

Multi Media Club @ 6-7:30pm

August 25 (hybrid)

Shabbat services @6pm

August 26 (hybrid)

Daf Yomi (10am), Torah Study

(10:30am), & Potluck (12pm)

August 27 (in person)

Elul Fest @ 10am-1pm

I encourage you to **check out something new** – a service or Torah study, a new holiday, one of our many other activities happening. I ask because I'm the rabbi and that's my job, but also because I think you'll like it. So please check out all the things we have going on at TBE!

One more note of what you can do which also involves giving and asking for help. I, like all congregational rabbis, have a **discretionary fund** that exists to help congregants and community members in need. It is funded by donations from all of you and is there for those who ask. So, if you have a little extra, please consider a small donation to this fund. In the past year, it has helped congregants with rent, medical expenses, heating assistance, and more. It also helps provide for needs in the greater community. And, if you need help, if you could use some money for groceries or have an unexpected car repair or medical bill, please let me know so our community can help you. This is another way for us to support one another.

Your time and energy, your financial donations, your spirit and creativity, have allowed us to create and sustain this incredible community. **We have had an amazing year** and I look forward to next year with all of you!



Help Us Build Our Outdoor Spiritual Space

By Fran Rudoff

Since 2011, the TBE community has come together to expand and transform our physical space in Augusta, including the Shuman Center for Jewish Learning purchase and renovation, the sanctuary building renovation, and the purchase of land for expanded parking. In 2024, we hope to complete the final phase of this remarkable effort - creation of a beautiful outdoor space for inspiring and uplifting spiritual, educational and communal activities and events.

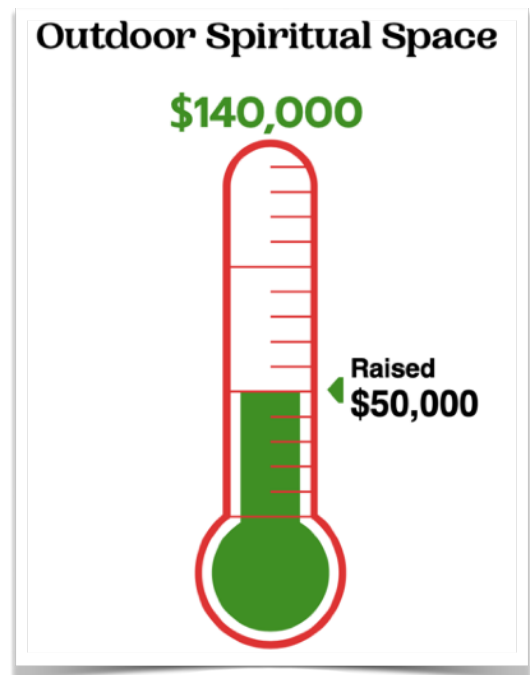
The goals of the project include:

- Create an attractive and flexible space for a wide range of activities, including worship, Torah study and other small group activities and meetings, kiddush for large groups (following indoor services) and other social events, Hebrew School in the spring and fall months, summer programs for youth, quiet meditation spaces, and life cycle events such as weddings and B'Mitzvah celebrations.
- Make outdoor spaces accessible for those with limited mobility.
- Design an aesthetically pleasing outdoor space with plantings and benches that complements our new Temple and takes advantage of the beautiful ravine, while providing a noise barrier between the parking lot and the outdoor space.
- Enhance security during outdoor activities.
- Improve site conditions during inclement weather to minimize mud, erosion and other environmental impacts.

The total project cost is estimated to be \$140,000, comprising about 15% of the total cost of our work since 2011. It's simply extraordinary that our community will have raised a grand total of \$947,400 over the past decade once the garden is completed.

Recently, you received a request from TBE for your Terumah pledge for the coming year. Your generous Terumah gifts are essential to the full operations of our community. In addition to Terumah, we are now reaching out to the congregation for one final gift or pledge to help complete our vision for the TBE campus. We are thrilled to let you know that we have already raised over \$50,000 toward the \$140,000 goal! We hope to complete fundraising by the end of the summer so construction can begin in the spring of 2024.

Continued on page 4



Spiritual Space, continued from page 3

Gifts and pledges for the Outdoor Space Project can be spread out over 3 years (2023-2025); we hope this multi-year timeline will allow community members to be as generous as possible. We also have special naming opportunities for gifts at many levels and we encourage to consider them. Click here for the [pledge form](#) and the [list of naming opportunities](#). Completed forms can be returned to the TBE office.

Fran Rudoff (frudoff@gmail.com), Jerry Bley (jbley@gwi.net), and Hildie Lipson (hildielipson@gmail.com) would be happy to speak with you about your gift or pledge and answer any questions you may have about the project.

Todah Rabah!



This rendering of the outdoor space includes: a covered pavilion (16x24 feet); entrance gates at the front and rear; accessible walkways and access to the pavilion; a lawn area and variety of low maintenance plantings around the edges; and outdoor seating areas for conversations and quiet meditation.

Special Thank Yous from TBE's President

By David B. Offer

The recent Temple annual meeting gave me the opportunity to say thank you to some – certainly not all – the people who do so much to make Temple Beth El succeed. I'd like to use this newsletter to say the same thanks again, sharing it with those who missed the meeting.

The first thank you goes to a person who is not a member of the Temple but who is the glue who holds us together. That is **Dawn Fecteau**. "Office manager" is Dawn's official title, but she is so much more than that. Dawn is the friendly voice who answers our phone and makes each caller feel welcome.

In addition to the basic administrative tasks that keep us going day-to-day, Dawn thinks ahead. I can't tell you how often she has reminded me that a deadline is approaching for something I may have forgotten to do. She handles correspondence, keeps track of our bills and income. She orders whatever we need for services or special events. She works closely with Rabbi Asch, making her complex life easier. She helps Temple committees. Dawn is efficient, smart, and committed to our success. She is a very special person, and we are lucky to have her as part of our life at Temple Beth El.

Next, **our Board of Directors**. They are thoughtful and hard working. We usually agree on issues facing the Temple, but when we are less than unanimous, we have courteous, intelligent discussions. Board members are involved in everything we do – each one helps organize things for at least one festival or holiday. They work with committees and take on tasks to help the rabbi. Before becoming president, I did not really know all these people. After a year working with them, we are friends.

A special thanks to **Ben Gottlieb and Mike Drickey**, whose terms on the board have ended. Ben has agreed to continue coordinating our highly successful Purim celebration and Mike will continue on our Finance Committee and as chair of the Security Committee.

It is a sad commentary on the times that we need a **Security Committee**. Anti-semitism is a real and growing concern all over this country, even in Maine. We have seen swastikas in Portland and vandalism at the Temple in Rockland and we know that other states – other synagogues --have faced far worse: armed terrorists whose hate drives them to kill. We could ignore the problem, hoping that no evil or crazy or person could be a threat here, or we could turn our Temple into a fortress. Neither is a reasonable approach.

Continued on page 6

President, continued from page 5

Rather, following the guidance of Mike and the Security Committee, we seek a responsible way to deal with the potential threats we must be prepared to face. That's why we have police officers here on the Holy Days, why our Greeters, who welcome you to services, are trained to watch for danger and why we have had training from experts on how to keep our congregation safe. We cannot put a steel wall around our Temple, but we can all be alert to anything that might pose a danger. We must be welcoming – but we must also be aware.

Next, a big thank you to **Rabbi Asch**. One of the joys of being president is working closely with our rabbi. I can tell you that no one works harder than Rabbi Asch. I don't know what impresses me most: her intellect, her work ethic, the spirit she brings to our worship, the scholarship she shares with us through Torah study and thoughtful sermons. All these are important, vital to being a successful rabbi, a successful human being. But most of all I think I am impressed with the deep empathy and understanding she has for all the people she meets. We are truly fortunate to have her as our rabbi.

As you all know, Rabbi Asch is the president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. That is an honor for her and an honor for this congregation. Think about it – our tiny congregation is Central Maine has a rabbi who leads all the rabbis in the entire United States! What can I say but WOW!

My next thank you is to **Carrie McCarter and Sumner Lipman**, who received the Temple's two major service awards at the meeting. I want to note a contrast between them. Carrie is a new member who stepped up to become involved. We are so fortunate that she did. I do not know Carrie well, but I look forward to working with Carrie on the board. Sumner is certainly not a new member. He has been part of Temple Beth El since Moses came down with the Commandments. I am fortunate that he is my friend and I have sought and followed his advice both when I was president years ago and now in my recycled role.

At the annual meeting last year, I said that I did not think Temple Beth El should have an 80-year-old president – that we needed younger leaders to move us into the future. I can report that we no longer have an 80-year-old president. We're stuck with an 81-year-old for the next year.

But there is very good news for the future. **Arwen Agee**, who was elected vice president at the meeting, has agreed to become president next year. In case you can't guess, Arwen is not 80 or 81. Arwen did not hesitate when the Nominating Committee asked her to take on this task. My greatest job – and greatest pleasure – this coming year will be to work closely with Arwen and Rabbi Asch so that next year, when I pass the gavel to Arwen, she will be ready to lead us with her energy, intelligence, and dedication.

Gunner Suchar Becomes a Bar Mitzvah on July 15th



Gunner Reuben Suchar will become a Bar Mitzvah on July 15th. Gunner was born in Florida and lived with his parents and grandparents in Belleair Bluffs, Florida, until he was six years old. He then moved to Canaan, Maine, with his family. The family joined Temple Beth El and Gunner attended the Hebrew School. Two years ago, Gunner moved to Manchester, Indiana. He is preparing for his Bar Mitzvah with the guidance of Rabbi Asch online.

Gunner is entering eighth grade in fall. He enjoys technology and when he has the opportunity likes to read. He keeps active walking and riding his bike all over town. Being with his family is important to Gunner especially little sister, Adelle, and big brother, Avery, as well as mom, Eden, and dad, Paul. Gunner and Avery spend their summers with grandparents, Phyllis Santer and Carl Suchar, in Maine. We all look forward to his Bar Mitzvah.

Please join Gunner and his family at Temple Beth El on July 15th to celebrate.





Elul Fest for the Maine Jewish Community

Please join us for Elul Fest on Sunday, August, 27, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Temple Beth El in Augusta!

Have you ever heard of Elul? It's the Hebrew month dedicated to spiritual preparation for Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah. This year a cohort of Maine synagogues—Beth El, Augusta; Beth Israel, Waterville; and Beth Israel, Bath; with support from the Peter Alfond Foundation—have teamed up to create a festival for families to celebrate Elul together.

Elul Fest will feature Jewish cooking demonstrations by Susan Horowitz, yoga with Sara Helman, music and movement with Jenny Ngidi Brown, a live demonstration of Torah scribing, musical performances, and more. There will be a food truck with a complimentary lunch menu too!

Come join in the fun and connect with other Jewish families across Maine! Register for \$18 per family at this link: colbycollegejewishlife.regfox.com/elulfest-2023. This program is in memory of Marcia Salmon z"l.

TEMPLE BETH EL OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHTS

THE DRIVE-IN MOVIE WITHOUT CARS!

Tuesday, August 1 & Tuesday August 8 @ 6:00pm

By Mike Levey

You are going to the movies, compliments of Temple Beth El! The movies are outdoors, under the stars or maybe under a tent. Last summer, the movie night film was "The Producers" with Zero Mostel and Gene Wilder. The event was such a success that this summer will feature two nights of movies.

The movie for August 1 is family friendly, and good for both adults and children. And it is: **"Back to the Future,"** a 1985 film starring Michael J. Fox and Christopher Lloyd, whose spectacular performances made this movie into an icon. It's a time travel movie in which Marty McFly (Fox), a 1985 young man, with the help of Doc Emmett Brown (Lloyd) and a used DeLorean, travels back to the 1950s, where he encounters his family and others. This movie is too good to discuss! And it's too good to miss. Be there! (Please) August 1, 6pm.

The movie on August 8, is to be oriented more to the adult audience. And guess what? We have not yet chosen it! We are working hard, considering a few great ones, and will let you know. You can be sure that it will also be a spectacular movie. Nothing's too good for TBE movie watchers. Stay tuned.

Both movies will have popcorn and other snacks, no charge. See you at the movies!



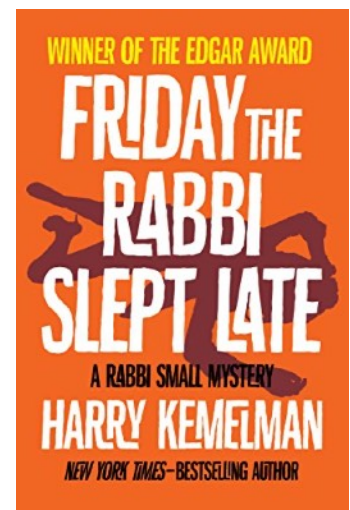
Multi Media Club Will Discuss Bernard Kemelman's "Rabbi Small" Series August 22nd at 6pm @ TBE

By Peter Rosenberg

Bernard Kemelman (1908-1996) was an American mystery writer and Professor of English. He wrote short stories in the 50s but began the "Rabbi Small series in 1964 with the publication of ***Friday the Rabbi Slept Late***, which became a huge best seller (a difficult achievement for a religious mystery) and won Kemelman a 1965 Edgar Award for best first novel. Every three or four years another Rabbi Small book was published, a total of twelve, until 1996. These Rabbi Small books are not only mysteries, but also considerations of Conservative Judaism.

Many of the older members of our Congregation will have read a few of these novels. The younger members may never have heard of them. They are all summer fun reads. The plan is to enjoy your summer reading one or a few of these choices and then having a discussion of the whole series. In the beginning Rabbi Small becomes the new leader of the the Bernard's Crossing Jewish Community and can't even enjoy his first sabbath. I include the twelve books that he wrote and the year that they were published.

- Friday the Rabbi Slept Late* (1964)
- Saturday the Rabbi Went Hungry* (1966)
- Sunday the Rabbi Stayed Home* (1969)
- Monday the Rabbi Took Off* (1972)
- Tuesday the Rabbi Saw Red* (1973)
- Wednesday the Rabbi Got Wet* (1976)
- Thursday the Rabbi Walked Out* (1978)
- Conversations with Rabbi Small* (1981)
- Someday the Rabbi Will Leave* (1985)
- One Fine Day the Rabbi Bought a Cross* (1987)
- The Day the Rabbi Resigned* (1992)
- That Day the Rabbi Left Town* (1996)



The Rabbi Small books are no longer published so it may be difficult to find some of these titles. The Lithgow Library can obtain copies from other libraries. Kindle may be a source. Used book sellers have copies costing about five dollars. Temple members may have copies that they can give to the Beth-El library. Please email me if you are having problems of if you do have a good source for these books so that I can share. Happy summer reading!

Hebrew School Ends With a Clean!

We ended our Hebrew school with a clean up day at TBE, planting out Temple garden and some amazing art. We can't wait to see you all for Funtensive!!



Tentative HHD Schedule 2023

Wednesday, September 13th

We'll prepare for the High Holidays with baking round challah.

Friday, September 15th

Erev Rosh Hashanah

7:00 pm: Services

Saturday, September 16th

Rosh Hashanah Day 1

9:30am: Morning Services

~12:30pm: Lipman Kiddush

4:00-5:00pm: Children's Services

Sunday, September 17th

Rosh Hashanah Day #2

Offsite. Location TBD (outside)

10:00am: Morning Services

~ 11:30am: Study

~ 12:15pm: Brunch

~ 1:15pm: Tashlich

Sunday, September 24th

Kol Nidre

7:00pm: Service

Monday, September 25th

Yom Kippur

9:30am: Morning Service

1:30pm: Lay Led Study

2:45pm: Meditation Service

3:45pm: Fasting in Judaism, Christianity and Islam

~5pm: Afternoon Service

~ 6:15pm: Neilah

~ 7:15pm: Havdalah and Break Fast

Friday, September 29th

Erev Sukkot

5-5:30pm Sukkah Decorating

5:30pm: Dinner provided by TBE

6:15pm: Sukkot Service

Saturday, September 30th

Sukkot

10:00am: Torah Study

11:00am: Festival Services

12:30pm: Potluck Lunch

Friday, October 6th

Erev Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah

5:15pm: Dinner provided by TBE

6:15pm: Simchat Torah Services

Saturday, October 7th

Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah

10:00am: Morning services with Yizkor



Supporting TBE



Building Fund

- Seth Greene

General / Other

- Richard Forcier
- Jean & Bill Seager

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

- Rich Dana
- Sarah & Mike Drickey
- Seth Greene
- Chuck Cohen & Mary Beth Paquette
- Bruce & Nancy Schatz
- Julia Underwood

Yahrzeits/Memorials

- Jay Collins in memory of Marion Fusco
- Rich Dana in memory of Elizabeth Dana
- Mike & Sarah Drickey in memory of Jack Drickey
- Joan & Lowell Freiman in memory of Albert
- Freiman Seth Greene in memory of Charlotte Goos
- Seth Greene in memory of Dora Slosberg
- Seth Greene in memory of Howard Slosberg
- Seth Greene in memory of Joan "Jet" Price
- Seth Greene in memory of Julius Sussman
- Seth Greene in memory of Linda Weiss Manson
- Seth Greene in memory of Miriam Weiss
- Pauline Hannaford in memory of John Thielman
- Pauline Hannaford in memory of Reginald Hannaford
- Stacey Mondschein Katz in memory of Gloria Mondschein
- Kate McLinn in memory of Matthew McLinn
- Joe O'Donnell in memory of Joan "Jet" Price
- Nancy Shuman in memory of Samuel Lerman
- Marty Weiss in memory of Linda Weiss Manson
- Marty Weiss in memory of Miriam Weiss



New Board Member Spotlight: Arwen Agee & Carrie McCarter

Arwen and her husband, John, have been members of Temple Beth El since 2013. They have 2 daughters, Elianna (8) and Dalia (7), who attend Hebrew school at Temple Beth El. Arwen is a member of the Bikkur Cholim committee and is looking forward to being on the board. Arwen is a clinical social worker and works for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Carrie is a comparatively recent TBE member who resides in West Gardiner. Carrie is a devout introvert, so feel free to approach Carrie to say hi, if Carrie hasn't extended a greeting first. Carrie looks forward to working with other board members and the community to make Temple life as engaging, welcoming, and inclusive as possible, and hopes to continue to entertain you with Jewish-themed memes.

Board of Directors

President

David Offer

Vice President

Arwen Agee

Treasurer

Hildie Lipson

Secretary

Mike Levey

Board of Directors

Emily Bessey, Chuck Cohen,
David Faigin, Ellen Freed,
Richard Goldman, Nancy
Kelly, Carrie McCarter, Liz
Sizeler, Julia Underwood,
Chris Zinck

Honorary Directors

Peter Bickerman
Anya Goldey
Deb Sewall

Contact Us

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bethelaugusta@gmail.com

Rabbi

Rabbi Erica Asch
207-242-9792
rabbiasch@gmail.com

Rabbi Emerita

Rabbi Susan Bulba Carvutto

The office is open Tuesday,
Wednesday and Friday.

July Yahrtzeits

July 2nd	Fred Hannaford
July 2nd	David L. Young
July 3rd	Richard Fein
July 4th	Lillian Lieba Sandler
July 4th	Anthony A. Imondi
July 7th	David James Macy
July 7th	Rosalyn Rubin
	Kaminsky Joseph
July 7th	David James Macy
July 10th	Rose Aransky LaPenna
July 11th	Harry Lait
July 13th	Gertrude Lerman
July 13th	Ronnie Zamler
July 14th	Bernigolde Macy
July 15th	Naomi Shore
July 16th	Leila Green
July 17th	Yale Marienhoff
July 20th	Thelma Alpert Price
July 21st	Rose Barlow
July 21st	Edith Gershon
July 21st	Blanche Marienhoff
July 21st	Leon Simmons
July 22nd	Kent R. Katz
July 22nd	Lydia Liechty
	Thielman
July 24th	Sylvia K. Fain
July 24th	Rose Schwartz
	Finkelstein
July 25th	William Weisberger
July 26th	Nonie Barber
July 26th	Rivka Schneider
	Cohen
July 26th	Harold M. Grodinsky
July 28th	Julia Weiss
July 29th	Pearl Bien
July 29th	Kent Katz
July 30th	George Graber
July 31st	Joline Kaplan Sandler
July 31st	Norman Suchar

August Yahrtzeits

August 2nd	Ed Jones
August 2nd	Joel Douglas
	Wells
August 6th	Robert Bley
August 6th	Harold Franzel
August 6th	Lynn Slosberg
August 6th	Howard Faigin
August 7th	Dora (Gittel)
	Cohen
August 8th	Barnett Cohen
August 9th	Norman Evenchik
August 9th	Dick Faucher
August 11th	Janice Leavitt
August 11th	Rae Weiss
August 12th	Dorothy Spalding
August 13th	Stephen Fusco
August 13th	Esther Kominers
August 14th	Hylan Bickerman
August 14th	Gerald Brock
August 15th	Gerald Golden
August 17th	Esther Shuman
August 18th	Bernard Osgood
	Koopman
August 20th	Joel Davis
August 20th	Renee Schecter
August 20th	Adelle Rubin
August 20th	Jaime Cabezas
	Garcia
August 20th	Charles Zinck
August 21st	Larry Zamler
August 23rd	Edith Bresloff
August 25th	Leonard Brittain
August 30th	Jerome
	Weintraub

Portland Chevra Kadisha
Jewish Funeral Home

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Portland, ME 04103
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