



## 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

### November Calendar

#### **November 1 (hybrid)**

Soup and Study @ 6pm

#### **November 3 – 4 (in person)**

Shabbaton @ Colby

#### **November 5 (in person)**

Fiber Arts @ 1pm

#### **November 8 (Zoom)**

Israel discussion @ 7pm

#### **November 11 (hybrid)**

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

#### **November 12 (hybrid)**

Rosh Hodesh @ 4pm

#### **November 13 (hybrid)**

Soup and Study @ 6pm

#### **November 17 (hybrid)**

Shabbat Service @ 6pm

#### **November 18 (hybrid)**

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

#### **November 18 (in person)**

Game Night & Sleepover @ 6:30pm

#### **November 25 (in person)**

Hike with Hildie @ 10am

### *From the desk of Rabbi Asch...*

We started the last two months with a joyous High Holiday season. Despite the storm, we pivoted to our beautiful online services and were able to gather in person on Sunday. We had a meaningful Yom Kippur, celebrated Sukkot and Simchat Torah and two b'mitzvah ceremonies. I know the last month has been difficult for many of us, but I'm heartened by how we have been able to come together in community to support one another.

Please continue to show up, on Zoom and in person, so that we can be together and support one another. We have some joyous events these next two months including a Game Night (and optional sleep over), a service led by our Hebrew School students, and a Chanukkah party. As always, I am here if you want to talk. In times of difficulty, I remember a teaching I shared with you on the high holidays--when we recite yizkor on the Pilgrimage Festivals we also recite Hallel.

When we mourn, we also find reason to hope. I want to close with the following prayer for Israel.

*Sovereign of All the World--*

*Shield Israel beneath Your protective presence.*

*May all the inhabitants of Israel know physical safety.*

*May they find the comfort of community as they grieve together.*

*May they experience a renewed love for their country and its people.*

*Guide Israel's leaders as they balance the necessity of safety and security with the suffering of the innocent.*

*May they act wisely, with determination and deliberation.*

*Implant within Israel's citizens compassion, strength, and resolve.*

*May they be nourished by our love and support*

**Continued on page 2**

## December Calendar

### December 2 (hybrid)

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

### December 3 (in person)

Fiber Arts @ 1pm

### December 4 (hybrid)

Multi-Media Club @ 6pm

### December 8 (hybrid)

Shabbat Services @ 6pm

### December 9 (hybrid)

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

### December 10

Rosh Hodesh @ 1pm (Zoom)  
Hanukkah Party @ 4pm (live)

### December 13 (hybrid)

Soup & Study @ 6pm

### December 22 (hybrid)

Shabbat Services @ 6pm  
Potluck dinner @ 7pm

### December 23 (hybrid)

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

### YOUTH PROGRAMMING

#### Hebrew School @ 9:30-12

November 5, 12, 19  
December 3, 17  
Pre-K on Nov. 19

#### Teen Learning @ 7-8pm

November 5, 12 (7:30pm)  
December 3, 17

## Continued from page 1

*Our prayers are linked with the prayers of countless others as we remember Your ancient promise from the book of Second Samuel,*

*"I will establish a home for my people Israel and will plant them firm so that they shall dwell secure and shall tremble no more...I will give you safety from your enemies."*

*At this time of danger and grief, may we have the audacity to pray for peace, just as our ancestors have done each time they were threatened and terrorized.*

נתת שלום בארץ

*We pray that the people of Israel find wholeness and know tranquilly.*

*We pray for shalom in the land we love.*



## Rabbi on Sabbatical in January

Rabbi Asch will be on Sabbatical January 8<sup>th</sup> through February 7<sup>th</sup> as part of her new contract. As in previous years, our dedicated lay leaders will make sure things are running smoothly while Rabbi Asch is away. Look for more information in your weekly emails (and next bi-monthly newsletter). If you have any questions feel free to reach out to Rabbi Asch or David Faigin, chair of the Sabbatical Committee ([dfaigin@gmail.com](mailto:dfaigin@gmail.com))

## Now's the Time to Get Involved with TBE!

By Liz Sizeler

If you've ever thought about getting more involved with TBE, now's the time to do it! I started to become more involved with TBE a couple of years ago, after not being very involved for several years. It was actually the start of the Covid-19 pandemic that led me to becoming more involved with the temple. Because I live quite a distance from the temple, I had not been very involved after my daughter had her Bat Mitzvah.

With the start of the pandemic, everything went online, and it was suddenly easy for me to attend Friday night Shabbat services and Saturday evening Havdalah services without having to drive anywhere. Soon I was asked to be on the High Holiday committee, and following that, I was asked to be on the board. Things took off from there. I am now on the board, the Bikkur Cholim Committee, the Membership Committee, and I am a greeter. I am thoroughly enjoying all of this involvement with the temple. It has been great to meet so many new people that I never knew before and to get to know others better.

There are so many ways to become involved with TBE. From joining the board or a committee, to participating in the Multi Media Group or the Fiber Arts Group. We are also always looking for people to become Greeters, or to provide meals, rides, visits or even dog walking for those in need. Not to mention our fabulous Hebrew School and all of the activities for kids and teens. There is truly something for everyone! We are so lucky to have such a wonderful, committed and hard-working Rabbi and a fantastic congregation, here in central Maine. I'm sure everyone would agree how important community is, now more than ever. If you've ever thought of getting more involved with TBE, now is the time to do it. You won't regret it!

*If you have any questions about how you can get involved, feel free to reach out to me at [lsizeler@fairpoint.net](mailto:lsizeler@fairpoint.net) or our board president David Offer at [davidboffer@hotmail.com](mailto:davidboffer@hotmail.com).*

### *Save the Date!*

Our 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine Tasting and Auction is scheduled for **Saturday January 27, 2024**. Get ready to experience the unexpected with...

**Weird Wines from Around the World**

More information to come...



# TODAH RABAH!

It takes a lot of effort and people to put on the holidays at TBE. Thank you to:

- **Stacey Mondschein Katz, Robin Asch, Miriam Asch, Linda Kallin, Jay Franzel, Syd Sewall, and Alden Gilg**, for assisting with services by providing music, chanting, sounding the shofar, and doing readings.
- **Deb Benveniste** for coordinating our greeters.
- **Seth Greene** for donating all the beautiful flowers inside and outside the Temple.
- **The Sumner Lipman Family** for providing the Lipman Kiddush.
- **Sue Offer** for organizing the Yizkor book and leading our service with Deb Sewall.
- **Carrie McCarter** for leading study on Yom Kippur.
- **Bob Adler** for leading the panel discussion.
- **Ellen Freed** for coordinating the food drive.
- **Emily Bessey, Nancy Kelley, Hildie Lipson, Chuck Cohen and Mike Levey** for coordinating our meals.
- **Linda Kallin, Fran Rudoff and Deb Sewall** serving as our High Holiday Committee for creating meaningful high holidays this year and providing Rabbi Asch with lots of advice!
- **Mike Drickey, Sarah Drickey, and John Agee** and our sukkah construction and take down crews, and all who brought sunflowers and corn stalks.



And thank you to everyone who served as a greeter, brought food, stayed to clean up and helped make our High Holidays successful! If we inadvertently left you off the list, please let us know so we can make the correction.





## Greeter Community Helps Make TBE More Welcoming

By Deb Benveniste, Greeter Schedule Coordinator

TBE could not be the warm and welcoming place it is without our greeters! Before the first member of the congregation arrives, we adjust the thermostat; make sure the phone security system is charged and ready; and arrange seating, windows, lighting, prayer books, handouts, candles, food, and more. And then we open the door, but carefully. We make sure that folks entering belong with us, maintain a greeter log for newcomers, and gently encourage the wearing of name tags or of signing in. Once services or programming begins, we sit with half an eye on the door to welcome late arrivals. We are trained to handle emergencies. And when it is all over, we clean up. In other words, we seamlessly combine welcome, comfort, and safety. Pretty impressive, I say!

I only began coordinating the greeting schedule this past May, so this year's High Holiday season was my first real test. Deb Sewall, Rabbi Asch, and Dawn all provided suggestions, support, and encouragement. And despite a hurricane disrupting Rosh Hashanah services, it all went without a hitch. After Security Director Mike Drickey's very patient greeter training, I even tried my hand at greeting during the High Holidays and enjoyed the process. My plan is to sign up more often!

I want to extend a sincere thank you to our greeters for your commitment. All I need to do is let people know on a weekly basis where there are holes in the schedule and invariably, people come forward to fill them. It not only makes the scheduling process a pleasure but speaks to the quality and commitment of the TBE community as well. Come join us!



## Three — yes, three! — Soup & Study Sessions Coming Up!

It's an embarrassment of riches. We have three Soup and Study sessions in the next two months!

All sessions meet at 6pm (arrive a few minutes early for soup) and are hybrid. Please RSVP to the office in advance of these sessions. As a reminder, we need eight people to hold each session.

### **Wednesday, Nov. 1st: Makom: Rooting Ourselves in Our Place with guest teacher Rabbi Madeline Cooper**

Rabbi Cooper will examine why place is so important in Jewish tradition. We'll have a chance to study texts about place and discuss what is unique about the places we inhabit.

### **Monday, Nov. 13th: All about the Jewish calendar!**

Why do the holidays move around? What is up with that leap month? Why do some Jewish months have 29 days and some have 30 days? What does lunisolar mean anyway? Is it true Yom Kippur is never on Friday? We'll talk all about the Jewish calendar and Rabbi Asch will even teach a song that she guarantees will make sure you remember the Hebrew months in order.

### **Wednesday, Dec. 13th: The Evolution of Hanukkah**

Hanukkah is a minor holiday not even mentioned in the Torah. How did it get to be so popular? We'll look at ancient descriptions of the holiday and discuss how it evolved into its modern form. Along the way we'll discuss Jewish immigration to America, early Zionism and more. Bring your hanukkiah for our communal candle lighting; this session occurs on Hanukkah!



## David Mahfouda Visits in December

Our new rabbinic apprentice, David Mahfouda, will be with us again the weekend of December 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. Please be sure to join us for Shabbat service at 6pm on Friday. We'll light candles together in celebration of Hanukkah.

Saturday we'll join together for a Torah study and a Shabbat morning service including special blessings for Hanukkah. We can't wait to see you at these special events.



# TBE HANUKKAH PARTY!!

December 10<sup>th</sup> 4-6pm

We are so excited for our all ages Hanukkah Party. Planning is still underway, but we know that it will include:

- Lots and lots of latkes
- Songs
- Our Mensch Madness Dreidel Tournament
- Food
- Crafts
- A fabulous program brought to you by our Temple teens



Bring your hanukkiah and candles so we can do a communal lighting! More information to follow in the weekly email. For now, save the date!

## The Fall Shabbaton

with LAPIDUS and MYLES  
Music of Peace + Justice



NOVEMBER 3-4  
COLBY COLLEGE  
Musical Services  
Shabbat Meals  
Torah Study  
Gentle Hike  
and more!



## Are you ready for some fierce competition???

Are you an Uno master? A Monopoly genius? Does your Hannibal-esque strategizing make you TBE's most skillful Risk player? Now is your time to shine! Or, are you like me, and always land on Boardwalk when it has a hotel? We need graceful (game) losers as well!

Bring your favorite multiplayer card or board game, a snack to share, and wear your comfiest pajamas. Funny fuzzy slippers (animal-themed or otherwise) are strongly encouraged but not required. If you plan to sleep overnight at the temple bring a pillow and sleeping bag.

All ages welcome (i.e., no sneaking in Cards Against Humanity people!).



# Hebrew School: Off to an Amazing Start!

Our Hebrew School is off to an amazing start! We have four new students joining us this year in addition to seven pre-K students who are joining us monthly. Sunday mornings are busy at TBE! So far this year we have been focusing on the fall holidays (there are a lot!). Rabbinic intern David Mahfouda explained the sukkah to us and led us in a great activity about "hosting" and "guesting" where the group had to practice being both a host and a guest. We also had two groups make a menorah of gratitude based on the following quote from our machzor:

"Kavanah: So often we use our spare moments to reflect on the unpleasant places in our lives, our resentments, vindictiveness, pain, victimization. We need to create a litany of our blessings. Take a minute. Close your eyes. Think of seven blessings in your life. Create this menorah of thankfulness. Whenever you say modim anahnu lah or light the Sabbath candles or have a spare moment, recite the blessings on your menorah of thankfulness"



Students spend a week discussing what they were thankful for and going deeper. For example, food not only gives us sustenance, but allow us to gather together in community. Our five senses help us experience the world in new and different ways. They then spent a week constructing their menorah and sharing their thinking with one another.

We love that our Hebrew School is a place of community, learning an exploration and we always welcome new students to our school!



# Supporting TBE



## **Building Fund**

- Seth Greene

## **General / Other**

- Deb & Syd Sewall, In honor of Eleanor Gagné and Jonathan Rousculp
- Gail & Gary Weiss, High Holiday Donation
- Jerryanne Laperriere, High Holiday Donation
- Joan & Steven Jacobs, High Holiday Donation
- Phyllis Freed, High Holiday Donation
- Richard Forcier, High Holiday Donation
- Sarah & Mike Drickey, Funtensive Donation
- Stephen and Debra Gardner, High Holiday Donation

## **Rabbi Discretionary Fund**

- Ben Gottlieb
- Cindy Langewisch
- Judith Solomon
- Richard Dana
- Richard Forcier
- Seth Greene
- The Cottrell Family

## **Terumah Pledges**

- Adam & Cheryl Goldstein
- Anya-Mae Davidson
- Ben Gottlieb
- David & Carol Ann Faigin
- Hinda Growick
- Ilana & Kerstin Gilg
- Natasha Rosenbaum
- Rachel & Pacifico Gonzaga

- Scott & Nancy Schiff-Slater
- Stacey Mondschein Katz & Robert Katz
- Susan Bakaley Marshall and Chris Marshall
- Vivian Flamm

## **Yahrzeits/Memorials**

- Beth Koopman, in memory of Clover Koopman
- Beth & Steven Shapiro, in memory of Belle Grondinsky
- Margery Margolis, in memory of Alfred Margolis
- Nancy Kelly, in memory of Julia Sandler Ray
- Nancy Shuman, in memory of Harry Shuman
- Rachel Gonzaga, in memory of Leon Parkin
- Seth Greene, in memory of Bill Weisberger



## 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,  
Jamie Orenstein, Liz Sizeler,  
Julia Underwood

### **Honorary Directors**

Peter Bickerman  
Any Goldey  
Deb Sewall

## Contact Us

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### **Rabbi Emerita**

Rabbi Susan Bulba Carvutto

The office is open Tuesday,  
Wednesday and Friday.

## November Yahrtzeits

November 1st	Herbert Gross (Chaim)
November 1st	Martha Simmons
November 2nd	Clare Nolin
November 2nd	Helen Bicknell Shed
November 4th	Bennett David Katz
November 6th	Dorothy Drickey
November 6th	Eleanor Ross
November 9th	Malvin Mayer
November 9th	Harold Rubinson
November 11th	Joseph Caprim
November 11th	Beatrice Freiman
November 11th	Sally Gilbert
November 11th	Leonard Graber
November 11th	Elizabeth "Betty" Lieb
November 13th	Daniel Bulba
November 13th	Bart Bakaley
November 15th	Julia Feldman
November 16th	Samuel Franzel
November 16th	Abraham Goldberg
November 17th	Lenora Q. Dana
November 17th	Cathy Mattin
November 17th	Myron Rosenbaum
November 18th	John Ray
November 18th	Pasyah Fersht Schneider
November 19th	Susan Bley
November 19th	Sylvia Rudoff
November 20th	Bernice Pollack
November 22nd	Jeanette Johanssen
November 22nd	Pierrette Zinck
November 22nd	Lucille Zisquit Goldman
November 23rd	Iris Brock
November 28th	Harold Lipman
November 29th	Lipman Simmons

## December Yahrtzeits

December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Julia Feldman
December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Murry M. Freed
December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Beatrice Sewall
December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Selma Prager
December 4 <sup>th</sup>	Robert Sax
December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Eli Bulba
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	Saul Parkin
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	Robert Sax
December 8 <sup>th</sup>	Mavis Graber
December 8 <sup>th</sup>	Fannie Weiss
December 11 <sup>th</sup>	Rosemary Marshall
December 14 <sup>th</sup>	Harriet Katz
December 14 <sup>th</sup>	David Slosberg
December 15 <sup>th</sup>	Arlene Fine
December 15 <sup>th</sup>	Edith Katz
December 16 <sup>th</sup>	Beverly Drickey
December 16 <sup>th</sup>	David S. Goldman
December 16 <sup>th</sup>	Shirley Bass
December 19 <sup>th</sup>	Sydney Katz
December 20 <sup>th</sup>	Hayden Goldberg
December 20 <sup>th</sup>	Alan Sandler
December 21 <sup>st</sup>	Max Cohen
December 21 <sup>st</sup>	Genevieve Kus
December 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Morris Feinstein
December 25 <sup>th</sup>	Barbara Paronett
December 26 <sup>th</sup>	Milton Metzger
December 26 <sup>th</sup>	Robert P. Myers, Jr.
December 28 <sup>th</sup>	Howard Director
December 30 <sup>th</sup>	Rhoda Boughton
December 30 <sup>th</sup>	Samuel Lipman
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Dorothy Bader
December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Pauline Cohen