



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

May Calendar

May 3 (hybrid)

Shabbat services @ 6pm

May 4 (hybrid)

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

May 5 (in person)

Yom HaShoah (HHRC) @ 3pm

May 10 (hybrid)

Shabbat services @ 6pm

May 11 (hybrid)

Torah study @ 10am
 Covid Ritual @ 10:30am
 Shabbat services @ 11am
 Potluck Lunch @ 12:15pm

May 12 (in person)

Yom HaShoah and Yom
 Ha'atzamut @ 4:30pm

May 19 (hybrid)

Omer Check in @ 1-2pm

May 23 (hybrid)

Soup and Study @ 6pm

May 26 (in person)

Fiber Arts @ 1-3pm
 Lag B'Omer in Bath @ 5pm

May 31 (hybrid)

Shabbat services @ 6pm

From the desk of Rabbi Asch...

There is nothing quite like spring in Maine. I feel as if every year I write some form of this column that talks about how wonderful it is to be outside again, see our neighbors and enjoy the sunshine and warmer weather. You might ask, "What is so Jewish about spring?"

While often our Jewish calendar is not in sync with Maine (Tu BiSh'vat in January?), the beginning of "summer" in Judaism coincides nicely with spring here in Maine. At the beginning of Passover we change from our prayer for rain (God causes makes the wind to blow and the rain to fall) to our summer prayer for dew (God causes the dew to fall). The summer season in Israel is day, thus the prayer for dew. These inserts are put into the second blessing of the Amidah, the G'vurot, which praises God's power and might. They are not petitions for rain or dew – those happen later in the Amidah – but instead are thanks to God for sending us wind, rain, and dew in their proper seasons.

This emphasis on thanksgiving for things we consider natural contains a lesson. Many of us were awed by the total eclipse this past month. It was so out of the ordinary that it took our breath away. Unlike our ancient ancestors, we knew it was coming and could see what it would look like, but being there in person was still incredible. We notice and celebrate these rare and spectacular wonders of nature, but we often overlook the smaller miracles of having rain or dew in the proper season. In this year when we saw flooding and some very late snow storms, we are perhaps more conscious of the importance of weather happening at the right time. May we take an extra moment to notice and celebrate the less spectacular but still miraculous aspects of spring – the blooming forsythia, the lilting songbirds, the budding trees – that are happening all around us, right on time.



June Calendar

June 1 (hybrid)

Daf Yomi @ 10am
 Torah Study @ 10:30am
 Potluck Lunch @ 12:00pm

June 7 (hybrid)

Shabbat services @ 6pm
 Guest Speaker Tam Huynh

June 8 (hybrid)

Daf Yomi @ 10am
 Torah Study @ 10:30am
 Potluck Lunch @ 12:00pm

June 9 (hybrid)

Brunch @ 10am
 Annual Meeting @ 10:30am
 Board Meeting @ 1pm

June 11 (in person)

Shavuot Study @ 6pm

June 12 (hybrid)

Shavuot Services with Yizkor @ 9am

June 21-23 (in person)

Maine Conference for Jewish Life at Thomas College

June 28 (hybrid)

Shabbat services @ 6pm

June 29 (hybrid)

Daf Yomi @ 10am
 Torah Study @ 10:30am
 Potluck Lunch @ 12:00pm

Hebrew School

May 5, 12, 19 & June 2,9

Teen Program

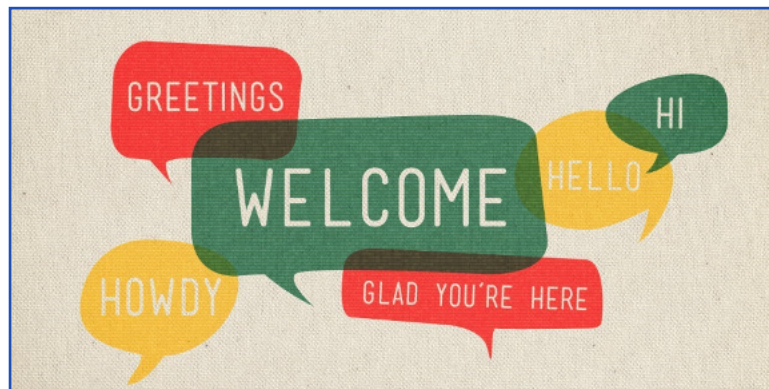
May 5 & June 2 @ 7pm

Welcome New Members!!

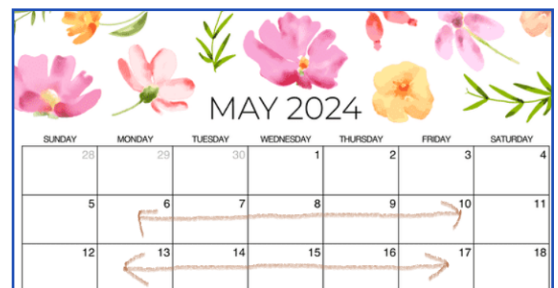
As TBE’s 2023-2024 fiscal year comes to an end on June 30th, we want to take this time to recognize the members we have welcomed since July 1, 2023:

- Deborah and Jeffrey Gussoff (July 2023)
- Alex Kimmel and Daniel Heinrich (August 2023)
- Brian Harding (August 2023)
- Anya-Mae Davidson & Benjamin Austin (August 2023)
- Cheryl & Adam Goldstein (September 2023)
- Natalie (Natasha) Rosenbaum (September 2023)
- Harriet (Hinda) Growick (October 2023)
- Lindy Feigenbaum (December 2023)
- Winter Guite (February 2024)

We are thrilled to have each of you as part of the TBE community.



The TBE office will be closed from May 6th to May 17th while Dawn is on vacation.



Although the Rabbi is NOT on vacation, she will be out of the office during most of this time for CCAR meetings in Boston and New York. You can still reach Rabbi Asch by email, but it may take longer than usual for a response. She is available on her cell phone.

TBE Annual Meeting: Sunday, June 9

This is your once-a-year chance to learn everything you want to know about your Temple! We will start with bagels at 10. The business meeting will begin at 10:30. The meeting will be on Zoom for members unable to come in-person.

The main purpose of the meeting is to elect officers and directors. A list of the candidates recommended by the Nominating Committee is listed in this newsletter. We will also hear a report on the Temple's finances by Treasurer Hildie Lipson. (Spoiler alert: Be prepared for good news.)

The board spent much time and energy dealing with security issues in the last year. Security Chair Mike Drickey will report on what has been done to keep the congregation safe. There will also be reports on the Temple's work on social action, on how we welcome and work with new members, and on how we help members in need of meals, transportation or other assistance. Rabbi Asch will tell you about our summer plans. She will also recognize and honor high school seniors. There will be a report on the plans for a pavilion for outdoor activities. (Another spoiler alert: More good news.) Outgoing president David Offer will give his annual report on the state of the Temple and incoming president Arwen Agee will fill you in on her plans for the next year.

We will also present two awards: One for outstanding service to the Temple in the last year and the Rabbi Susan Award for long-time service to the congregation. This is your chance to learn everything worth knowing about Temple Beth El. You can read the minutes of the last annual meeting by clicking on this [link](#).

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

By Chuck Cohen

Please take notice that at the Temple's Annual Meeting to be held on June 9, 2024, the Nominating Committee, duly appointed by the President of the Board of Directors, will nominate and recommend for approval the following slate of candidates for the position of Board of Director Member, each for a term of three years:

- 1) Emily Bessey**
- 2) Brian Harding**
- 3) Jamie Orenstein**
- 4) Julia Underwood**

In addition, at such time, the Nominating Committee will nominate and recommend for approval, the following Board Members to serve as officers of Temple Beth El, each for a term of one year:

- 1) Arwen Agee- President**
- 2) Jamie Orenstein- Vice-President**
- 3) Julia Underwood- Treasurer**
- 4) Mike Levey- Secretary**
- 5) David Offer- Immediate Past-President**

What does the TBE Treasurer Do?

By Hildie Lipson

The Treasurer position is one of the many volunteer roles at Temple Beth El that helps keep our synagogue moving forward. As a member of the board, the treasurer shares the general responsibilities of being on the board and is responsible for these additional duties:

- ◆ Develop financial reports for monthly board meetings.
- ◆ In conjunction with the President and the Board, act as Temple's agent about the banks and other businesses with whom we have relationships, contracts, and obligations, and signs checks.
- ◆ Counsel the board about the financial implications of courses of action under review.
- ◆ Work with the President on developing a draft budget and ensuring the financial integrity of the Temple.
- ◆ Work with the Office Manager on bookkeeping and ensure accurate financial procedures and systems.
- ◆ Provide a sounding board for the President.
- ◆ Deliver board greetings/remarks during High Holidays (or delegate).

In addition, the treasurer is involved with any capital campaign, when we need to raise funds for special projects, like the current outdoor landscaping project.

The treasurer also chairs the Temple's finance committee. The committee oversees and manages the Temple's reserve account and advises our financial strategy. The reserve funds give us stability, help with unforeseen expenses, and provide a safety net. The reserve fund also holds bequests and restricted gifts. These funds are currently invested in bonds and CDs with First National Investment Services, through First National Bank out of Bath, with varying maturity dates. The account now totals about \$228,000, an increase from \$105,000 since completing the renovation of 3 Woodlawn in 2020.

The treasurer and the board are stewards of the congregation's assets, ensuring enough funds to meet our everyday operational needs and plan for its future.

As I wrap up nearly 12 years of serving as TBE's treasurer, I am happy to say our financial position is strong, our membership is growing, and our community is vibrant. I am grateful for all Temple Beth El offers because of your continued generosity. B'Shalom.

Thank you for all you've done for TBE, Hildie!

Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut

May 12th from 4:30-6:30pm at TBE

[Please Preregister](#)



Stand alongside the community in a remembrance ceremony and community learning. Our afternoon will include activities for the whole family, followed by a delicious community supper. This event has been generously sponsored by our Jewish congregations in Maine and the JCA. The event is free, but we want to know who is coming. If you can help with logistics, please let Rabbi Asch know. We are looking forward to celebrating with you!

[MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION](#)

To register, click on the blue tab that says "Select Date." Then select Sunday, May 12th and add the number of people attending.



The annual Goos Moving TBE Forward musical event was a smashing success! We listened (and sang along) as Marcia Gallagher of Hallowell and UMA performed the music of great Jewish composers who created the best shows on Broadway. What fun!



THE MAINE CONFERENCE FOR JEWISH LIFE



June 21-23, 2024
Thomas College

jewishlife.colby.edu



The Maine Conference for Jewish Life is a pluralistic opportunity for superior Jewish learning and joyous celebration in central Maine. This year the conference will feature sessions on madras, the climate crisis, chanting, artificial intelligence, jewish farmers, making a Megillah and more!

Join us for one day or all three! Friday features Shabbat services and dinner as well as a keynote address. Saturday includes a variety of service options, workshops, and a chance to spend time with others during our sedan shlishit/cocktail hour. Sunday features an array of interesting workshops. We hope you will join us for this amazing weekend!

Register [online](#) using this [link](#). Please contact Mel Weiss (maweiss@colby.edu) with any questions.

The 2024-2025 Terumah Packets Will be Mailed Soon

Be on the lookout for the annual terumah pledge forms, as well as other important information, to arrive by regular mail. We would sincerely appreciate it if you would return your pledge forms by the end of May. Please note that we do not carryover monthly payments from one fiscal year to another. If you are currently making monthly payments by credit card, those payments will stop in June. If you have any questions, please contact Dawn at the TBE office. Thank you!



Celebrate Lag B'Omer Beth Israel Congregation (Bath) Day 26th 5-6-30pm

We'll join with Beth Israel in Bath for a festive celebration of the 33rd day of the Omer. We start with a Jam session at 5pm. Bring your instruments (music provided). Instruments can include egg shakers, tambourines, your hands to snap or clap or your voice. All are welcome for some singing and playing together. At 5:45 we'll head out to the park for some Lag B'Omer themed games and treats. Please bring a vegetarian dish to share for our potluck dinner. All ages are welcome. Car pooling is available from TBE. Contact the office if you want to give a ride or need a ride!

Get Ready for Shavuot!



]Tuesday, June 11th @ 6pm

Join us for an evening of study and learning. We'll start at 6pm with a potluck dinner. Let us know if you want to come early to make blintzes—we'll cook if we have enough volunteers. Study begins at 6:30 and that is where you come in! We need you to share 10-30 minutes of Jewish learning with all of us. It could be text study, a song, a poem, art or more! Rabbi Asch is happy to work with you on developing your idea. As we celebrate receiving Torah, we want you to have a chance to teach your Torah (broadly defined). We'll also have a chance to hear from some of the participants in our creative Omer project. Please [email Rabbi Asch](#) if you are interested in presenting!

Can't join us in person (or want to study all night long?) Join with small congregation rabbis from across the US for learning on Zoom. [REGISTER HERE](#) to sign up for this fabulous learning.

Wednesday, June 12th @ 9am

Join us for Shavuot morning services featuring a reading of the Ten Commandments and a chance to remember those who have died during our Yizkor service. This will be hybrid. Join us online or in person. The Mikvah is Open

Todah Rabbah for Passover!

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Passover seder a success.

- Thank you to **Sarah and Mike Drickey** for coordinating everything before Passover, making sure we ran smoothly and set up and doing a lot of shopping.
- Thank you to **Nancy Kelly** for her work in the kitchen and shopping and cooking in advance and **Enigmah Archer Hirsch** for making the allergy friendly options.

It takes a village to make the seder work and we had more than 20 people help with shopping, cooking, set up, clean up and more. We loved it! Thank you!

TBE's Madcap Purim!

We had so much fun at Purim! Thank you to Ben Gottlieb for his amazing organizing, writing and directing of our fun. Mazel tov to all our prize winners and thank you all for participating so graciously in our White Elephant/ Yankee Swap (seriously, you all were too nice, stop giving other people the prizes you won!)

And, our Hebrew School festivities were a blast with an original spiel written by our madrichim, games, prizes, face painting, hamantaschen, and even a puppet! Don't put those costumes too far up in the attic, because we are already gearing up for next year!



Waterville has a Mikvah!

Did you know Beth Israel Congregation in Waterville has a mikvah? It does, and Temple Beth El is a founding partner.

What does this mean?

Our congregation supports the mikvah financially and by providing mikvah guides (see below). This means the mikvah is accessible to congregants to use free of charge. Rabbi Asch will be teaching a Soup and Study about the mikvah in May if you want to learn more.

What if I want to use the mikvah?

We're thrilled you are interested in using the mikvah. If you are using the mikvah for conversion, please have a conversation with Rabbi Asch. If you are interested in an immersion for another reason, [see this page](#) for information about booking. You can also contact Rabbi Asch if you are interested in arranging a small group to use the mikvah (ie: if people want to do individual immersions before a holiday).

What if I want to help out?

We are looking for mikvah guides! These guides will receive online and in person training and will be available to guide people during immersions. The next class is starting soon. If you are interested in this mitzvah, please contact Rabbi Asch. We are especially looking for people who live close to Waterville (or don't mind driving) and have flexibility schedules.

And, TBE makes a monetary contribution to support the mikvah each year. If you want to help offset our contribution, make a donation to TBE with the memo line: mikvah.

Where can I learn more about the mikvah?

Check out this [video](#)!

You can learn more about the Beth Israel mikvah [here](#).

You can learn more about the open mikvah movement [here](#).

What if I have conflicted feelings about the mikvah?

That's okay. For some people, the mikvah is complicated. It certainly isn't something that most classical Reform Jews experienced. Come to Soup and Study if you want to learn more about the history of the mikvah and how it has been reinterpreted by the liberal Jewish community.





A Week of Jewish Summer Fun in Augusta! July 8-12th

It's time to sign your kids up for the Center's Summer Funtensive. This program—the only one of its kind north of Portland—provides a summer experience for children who cannot easily attend traditional Jewish camps. Based at Temple Beth El in Augusta, the Funtensive attracts campers from across the state and beyond.

Come for a week of games, Jewish learning, art, songs, lots of Hebrew, and more with Mel Weiss and Rabbi Erica Asch. The registration fee is just \$5/day, or \$25 for the whole week. The session runs Monday, July 8-Friday, July 12, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The program is for children ages 4-12, with CIT opportunities available for qualified teens. Sign up at the link below to secure your space. Questions? Email Mel Weiss, maweiss@colby.edu.

[Register for Funtensive here!](#)

Hebrew School Students Study Judges & the Lunar Calendar

Our middle class has been finishing up a unit on the Judges. They learned about some of the major figures in this book and the cycle of the Judges (the people sin and are conquered by enemies, they repent and cry out to God, God sends a judge to save them, the people rejoice but then mess up again). We talked about how we all make mistakes, and while we don't have judges today, we do have people who help get us on the right path. Those people include our parents and teachers. As an entire school we've been studying the phases of the moon (turns out Oreos are a great teaching tool!) and learning about which Jewish holidays occur in which Jewish month. We have also done some baking with Stephanie. Most recently we did matzah rolls for Passover! We are looking forward to our last months of Hebrew School and a visit to the farm on May 19th!

Supporting TBE



Building Fund

- Seth Greene

General / Other

- Sarah & Mike Drickey for Funtensive
- Carrie McCarter, in honor of Kim Pierce for curating the art at TBE
- Matthew Rolnick, in support of TBE

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

- Rich Dana
- Seth Greene
- Linda & Peter Kallin

Yahrzeits/Memorials

- Emily Bley, in memory of Lauraine Goodrich
- Leon Bresloff, in memory of Hyman and Jill Bresloff
- Sarah & Mike Drickey, in memory of Shawn Walker
- Richard & Jane Golden, in memory of Rose Golden
- Anya Goldey, in memory of Lillian Freiman
- Cheryl Goldstein, in memory of Bruce and Suretta Hollander
- Seth Greene, in memory of Charles Bader
- Seth Greene, in memory of Elenor Sylvia Slosberg
- Seth Greene, in memory of Leonard Dansky
- Seth Greene, in memory of Sydney Sewall
- Deborah & Jeff Gussoff, in memory of Abraham Gussoff
- Deborah & Jeff Gussoff, in memory of Samuel Kosak
- Paul Kuehnert & Judith Graber, in memory of Susan Knowlton
- Ellen Kandel & Laurence Bader, in memory of Charles Bader
- Susan & David Offer, in memory of Samuel L. Gershon
- Steven & Beth Shapiro, in memory of Rose Golden
- Steven & Beth Shapiro, in memory of Shirley Siegel



Portland Chevra Kadisha
Jewish Funeral Home

471 Deering Ave.
Portland, ME 04103
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Anya Goldey
Deb Sewall

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Rabbi Emerita

Rabbi Susan Bulba Carvutto

The office is open Tuesday,
Thursday and Friday.

May Yahrtszeits

May 1	Rebecca Slosberg
May 1	Aaron Frankel
May 3	Edward Vincent Growick
May 3	Max Slosberg
May 5	Daniel Cohen
May 5	Ann O'Donnell
May 5	Henry S. Price
May 6	Irving Weiss
May 7	Abraham Slosberg
May 8	Sidney Goldstein
May 8	Eleanor Mayer
May 8	Suzanne Rosenberg
May 10	Hilbert Tapp
May 10	Edith Sclar
May 11	Louise D. Cohen
May 11	Benjamin Slosberg
May 11	Anthony Imondi
May 12	Rita Friedman Pepper
May 13	Samuel Weiss
May 14	Tyler Lessard
May 14	Sylvia Parker
May 16	Edwin Eckert
May 16	Sean Dietz
May 17	Allen Davis
May 18	Julian Sacks
May 19	Mechel Frydman
May 20	Suretta Hollander
May 21	Dorothy Moyer
May 21	Daniel Moyer
May 21	Elizabeth Lipman Winter
May 24	Meyer Schwartz
May 24	Leon Monash
May 27	Robert Bien
May 29	Matthew Peter McLinn

June Yahrtszeits

June 1	Carol Bernstein Hecht
June 2	Symour Pfeferstein
June 3	Clara Miller Weiss
June 5	Erika Ellen Briggs
June 5	Marion Fusco
June 6	David Boughton
June 6	Jack Drickey
June 6	Sidney Gussoff
June 7	Fred Slater
June 7	Joseph Schatz
June 7	Joseph Leroy Shed
June 8	Gertrude Rudoff
June 9	Albert Freiman
June 9	Justin Blauner
June 9	Fred Sewall
June 10	Jean Bakaley
June 10	Bruce Pfeferstein
June 10	Josep Schatz
June 11	Samuel Lerman
June 12	Paul Adler
June 12	Beverly Gass
June 13	Stuart Boughton
June 13	Asher Pfeferstein
June 14	Erica Sandler
June 14	Webster Shipley, Jr.
June 16	Beverly Gussoff
June 16	Robert Powell
June 16	Joan "Jet" Price
June 17	Julius Sussman
June 18	Howard Slosberg
June 24	Albert Abraham Rosenberg
June 25	Aviva Schnur
June 26	John Thielman
June 26	Sylvia Rosenbaum
June 27	Reginald Hannaford
June 28	Dora R. Slosberg
June 30	Marcia Allen