



## 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 9th (offsite)

Postcarding Party @5:30pm

#### July 12th (in person)

Potluck Dinner @5pm

Family Shabbat Service

@5:45pm

Led by Cantor Sheila Nesis

#### July 13th (hybrid)

Daf Yomi @10am

Torah Study @10:30am

Potluck Lunch @12pm

#### July 15 (in person)

Movie Night @6pm

#### July 17 (hybrid)

Soup and Study @6:15pm

#### July 19th (hybrid)

Shabbat services @6pm

#### July 21 (in person)

Fiber Arts @1-3pm

Board Retreat @5:30-8:30  
(offsite)

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

This past week, we read the story of the spies scouting the land of Israel. You may recall that they reported what they saw: the land was good, and there were giants there. But the spies interpreted these facts very differently. Caleb reported that the Israelites could take the land; they were strong enough to do so. The other spies disagreed. They reported that the giants were so big, we must look like grasshoppers to them. A different perspective can change everything.

A few weeks ago I was at the Maine Conference for Jewish Life with many of you. We prayed, learned, hiked, ate, and sang together for three wonderful days. The Conference, put on by the Center for Small Town Jewish Life, is always a highlight of the year for me. At this point, 11 (!) years in, I almost take it for granted. But this year I was lucky enough to get a different perspective. Three of my 2008 rabbinical school classmates taught at the Conference and gave me a chance to see it anew. They commented on how much it felt like a family reunion, about the quality of the learning sessions, and the friendliness of the people. Although we come from different congregations, towns, and denominations, we all not only get along, but really enjoy spending time with one another.

I love our TBE community. And I love our statewide community. I so appreciate having clergy colleagues who understand that our own communities thrive when we strengthen one another. We all live richer Jewish lives because we have the chance to learn from and get to know folks beyond TBE. I'm looking forward to more partnerships in the coming year, including Selichot with Beth Israel in Bath and teaching sessions with Rabbi Vinikoor and Rabbi Isaacs. And, of course, the Fall Shabbaton in November.

I hope that this summer brings you a new perspective and a renewed appreciation for being Jewish in Maine!



**August Calendar****August 3 (in person)**

Hike with Hilde @10am

**August 14 (hybrid)**

Board Meeting @6pm

**August 16 (hybrid)**

Shabbat services @6pm

With guest speaker Rev. Kerry  
Mansir**August 17 (hybrid)**

Daf Yomi @10am

Torah Study @10:30am

Potluck Lunch @12pm

**August 18 (in person)**

Fiber Arts @1-3pm

**August 19 (in person)**

Movie Night @6pm

**August 23 (hybrid)**

Shabbat services @6pm

With guest speakers Miriam  
Daniel and Larry Wolff**August 24 (hybrid)**

Daf Yomi @10am

Torah Study @10:30am

Potluck Lunch @12pm

**Rabbi Asch @ Crane Lake Camp**

*Note: Rabbi Asch will be at Crane Lake Camp July 26-August 11. She will be teaching, leading services, and supporting staff and campers. She will be on email, but will be slower to respond than usual. If there is a pastoral emergency, please call her cell phone at 207-242-9792.*



*Rabbi Asch and Dawn will both be taking vacation this summer. Please check the weekly email for details.*

**Summertime Soup and Study**

Join us for Soup and Study Summer Edition. We provide the soup, you provide the topic(s). This is a chance to ask all your Jewish questions. No query is too big or too small. Advanced questions are welcome or you can stump Rabbi Asch right on the spot. Rituals, history, holidays, prayer, social justice—no topic too big or too small. RSVP to the office. We must have eight people to hold this program.


**Save the Date!**  
**Hannaford Scholar in Residence**  
**Sept. 13-15**

Rabbi Geoffrey Mitelman will join us September 13th to 15th as our Hannaford Scholar in Residence. The founding director of Sinai and Synapses, Rabbi Mittleman explores the connection between religion and science. Stay tuned for more information, but be sure to save the date!

## REMARKS FROM TBE'S OUTGOING & INCOMING PRESIDENTS

*It was a great annual meeting with food galore, fascinating and funny updates and even some calisthenics (squat for movie night)! Mazel tov to Linda Kallin who received the Volunteer of the Year award and to David and Sue Offer who received the Rabbi Susan Award for exemplary service to TBE.*

### **Excerpt from Outgoing President David Offer's remarks:**

"This is the last report I will make to the congregation as president of Temple Beth El. When I returned as president two years ago, I said the Temple should not have an 80 – now 82 – year old president but would be better served by younger leaders with vision, dedication and energy. I am delighted to report that we have found those people. Over the past two years we have transformed the board of directors and added talented, dedicated men and women who represent the future of our congregation. We will continue that process when we elect new board members and officers this morning, starting with Arwen Agee as our next president....

I can report to our members that Temple Beth El is in good shape in all the ways that matter. We are as secure as we can be. We are financially stable. We have strong leadership, with a hard-working board, a great new president and a wonderful rabbi. I couldn't have hoped for more. It has been a great honor to be president of Temple Beth El. I thank you all for your trust and your support."

[Click here to read David's full remarks..](#)

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### **Excerpt from Incoming President Arwen Agee's remarks:**

Good morning and thank you for electing me president of Temple Beth El. I am excited to see what this next year holds. This past year, I have enjoyed working with the board and getting to know everyone. The board is an excellent group of people who take making decisions seriously and thoughtfully. I also am so grateful for David Offer's mentorship this past year and am looking forward to continuing to have David's support during my presidency. It takes a village to keep TBE running smoothly and I feel lucky that we have so many congregants who are generous with their time.

My husband John and I live in Gardiner with our 2 daughters, Elianna (9) and Dalia (8). We have been members of TBE since 2013. The girls both go to Hebrew school and Funtensive and plan to have their Bat Mitzvahs here at TBE. While we aren't technically Mainers, having lived here for 13 years and 18 years respectively, we feel confident in our decision to raise Jewish children here in Central Maine with the help of the Temple Beth El community.

Outside of the temple, I work full time as a social worker at the VA, overseeing homeless Veteran services for the New England region. Part of my vision for the board moving forward is to be more flexible so that parents with young children, who may also be working, have a chance to hold leadership roles at TBE. In addition, one of the things I would like to focus on this year is increasing our offerings of activities for families with young children. I will also put in a plug that TBE needs more volunteers, specifically to join committees and to be greeters. We really appreciate any time that you can contribute to Temple Beth El. Thank you for being a part of the TBE community.

# A Tribute to David & Sue Offer

By Chuck Cohen

My favorite part of our annual meetings is the presentation of awards where we recognize individuals who have gone the extra mile to make TBE the special place that it is. I had the great honor this year of presenting the Rabbi Susan Award, given to those individuals who have given special and outstanding service to TBE over an extended period of time, to David and Sue Offer. I thought it was worth providing a paraphrase of my presentation not because my remarks were particularly brilliant (they weren't) but because it was worth sharing David and Sue's accomplishments and contributions with the broader Temple Beth El community.

A little over two years ago, the Temple's Nominating Committee, which I was a part of, was facing a bit of dilemma. Our then president, Cree Krull, had decided to relocate to Philadelphia, and thus would not seek re-election as president after a year of service. There was no clear successor and the individuals we had approached declined due to other commitments and to the demands of the position.

While taking a walk with my dog I was meditating on the matter when somewhat out of the blue I received a call from David, who was down in Florida enjoying some time away from the Maine winter and our dreaded mud season. David had heard about our problem and said he would be willing to take another term as president to allow us to regroup and come up with a new succession plan. As most of you know, David had already served as TBE president for two years. So he knew exactly what the job entailed and there was no underselling him on what would be involved.

Well, one term became two and David has been much more than a fill-in or interim president. When he started his second stint as president, David set as his goals to beefing up the Temple's Committees and bringing new people onto the Board and into leadership positions. Mission accomplished! Our committees are doing fantastic work meeting the Temple's needs and providing services in an array of areas and we have new and young officers in leadership positions (Thank you Arwen, Jamie and Julia!).

David has also met the unexpected challenges that invariably come up during a presidency. Over the past two years, Central Maine has not been immune to the rise in antisemitism that has

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# Let the Construction Begin!

There will be a lot of activity at TBE this summer, and we couldn't be more excited. The timeline below outlines the expected progress for the new landscape project:

- ♦ Week of July 8 - Begin site work
- ♦ Week of July 15 - Pavilion foundation
- ♦ Week of July 22 - Pavilion and shed construction
- ♦ Beginning August 5 - Landscaping and hardscaping
- ♦ Early September - fencing and railings



## ***David & Sue Offer, continued from page 4***

plagued our nation and the world. David responded to these antisemitic acts with eloquence and strength. He was a key organizer of the very successful Love is Louder Rally that was held in Augusta this past fall in response to the Nazi graffiti that was painted in several public places in Augusta and to a Nazi demonstration held near the Statehouse. At the Rally and, in all instances, David has represented our community with intelligence and grace. David has brought these same talents to the Board and to our Board meetings. In both his prior presidency and in this most tenure, he has fostered a collegial atmosphere among board members that has let us disagree without being disagreeable and to dissent while still being respectful. A truly remarkable feat in this time of division and toxic relationships.

Sue deserves our thanks for sharing her husband with the Temple these past two years and for sacrificing couples' time as a result of David's activities as president. But Sue has done much more than be a supporting spouse as her contribution to the Temple community. She has for many many years been the organizer and editor of the Temple's Yizkor Book published every High Holiday season. It's a thankless job getting procrastinators like me to provide her with the necessary information to get the book produced in time for Yom Kippur. Sue and her partners that have read the names of those listed in the Book as part of the Yizkor service, have shown us how beautiful and important it is to remember our departed loved ones simply by stating their names.

For a number of years, Sue also was a key member of the Temple's Events Committee. In that capacity and without fanfare, she helped put on the Temple's major community events like the wine tasting, Hanukkah party and Passover Seder.

Over the years, David and Sue have served and contributed to the Temple community both as individuals and as a couple. It was wholly appropriate and an honor to present the Rabbi Susan Award to them this year after so many years of service to Temple Beth El. Thank you both David and Sue and good luck to you David in your new capacity as Immediate Past President, the most coveted of all board positions.

# A Tribute to Linda Kallin

By Hildie Lipson

As a small congregation, so much of what gets done happens quietly or behind the scenes. **Linda Kallin** is one of those whose contributions to Temple Beth El are often not seen by others.

Linda and her husband Peter moved from Doylestown, Pennsylvania, to Rome, Maine, in 2007. She and Peter moved a lot while raising their four children, as Peter was in the Navy. One of their stints was in Brunswick. Linda loved Maine. She said, "It fits my wardrobe."

Before they moved to Rome, one of her sons, David, had attended a barn-raising in Dresden at Rich Goldman and Linda Hermans' home. He had reported to his mom that "a Rabbi was there to say a blessing on the new barn!" Linda wanted to meet that Rabbi! Of course, it was Rabbi Susan.

Linda is a lifelong learner who models continuing education for others. She received a degree in education from Boston University and then returned to school to get her master's in Jewish Education and Studies at Gratz College. She brought those skills and knowledge to TBE and after meeting Rabbi Susan and joining TBE, began teaching Hebrew School in 2007. She taught our younger students for 7 years and others for many more.

Linda now coordinates and helps with Hebrew tutoring for Hebrew School students. Each student who is preparing for their B'Mitzvah in our Hebrew School has a one-on-one tutor for learning to read Hebrew. Linda works with and checks in with the tutors several times during the school year to offer support, problem-solve, and coordinate studies. This is a huge piece of work taken from Rabbi Asch's plate, giving Rabbi more "mental space" for other things.

Linda serves on the High Holiday committee, joining during the pandemic, and helped figure out how we would hold services during COVID-19. She helps the Rabbi plan the services, readings, and rituals. Linda also often serves as Gabbai during the Torah readings during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. She has been known to read Torah now and then, too. She encourages other people to learn to read the Torah. She thinks of herself as a "behind-the-scenes cheerleader" for people doing the "hard work" at TBE.

In addition, Rabbi Asch told me that she sometimes calls Linda to help her think through problems. Linda is not on the Rabbi Committee, but it feels like she is. She has deep wisdom, is not reactive, and is very present in a conversation. Those pieces are so important to Rabbi Asch.

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## Meet Your New Vice President, Jamie Orenstein

Jamie Orenstein is a lawyer and retired judge living in Yarmouth with his wife Karin and two kids, Blue and Max (who had his bar mitzvah at TBE last spring). The Orensteins moved to Maine in 2020. In addition to working in private mediation and arbitration, Jamie likes to bake, hike (but doesn't do it as much as he should), and act in community theater shows (where audiences are unanimous that he shouldn't give up his day job). Jamie has served on the TBE Ethics Committee and as a member of the Board of Directors since 2023.




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### ***Linda Kallin, continued from page 6***

Calling to speak to Linda Kallin or even just stopping to ask her a question or make a request is one of life's special joys. While you may have intended that your conversation focus on her, Linda has a special way of making that conversation about you. Specifically, she will tell you about the wonderful things you have done, are doing, and will continue to do. She will point out to you your special traits and talents and how you can make life better for those you touch. She empowers you, and thus she becomes the ultimate multiplier.

Linda's knowledge, experience, wisdom, and generosity of spirit contribute to the strength of our Hebrew School, and our entire Temple Beth El community. Like so many of our members, she steps in and does what is needed and what is vital to the functioning of our Temple.

Thank you, Linda, for all you have done and continue to do to support our students, their teachers, Rabbi Asch, and our Temple community. And congratulations on being this year's Member of the Year.



## Miriam Daniel & Larry Wolff of the Daniel Centers for Progressive Judaism to Give Talk at TBE

### Friday, August 23 @ 6pm

The Daniel Centers for Progressive Judaism in Tel Aviv includes Beit Daniel synagogue in Tel Aviv, Mishkenot Ruth Daniel hostel and community center in Jaffa, and two other centers. They celebrate 200 bar/bat mitzvahs, 100 weddings, and 200 conversions to Judaism every year, and reach thousands of Israelis with programs and celebrations in person and on-line. Over the last seven years the Daniel Centers have also supported a contest, "Shonim b'Yachad," ("Different Together" ) for middle and high school students in and around Tel Aviv to draw posters reflecting the concepts of tolerance, equality, and understanding the other. Every year the winning posters are exhibited in the Jaffa port where they are seen by thousands of visitors and tourists.

Miriam Daniel's parents built Beit Daniel in 1990. Together with her husband Larry Wolff, they will join us for Shabbat services on Friday August 23 at 6 pm. Miriam and Larry will describe in greater detail the work of the Daniel Centers and the status of the Reform movement in Israel, display a few of the winning posters, and tell us about their impressions of Israel during their March visit. They live in Chevy Chase, Maryland but spend the summer in their cabin in Casco, Maine.





# Supporting TBE



## **General / Other**

- Charlene Cleven
- Matthew Rolnick

## **Rabbi Discretionary Fund**

- Rich Dana
- Jonathan Weiss in memory of Irving & Clara Weiss

## **Yahrzeits/Memorials**

- Anya & Allen Goldey, in memory of Sidney Goldstein
- Deborah & Jeffrey Gussoff, in memory of Sidney & Beverly Gussoff
- Jay Collins, in memory of Anthony Imondi
- Jay Collins, in memory of Marion Fusco
- Joan & Lowell Freiman, in memory of Albert Freiman
- Joan Freiman, in memory of Sidney Goldstein
- Joe O'Donnell, in memory of Ann O'Donnell
- Joe O'Donnell, in memory of Henry Price
- Joe O'Donnell, in memory of Joan "Jet" Price
- Marty Weiss, in memory of Sam Weiss
- Mike & Sarah Drickey, in memory of Jack Drickey
- Patricia Davis, in memory of Allen Davis
- Peter Rosenberg, in memory of Albert Rosenberg
- Peter Rosenberg, in memory of Elma Rosenberg
- Peter Rosenberg, in memory of Suzanne Rosenberg
- Richard Dana, in memory of Elizabeth Dana

## **Our garden needs watering!**

Please sign up for a week to water the garden next to the Shuman Center (and do some other yard work if you want to!) Our tomatoes can't grow without your help. And, a little weeding here and there never hurt either!



## Portland Chevra Kadisha Jewish Funeral Home

471 Deering Ave.  
Portland, ME 04103  
207.774.3733

## Board of Directors

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Arwen Agee

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### **Honorary Directors**

Anya Goldey  
Hildie Lipson  
Deb Sewall

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### **Rabbi Emerita**

Rabbi Susan Bulba Carvutto

The office is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

## July Yahrtzeits

July 2nd	David Pollack
July 2nd	David L. Young
July 3rd	Richard Fein
July 4th	Lillian Lieba Sandler
July 6th	Beatrice Director
July 7th	Ruth Gross
July 7th	Rosalyn Rubin
	Joseph Kaminsky
July 7th	Miriam Weiss
July 9th	Sol Moser
July 11th	Gloria Mondschein
July 14th	Seymour (Sy) Mondschein
July 16th	Charlotte Goos
July 16th	Leila Green
July 17th	Linda Weiss Manson
July 17th	Benjamin Rubinstein
July 19th	Fred Hannaford
July 21st	Rose Barlow
July 21st	Edith Gershon
July 21st	Anthony A. Imondi
July 24th	David James Macy
July 26th	Harold M. Grodinsky
July 27th	Rose Aransky
	LaPenna
July 28th	Harry Lait
July 29th	Kent Katz
July 30th	Gertrude Lerman
July 30th	Ronnie Zamler
July 31st	Bernigolde Macy

## August Yahrtzeits

Aug. 1st	Naomi Shore
Aug. 3rd	Yale Marienhoff
Aug. 5th	Grace Penny
Aug. 6th	Robert Bley
Aug. 6th	William Goldstein
Aug. 6th	Thelma Alpert Price
Aug. 7th	Blanche Marienhoff
Aug.. 7th	Leon Simmons
Aug. 8th	Kent R. Katz

## August Yahrtzeits (cont.)

August 8th	Lydia Liechty Thielman
August 9th	Norman Evenchik
August 10th	Sylvia K. Fain
August 10th	Rose Schwartz Finkelstein
August 11th	William "Bill" Weisberger
August 11th	Sara Brickman
August 12th	Nonie Barber
August 12th	Rivka Schneider Cohen
August 12th	Dorothy Spalding
August 13th	Esther Kominers
August 14th	Hylan Bickerman
August 14th	Gerald Brock
August 14th	Julia Weiss
August 15th	Pearl Bien
August 16th	George Graber
August 16th	Cheryl Growick Paul
August 17th	Joline Kaplan Sandler
August 17th	Norman Suchar
August 18th	George Hermans
August 18th	Bernard Osgood Koopman
August 19th	Ed Jones
August 19th	Joel Douglas Wells
August 20th	Joel Davis
August 20th	Renee Schecter
August 21st	Pauline Kosak
August 23rd	Edith Bresloff
August 23rd	Harold Franzel
August 23rd	Lynn Slosberg
August 23rd	Howard Faigin
August 24th	Dora (Gittel) Cohen
August 25th	Barnett Cohen
August 25th	Paul Langewisch, Jr.
August 26th	Dick Faucher
August 28th	Janice Leavitt
August 28th	Rae Weiss
August 30th	Stephen Fusco