



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

Sunday, July 6 (in person)

Fiber Arts @ 1-3pm

Wednesday, July 9 (hybrid)

Board Meeting @ 6pm

Friday, July 11 (hybrid)

Shabbat Services @ 6pm

Saturday, July 12 (hybrid)

Daf Yomi @ 10:00

Torah Study @ 10:30

Potluck lunch @ 12:00

Monday, July 14-Friday, July 18 (in person)

Funtensive

Friday, July 18 (in person)

Shabbat Dinner @ 5pm

Shabbat Family Service @
5:45 pm with Cantor Sheila
Nesis

Saturday, July 19 (in person)

Havdallah in Hallowell @
8:30pm

Meet at Vaughan Park
anytime after 8pm.

Monday, July 21 (hybrid)

Soup and Study @ 6pm

**No Hebrew School this
month.**

From the desk of Rabbi Asch...

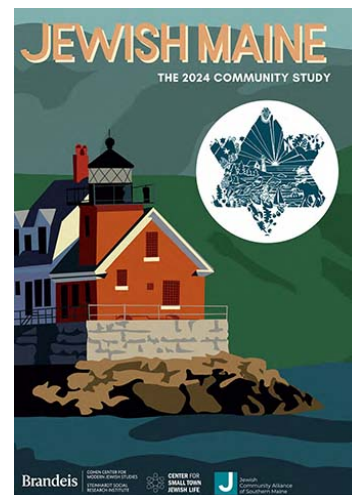
As you probably know from reading our weekly emails, the Cohen Center at Brandeis University recently released a [study of Maine's Jewish population](#). This study interests me not only because I love math and data, but also because it provides a fascinating window into our community. [Click this link](#) to delve into the data on your own. Below, I want to share a few highlights with you, as well as some questions that the information raises.

First, just 24% of Jews in Maine are members of synagogues. That surprised me, probably because I live in the world of a synagogue. Why do so many Maine Jews not belong to a synagogue? The top two reasons are distance and lack of Jewish knowledge. At TBE, we would love to reach those people who are not yet part of our community. We already offer Shabbat and holiday services as well as Torah study on Zoom so that those who live far from TBE can participate.

But we want to do more to lower barriers to entry and we need your help. Please reach out to your friends who might be interested in attending TBE. Invite them to come with you or put them in touch with me so I can meet them. We also plan to do more events in the community. This month, for example, we'll be hosting *havdallah* on Old Hallowell Day, just before the fireworks. Please come by and bring a friend as well.

Bringing new members into the TBE community isn't just about numbers. Our tradition reminds us that each person is unique and has different needs. This summer, we've been working our way

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August Calendar

Friday, August 1 (hybrid)

Shabbat Services with Rabbi Solochek @ 6pm

Saturday, August 2 (in person)

Hike with Hildie @ 10am

Wednesday, August 6 (in person)

Movie Night @ 6pm

Saturday, August 9 (hybrid)

Torah Study @ 10:30am
Potluck lunch @ 12:00pm
Lay led

Monday, August 11 (in person)

Board Retreat @ 5:30-8pm

Friday, August 15 (hybrid)

Shabbat Services @ 6pm

Saturday, August 16 (hybrid)

Shabbat Services with the Bar Mitzvah of Elliot Gilg @ 10am

Wednesday, August 20 (in person)

Security Training @
5:30-7:30pm

Saturday, August 23 (hybrid)

Shabbat Services with the Bar Mitzvah of Aaron Asch @ 10am

Thursday, August 28 (hybrid)

Soup and Study @ 6pm

Hebrew School Resumes

Sunday, September 7th at 9:30am!

Rabbi's Message, continued from page 1

through the book of Numbers. As the English name suggests, the book begins with an exhaustive counting of all of the tribes of the Israelites. Why does the Torah spend so much time with the exhaustive listing of these names? It teaches us that every person in a community is valuable.

Every person matters and every person is unique. The rabbis teach that in the *Avot v'imahot* we say, "God of Abraham, God of Isaac and God of Jacob," instead of "God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob" because each patriarch is unique and had a different relationship with God.

As a community we can provide people with stimulating learning, meaningful community, and even a bit of fun. I hope we can reach out to more people so that we can help to provide more meaning for them. I look forward to engaging in this work with you and the board in the year to come.

Special Events

We have a number of special events these next few months, including three b'nai mitzvah ceremonies. Look for information in your weekly email about upcoming baby namings. And, please join us for these two special events:

Saturday, July 12th: At the end of Torah Study we'll celebrate **Miriam Asch** as she goes off to college. We'll have a chance to offer her blessings and join together in a festive potluck. All are welcome.

Friday, August 15th: At Shabbat services we'll offer blessings to the **Solochek family** – Rabbi Lily Solochek, Lanni, and Shiloh – as they embark on their next journey. They will be moving to London, where Rabbi Solochek will be serving at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue. We'll have a chance to offer the family blessings and join together for a celebratory *oneg*.

TBE in Action!



Rabbi Asch & Dawn on Vacation!

Summer is here and that means Rabbi Asch and Dawn will be taking some much needed vacation time! Rabbi Asch is on vacation through Monday, July 7th. She will be at Crane Lake Camp serving on faculty from Saturday, July 26th through Sunday, August 3rd. During her time at camp she will be responding to phone calls and emails but it might take her a few days to answer. Rabbi Asch will also be off August 21st-August 27th for family time.

The office will be closed June 30th- July 4th and will reopen on July 8th. Dawn will be on vacation and the office will be closed the week of July 21st. She will return to the office on July 29th.

President's Report from TBE's Annual Meeting

by Arwen Agee

Today marks the halfway point of my presidency. It's been quite the juggle between working full time and being a mom to young kids, but we are making it work, and it's been a good year. I am looking forward to this next year as president, but I am going to miss three long standing board members. Nancy Kelly, David Faigin, and Ellen Freed have served on the board for many years and their terms are ending. We also have Deb Sewall as a trustee whose term is also ending. We are sad to see you all go. Thank you for all of your time and energy over the course of many years.

We are excited to have four brand new board members: Deb Benveniste, Maayan (Amanda) Gallagher, Rachel Gonzaga, and Betty Jespersen. Julia Underwood will continue to be our treasurer, and Mike Levey will continue as secretary. Thank you all!

Over the last two years we have had 23 new member families, which I think is impressive given our small congregation. David Faigin and our Membership Committee have been a key part of making potential members and new members feel welcome. David also led the sabbatical committee. Thank you, David!

Chuck Cohen continues to chair the Social Justice Committee that is committed to helping our local community. Chuck also continues to chair the nominating committee. Thank you, Chuck!

I also want to thank Deb Benveniste for the task of recruiting and scheduling greeters, Maayan (Amanda) Gallagher who has taken over the weekly emails and my husband, John Agee, who has taken over as chair of the building committee.

I wanted to make note of our new fundraising committee who is working on re-imagining fundraising events for the future, as the wine tasting committee has retired after many years. The fundraising committee has some great ideas about events for this next year. Thank you to Chris Asch for agreeing to chair the fundraising committee.

Thank you to our wonderful Hebrew school teachers and *madrichim*! Their hard work and dedication helps our children be excited about Judaism and to be part of our Jewish community.

A special thank you to Fran Rudoff and Jerry Bley for all their hard work leading the planning of and fundraising for the outdoor project, for which we held the dedication ceremony a couple of weeks ago. It's great to see the results of all their hard work! The last phase of the outdoor project was paving the upper parking lot which happened this past month.

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President's message, continued from page 4

I wanted to share a quick breakdown of the financials for the outdoor project. Total costs:
\$140,298 on the construction and landscaping
\$4,313 on the furniture and outdoor signage

TOTAL COST = \$144,612

Total raised:

\$141,565 for the construction phase

\$ 4,244 for the furniture phase

TOTAL RAISED = \$145,809

This means that we ended this project with a surplus of **\$1,197!** Thank you all for supporting this project!

Lastly, the two people that we could not do this without. Our office manager, Dawn Fecteau, goes above and beyond and always does it with a smile. And Rabbi Asch. We could not have asked for a better spiritual leader for our community. Our membership is growing because of Rabbi Asch, and our congregation continues to thrive because of her dedication.

Lastly, I wanted to thank you all for your commitment to *terumah* and encourage you to continue that support. From what I can tell, Temple Beth El will continue to flourish and remain the cornerstone of our Jewish community in Central Maine for many years to come.

HIGH HOLIDAY PREVIEW

It's not too early to begin thinking about the high holidays! You'll receive a mailing all about holiday at the end of August. We are hard at work planning, but look for a few new highlights this year:

- Round Challah Baking on Wednesday, September 17th
- Sukkah Building on Sunday, October 5th
- Soup and Study for the first day of Sukkot on Monday, October 6th



Security Committee Update

by Deb Benveniste

Your security committee is working diligently to ensure that TBE remains a safe and welcoming place to worship and enjoy community. TBE is in the process of receiving a grant and consultation about security from Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Boston, which works with synagogues and Jewish community centers across New England. CJP staff will be on site at TBE this summer to provide a 2-hour training on situational awareness and de-escalation techniques. **All are invited to join us on Wednesday, August 20th from 5:30-7:30pm.** This training is open to the entire TBE community. In addition to this vital information, they will also provide food, so keep an eye out for further information and bring your appetite!

We continue to update our procedures as necessary and as changes dictate, including, for example, how to provide security and greeting at outdoor events held in our new gazebo. We monitor anti-Semitic activities across the US to ensure that our safeguards are adequate. We work closely with the Augusta Police Department who have been a supportive partner in these efforts. We coordinate the provision of first aid training in case of medical emergencies during events. And most importantly, we coordinate a schedule of volunteers who provide security, greeting, and setting up and cleaning up for all events held at the synagogue.

I want to extend a sincere thank you to our greeters for their commitment. All of these wonderful events could not happen without them! If you attended the Annual Meeting, you heard how fast our congregation is growing and you heard Rabbi Asch give an impassioned plea for more volunteers. Increased membership provides the potential for more functions and events. We need more people to volunteer so that we can grow as a congregation and as a community.

Our priority for new volunteers is to expand the group of people who do the set up and clean up. No training is necessary. This role involves setting up chairs, prayer books, food, etc. and putting everything away afterwards. People always help with cleaning up but the setting up part involves getting to TBE 15-20 minutes early (along with security and greeters) so that everything is ready for when people arrive and the event starts.

If you have questions about volunteering or the security committee, please contact me (Deb Benveniste - debra.benveniste@yahoo.com).



Special Shabbat Services with Cantor Sheila Nesis

Friday, July 18 @ 5:45pm

Join us Friday, July 18th for a special Shabbat service with Cantor Nesis designed especially for families. All ages are welcome as we sing together to welcome in Shabbat. We'll have a potluck dinner together at 5pm before our 5:45pm service. This service marks the end of Funtensive, a summer program run through the Center for Small Town Jewish Life.



At Invitation to Lunch with the Social Justice Committee

Sunday, August 3

On Sunday, August 3rd, members of TBE's Social Justice Committee will provide and serve lunch at the United Community Living Center. You are invited to join us in cooking a dish and/or helping to serve. TBE volunteers prepare, at home, a lunch menu that we then serve to clientele every other first Sunday of the month. For meal sign-up, contact Dawn Fecteau at TBE: bethelaugusta@gmail.com.



TBE is getting new software!

We are transitioning to new software! The Temple is transitioning to ShalomCloud, a new software system will help us integrate several different platforms we are using. It can generate yahrzeit letters automatically, track volunteer hours, allows for an easier payment system and more. Look for more information in the future.

For now, please know that Dawn is spending a lot of time transitioning us to this new system and making sure it is set up to meet our needs. She is still available to answer your phone calls and emails but over the summer it may take a bit longer than usual for her to respond.

Elliott Gilg Becomes a Bar Mitzvah on August 16



My name is Elliott Gilg. I am 12 years old and will be starting 8th grade this fall. I enjoy playing music and reading. I also enjoy archery, lacrosse, soccer, tennis, Gaga Ball, and musical theatre. I love to play music, especially jazz on my saxophone, and I love playing in marching bands. I enjoy animals, especially ducks and geese.

For my mitzvah project, I've organized a bottle drive to support Temple Beth El and Seeds of Hope, an organization in Biddeford that helps unhoused people find shelter, food and clothing. If you would like to donate some bottles to help, please email me at Elliottgilg@gmail.com

AUGUST 23: AARON ASCH BECOMES A BAR MITZVAH

My name is Aaron Asch. I am going into 8th grade at Hall-Dale Middle School. In my free time, I enjoy playing baseball, soccer and chess. My favorite subject in school is math. This past year I was on the middle school math team. I like to cook and I especially like eating Thai food. I also like to swim.

For my bar mitzvah project, I'm helping out with Hall-Dale Little League (HDLL). I played in HDLL for eight years and now I am an umpire. HDLL makes it possible for kids to play baseball. I will be helping out with the All-Star Tournament, painting dugouts, and making cupboards for storage. If you would like to support HDLL, please send a check to: Hall-Dale Little League, 1 Deer Lane, Hallowell, ME 04347.



Save the Date for the Bat Mitzvah of Penny Frus

Saturday, September 6th

You will be able to read all about Penny in our September-October newsletter.



Three TBE B'nai Mitzvah Coming Up—Join Us!

By Rich Goldman

This summer, three of our wonderful TBE Hebrew school students, Elliott Gilg, Aaron Asch, and Penny Frus, will celebrate their B'Mitzvah. Each will take a shot at explaining and exploring the ideas of Deuteronomy. We hope you will join us for each of these services.

In our class this year we decided to study the Torah in reverse; in some sense, it made sense. After all, we knew of our upcoming B'nai Mitzvah services, and we all know how the end of anything is often not reached or is given short shrift. We do not always have to start our explorations from the beginning.

Really, I don't know if this was the best approach, but it was interesting and seemed to often raise the question of why/what happened before? Of course, we ran out of time – the Torah is quite long and arduous whether you go forward or backward. But we at least made it through Deuteronomy.

When starting at the end we can ask, is there really an end?

It seems to me that central to Deuteronomy are Moses' speeches to the younger generation, knowing that he is about to die. There will be much that comes after the end of his life and yet what came before very much needs to be told. In this light, with the idea that what came before also lives on even in contemporary life, it seemed correct to start our study of Deuteronomy with Dr King's speech, "I've Been to the Mountain Top," which he delivered in Memphis, the evening before his assassination. King, like Moses, had reached the mountaintop. He said: "Like anybody I would like to live a long long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over . And I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land..." From that point we worked backwards and struggled with many of the big questions.

And so, on **August 16** please join **Elliott Gilg** as he becomes our first Bar Mitzvah of the summer and discusses parashat Ekev and Moses' memory of the incident of the golden calf. Then join us again the next week, **August 23**, as **Aaron Asch** becomes this August's second Bar Mitzvah. Aaron's parashat is Re'eh and he will be discussing the pilgrimage holidays. Finally, **Penny Frus** will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on **September 6**. We hope you can come to TBE to hear Penny discuss parashat Ki Tetse, including Moses' exhortations for us to lead an ethical life.

Penny, Aaron, and Elliot are three extraordinary young people who can help us with our summer reflections. I hope you will be able to join them to celebrate their B'nai Mitzvah.

Volunteer with the Social Justice Committee

Social Justice Committee members and others at TBE are involved in a number of other community volunteer sites that provide services to the unhoused, medically fragile and others in need. Join us with even small bits of time.

United Community Living Center (UCLC)

12 Spruce Street, Augusta. Betty St. Hilaire, Director: 207-242-6694

The UCLC provides support, resources, and opportunities for the unhoused population in the Augusta area. Currently open on Sundays 10am–2pm and by appointment. A free Medical Clinic is staffed by FMI medical staff, nursing and social work interns. The day center needs volunteers to work with appreciative clients. Volunteers also sort, monitor, and shelve donations, clean up, and other needed tasks. For questions about volunteering, contact Ellen Freed 207 485-0325. For meal sign-up, contact Dawn Fecteau at TBE: bethelaugusta@gmail.com.

Bridging the Gap

209 Eastern Ave. Augusta; bridgingthegapaugusta@gmail.com

Addie's Attic and Basic Essentials Hygiene Pantry: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10am–2pm.

Volunteers needed at Addie's Attic to sort, fold, shelve clothing, and assist clients. To volunteer or schedule an appointment to drop off donations, contact Melissa Furrow: 207-458-7088

Questions? Contact Ellen Freed: 207-485-0325

Saturday Community Suppers: South Parish Congregational Church

9 Church Street, Augusta

TBE volunteers with a contingent from St Michael's Parish do meal prep and serve a community dinner on the fifth Saturday each month 4:30 pm.

Questions? Contact Chuck Cohen: 207-441-4470

Saturday Breakfast Ministry UU Church

69 Winthrop Street, Augusta

Saturday 6:30- 9:30 am (or any time increments)

Help needed to shop, prep, cook, serve and "hang out" with guests who come from the unhoused community and others in need of a meal. To sign up, contact Deb Mattson mattsondebbie52@gmail.com. Questions? Contact Deb Sewall 207 458-1606

Fresh Starts

12 Spruce Street, Augusta (Below UCLC). Sue Gayne, Coordinator, 207-485-0813

Tuesday, Thursday 1:30-4. Saturday 9-11

Volunteers needed to take inventory and shelve household items that are available for free to those setting up homes. If you have unwanted items that are listed above, contact Fresh Starts.

Questions: Ellen Freed. 207 485-0325

Supporting TBE



Donations to Purchase New Chairs and Cushions for the New Garden Area

- Andrea Freed
- Arwen & John Agee
- Betty Jespersen
- Camile & Scott Davidson
- Carl Suchar & Phyllis Santer
- Carol Graham
- Chris Myers Asch and Rabbi Erica Asch
- Chuck Cohen & Mary Beth Paquette
- Cindy Landwisch & Nick Rehagen
- David and Sue Offer
- Deb & Syd Sewall
- Deborah & Jeffrey Gussoff
- Ellen Freed
- Fran Rudoff
- Hildie Lipson
- Ilana & Kerstin Gilg
- Jerry & Emily Bley
- Karen Brooks & Richard Forcier
- Karin & Jamie Orenstein
- Lauren & Christopher Hall
- Linda & Peter Kallin
- Liz Sizler
- Marty Weiss
- Mary Bayer & Leon Bresloff
- Nancy & Chalie Shuman
- Orenstein Family
- Rich Goldman & Linda Hermans



- Dean Corner, in memory of Marie Corner
- Jeffrey & Deborah Gussoff, in memory of Beverly Gussoff
- Jeffrey & Deborah Gussoff, in memory of Sidney Gussoff
- Joe O'Donnell, in memory of Joan (Jet) Price
- Marie Sacks, in memory of Julian Sacks
- Marty Weiss, in memory of Miriam Weiss
- Marty Weiss, in memory of Sam Weiss
- Mike and Sarah Drickey, in memory of Jack Drickey
- Nancy & Charlie Shuman, in memory of Samuel Lerman
- Natasha Rosenbaum, in memory of Sara Brinkman
- Rich Dana, in memory of Elizabeth Dana
- Scott Schiff-Slater, in memory of Fred Slater

Other Donations

- Ann Thomson
- Ethan & Emily Bessey, in honor of Tim Gagne and Lila Solomon
- Florence Family, in memory of David Florence
- Philip Rose

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

- Cindy Landwisch & Nick Rehagen
- Rich Dana
-

Yahrzeits/Memorials

- Cheryl Goldstein, in memory of Suretta & Bruce Hollander
- Davis Family, in memory of Allen Davis



Board of Directors

President

Arwen Agee

Vice President

Maayan Gallagher

Treasurer

Julia Underwood

Secretary

Mike Levey

Board of Directors

Deb Benveniste, Emily Bessey, Chuck Cohen, Richard Goldman, Rachel Gonzaga, Betty Jespersen, Brian Harding, David Offer, Jamie Orenstein, Liz Sizeler

Honorary Directors

Jerry Bley
Any Goldey
Hildie Lipson

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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 1	Gloria Mondschein
July 2	David Young
July 3	Richard Fein
July 4	Seymour Mondschein
July 4	Lillian Sandler
July 6	Charlotte Goos
July 7	Linda Manson
July 7	Benjamin Rubinstein
July 11	Anthony Imondi
July 14	David Macy
July 16	Leila Green
July 17	Rose LaPenna
July 18	Harry Lait
July 20	Gertrude Lerman
July 20	Ronnie Zamler
July 21	Rose Barlow
July 21	Edith Gershon
July 21	Bernigolde Macy
July 22	Naomi Shore
July 24	Yale Marienhoff
July 26	Harold Grodinsky
July 27	Thelma Price
July 28	Blanche Marienhoff
July 28	Leon Simmons
July 29	Kent Katz
July 29	Lydia Thielman
July 31	Sylvia Fain
July 31	Rose Finkelstein

August Yahrtzeits

August 1	Sara Brickman
August 1	William Weisberger
August 2	Nonie Barber
August 4	Harold Grodinsky
August 4	Julia Weiss
August 5	Pearl Bien
August 5	Grace Penny
August 5	David Stiman
August 6	Robert Bley
August 6	William Goldstein

August 7	Joline Sandler
August 7	Norman Suchar
August 8	Marian Arsenault
August 8	George Hermans
August 8	Sage Paquette-Cohen
August 9	Norman Evenchik
August 9	Ed Jones
August 9	Joel Wells
August 11	Marcia Stiman
August 12	Dorothy Spalding
August 13	Joel Davis
August 13	Howard Faigin
August 13	Harold Franzel
August 13	Esther Kominers
August 13	Lynn Slosberg
August 14	Hylan Bickerman
August 14	Gerald Brock
August 16	Dick Faucher
August 16	Cheryl Paul
August 18	Bernard Koopman
August 18	Janice Leavitt
August 18	Rae Weiss
August 20	Joel Davis
August 20	Stephen Fusco
August 20	Renee Schechter
August 21	Pauline Kosak
August 22	Gerald Golden
August 23	Edith Bresloff
August 24	Esther Shuman
August 25	Paul Langewisch, Jr.
August 27	Jaime Garcia
August 27	Charles Zinck
August 28	Larry Zamler
August 31	Seth Greene

Portland Chevra Kadisha Jewish Funeral Home

471 Deering Ave.
Portland, ME 04103
207.774.3733