



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

Sat., Nov. 1 (hybrid)

Daf Yomi @ 10am

Torah study @ 10:30am

Potluck lunch @ 12:00pm

Wed., Nov. 5 (hybrid)

Hannaford Scholar Dinner

@ 5:30pm; Program @ 6pm

Fri., Nov. 7-8 (in person)

Fall Shabbaton at Colby

Tues., Nov. 11 (in person)

Building Hope Film @ 1 pm

Sat., Nov. 15 (in person)

Murder Mystery @ 5:30pm

Sun., Nov. 16 (in person)

Israel/Palestine Group @ 1pm

Mon., Nov. 17 (hybrid)

Soup and Study @ 6pm

Fri., Nov. 21 (hybrid)

Shabbat Services @ 6pm

Sat., Nov. 22 (hybrid)

Daf Yomi @ 10am

Torah study @ 10:30am

Potluck lunch @ 12:00pm

Sun., Nov. 23 (in person)

Fiber Arts @ 1-3pm

Sat., Nov. 29 (in person)

Hike with Hildie @ 10am

From the desk of Rabbi Asch...

Someone once told me that TBE is the college of synagogues, we love to learn and we love to party. I think this is an apt description. We are a group of people who like to engage in deep Torah study. Visitors often remark on how knowledgeable and curious we are. We love to learn more about Judaism, whether it is around the table at study, in the woods on a hike, or just in conversation. And, we do like to have fun. When I first arrived at TBE I was struck by how long people stayed to talk after services, often chatting in the kitchen while eating brownies. We like to be with one another and to have a good time, as the Ice Storm Wine Tasting, our movie nights, and other social events have shown.

Well, if you like either of these then November and December are the months for you! We'll have two special study opportunities. The first is with our Hannaford Scholar in Residence, Rabbi Evan Schultz, who will share with us his writing process and poems from his new book, *A Candle Unconsumed: Poetry in the Language of the Jewish Spirit*. We'll start our night out with a delicious meal of Thai food. Join us on Wednesday, November 5th. Then, on Monday, November 17th we'll have an exciting opportunity to get a sneak peak at the new Reform Torah translation and commentary. We'll be previewing the final layout and along with over 200 congregations, we'll give our input to help make the final draft better. I hope everyone will come to take part in this study.

And, a chance to let our hair down and raise our skirts as we travel back to the 1920s for a Murder Mystery Fundraiser. This is a chance to support TBE and make some memories with one another. Finally, be sure to join us for our all ages Hanukkah party in December and our mid-week latke dinner. We could all use a little more joy, laughter, and light in our lives.

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December Schedule

Fri., Dec. 5 (hybrid)

Shabbat Services @ 6pm

Sat., Dec. 6 (hybrid)

Daf Yomi @ 10am

Torah study @ 10:30am

Potluck lunch @ 12:00pm

Wed., Dec. 10 (hybrid)

Board of Directors @ 6pm

Sat., Dec. 13 (hybrid)

Torah Study @ 10am

Shabbat Services @ 11am

Potluck lunch @ 12:15pm

Sun., Dec. 14 (in person)

Hanukkah Party @ 4pm

Wed., Dec. 17 (in person)

Latke Making @ 4:30pm

Latke Dinner @ 6pm

Fri., Dec. 19 (hybrid)

Shabbat Services @ 6pm

Sat., Dec. 20 (hybrid)

Daf Yomi @ 10am

Torah study @ 10:30am

Potluck lunch @ 12:00pm

Sun., Dec. 21 (in person)

Israel/Palestine Discussion
@ 1-3pm



Rabbi's Message, continued from page 1

I'm writing this amidst the government shutdown. Federal workers are about to miss their second paycheck and SNAP benefits for 42 million Americans are about to run out. I'm working with my clergy colleagues in the Winthrop Area Ministerial Association to give money to local food banks and to address the problem of hunger in our community. If you have a little extra, please consider a donation to a local food bank and please bring in some socks for our November drive. If you are struggling financially due to the recent shutdown, or just because this is a hard time for you, please reach out to me. Thanks to the generosity of congregants, I can meet your needs through my discretionary fund.

Some of you might be thinking that these two messages are contradictory. How can we think about study, joy and gladness when so many are suffering? One of the great gifts of being Jewish is that we are able to hold both the sorrow and the joy together. We can not look away from the pain in the world, but we have an obligation not to let difficulties keep us from finding hope and experiencing joy. As our clocks change and the sun set earlier, may we also take time to find the light and to be a light to others in our community.

First "Shabbat on the Block" Brings Jewish Joy to Central Maine

More than 40 TBE members spread out over five communities for our first "Shabbat on the Block," Shabbat dinners in congregants' homes. It was a chance to meet new neighbors, discuss recipes, and enjoy a delicious meal. Participants loved the experience and are ready for our next event already. Want to help plan our next Shabbat on the Block? Let us know!

Thank you to our hosts: Arwen, John, Eliana and Dalia Agee, Brian, Penny and Juni Frus and Stephanie Natale, Ann and David Shultz, Daniel Heinrich, Alex Kimmel and Lior Kimmel-Heinrich and Dan Friedland and Heather Wolfe. Thank you to our membership committee for making this event possible, especially Maayan Gallagher for the idea and name and Winter Gutie for the logistics.

TBE in Action!



Questions & Answers

By Rachel Gonzaga

If I could tell my father that I am now on the Board of Directors for the local temple, he would undoubtedly laugh: with me; to himself. I watched him on the board of our temple for years, at one point serving as their president. As a teenager I teased him about it. He'd joined Temple Emmanuel in Lowell, MA to find a user-friendly Hebrew School that was welcoming to interfaith families and had stayed years after my sister and I became B'nai Mitzvah. Why did he continue making the hour-long schlep, sometimes more than once per week? Some weeks he spent more time with them than us, his children!

Now as an adult I laugh at my teenage self. Temple Emmanuel were kind, interesting people. An unfortunate consequence of becoming an adult is realizing that kind, interesting people are harder to find than they should be. They were people who always had a pot of coffee brewing, who inspired him to join his first and only book club. They shared the week's wins and losses at their Oneg Shabbat. They were a soft place for him to land during my parents' divorce.

My father never identified as pious. We ate bacon and used electricity every day of the week. And yet, Judaism was so much a part of him, how he identified himself and related to the world. He was gentle, thoughtful, measured, loyal, sarcastic. He was our steady ship to guide us through rough waters, our soft place to land. He helped me with math homework and brought me to the golf range. He'd have us order out every weekend from Nicola's, the local pizza and sub shop. He introduced me to movies with Wallace and Gromit, the Marx Brothers, and Charlie Chaplin. One of my proudest moments was picking out a gift he genuinely enjoyed- *The Rejection Collection: Cartoons You Never Saw, and Never Will See, in The New Yorker*.

My father passed away in 2020 after a year of battling a traumatic brain injury. The pandemic, finances, and post-partum depression prevented me from getting to him in the way I most wanted. At the time we were living half-way across the country. I remember the moment I realized that my children would not be able to know him. I had not known his parents before their passing.

My father is the reason that I joined Temple Beth El. I did not know at the time how much he was my reason, and I honestly cannot remember what I said to Rabbi Asch when I first met her for coffee. I wanted to be around people he would have liked- kind and interesting people. I wanted to hear and say prayers that he also said. I wanted my children to learn the things that he knew.

Thus far, Temple Beth El has been a soft place for my family to land. When my young son became fussy during his first Shabbat service, no one blinked an eye and several offered quiet support, bringing over toys from the sanctuary's library. Parents of the other Hebrew School tots were our

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first friends after moving to Augusta and we continue to get together for play dates, dinners, and birthday parties. When my husband lost his job, he met with the Rabbi for support. He got a lead on a better job from a friend we made at temple. When I was looking for a new job, Rabbi pointed me in the direction of a fabulous local high school. It was at this school that I met another teacher who was a Temple Beth El congregant, who quickly became a mentor and one of my closest friends.

I have spent most of my adult life driven by my Jewish values but feeling a tenuous relationship with Jewish community. My frustrations and conflicts are still there, arguably even more so. I am starting to share about this more openly at TBE's Israel/Palestine Dialogues and am so grateful to Rabbi Asch and Ellen Freed for starting this group with me.

Temple Beth El is a congregation of people with many different backgrounds, family traditions, and relationships to Judaism. We live near and far. We work in different professions and live different lifestyles. We interpret and practice Judaism differently. We have different political opinions. We come more often or less often for different seasons of life. Why do we all come together? What are each of us contributing to and taking from Temple? How does Judaism and Jewish identity play a role in how we understand our world and local community?

A few weeks back I met up with some long-standing Temple members to get to know them and to get their insight on these questions. We talked over coffee. They proved to be even kinder and more interesting than I had anticipated. While we shared ideas, we added new questions. We have an exceeding amount of questions.

Is it a cop-out to suggest that the questions are the answers? Discussing the big questions is an endlessly frustrating process; it's a Jewish process; it's the only process I know. I know what my father would have suggested to me at this moment: Stay involved. Take care of those you love. Slow down. Laugh when you can. Community is both the question and the answer. I encourage you all to find opportunities to have more coffee talks. I look forward to an opportunity to talk with you.

Walk Nature Trails with Hildie Lipson

Hildie will lead a walk on **Saturday, November 29th**, the weekend of Thanksgiving. The tentative plan is to walk the trails in Readfield. The walk is less than two miles, with options for longer distances. Temple Beth El member Jerry Bley played a pivotal role in the development of this trail system. We'll meet at 10:00 am in Readfield at the Church Road Trailhead. Church Road is North off of Route 17, just opposite the intersection of Route 17 and 41 in the middle of town. Please RSVP to hildieliipson@gmail.com if you plan to join.



Israel/Palestine Dialogues

In the Temple Beth El Community

Sundays, 1 - 3 pm

**Oct 12th, Nov 16th, Dec 21st, Jan 25th, Feb 22nd,
March 29th, April 12th, May 17th, June 28th**

**“If I am not for me, who is for me; and if I am (only)
for myself, what am I. And if not now, when?”**

- Hillel, Ethics of the Fathers, 1:14

RSVP to Rachel Gonzaga at
rparkin120@gmail.com



High Holiday Thank Yous

Todah Rabah!

It takes a lot of effort, and people, to put on the holidays at TBE. A Special Thank You to:

- **Linda Kallin, Fran Rudoff, Deb Sewall** and **Richard Forcier** serving as our High Holiday Committee for creating meaningful high holidays this year and providing Rabbi Asch with lots of advice!
- **Stacey Mondschein Katz** for leading our music.
- **David Faigin, Syd Sewall** and **Alden Gilg** for leading Kol Nidre.
- **Robin Asch** for sounding the shofar.
- **Jay Franzel** for poetry readings.
- **Deb Benveniste** for coordinating our greeters. No small task!
- **The Sumner Lipman Family** for providing the Lipman Kiddush.
- **Sue Offer** for organizing the Yizkor book and leading our service with **Ellen Freed**.
- **Carrie McCarter** for leading study on Yom Kippur.
- **Emily Bessey** and **Chuck Cohen** for coordinating our meals.
- **Social Justice Committee** for coordinating the food drive.
- **Chuck Cohen** for coordinating getting the food to the Augusta Food Bank.
- **Hebrew School Students** for decorating the bags used for the food drive.
- **Cindy Rehagen Langewisch** for the wonderful art display in the lobby.
- **Deb Sewall** and **Fran Rudoff** for providing the beautiful flowers.
- **Pacifico Gonzaga** for coordinating security during services.
- **John Agee** for leading the Sukkah construction along with **Kevin Gallagher and Alex Monaghan**.
- **The Natale Frus family** for coordinating our Sukkah decorating.

And a **BIG Thank You** to everyone who served as greeters, assisted with parking, brought food, set up, stayed to clean up and helped make our High Holidays successful in so many ways!

If we inadvertently left you off the list, please let us know so we can make the correction.

Hannaford Scholar in Residence

Rabbi Evan Schultz

Wednesday, Nov. 5th

5:30 p.m. Catered Dinner

6:00 p.m. Talk



SOUP AND STUDY

**JOIN US FOR A DISCUSSION IN
PERSON OR ON ZOOM.**



Piloting the New Reform Torah Commentary

Monday, November 17th

6:00-7:15pm

Building Hope: Ending Homelessness in Maine

A powerful and heartfelt documentary that delves into the lives of the unhoused community and their individual journeys toward rebuilding a stable life.

Join us at Temple Beth El for a special screening of this important film on **Veteran's Day, Tuesday, November 11th**. We chose to show the film on Veteran's Day in honor and respect for our veterans who have or who are currently experiencing homelessness.

One of the worst societal traumas of this century, "Building Hope: Ending Homelessness" puts a face on those experiencing homelessness and tell us it could happen to anyone.

Building Hope brings to audiences around Maine and beyond that there is hope to end the suffering of homelessness. The film begins with the story of Aneyva, a 30-year old woman with two children, a former early childhood educator with two college degrees. The pandemic caused her to lose her job, her home, and her children. She is now homeless and lives in a "Tent City."

The film explores these stories and more of those caught in the daily crisis of homelessness. With the help of respected state advocates, many have risen above their circumstances to find housing and jobs. Others, due to mental illness and substance use disorder, have yet to succeed. For a trailer of the film, please [click here](#)

The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with Betty St. Hillaire, Executive Director of the United Community Living Center (UCLC), Jaqui Clark, Founding Board Member of the UCLC, and Jennifer Houghton, a client of UCLC.

Attendance is free; however, [pre-registration](#) is requested.

Register by clicking here.

The screening is free to attend but we do request advance registration.

Please consider bringing a pair (or more) of socks to donate for the UCLC. They will distribute the socks to their clients this winter.



Location: Temple Beth El Augusta

Date: Tuesday, November 11th

Time: 1:00pm-2:30pm Followed by a Panel Discussion



TBE WELCOMES
RABBINIC
APPRENTICE
AVIVA
HERR-WELBER

FUN FACTS ABOUT AVIVA

- Aviva has a deep love for communal singing and is excited to sing with you and learn your favorite melodies.
- Before rabbinical school, Aviva was a community organizer. She worked for a Massachusetts interfaith organization that brought together people of all faiths to fight for racial & economic justice.
- Aviva grew up cross-country skiing, even though she's from California! She is eager for suggestions on the best skiing spots.
- Aviva grew up speaking Hebrew at home, and has been learning Arabic and Spanish in the last few years. She would love to chat with you in any of the three (or in English!)
- Aviva lives in Boston with her partner Noah, who is a farmer and Jewish educator.
- Aviva is slowly learning sofrut, Jewish scribal arts. Her next learning goal is to complete a full scroll of Esther

Thank you to the **Center for Small Town Jewish Life**
for making Aviva's visits possible this year!

High Holiday Food Drive A Huge Success Thank you TBE!



This past week members of the Social Justice Committee brought over our High Holiday Food Drive donations to the Augusta Food Bank. The workers at the Food Bank estimated that our food donations weighed in at approximately 500 pounds which translates to an estimated value of \$925. In addition to the food donations, Temple members also donated \$625 in cash to the Food Bank as part of this year's drive. **That makes our total donation \$1,550!**

The manager of the Augusta Food Bank expressed how grateful they were for the Food Drive donations, given the huge increase in demand that they have seen for their services and also because donations at this time of year tend to be

lower than other times of the year. A huge thank you to all of you who donated, who volunteered to make this year's drive possible and to our Hebrew School students who decorated our special Food Drive donation bags!

JEWISH MEDITATION RETREAT

Sunday, Dec. 7
10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Temple Beth El, Augusta



Join the Center for Small Town Jewish Life for a day of meditation and mindfulness rooted in Jewish practices, led by Cantor Sheila Nesis. This retreat will leave you with concrete takeaways to incorporate into your everyday life and paths to connect with others seeking deeper Jewish spirituality. This experience is open to all – those who are new to mindfulness and meditation and those looking to deepen their practice.

For the full schedule and to register, click [here](#) or email jewishlife@colby.edu.



TEMPLE BETH EL PRESENTS

MURDER AT GATSBY'S GALA

Saturday, November 15, 2025
Arrive promptly @ 5:30pm
3 Woodlawn St., Augusta

Tickets
\$60 before November 1
\$70 November 1 & after
Hors d'oeuvres + one free drink included with your ticket

**Come in your most fabulous
1920s attire!**

[Click here to register](#)
Questions? Email
chrismyersasch@gmail.com

[Click here to register!](#)



Shabbaton!

We hope everyone will join us for this wonderful weekend of song, community and good food! For those who cannot make it in person, the Friday- night service will be live streamed. For a full schedule and to register [CLICK HERE](#). Questions? Contact jewishlife@colby.edu.

Special Pre-Shabbaton Program!

All registrants are invited to a free online singing session with Yoni Battat on Sunday, Nov. 2. We'll learn about Mizrahi music and liturgy, and Yoni will teach us some of the melodies that will be sung during the Shabbaton. You'll find all the details on the Shabbaton [registration](#) page!

Hebrew School Students to Lead Services!

Friday, Nov. 21st

Potluck dinner @ 5:15pm, Services @ 6pm

Join us for a joy-filled service led by our Hebrew School. We'll enjoy a potluck dinner at 5:15 and services at 6pm. This is a wonderful way to mark Shabbat and to get to know new people. We hope you'll join us.

Kids Programming Schedule

Hebrew School

November 2, 9, 16, 23

December 7, 14, 21

Teen Programming:

Study:

November 9, 23 @ 7pm

Lunch and Lounge:

December 7

CSTJL Teen Program:

November 8, December 7

0-5 Group:

November 16 @ 9:45am

December 14 @ 4pm (Hanukkah Party)

Hebrew School Leads Shabbat:

November 21

5:15 dinner, 6:00 service

Hebrew School Students Explore Fall Holidays

Our Hebrew School has been having a fabulous time. We've been busy exploring all the fall holidays and especially enjoyed using the new (and big!) sukkah. Our students have also been exploring our theme of sacred space, by discussing how the natural world is sacred and making use of the beautiful trails behind Temple Beth El. We're discussing building some benches and doing some trail improvements. If you have these skills and would like to help, reach out to Rabbi Asch.



Latkes and Sufganiyot

HANUKKAH CELEBRATION



SUNDAY

Trivia

DECEMBER 14TH

4-6PM

Games

*Bring your Hanukkiah for a
communal lighting*



*Mensch Madness Dreidel
Tournament*

Supporting TBE



General Donations

- Dawn Fecteau , in honor of Linda Kallin
- Dawn Fecteau , in honor of Ellen Freed
- Kate McLinn, In honor of Nancy Kelly receiving the Rabbi Susan Award
- Kathryn Cullnan, in honor of Charles & Nancy Shuman
- Linda & Peter Kallin, in honor of Aaron Asch & Elliott Gilg
- Linda & Peter Kallin, in honor of Annie Thomson's Conversion
- Linda & Peter Kallin, in honor of Dawn Fecteau's conversion
- Linda & Peter Kallin, in honor of Penny Frus becoming a bat mitzvah

High Holiday Donations

- Angela Sclar
- Anike Tourse
- Barbara Gage & Drew Laughland
- Britney & Philip Jacks
- Donald Simon
- Dylan Horkan
- Jean & Bill Seger, in honor of Robin Asch
- Julia Underwood
- Linda & Peter Kallin
- Mark Lowenstein
- Martha & Martin Fleishman
- Michael Weymouth
- Steven & Joan Jacobs

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

- Cindy Landwisch & Nick Rehagen
- Rich Dana
- Robert & Kay God

Yahrzeits/Memorials

- Bertine & Kenneth Slosberg, in memory of Lynn Slosberg
- Beth and Steven Shapiro, in memory of Richard Kelly
- Cindy Langewisch & Nick Rehagen, in memory of Grace Penny
- Cindy Langewisch & Nick Rehagen, in memory of Paul Langewisch
- Cindy Langewisch & Nick Rehagen, in memory of Marlene Roach
- Deborah & Jeffrey Gussoff, in memory of Joseph (Jack) Greenberg
- Deborah & Jeffrey Gussoff, in memory of Minnie Gussoff
- Deborah & Jeffrey Gussoff, in memory of Miriam Shankman
- Elissa and Stephen Shuman, in memory of Harry Shuman
- Elizabeth Koopman, in memory of Winifred Clover Koopman
- Erica Asch & Chris Myers Asch, in memory of Margery Myers
- Karin & James Orenstein, in memory of Frederick Orenstein
- Mary Bayer & Leon Bresloff, in memory of Edith Bresloff
- Natasha Rosenbaum, in memory of Doris Monash
- Natasha Rosenbaum, in memory of Myron & Howard Rosenbaum
- Thea and Chris Zinck, in memory of Charles Zinck
- William Dana, in memory of Elizabeth, Lenora & Jacob Dana

Board of Directors

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Maayan Gallagher

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Rabbi Emerita

Rabbi Susan Bulba Carvutto

The office is open Tuesday,
Wednesday, and Friday.

November Yahrtzeits

Nov. 1	Dorothy Moser
Nov. 1	Celia Norken
Nov. 2	Mollie Metzger
Nov. 2	Clare Nolin
Nov. 2	Helen Shed
Nov. 4	Michael Bracken
Nov. 6	Dorothy Drickey
Nov. 6	Doris Monash
Nov. 6	Joseph Sclar
Nov. 7	Sophie Goldberg
Nov. 8	Herbert Gross
Nov. 8	Martha Simmons
Nov. 8	Monte Sugarman
Nov. 9	Albert Arsenaault, Jr.
Nov. 11	Joseph Caprim
Nov. 11	Leonard Graber
Nov. 11	Bennett Katz
Nov. 13	Eleanor Ross
Nov. 13	Albert Rudoff
Nov. 16	Samuel Franzel
Nov. 16	Malvin Mayer
Nov. 17	Vasilios Kotopoulos
Nov. 18	Beatrice Freiman
Nov. 18	John Ray
Nov. 19	Susan Bley
Nov. 20	Bart Bakaley
Nov. 20	Elizabeth Betty"
Nov. 20	Daniel Bulba
Nov. 20	Bernice Pollack
Nov. 20	Herbert Sugarman
Nov. 23	Iris Brock
Nov. 23	Abraham Goldberg
Nov. 24	Lenora Dana
Nov. 24	Cathy Mattin
Nov. 24	Myron Rosenbaum
Nov. 26	Sylvia Rudoff
Nov. 27	Margaret Rose
Nov. 28	Robert Lipson
Nov. 29	Lucille Goldman
Nov. 29	Jeanette Johanssen
Nov. 29	Pierrette Zinck

December Yahrtzeits

Dec. 2	Julia Feldman
Dec. 2	Murry Freed
Dec. 3	Selma Prager
Dec. 4	Theodore Karakantas
Dec. 4	Robert Sax
Dec. 7	Harold Lipman
Dec. 7	Saul Parkin
Dec. 7	Amalia Simon
Dec. 8	Mavis Graber
Dec. 9	David Corner
Dec. 9	Beatrice Sewall
Dec. 11	Rosemary Marshall
Dec. 13	Eli Bulba
Dec. 14	Harriet Katz
Dec. 16	Beverly Drickey
Dec. 18	Fannie Weiss
Dec. 19	Sydney Katz
Dec. 20	Alan Sandler
Dec. 22	David Slosberg
Dec. 23	Morris Feinstein
Dec. 23	Edith Katz
Dec. 24	Shirley Bass
Dec. 24	David Goldman
Dec. 25	Barbara Paronett
Dec. 26	Robert Myers, Jr.
Dec. 28	Hayden Goldberg
Dec. 29	Max Cohen
Dec. 29	Rose Devore
Dec. 29	Genevieve Kus
Dec. 30	Pauline Cohen
Dec. 31	Edmond Betit

Portland Chevra Kadisha Jewish Funeral Home

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