



# Tzitzit



Cheshvan/Kislev Nov 2018



The Tree of Life Synagogue, Squirrel Hill, PA

## WORSHIP SERVICES

### November Services

Friday, November 2	7:30 p.m.	Worship Service
Saturday, November 3	10:00 a.m.	Roger Lustig/Researching Jewish Family History
Friday, November 9	5:30 p.m.	Blessing Shabbat/Potluck
Friday, November 16	7:30 p.m.	Worship Service
Friday, November 23	7:30 p.m.	Worship Service
Saturday, November 24	10:00 a.m.	Torah Service
Friday, November 30	7:30 p.m.	Worship Service

### December Services

Friday, December 7	5:30 p.m.	Chanukah Shabbat/Dinner/Show
Friday, December 14	7:30 p.m.	Worship Service
Friday, December 21	7:30 p.m.	Worship Service
Saturday, December 22	10:00 a.m.	Torah Service
Friday, December 28	7:30 p.m.	Worship Service



## ***Soup Kitchen Corner***

**Next Soup Kitchen:**  
**Wednesday, Oct. 10th at**  
**11:00 a.m.**

**We host the Soup Kitchen**  
**the 2nd Wednesday of**  
**every month**

**Why not share a part of yourself with someone in need by donating something from our wish list or help serve or clean up?**

**Contact:**  
**Shirley St. Peter at**  
**945-4578 or**  
**[congregationbeth.el@myfairpoint.net](mailto:congregationbeth.el@myfairpoint.net)**

## **Torah Readings**

**November 3**  
**Parashat Chayei Sarah**  
**Genesis 23:1–25:18**  
**I Kings 1:1-31**

**November 10**  
**Parashat Tol'dot**  
**Genesis 25:19–28:9**  
**Malachi 1:1-2:7**

**November 17**  
**Parashat Vayeitzei**  
**Genesis 28:10–32:3**  
**Hosea 12:13-14:10**

**November 24**  
**Parashat Vayishlach**  
**Genesis 32:4–36:43**  
**Hosea 11:7-12:12**



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## Rabbi Lerner's Comments

For many years now  
I have had the privilege of standing here  
on this Bimah  
and looking across at our Etz Chayim  
Our Tree of Live

It was made and given in love  
love of this community  
And love of generations of families  
in this congregation.

When that  
was not what came to mind  
these words from proverbs  
and our prayer book did.

Eitz Chaim Hi Lamachazikim Bah  
v'tom'cheha m'ushar.

Darchei ha, Darchei Noam  
V'chol ntivoh techa shalom

**It is a tree of life**

**to them that hold fast to it**

And all that uphold it are happy.

Its ways are ways of **pleasantness**,

The path of Torah is a path of peace/wholeness.

This past Shabbat  
A domestic terrorist entered  
Etz Chayim synagogue  
The tree of life synagogue

He entered in his words  
to kill all the Jews.

This terrorist declared war upon us  
And upon our Tree of Life

He is not the first.  
The Torah itself tells us that.  
Jewish History tells us that  
the violent anti-Semitism we saw in Paris  
just a few years ago  
tells us that  
the Anti-Defamation League report  
on rising anti-Semitic acts  
here in the United States tells us that

The slaughter of 11 at the Tree of Life synagogue reminded us of that

He attacked us  
In part for acting as our tradition demands  
For welcoming the Stranger  
the refugee  
The other  
but as

Rabbi Silverman said sixty years ago

In response

to the bombing of

the Jewish Community Center in Nashville

which was doing interracial justice work:

"WE WILL NOT YIELD TO EVIL!

We will not capitulate to fear.

We will not surrender to violence.

We will not submit to intimidation but,

as... Jews,

we will continue to speak for truth;

we shall continue to dedicate ourselves

to social justice

and to the common good of ALL people ,

knowing and believing

that we are all created in the divine image..."

What that bomber didn't know  
What the Pittsburgh shooter didn't know  
**Was that this tree has roots**

**Deep roots.**

STRONG ROOTS

RESILIENT ROOTS

that tunnel back  
to the first Eytz Chaim  
In the garden of Eden  
the story of creation.

He didn't know that the tree of life  
Is our very Torah,  
our most precious gift  
And it binds us together  
even in this hour of grief  
It is a tree of life to us,  
And we  
We are those who hold  
Fast to it.

Our tree has roots.

We have survived and  
we will continue to thrive.

(With deep thanks and recognition to Rabbi Michelle Pearlman)

### **Letter to the Editor**

On Saturday, October 27, 2018, as Jews in three Bangor synagogues gathered to observe the Sabbath, an American white supremacist fired his gun into an unsuspecting crowd of Jewish worshippers at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh.

This act of terror against American Jews assaulted the safety, security and well-being of Americans of all faiths, races, and creeds, and reminded all who have ever been attacked, vilified, scapegoated, or demeaned, (such as women, Muslim and Black communities, Hispanics, Indigenous peoples, Catholics, Franco-Americans, immigrants, the LGBTQ+ community), of the fragile nature of their lives on a daily basis.

We in the Jewish community of Bangor know this because of the outpouring of grief, anguish, and support at a memorial on Sunday, October 28, at Congregation Beth Abraham, and on Tuesday evening, October 30, at Congregation Beth El. On Tuesday evening, approximately 400 people gathered at Congregation Beth El to attend a remembrance service for the massacred Jews and the wounded congregants and police officers in Pittsburgh. People came from a wide variety of ethnic and religious communities in the greater Bangor area.

Thank you to our distinguished speakers: Maulian Dana, Penobscot Nation Ambassador; Omar Conteh, Islamic Center of Maine; Reverend Marguerite A. H. Steadman, St. John's Episcopal Church; Ben Sprague, Mayor of Bangor; Rabbi Darah Lerner, Congregation Beth El; Rabbi Bill Siemers, Congregation Beth Israel; Dr. Jennifer Goldenberg, Congregation Beth Israel; and Laurie Osher and Mary-Anne Saxl from Beth El. Representatives from the Bangor Daily News, WABI, WLBZ, and WVII were also present. We gratefully acknowledge the officers from the Bangor Police Department who came to support the community and to provide security. All those who came to this service and the one at Congregation Beth Abraham enveloped our Jewish community with a protective presence of compassion, heartfelt sympathy and love that touched our hearts. We acknowledge your gifts of unity, solidarity and the deeply felt outpouring of friendship. You stood with us as one. Only by reaching across the threshold of differences can we find the light and the strength to heal a broken world.

Rabbi Darah Lerner, Congregation Beth El

Rabbi Bill Siemers, Congregation Beth Israel

Rabbi Chaim Wilansky, Congregation Beth Abraham



Jewish themed Movie series this Fall at Congregation Beth El

Thursday Evenings, 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, November 15**

**The Cakemaker**

Thomas, a young German baker, is having an affair with Oren, an Israeli married man who has frequent business visits in Berlin. When Oren dies in a car crash in Israel, Thomas travels to Jerusalem seeking answers regarding his death

**Thursday, December 20**

**The Last Suit**

Abraham, an 88 year old Jewish tailor, leaves Buenos Aires for Poland, where he will try to find the man who saved him from certain death after surviving Auschwitz.

**You are invited to a Wonderful New Program**  
**B'yachad/Togetherness**  
**For Little Learners and Their Parents/Families**

Join us for five Sunday mornings filled with stories, food, music, play, and more

These sessions will include hands-on activities and family learning in a warm and up beat environment.

When: Sunday Mornings at 10am

*Mark your calendars now and let us know if you will be joining us*  
Congregationbeth.el@myfairpoint.net      207-945-4578

Complete calendar:

Sunday Dec. 2 2018  
Sunday Jan. 27 2019  
Sunday March 10 2019  
Sunday April 28 2019

## Jason Bird's Alternative Isaiah Haftarah from Yom Kippur

Rabbi Benjamin Chaidell is quoted as saying: “Yom Kippur is the culmination of 10 days of reflection and contemplation on how we can be better human beings. As Yom Kippur closes, we consider what our next steps will be.”

He goes on to ask two important questions: “What action can we take to start our year off right? How can we put to action the ideals we have considered over the holidays?”

Our society today faces what appears to be an endless live stream of issues, ethical crises and moral dilemmas. Over the past year, we have seen a seemingly unmatched cycle of moral failings and threats to our nation’s identity, perhaps none more prominent or horrific than the stories of our recent treatment of immigrants.

I want to tell you about Roger, a three-year-old boy who traveled to the US from Honduras with his father, Jose. Roger and Jose entered the station in Brownsville, Texas, intentionally to seek asylum and in accordance with established US immigration policy. After two days in detention together, and despite the Administration’s public statements that families seeking asylum would not be separated, Roger was separated from his father and placed in a different facility. Hours, days and then weeks passed with no word about his son. Jose finally resorted to intentionally injuring himself in order to get the attention of guards and to try to find some answers. It took a total of 40 days for Jose and Roger to be reunited. When they were reunited, José said his attempts to show his son affection were met with resistance and inconsolable crying.

Roger’s story is not unique. Roger is one of thousands of children who have been impacted and traumatized by family separation at our borders.

We are a nation of immigrants, and the Jewish community, more than anyone else, understands what it’s like to have to leave their homes and find safety in another country. We also know what it is like to face discrimination and quotas against our arrival.

While immigration issues may have seemingly subsided as of late, and the media cycle slowed, the severity of this humanitarian crisis, and how we’ve treated our fellow men, woman and children, warrants constant reminders and vigilance on our part.

Still today, families are being separated. Children are being torn from their parents and locked in cages. As a result, they’ve experienced trauma that will impact them for the rest of their lives. This is how we are treating people who are already at their most vulnerable, and all in the false name of safety and security.

I want to close with a quote from Rabbi Irvin Wise who said, “As Americans we are free to think and feel what we want about immigrants and refugees; as Jews, we are not.”

While we have still confronted our share of challenges, we’ve all made it here in this country. As a result, it is our responsibility to help others find a better life here as well.

## Thanks

### High Holy Day Donations

Leslie Staples, Sarah Schneider, Sari and Lee Ohmart, Jill and David Cohen, Surah Whelan, Patty Amisano, Sara Seje, Camille Frost, Joel Gold, Sam and Meredith Diamond; Richard and Yvette Tenney, Timothy Reagan, Marcia Teichner, Jonathan Borkum

Phyllis and Dan Guerette for their donation in memory of Florence Katzenstein

Anita Haviland for her donation to Yom Kippur Food Drive

Terry Young for her donation to Beth El in honor of Mary-Anne Saxl's birthday

Sandy Blitz for his donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in memory of Ruth Finley, mother of Jim Green.

Mike Serota and Terry LaCombe-Stevens for their donation to Beth El's Annual Fund Drive and for their donation in memory of Arline D. Merrill Fowler, mother of Shirley St. Peter

Michael Ross for his donation

Mary-Anne Saxl and family for their donation of High Holy Days Flowers

Mary-Anne Saxl for her donation in honor of Richard Silver

## Mazel Tov

To Stuart Kestenbaum and Susan Webster on the birth of their grandson, Wollcott Julian Holtzman Kestenbaum.

To Gerry Gross on the birth of her grandson, Eli Lincoln Villegas

To Andrea Littlefield for her recognition from the Rotary Club of Bangor for helping the Rotary be the inspiration in the club and in the community

To Dr. Noah Nesin for receiving the 2018 HARM Reduction Hero award from MEHRA for his outstanding effort to advance the health, wellbeing and rights of people who use drugs

To Dr. Nesin also received the 2018 President's Award for distinguished service by the Maine Medical Association.

To Ava Sealander for being awarded the Girl Scout Gold Award. She received the Gold Award for her leadership, organizing and planning a new composting system at The Brooklin School where she was a student. The Gold Award is the highest achievement in Girl Scouting and recognizes girls in grades nine through 12 who demonstrate extraordinary leadership through sustainable and measurable "Take Action" projects.

## Torah Study: Saturday, November 17, 9:30 a.m.

**Portion: Torah Reading (Vayeitzei) Genesis 28:10–32:3; Haftarah Hosea 12:13-14:10**

## Calendar

### Religious School

Tuesdays, 4:00 p.m., November 6,13,27

5:30 p.m., November 6,13,27

Sundays, 10:00 a.m., November 4, 18

Tuesday, 9:00am – 3:00pm All Religious School Grades – Camp “Hodu L’Adonai (All day or drop in) Call or email for details

### No Religious School

Sunday, November 25th (Thanksgiving Day Weekend)

## Editor’s Note on the Attack on Jews at Squirrel Hill

This attack on us all was something we can never expect, yet it’s something we are compelled to expect. Antisemitic hate crimes have ALWAYS lead the FBI crime statistics for as long as the FBI has kept them, and usually by about 2-1 over the next hate crime segment.

More, this particular trope and hate of the ‘right’, that Jews exert undue influence and control (this time over Trump, along with the usual categories) is precisely the trope that no less than one Marcus Tullius Cicero claimed against the Jews of his time (62 B.C.), in his defenses in court. That our presence ‘unduly corrupted and influenced’ Roman officials otherwise going about their duty.

Subsequently we saw a vandalizing attack (“Jews Must Die”) from the ‘left’ in Brooklyn by someone no one could have guessed was a suspect until the police looked in his apartment and found it festooned with exactly what one might truly expect.

This week the proud Jew hater, Louis Farrakhan is in Teheran literally leading chants of “Death to America” and yet his support from certain quarters and non condemnation continues despite his ‘peculiar institution’s’ ingrained proclivities with regard to all of us.

I say all this because the threat we face is at the meeting point of left and right. It is expressed by a Bronx City Councilman, campaigning for a now, well known name, against ‘greedy Jewish landlords’ or a famous right wing pundit (or some complaining on line about ZOG, the Zionist Occupied Government), and others (sitting Congressmen) of all ‘wings’ that the war in Iraq was fought for Israel and influenced to that course by .... Us.

It’s racism, and all racism is the same.



Rose Mallinger 97 year old Holocaust Survivor, killed at the Tree of Life

So what can we do?

After over 2000 years of this racism and experience in scores of nations, it's obvious no evident suasion exists, and no state can truly protect us from such acts by sick individuals as at Squirrel Hill.

We certainly cannot be expected to guard every service with weapons, or private security (yet in major urban areas that is occurring, some with the help of local police forces).

I was struck by the attendance last Friday night not just because it was well attended but by the fact that the number of people present was almost exactly that at the Tree of Life on the day of the attack.

All we can do is to be vigilant, and to hew to the idea of Tikkun Olam in all we do. Apparently there is something in human nature that is difficult to overcome.

But the sad note, the saddest note is that if attacks like this are anything but sporadic and exceedingly rare, the pressure for protection of this congregation and all congregations will then grow.

Physics.

Sad would not begin to express my feeling about that.



A pro-Nazi parade on Manhattan's Upper East Side in 1939

Congregation Beth El  
Board of Directors

**Rabbi**

Darah R. Lerner 945-4578

**President**

Mary-Anne Saxl

**Vice President**

Ron Blum

**Treasurer**

Jonathan Rubin

**Secretary**

Sondra Siegel

**Education**

Kate Cykman

**Finance**

Michael Pancoe

**Membership**

Eric Semmel

**Newsletter**

Michael Cohen

**Program**

Tim Reagan

**Hiddur Mitzvah**

Ed Harrow

**Social Action**

Gerry Gross

**House**

Terry Lacombe

**Members at Large**

Sandy Blitz, Howard Segal JCEA Representative, Roz Gold, Lois Latour, Harvey Walters

## Welcome to Beth El

**Services are held at:**

**183 French Street,  
Bangor**

We welcome everyone - interfaith couples, people exploring their Jewish roots, those considering conversion to Judaism, visitors, and non-members - to all services and special events.

A playroom for children and babysitting are provided at many services. We attempt to arrange rides, carpools, or overnight hospitality for those traveling long distances. The Sanctuary is accessible. For information, call the office at 945-4578.

**Member: Jewish Community Council**

**Email: [congregationbeth.el@myfairpoint.net](mailto:congregationbeth.el@myfairpoint.net)**

### **Accessibility Notice**

**The ramp at the back of the building is available to people with limited mobility. Park in the driveway for easy access to the ramp. Please let us know if you still have difficulty entering the building.**

### **Mission Summary**

**Congregation Beth El is a Reform Jewish Congregation which strives to create a welcoming, spiritually, socially, and geographically diverse community where members can explore and express Jewish religious beliefs and/or their own relationship to God; seek social, family, and cultural ties; and/or participate in social activism.**

### **Newsletter Submissions**

The deadline for newsletter articles or comments is the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month. Please e-mail your submission to:

**Mike Cohen at  
[newsletter.bethel@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.bethel@gmail.com)**

**in unformatted text**

Contributions of \$20 per year from non-members defray the costs.

## Yahrzeit Memorial List

1	Eugene Doane	23	Friday, November 2, 7:30 p.m.
	Robert Klaus		Friday, November 2, 7:30 p.m.
2	Rebecca Katz Alaynick	24	Friday, November 2, 7:30 p.m.
3	Gertrude (Trudi) Lichtman	25	Friday, November 2, 7:30 p.m.
	Evie Sebald		Friday, November 2, 7:30 p.m.
	Rose S. Zeiber		Friday, November 2, 7:30 p.m.
7	Victor Woolf Benjamin	29	Friday, November 9, 7:30 p.m.
	Leonard Davis		Friday, November 9, 7:30 p.m.
8	Carol Bassman	30	Friday, November 9, 7:30 p.m.
	Eugene A. Frank		Friday, November 9, 7:30 p.m.
	Itzak Levinsky		Friday, November 9, 7:30 p.m.
	Isadore Linn		Friday, November 9, 7:30 p.m.
	Morris Schneider		Friday, November 9, 7:30 p.m.
		Kislev-5779	
9	Mary Roth	1	Friday, November 9, 7:30 p.m.
	Doris Zeitman		Friday, November 9, 7:30 p.m.
10	Nison Hesin	2	Friday, November 9, 7:30 p.m.
	Walter D. Rosenberg		Friday, November 9, 7:30 p.m.
12	Hank Green	4	Friday, November 16,
13	Marcia Ahrenstein Linn	5	Friday, November 16,
15	Bourcard Nesin	7	Friday, November 16,
	Ginger Stern Kaufman		Friday, November 16,
17	Michael Cohen	9	Friday, November 23, 7:30 p.m.
18	Charles Schwat	10	Friday, November 23, 7:30 p.m.
20	Robert Louis Kealy	12	Friday, November 23, 7:30 p.m.
	William Meltzer		Friday, November 23, 7:30 p.m.
21	Dona Gratt	13	Friday, November 23, 7:30 p.m.
	Alan J. Jacobson		Friday, November 23, 7:30 p.m.
	Sharon Newman		Friday, November 23, 7:30 p.m.
	Herbert Tandy		Friday, November 23, 7:30 p.m.
23	Bruce Granville	15	Friday, November 23, 7:30 p.m.
	Harmon Saul Shufro		Friday, November 23, 7:30 p.m.
24	Henry Greenberg	16	Saturday, November 24, 10:00 a.m.
	Nathan Levenson		Saturday, November 24, 10:00 a.m.
25	Ed Blum	17	Saturday, November 24, 10:00 a.m.
	Robert Weinstein		Friday, November 30, 7:30 p.m.
26	Statia Nesin	18	Friday, November 30, 7:30 p.m.
27	Anne Davis	19	Friday, November 30, 7:30 p.m.
	Janice Felsen		Friday, November 30, 7:30 p.m.
	Joel Linn		Friday, November 30, 7:30 p.m.
	Philip Winograd		Friday, November 30, 7:30 p.m.
28	Irving Raskin	20	Friday, November 30, 7:30 p.m.
29	Anna Pollack	21	Friday, November 30, 7:30 p.m.

# Congregation Beth El

183 French Street  
Bangor, ME 04401

**PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE**

Member of the Jewish Community Council  
6 State Street  
Bangor, ME 04401

Congregation Beth El

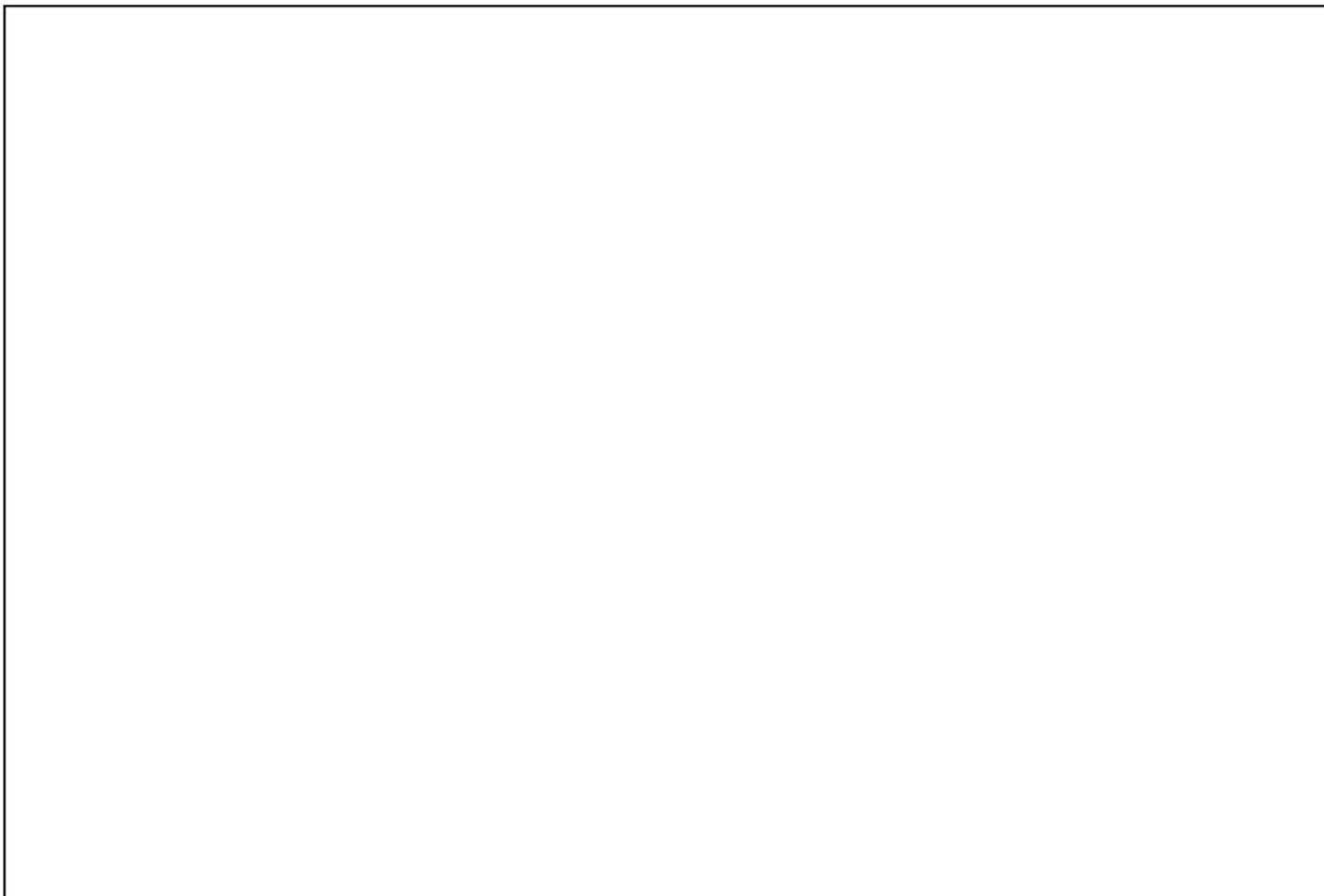
French St

Bangor, ME 04401

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



CONGREGATION BETH EL  
NEWSLETTER





# Congregation Beth El

183 French Street  
Bangor, Maine 04401

Tel: 207-945-4578  
E-mail: [congregationbeth.el@myfairpoint.net](mailto:congregationbeth.el@myfairpoint.net)  
Web: <http://www.bethelbgr.com/>

Mission: A Reform Jewish Congregation that strives to create a welcoming, spiritually, socially, and geographically diverse community where members explore and express Jewish religious beliefs and/or their own relationship to God; seek social, family, and cultural ties; and/or participate in social activism

## BOARD MEETING AGENDA

**Date of Meeting:** Thursday, October 11, 2018  
**Time:** 6:30 pm

### Board:

- Mary-Anne Saxl, President\*
- Ron Blum, Vice President\*
- Sondra Siegel, Secretary\*
- Jonathan Rubin, Treasurer\*
- Kate Cykman, Education
- Michael Pancoe, Finance
- Michael Cohen, *The Tzitzit* (newsletter)
- Tim Reagan, Program
- OPEN, Worship
- Eric Semmel, Membership
- Gerry Gross, Social Action
- Sandy Blitz, Member-at-Large (library)
- OPEN, Building
- Harvey Walters, Member-at-large (membership)
- Howard Segal, Member-at-Large/JCEA & grants clearinghouse
- Roz Gold, Member-at-Large (Social)
- Lois Latour, Member-at-Large (Social)
- Eddie Harrow, Hiddur Mitzvah

\*Executive Committee

### Attendance:

Mary-Anne Saxl  
Jonathan Rubin  
Sondra Siegel  
Michael Pancoe  
Tim Reagan  
Eric Semmel  
Harvey Walters  
Roz Gold  
Rabbi Darah Lerner

**Rabbi:** Darah Lerner

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**Call to Order:** 6:30 P.M.

**D'var Torah/Blessing:** What is a good thing that happened during the last month?

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**Review of minutes:** Mary-Anne Saxl, Sept minutes approved, to be sent to Mike Cohen for publishing for the congregation.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jonathan Rubin

- 1) RS opening
  - a) Registration went well; we collected some dues that were overdue.
  - b) We are currently being more strict about payment for RS than we have been in the past. People who feel they are unable to pay will need to formally request waivers.
  - c) RS income is about \$4,000, whereas we have budgeted \$15,000. There is a large discrepancy, which we should keep this in mind when we make up the budget for next year.
    - i) This \$15,000 includes trips that students go on (i.e. trip to NYC for seniors, and L'taken in Washington D.C. for sophomores), for which they self-pay, so these trips are not truly expenses for the religious school, but they go into the budget item. Jonathan recommends taking it out of the budget, because of the students are self-paying.
- 2) We have positive cash flow at the moment.

**President's Report:** Mary-Anne Saxl

- 1) Updated tax identification number is on the website.
- 2) Planning for celebration of libraries at Beth El to be held Friday, November 16.
  - a) 4-6pm: Tours of library, to be given by Reva Berleant
  - b) 6 pm: Potluck dinner
  - c) 7 pm: Opening remarks will be by Reva. Stuart Matlins will be the speaker, and will discuss publishing Jewish books. Talk will take place via technology.
  - d) 8 pm: Clean up and service for those wanting to say kaddish.
  - e) The organizers are looking for help beyond Social Committee to make this happen. They are also looking for 1 person from Social Committee.
  - f) Mary-Anne will be sending out a press release.
- 3) Copy of the monthly calendar will be posted on the general bulletin board in the hallway of the synagogue.
- 4) Mary-Anne has received a quote on snowplowing and clearing walks for the upcoming snow season.
  - a) New person will charge \$35 to plow, \$40 for steps, ramp, etc, sanding
  - b) Current person: \$50 for everything, but does not do the ramp, which leaves our building in accessible for many months.
  - c) Board recommends using the new person. Mary-Anne will follow up on this.
- 5) Blane Shaw has taken a position with the Old Town School Department, so he will not be available to help Shirley. Do we want to look for another person to help around Beth El?
  - a) Rabbi feels that we need a backup for Shirley, because currently no one fully understands how she takes care of the details of her job.
    - i) Does this need to be another employee, or can it be a congregant? Perhaps a RS parent.
    - ii) Perhaps Shirley and/or another person could create a manual with the details of her job.

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- 6) Mary-Anne suggested considering whether it would serve the congregation better for Shirley to work 1 – 5 rather than her current hours.
- 7) Fundraising thoughts for the rabbi's 13th year; home dinners, student calendar
  - a) This may present a marketing opportunity to reach out to people who have benefitted from the rabbi's services, as this may be an untapped market for donations
    - i) A variety of ideas were presented including: a book with photos of events at which the rabbi officiated, some sort of commemorative program, a donor dinner
    - ii) Mary-Anne will work with Roz, Tim, and Harvey on a committee to work on the details
  - b) Kate will ask students to do a calendar fundraiser. Dara Perfit and Kelly have been talking about this, along with cooking, family history calendar. Maybe these can be combined.
  - c) We are still waiting for Sandy to work on planned giving for the synagogue.
- 8) New donation form was created to make tracking donations easier. Copy was passed around for comments. Form will allow donors to designate "area of interest" for their donation, and in whose honor/memory, etc the donation is made.

## **Vice President's Report:** Ron Blum

No report

## **Rabbi's Report:** Rabbi Lerner

- 1) The rabbi participated in or attended the following events:
  - a) EMHS -Northern lights meeting
  - b) St Joseph's donor meeting
  - c) EMHS new head of Chaplaincy meeting
  - d) Sukkot service
  - e) Simchat Torah Consecration Service
  - f) 1st day of Religious School
  - g) Start of Supper Club
  - h) Met with conversion candidate
  - i) Gave Keynote at Jewish Hall of Fame 1st induction ceremony in Portland
  - j) Will have a card for the board to sign congratulating the Minskys for being inducted into the Jewish Hall of Fame in Maine.
  - k) Did Congregant home visits
  - l) Wilson center board meetings
  - m) LGBTQ panel at U Maine
  - n) Met w/potential song leaders - member and college student
  - o) George Mitchell Lecture on sustainability
  - p) Met new president of university of Maine
  - q) Took training to offer Taste of Judaism course
  - r) Contacted wedding couples (so far 3 for next year)
  - s) Met with Bat Mitzvah student

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- t) Began Sabbatical planning
- u) Dealt with various tech issues set up etc.
- 2) Upcoming:
  - a) Sunrise service this Sat 6:30 am
  - b) Hillel Shabbat Dinner at Wilson center Oct 19<sup>th</sup>
  - c) RS and all Beth El outdoor Shabbat event at City Forest Oct 20
  - d) Meeting on Faith and Mental health communities @ Acadia hospital oct 25
  - e) Multicultural dinner Oct 29
  - f) Sending out invite to program for young kids called B'yachad/Togetherness For Little Learners and their Parents/Families
  - g) First family service, Friday, Oct 26, 6pm - Rebecca Wentworth will be leading
  - h) Speaking at Dirigo Pines, Nov 1
  - i) Will need coverage Fri, Nov 30<sup>th</sup>, as rabbi will be out of town.
  - j) Dec 2, many things going on at Religious School, but Kate, Aubri and Amity will take care of this.
  - k) Sabbatical – Jan, Feb, March
    - i) Rabbi is working on getting everything planned for RS group ahead of time.
    - ii) Ira may need a second person for supper club, but may be able to do it on his own.
    - iii) Services: maybe do a pulpit swap with some of the other rabbis in Maine for some of the services.
    - iv) Will be speaking to other rabbis for pastoral coverage. Rabbi Siemers is flexible and willing to help out. Other rabbis in the state can help out also. Materials will be available for these events.
    - v) Board members and congregants will be asked if they would be willing to lead a discussion or give a talk at services.
    - vi) Purim: May have a hamentaschen/latke debate. Perhaps at each level of school – 4<sup>th</sup> grade, supper club, and adults. March 20<sup>th</sup>.
  - l) Building and grounds – rabbi has a list that need to be taken care of. Michael Ross said he would do some of them.

## **Standing Committee Reports: (please email ahead of time)**

- 1) Finances: Mike Pancoe
  - a) Cemetery improvement: we have a \$2,000 deficit in the cemetery fund for remediations.
    - i) Motion to take this money out of the Cemetery Endowment fund. JR made the motion. Tim seconded. Motion carries unanimously.
    - ii) \$700.00 bill to support Kate for youth groups, to be paid from the Jessie Richards fund. This money will come from the General Fund.
    - iii) Long discussion ensued about restricted funds and how to use them. We should create a new account for large donations (over \$10,000) for restricted funds.

# Congregation Beth El



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- iv) Need to recognize the donor when funds are used like this. Will acknowledge this in the Newsletter. Mike Cohen needs to be sent this information so that it can go into the newsletter.
- v) Total endowment: Jan 2018: \$462,000; Oct 2018: \$473,000 (\$14,000 was taken to cover shortfalls in the budget)
- 2) Religious Education: (Report by Rabbi)
  - a) Great first day of RS, with art project that will contribute to first art show in December.
  - b) At least 20 kids present.
- 3) Program: Tim Reagan
  - a) First movie: Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, A Bag of Marbles
  - b) Genealogy with Roger Lustig in first week in November, Sat, Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>, with catered lunch
  - c) For 2019: in the process of writing proposals for Rabbi Metzler in March, Mark Binder (storyteller) in April, Jason Rosenblatt from Montreal (music group Streimel)
- 4) Tzitzit : Mike Cohen
  - a) Data on last newsletter:
    - i) 49% clicked on the email
    - ii) 41% downloaded the Newsletter
- 5) Building & Grounds: OPEN
- 6) Membership: Eric Semmel
  - a) No report
- 7) Social Action: Gerry Gross
  - a) SAC would like to host a speaker in January or February, but we need your permission relatively soon in order to engage him. Noah Nesin met Norbert Goldfield, physician who leads the organization Healing Across Divides, a 12-year old organization focusing on peace-building through healthcare. It seeks to improve health through community-based, locally driven interventions of marginalized Israelis and Palestinians. Noah thought he would be an excellent speaker for Beth El and wider Jewish community. Check out website: [www.healingdivides.org](http://www.healingdivides.org). Noah doesn't think it would cost us much. He could stay at Noah's house. Dr. Goldfield asked to come because he is interested in spreading word about his work. We were thinking possibly a Tisch, but that decision and the exact dates would be up to him at this point. Looking at the online Beth El calendar, I did not see any conflicts. The only events other than regular services were TuBShtat sleep over Jan 19-20, and nothing else till March 1 Shabbat Across America. If anyone knows of other conflicts, please let me know asap. ***So what we need from the Board tonight is permission to invite him, and let us know any conflicts with dates...ASAP.***
- 1. Bangor Interfaith Community Dinner to be held on October 29 at CrossPoint Church on outer Broadway. Rabbi Lerner has 20 tickets and is distributing them. Andrea Littlefield is involved in the planning (I think through her position with Health Equity Alliance HEAL). No

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one has stepped up from the Social Action Committee to volunteer to help with the planning for this. Gerry will be in town for this event and will be the Beth El foot contributor. Her suggestion is GF/vegan pasta and sauce for about 75 to accommodate people with dietary restrictions...the main course at this dinner will be lasagna. She would like to enlist more volunteers if possible, and put this out to the entire congregation with individual emails to the certain people who might help *with*. **OK with the Board?**

a. This should go into the weekly email from Shirley

2. Immigration Justice subcommittee comprised of Alan Cobo-Lewis, Laurie Osher, Jon Falk, and myself. 2 things going on... for the Board's information.
  - a) Laurie Osher has made a connection with the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project based in Portland. One way we could help them would be to drive people from our area to Portland and Lewiston for appointments w/ immigration offices there. To get involved in this would mean we would need more people to help. We are hoping to encourage more people from congregation to serve. Perhaps if we have specific tasks, e.g., drive this person to Lewiston on Dec 1, we can enlist people to help on a limited basis. We plan to communicate in more detail with ILAP to learn more how we could help from Bangor.
  - b) Maine Multicultural Center (Pam Proux-Curry) initiating Community Conversations Project in Greater Bangor to bring immigrants and refugees into facilitated conversations with long time Americans. Each Community Conversation meets two times over dinner for 2 ½ hours.

Goals: Increase knowledge and trust between new Americans and long-time Americans; Reduce the use of stereotypes and degrading language directed at new Americans about nationality, religion and immigration; Reduce the risk of hate crimes directed at new Americans; Provide participants with skills and strategies for respectful interventions when others use degrading language or stereotypes

People behind the project: Fatuma Hussein – Immigrant Resource Center of Maine, Jane Field – Maine Council of Churches, Steve Wessler – Human Rights Advocacy and Conflict Resolution. Rabbi Lerner has attended the initial meeting and I believe would likely be involved in the event when it is scheduled.

3. November is Ride the Bus Month. Transportation for All initiative encourages us to show support for BAT by riding the bus. We are slow getting going on this, but Gerry will look up events at University on November Saturdays... to see about a field trip from Bangor to Orono... riding the bus from downtown terminal to University and back again. Maybe a backstage tour of Collins Center if we can persuade Danny Williams. Once we have an event planned (museum tour? backstage tour? lunch at the Union?), we would advertise it





# Calendar of Events December 2018

Kislev Tevet 5778

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	FRI	Sat
2 -Chanukah 1 Candle 10am -Shabbat out of the box 11am -RS Art opening/ Brunch 12:30pm -Teen Pro- gram in Waterville	3 -Chanukah 2 Can- dles OFFICE CLOSED	4 -Chanukah 3 Candles 4pm -Religious School 5:30pm -Religious School	5 -Chanukah 4 Can- dles	6 -Chanukah 5 Can- dles	7 -Chanukah 6 Candles 5:30pm Chanukah Shabbat/Dinner and Show	8 -Chanukah 7 Candles  <i>Parashat Vayeshev</i>  Rosh Hodesh Tevet  <i>Parashat Miketz</i>
9 -Chanukah 8 Candles  Chanukah Party w/Beth Israel  Rosh Hodesh Tevet	10  OFFICE CLOSED	11 4pm -Religious School 5:30pm -Religious School	12  11am -Salvation Ar- my Soup Kitchen	13  6:30pm -Board Meet- ing	14  7:30pm -Worship Service	15  9:30am -Torah Study  <i>Parashat Vayigash</i>
16 10am -Religious School	17  OFFICE CLOSED	18 Parent Check in 4pm -Religious School 5:30pm -Religious School	19	20  6:30pm Movie Night (The Last Suit)	21  7:30pm -Worship Service	22  10am -Torah Service  <i>Parashat Vayechi</i>
23	24  OFFICE CLOSED	25 4pm -Religious School	26	27	28 7:30 pm -Worship Service	29  <i>Parashat Shemot</i>
30	31  OFFICE CLOSED					



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