



# Tzitzit



Tammuz/Av Aug 2019

## Rabbi's Notes: My People are a Desert People

Whenever I say "My People are a Desert People" someone rightly points out that my father's family actually came from an Eastern European Shtetl and my mother's family came from a village in Germany.

True is true, but in my core, in my psyche, and in my soul - it is in a desert where I feel the greatest connection to my family, our story, the earth, and to God.

The story of the Jewish people is a story of deserts, Abraham and Sarah were desert dwellers and travelers. Their tent and their practice of welcome was rooted in the customs and culture of the deserts of the Middle East. The mitzvah/obligation to be welcoming is rooted in the welcome given in the desert, even to strangers perhaps especially to strangers.

Moses' encounter with God is imagined in the desert as well. He is a lone shepherd wandering after his flock, when turns to look and to engage with the Divine in a burning bush.

In the Exodus story we learn that our most sacred text and the root of our covenant is given to the Israelites bamidbar/in the wilderness, the expanse of the desert that belongs to none of the tribes of Israel and therefore in some grand sense to all the Israelites and all people.

This past six months have been a time for me to go the desert. Or more accurately to go to many deserts. On my Sabbatical (January, February and March) Kelly and I went to three different states each with its own distinctive desert(s).

## WORSHIP SERVICES

### August Services

Friday, August 2	7:30 p.m.
Worship Service	
Friday, August 9	7:30 p.m.
Worship Service	
Friday, August 16	7:30 p.m.
Worship Service	
Friday, August 23	5:30 p.m.
Game Night	6:30 p.m.
Worship Service	
Saturday, August 24	10:00 a.m.
Torah Service	8:00 p.m.
Havdalah at the Folk Festival	
Friday, August 30	6:30 p.m.
Family Service	
Saturday, August 25	10:00 a.m.
Torah Service	

### September Services

Friday, September 6	7:30 p.m.
Worship Service	
Friday, September 13	7:30 p.m.
Worship Service	
Friday, September 20	7:30 p.m.
Worship Service	
Friday, September 27	6:30 p.m.
Worship Service	
Saturday, September 28	10:00 a.m.
Torah Service	

First, we reconnected with my family by traveling to Arizona. We did our wandering in the Sonoran desert, at local botanical gardens and in regional parks.

We then traveled to the desert of my High School years and where I would return to visit my mother over the following years. Palm Springs, Palm Desert, and Rancho Mirage, California. My people are a desert people ... my mother and her husband loved the desert for its warmth and beauty. But it was also good for my mother's career and later for the aches and pains of her arthritis.

Toward the end of my sabbatical time, we traveled to the high desert of New Mexico. It was back when we lived there in the 90's that I first really felt the tug to a more engaged Jewish life, individually and communally. It is also where I began my journey to become a Rabbi. On this recent trip we visited old friends as well as the Congregation that helped me develop my love of Jewish learning and teaching. We took walks along the Rio Grande and in the many desert parks.

### Torah Readings

**August 3**

**Parashat Matot - Mas-ei**

**Numbers 30:2-36:13**

**Haftarah Reading**

**Jeremiah 2:4-28; 3:4**

**August 10**

**Parashat D'varim**

**Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22**

**Haftarah Reading**

**Isaiah 1:1-27**

**Chazon**

**August 17**

**Parashat Va-et'chanan**

**Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11**

**Haftarah Reading**

**Isaiah 40:1-26**

**Nachamu**

**August 24**

**Parashat Eikev**

**Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25**

**Haftarah Reading**

**Isaiah 49:14-51:3**

**August 31**

**R'eih Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17**

**Haftarah Reading**

**Isaiah 54:11-55:5 or I Samuel 20:18-42 Machar Chodesh & Rosh Chodesh**



### Soup Kitchen Corner

**Next Soup Kitchen:**

**Wednesday, Aug 14th at**

**11:00 a.m.**

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

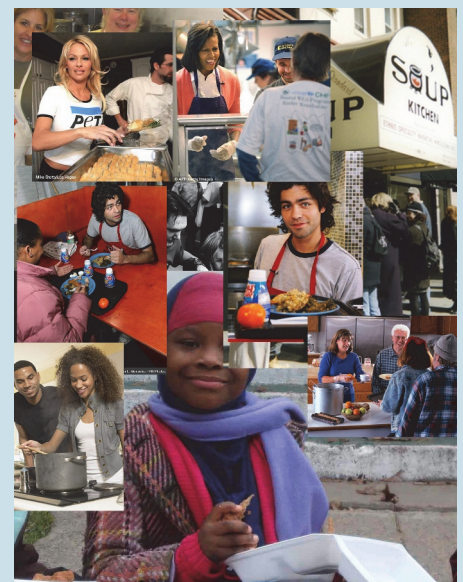
**Why not share a part of yourself  
with someone in need by  
donating something from our  
wish list or help serve or clean  
up?**

**Contact:**

**Shirley St. Peter at**

**945-4578 or**

**congregationbeth.el@myfairpoint.net**



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More recently I traveled again to the desert. This time to Israel and the Palestine territories. This was a trip focused on deep learning — political, social, and otherwise. All of this was with the Judean desert as the backdrop. I traveled the length and breadth of Israel from the border with Gaza to kibbutzim overlooking Syria and Lebanon and from Jerusalem to Ramallah to Haifa.

Having journeyed to the desert and having been refilled and refreshed, I am looking forward to the living and working that is our task together here in the beauty of Maine. Congregation Beth El already in so many ways lives the lessons of our story- to be welcoming, to be open, and to seek the holy in unexpected places.

I look forward to sharing in the coming months some of the lessons and insights from my recent time away. Watch for the classes, sermons, and more that will reflect some of what I was privileged to encounter and learn during my wanderings.

## **Hospice Volunteer Opportunity**

Do you have a loving heart? Are you called to serve? Constellation Hospice is looking for volunteers for patient companionship in Bangor. Training and supervision provided. Visits planned to fit your schedule, an hour a week, or more or less as you wish. For more information, please call Jean Berman, Volunteer Coordinator, 781.771.1293, or email [jeberman@constellationhs.com](mailto:jeberman@constellationhs.com)

## **Up coming discussions with Rabbi Lerner on MDI**

**Thursday August 15 at the home of the Seligs**

**Thursday September 5th at the Berkey/Tandy residence.**

We hope you will join in for noshes, learning and good conversation.

**Noshes begin at 6:30 and the Rabbi's Talk will begin at 7pm.**

Watch your email or call Beth El 207 945-4578 for Directions and additional information.

## **Social Action Committee contribution to the newsletter:**

***Lights for Liberty:*** On Friday, July 12, thousands of people gathered at locations around the country and the world to protest the inhumane conditions faced by migrants at our borders. Vigils took place in several sites in Maine, including Bangor City Hall at 8:30 pm. At 7:30 pm, around 30 Beth El congregants came together for services, led by Sid Block, which focused on how we as Jews welcome and care for others. Barbara Kates

shared some thoughts on Jewish responses to asylum seekers. After services more than 20 Beth El'ers walked downtown together to participate in the vigil. It was a powerful evening (for this writer) to be with my friends and fellow congregants in the larger Bangor community, adding our voices to protest what we see as heartless treatment of other human beings.

**CALL TO ACTION:** As a follow-up to the Lights for Liberty vigil, we must continue to write, call, and visit our Congressional representatives, Senators Collins and King and Rep. Golden, to let them know how we want our country to respond to immigrants and asylum seekers.

**Future endeavors:** The Social Action Committee is exploring the issue of anti-semitism... what it is, what it isn't, and how it impacts us personally and in the public sphere.... and plan to host a congregation-wide conversation about this centuries-old bane of our existence that has so tragically resurfaced in American society and politics. Please stay tuned.

Beth El's SAC meets every month to explore social justice issues and ponder how our Jewish traditions inform and influence our hopes and actions in pursuit of a more just world. Any and all Beth El members can join, and we encourage each and every one of you to do so.. All perspectives are welcome. Indeed, they make us stronger. Our meetings are focused on supporting each other in the work we are already doing within and beyond our Jewish community and how that work connects to our traditions and faith. If you cannot commit to one more meeting a month, please consider helping for a single event by responding to an occasional "Call to Action" that will appear in the email blasts and newsletter. Many hands make light the work! To see when we meet, check the Beth El calendar online, watch for the E-mail notices, and sign up for our FaceBook page. FMI, please contact Gerry at [gross.geraldine@gmail.com](mailto:gross.geraldine@gmail.com).

**Danya Ruttenberg's *Nurture the Wow: Finding spirituality in the frustration, boredom, tears, poop, desperation, wonder, and radical amazement of parenting*. Flatiron Books, 2016. Review:**

I first learned of Rabbi Ruttenberg through her social justice writings for the NYT. Then I heard of her book *Nurture the Wow*. I was in the middle of a childcare gig with my new grandson, and though I was not even close to becoming bored with changing diapers, I thought this book might enhance my experience. Indeed it has.

Rabbi Ruttenberg connects the often relentless, exhausting, and overwhelming work of parenting with our religious texts and how viewing parenting as a spiritual practice can transform us. When Moses presents the Ten Commandments to the Israelites, they respond, "All that God has spoken, *naaseh v'nishma!* We will do and we will hear" (Exodus 24:7). Seems backwards, doesn't it. Like the Israelites, we become mothers and fathers ("do") before we fully understand ("hear") what that covenant will ask of us.

A look at the table of contents may be more illuminating than any summary I can provide:

Parental love as a portal to infinity. Finding inspiration in the mundane. I have so much control over someone's life, but ultimately I have no control: Rethinking power and powerlessness. Speaking on your heart: Prayer as lullabye, lullabye as prayer. Exhaustion and poop: Finding meaning in the body stuff. How the magic of child's play can infuse our lives. It's not about me anymore? Creating a new kind of selfhood. Seeing everything with new eyes: How parenting changes our vision of the world.

*Nurture the Wow* is filled with insight, joy, pathos, and humor. RDR's words ring true to me and give expression to my own feelings of wonder and awe as I witness my daughter become a mother and as I begin to know this precious being she and her husband brought into our world. I highly recommend this book to all who are interested in parenthood from any perspective.

## **HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

### **Sunday, September 29**

**7:30 p.m. Rosh Hashanah Evening Service**

### **Monday, September 30**

**10:00 a.m. Rosh Hashanah Morning Service**

**2:00 p.m. Rosh Hashanah Family Service**

**3:00 p.m. Tashlich**

### **Friday, September 4**

**7:30p.m. Shabbat Shuvah Service**

### **Tuesday, October 8**

**7:30 p.m. Kol Nidre**

### **Wednesday, October 9**

**10:00 a.m. Yom Kippur Morning Service**

**1:00 p.m. Just Jonah Discussion**

**2:00 p.m. Yom Kippur Family Service**

**3:00 p.m. Afternoon Service**

**4:30 p.m. Yizkor Service**

**5:00 p.m. Worship/Neilah Service**

**6:00 p.m. Break the Fast**

**Sunday, October 13**  
**5:30 p.m. Dinner/Sukkot Evening Service**

**Sunday, October 20**  
**6:30 p.m. Simchat Torah/Consecration Service**

**Saturday, October 26**  
**6:30 am Sunrise Service Top of Cadillac Mountain**

**HIGH HOLIDAY CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE for 2019: Marilyn Buzy**  
**<marilynbuzy@yahoo.com>**

**Sun., August 25 (FolkFest) 10-11:30**  
**Sun., September 8, 15 and 22 10:30-Noon.**  
**Rosh Hashanah Sunday Sept. 29 @ 6pm**  
**Rosh Hashanah Monday Sept. 30 @ 8:30am**

**Wed., October 2, 6:30-8**  
**Sun., October 6, 10:30-Noon**  
**Yom Kippur Tuesday October 8 @ 6pm**  
**Yom Kippur Wednesday October 9 @ 8:30am**

## **Torah Study**

Saturday, August 17, 9:30 a.m.

Portion Va-et'chanan

Deuteronomy 3:23–7:11

HAFTARAH READING

Isaiah 40:1-26

Nachamu

**August 24th - Saturday evening – 8:00 p.m. – Join us for a Havdalah service at the Folk Festival. We will meet on the waterfront walkway at the end closest to the Sea Dog Restaurant**

#### **UP COMING MDI DISCUSSIONS WITH RABBI LERNER**

Thursday, August 15 at the home of Patricia and Jerome Selig

Thursday, September 5 at the home of Stefani Berkey and Daniel Tandy

We hope you will join in for noshes, learning and good conversation..

Noshes begin at 6:30 and the Rabbi's Talk will begin at 7pm.

Watch your email are call Beth El 207 945-4578 for Directions and additional information.

#### **Library**

Donation from Lewis L. Cisle to Beth El's Library - photography book, Jews in America--A Representation, by Fredric Bremer

#### **Thanks To:**

Valerie and David Levy, Julie Meranze-Levitt and Jerry Levitt, Sol Goldman and Barbara Kates, Gerry Gross, Howard Segal and Deborah Rogers for their donation to the Social Action Committee in memory of Laurie Osher's father, Roy Newman

Surah Whelan for her donation to cover the purchase of Miskan T'filah (House of Mourning) for Beth El

Anonymous donation to Beth El's Soup Kitchen Fund

Stephen Marburg for his donation to Beth El

#### **Condolences**

Our sincere and heartfelt condolences to Laurie, Noam and Zivi Osher on the passing of Laurie's father, Roy Newman, and to Glenon, Gary, Shelley and Hanni Friedmann on the passing of Glenon's father, Lewis Hallet Johnston, Jr.

Membership Renewal Time!



Your membership is important and we need your support!

It is time, once again, for us to renew our commitment to our religious community and congregation. Your annual member dues commitment provides the majority of our operating revenues for the year, supporting the excellent religious, educational, and programming efforts in our community. Your financial contributions truly are vital to our existence, but so is your membership - just knowing that you support what we are doing keeps us going.

Your membership means that Congregation Beth El can continue to be an active and vital part of the Jewish community. Your dues support and gifts make it possible for our Rabbi and Educators to inspire the joy of Jewish living every day. So, please take a moment to renew, or join us now by filling out the attached application and returning to Beth El.

Thanks for your generous commitment as a member of the Beth El community.







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Ellen Share  
Washington Hebrew Congregation  
Potomac, MD

June 15, 2019

Rabbi Darah Lerner  
Congregation Beth El  
183 French Street  
Bangor, ME 04401

Dear Rabbi Lerner:

As chairperson of the Association of Jewish Libraries Accreditation Committee, it is my pleasure to inform you that the Congregation Beth El Library has received renewal of its *Basic Accreditation*. This award will be presented at our annual conference in Los Angeles, California, June 17-19, 2019.

Your Librarian, Riva Berleant, has done an excellent job of presenting various attributes of your library. The criteria used to determine a library's accreditation status include, but are not limited to, the following:

Bibliographic control and subject heading through an online catalog  
Collection development – holdings of books and audio-visual media  
Policies and procedures  
Programming  
Staffing  
Technology

The application process is a lengthy and arduous task that Riva completed in a conscientious and professional manner. We extend our congratulations to her and to you on reaching this exemplary standard of excellence. This achievement is a reflection of the strong support your institution gives to its resource center.

Sincerely,

Shaindy Kurzmman, Chair  
Association of Jewish Libraries Accreditation Committee  
Synagogue, School, Center, & Public Library Division  
sbkurzmman@gmail.com

Association of Jewish Libraries  
P.O. Box 1118  
Teaneck, NJ 07666

[www.jewishlibraries.org](http://www.jewishlibraries.org)  
[info@jewishlibraries.org](mailto:info@jewishlibraries.org)

# The High Holidays for Our Times



**3 Evenings of Adult Learning: 6:30pm**

August 6th, August 20th, September 3rd

Join us as we explore  
How the  
**Yamim Noraim/High Holy Days**  
can  
**Challenge, Refresh, and Empower**  
Our Bodies and Our Souls.



**Congregation Beth El  
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**Darah R. Lerner 945-4578**

**President**

**Mary-Anne Saxl**

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**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.

## YAHREZEIT MEMORIAL LIST

Aug. 2	Beverly Harden	1	Friday, August 2, 7:30 p.m.
6	Leonard Fried	5	Friday, August 9, 7:30 p.m.
	Dorothy Levy		Friday, August 9, 7:30 p.m.
	Paul Zeitlin		Friday, August 9, 7:30 p.m.
7	Melissa Anne de Laguna Hechtman	6	Friday, August 9, 7:30 p.m.
	Dora Kirschbaum		Friday, August 9, 7:30 p.m.
8	Betty Shapiro	7	Friday, August 9, 7:30 p.m.
11	David H. Allen	10	Friday, August 16, 7:30 p.m.
	Philip H. Davis		Friday, August 16, 7:30 p.m.
	Pearl Hurwitz		Friday, August 16, 7:30 p.m.
12	Alicia Fuente	11	Friday, August 16, 7:30 p.m.
14	Abraham Kirson	13	Friday, August 16, 7:30 p.m.
	Beth Elise Pancoe		Friday, August 16, 7:30 p.m.
	Alex Silver		Friday, August 16, 7:30 p.m.
15	Bernard Berleant	14	Friday, August 16, 7:30 p.m.
	Benjamin Block		Friday, August 16, 7:30 p.m.
	Eleanor Kates		Friday, August 16, 7:30 p.m.
16	Charles Zeitman	15	Friday, August 16, 7:30 p.m.
17	Benjamin Edelman	16	Friday, August 16, 7:30 p.m.
	John Jacobs		Friday, August 16, 7:30 p.m.
18	Elliot Strom	17	Friday, August 23, 6:30 p.m.
19	Pamela Jean Haviland Haskell	18	Friday, August 23, 6:30 p.m.
	Glenn Rogers		Friday, August 23, 6:30 p.m.
20	Harry Ralph Cowen	19	Friday, August 23, 6:30 p.m.
	Bernice Masters		Friday, August 23, 6:30 p.m.
22	Sadie Glass	21	Friday, August 23, 6:30 p.m.
	Charles Jones		Friday, August 23, 6:30 p.m.
23	Mini Tunick	22	Friday, August 23, 6:30 p.m.
	Abe Weinberg		Friday, August 23, 6:30 p.m.
24	Edna Edelman	23	Friday, August 23, 6:30 p.m.
26	Katharine K. Hodgkins	25	Friday, August 30, 6:30 p.m.
27	Rosalind Cabot	26	Friday, August 30, 6:30 p.m.
	Beth Reagan		Friday, August 30, 6:30 p.m.
28	Ruth Berger	27	Friday, August 30, 6:30 p.m.
	Mary Kochman		Friday, August 30, 6:30 p.m.



# Calendar of Events August 2019

TAMUZ/AV 5779

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 7:30pm -Worship Services	3  <i>Parashat Matot-Masei</i>
4	5  OFFICE CLOSED	6 6:30pm - Adult Ed The High Holidays for our time	7	8 6:30pm -Board Meeting	9 7:30pm -Worship Services	10  <i>Parashat Devarim Shabbat Chazon Erev Tisha B'AV</i>
11  <i>Tisha B'AV</i>	12  OFFICE CLOSED	13	14 11:00am - Soup Kitchen	15 6:30pm -MDI Discussion	16 7:30pm - Worship Services	17  9:30am - Torah Study  <i>Parashat Vaetchanan Shabbat Nachamu</i>
18	19  OFFICE CLOSED	20 6:30pm - Adult Ed The High Holidays for our time	21	22	23 5:30pm - Game Night 6:30pm - Worship Services	24 10:00am - Torah Service 8:00pm - Havdalah @ the Folk Festival <i>Parashat Ekev</i>
25	26	27	28	29	30 6:30pm - Family Worship Service	31  <i>Parashat Re'eh Rosh Hodesh Elul</i>





# Calendar of Events

September—2019 ELUL/TISHRI 5779-80

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3 6:30pm - Adult Ed The High Holidays for our time	4	5 6:30pm - MDI Discussion	6 7:30pm - Worship Service	7 <i>Parashat Shoftim</i>
8 10:00am - First Day Religious School	9 OFFICE CLOSED	10 4:00pm -Religious School 5:30pm -Supper Club	11 11:00am -Salvation Army Soup Kitchen	12 6:30pm - Board Meeting	13 7:30pm - Worship Service	14 <i>Parashat Ki Teitzei</i>
15 10:00am - High Holiday Family Program	16 OFFICE CLOSED	17 4:00pm -Religious School 5:30pm -Supper Club	18	19	20 7:30pm -Worship Service	21 9:30am - Torah Study <i>Leil Selichot</i> <i>Parashat Ki Tavo</i>
22 10:am - Religious School	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24 4:00pm -Religious School 5:30pm -Supper Club	25	26	27 5:30pm -Game Night 6:30pm - Worship Service	28 10:00am - Torah Service <i>Parashat Nitzavim</i>
29 7:30pm -Erev Rosh Hashanah Service <i>Erev Rosh Hashanah</i>	30 10:00 a.m. Morning Service 2:00 p.m. Family Service 3:00pm -Tashlich <i>Rosh Hashanah</i>					

# Congregation Beth El

183 French Street

Bangor, ME 04401

Member of the Jewish Community Council

6 State Street

Bangor, ME 04401

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

Congregation Beth El

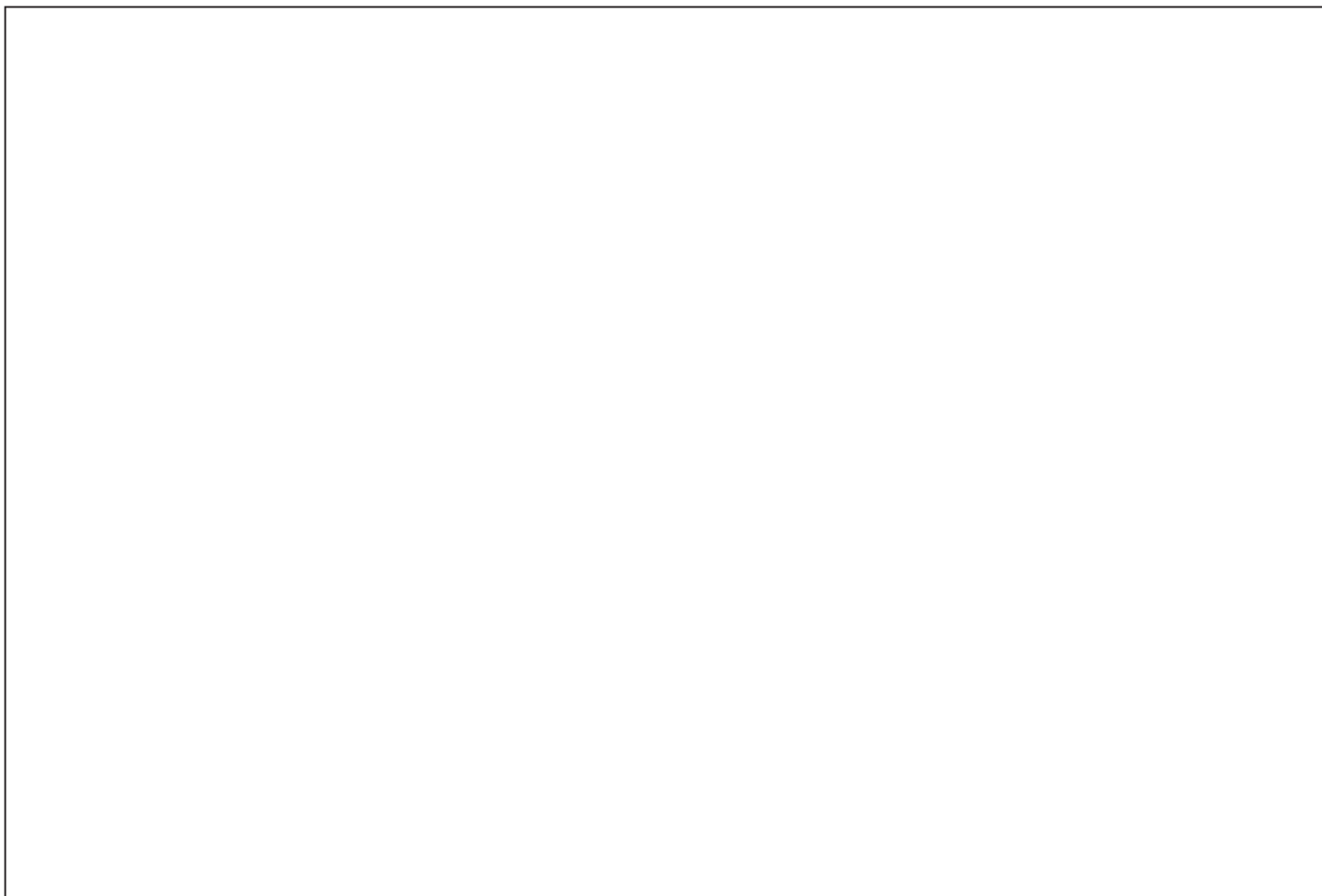
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CONGREGATION BETH EL  
NEWSLETTER



**CONGREGATION BETH EL**  
 (207) 945-4578  
[congregationbeth.el@myfairpoint.net](mailto:congregationbeth.el@myfairpoint.net)  
<http://www.bethelbangor.org/>  
**Membership Application**  
**5779-5780 2019-2020**



**Beth El membership is open to individuals and families who have a commitment to Judaism and support the Beth El community. Your membership dues support our building, clergy, religious education and programming. It is because of members like you, that we are able to maintain a presence of Reform Judaism in Eastern Maine. Applicants become members upon acceptance by the Board of Directors. We share our members' contact information with other members on a Membership Roster, and will include you, unless you instruct us otherwise.**

**Please fill out all fields below, even if you are a current member as we are updating our database. Thank you.**

TODAY'S DATE \_\_\_\_\_

New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Associate Member \_\_\_\_\_ (see description on "Membership Dues" page)

ADULT #1 \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

D. O. B. \_\_\_\_\_ HEBREW NAME \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER \_\_\_\_\_

ADULT #2 \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

D. O. B. \_\_\_\_\_ HEBREW NAME \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS Winter: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Summer \_\_\_\_\_ Dates \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ WEDDING ANNIVERSARY \_\_\_\_\_

CHILDREN: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Yahrzeit : To have a loved one remembered at the service nearest to the Hebrew calendar anniversary of death

NAME	RELATIONSHIP	DATE OF DEATH (M/D/Y)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____



183 French Street  
Bangor, Maine 04401

## BETH EL MEMBERSHIP INTERESTS AND NEEDS

### We invite your participation in Beth El activities!

Please place your name next to all of your interests. For more information on these programs, please call the committee chairs listed in the Beth El Newsletter, or call Congregation Beth El at 945-4578.

Please write the name of the interested member on the lines below.

_____ Volunteer in Religious School	_____ Newsletter
_____ Youth Group Adult volunteers for middle schoolers	
_____ Volunteer in Beth El Office	_____ Education Committee
_____ Read at/help lead Religious Services	_____ Gift Shop
_____ Gardening	_____ House Committee (maintaining bldg)
_____ Tutoring Bar/Bat Mitzvah students	_____ Membership Committee (outreach)
_____ Library Committee	_____ Program Committee (plan programs)
_____ Jewish Singles Group	_____ Ritual Committee
_____ Hancock County Events	_____ Social Committee (plan Onegs)
_____ Pre-School Playgroup	_____ Finance Committee
_____ Youth Group	_____ Web-site/computer skills
_____ Choir	_____ Soup Kitchen Volunteer
_____ Caring Committee	_____ Social Action Committee
_____ Ushers/Greeters	_____ Publicity
_____ Adult Education Classes	_____ Cemetery Committee
_____ Can offer rides/home hospitality?	_____ Need rides/home hospitality?
_____ Fund Raising Committee	_____ 20s and 30s group
_____ Visiting the Sick	_____ Jewish Book Group

### Other interests, skills, needs or requests; other questions or comments about Congregation Beth El:

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Please complete this form and the enclosed forms and return them to Congregation Beth El, 183 French St., Bangor, ME 04401. For more information on membership, please call Beth El at 945-4578.

**CONGREGATION BETH EL**  
**Membership Dues and Religious School Fee Schedules**  
**5779-5780 2019-2020**



Our new dues structure has been carefully designed and formulated to create equitable and clear guidelines for all of our congregants. It has been recommended by the URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) that membership dues and religious school tuition fund 90% of the congregation's annual budget. With this in mind, we have structured the dues table in an effort to approximate this goal. We still will look toward our Annual Fund Campaign, special gifts and other program fees to cover all our other needs for this year.

Family gross Income (in dollars)	Dues	Family gross income (in dollars)	Dues
\$ 0 – 20,000	\$ 180.00	\$70,000 - 75,000	\$1,170.00
		75,000 - 80,000	1,260.00
		80,000 - 85,000	1,350.00
20,000 - 25,000	270.00	85,000 - 90,000	1,440.00
25,000 - 30,000	360.00	90,000 - 95,000	1,530.00
30,000 - 35,000	450.00	95,000 - 100,000	1,620.00
35,000 - 40,000	540.00	100,000 - 105,000	1,710.00
40,000 - 45,000	630.00	105,000 - 110,000	1,800.00
45,000 - 50,000	720.00	110,000 - 115,000	1,890.00
50,000 - 55,000	810.00	115,000 - 120,000	1,980.00
55,000 - 60,000	900.00	120,000 - 125,000	2,070.00
60,000 - 65,000	990.00	125,000 - 130,000	2,160.00
65,000 - 70,000	1,080.00	Over - 130,000	2,250.00

If your family can contribute more than the suggested minimum dues, please consider such a contribution. If the suggested levels present an unusual hardship, please call Beth El's Treasurer, Jonathan Rubin at (207) 945-0925, or Mary-Anne Saxl, President at (207) 944-9120 to make special arrangements. **No one will be denied membership or participation because of an inability to pay dues.** All dues and financial information is strictly confidential.

**Religious School Tuition:**

B'yachad (1-4yr)	\$72	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	\$385	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	\$410
Pre & Kin	\$275	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	\$385	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	\$410
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	\$300	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	\$410	Bar/Bat Mitzvah	\$400
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	\$300	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	\$410	Confirmation Trip	\$500
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	\$385	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	\$410	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade trip	\$500
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	\$385	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	\$410		

Please take the opportunity to add an *amount of your choice* for students who are not able to pay their tuition in full so they may take part in religious school, This can be indicated on the **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND** line on your fee sheet.

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP:**

Associate members pay 1/3 of the full membership rate. **(If you have children in our Religious School, Associate Membership is not an option.)** We welcome the support of all those interested in Congregation Beth El. Associate Membership is open to former members of Beth El currently living outside of the Greater Bangor Area who have a primary affiliation with another synagogue; family members of current members, who do not live locally; individuals residing in Maine for four months of the year or less; and residents of the Greater Bangor Area who have a primary affiliation with either Beth Israel or Beth Abraham. If you have any questions about Associate Membership, please call our office, or the Membership Chairperson, for more information.

**Hineini**

Add \$18 to your bill to help Beth El become a Builder Congregation in the Union for Reform Judaism's Hineini program. Your donation will help support vital Reform congregations in Mevasseret Zion and Modi'in Israel!



**CONGREGATION BETH EL**  
**Membership Dues and Fees**  
**5779-5780 2019-2020**



183 French Street  
 Bangor, Maine 04401

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Please check one: \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_ \*Associate Member

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Current Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

**Please take a moment to view our dues schedule on the reverse side of this page before filling out this form and making membership payments.**

<b>Membership dues</b>	\$ _____
<b>Religious School Tuition</b>	\$ _____
<b>Bar/Bat Mitzvah</b>	\$ _____
<b>Confirmation Trip</b>	\$ _____
<b>Class Trip</b>	\$ _____
<b>Hineini (see Dues &amp; Fees Form) add \$18.00</b>	\$ _____
<b>Religious School Scholarship Fund</b>	\$ _____
<b>Total amount due</b>	\$ _____
<b>Amount enclosed</b>	\$ _____

We wish to pay the balance according to the following payment schedule:

**Semi-annually \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Quarterly \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

We would like to pay by :

Check \_\_\_\_\_ Online Payments: \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_ ( If selected please fill out the information below).

( For Credit payments)

\_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this form and return it with your membership application, check (payable to Congregation Beth El), and (if applicable) religious school registration form by August 31, 2019 to:

Congregation Beth El  
 183 French St. Bangor, ME 04401

CONGREGATION BETH EL  
(207) 945-4578  
[congregationbeth.el@myfairpoint.net](mailto:congregationbeth.el@myfairpoint.net)  
<http://www.bethelbangor.org/>  
**Religious School Enrollment**  
**5779-5780 2019-2020**



183 French Street  
Bangor, Maine 04401

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade 2019-2020: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please fill out a form for each child attending religious school. )

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact:** Person to contact in case of an emergency **in Bangor if available.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

**Medical Information:**

Does your child have medical or educational needs you feel would be beneficial for us to know about? (Including medical and mental health concerns, as well as learning disabilities, this information will only be shared with Staff):

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Does your child have any allergies we should be aware of for snacks or projects during school?: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Photography Release:**

I \_\_\_\_\_ hereby,

\_\_\_\_\_ give permission

\_\_\_\_\_ do not give permission

for the teachers and staff of the Religious School to take and use photos of my child engaging in activities throughout the school year. This includes but is not limited to the monthly newsletter, marketing documents and the religious school website.

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**Tuition:** As a reminder tuition payments are as follows, and are due prior to Sept. 1. If there is a financial need within your household please let us know or contact the congregation treasurer, Jonathan Rubin, (207) 945-0925, or the religious school (207) 945-4578 ext.3, on or before August 15, in order to receive our tuition assistance application.

B'yachad Family Program ( ages1-4)	\$72.00
Pre-k and Kindergarten	\$275.00
Grades 1&2	\$300.00
Grades 3-6	\$385.00
Grades 7-12	\$410.00
Bar/Bat Mitzvah	\$400.00
Confirmation Trip	\$500.00

By signing below, I am stating that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge. I agree to inform the religious school of any changes to the information.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Before your child(ren) can begin classes, your Membership form, Religious School Enrollment Form, Membership Dues/Fees Form and your payment (or payment plan approved by our treasurer) must be received.**



# 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

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## BOARD MEETING Minutes

**Date of Meeting:** Thursday, June 13, 2019

- Mary-Anne Saxl, President\*
- Ron Blum, Vice President\*
- Sondra Siegel, Secretary\*
- Jonathan Rubin, Treasurer\*
- Kate Cykman, Education
- Michael Pancoe, Finance\*
- Michael Cohen, *The Tzitzit* (N)
- Tim Reagan, Program
- OPEN, Worship
- Eric Semmel, Membership
- Gerry Gross, Social Action
- OPEN, Member-at-Large (Library)
- Jason Bird, Building and Grounds
- Harvey Walters, Member-at-large (Membership)
- Howard Segal, Member-at-Large/JCEA & grants clearinghouse
- Alla Fabrikant, Member-at-Large/Library
- Roz Gold, Member-at-Large (Social)
- OPEN, Member-at-Large (Social)
- Eddie Harrow, Hiddur Mitzvah
- Eliana Seburn, Youth

\*Executive Committee

**Rabbi:** Darah Lerner

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**Call to Order:** 6:35 P.M.

**D'var Torah/Blessing:**

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם  
אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ  
לְעֶסֶק בְּצוּרְכֵי צִיּוּר.

*Baruch ata Adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam  
asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav vitzivanu  
la'asok b'tzorchey tzibur.*

Blessed is Adonai, Sovereign of Creation,  
who sanctifies us through mitzvot and commands us  
to engage in the needs of community.

**Attendance:** Alla Fabrikant, Jess Fabrikant, Mary-Anne Saxl, Darah Lerner, Gerry Gross, Tim Reagan, Roz Gold, Ron Blum, Eric Semmel, Jonathan Rubin, Sondra Siegel, Harvey Walters, Kate Cykman, Aubri Doughty

**Review of minutes** Mary-Anne Saxl

Tim moved to approved, Kate seconded, minutes approved as submitted.



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## **Treasurer's Report:** Jonathan Rubin

1. We brought in \$30,000 more than budgeted this year, but we also spent more. We budgeted \$109,000 for dues, but received \$120,000. We still have a deficit of about 10,000, which means that we don't have enough to pay salaries and other expenses through June.
2. Proposed options:
  - a. Board members could pay dues for the next year as soon as possible
  - b. Borrow from the endowment
  - c. Borrow from restricted funds, but pay this back. We have about \$20,000 in restricted funds, so we could shift this money and pay it back.

*Motion (proposed by Ron, seconded by Harvey): To encourage rapid payment of dues from board members, and send out membership forms as soon as possible, and that we borrow from the restricted funds for the shortfall.*

***Motion passed unanimously.***

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

1. We had a successful annual meeting and luncheon. My thanks to all who participated and assisted. Jason Bird has now accepted the role as House chair.
2. The Security Committee is working to move forward with upgrades. We have received a \$5,000 anonymous donation. We have also received a grant from the JCEA. We've also received several smaller grants but we would still need a few dollars to finish up the project. The Security Committee will be meeting in the next few weeks.
3. Planning for some summer events is taking place. Mary-Anne plans to have a summer barbecue July 13 which is a Saturday. 11-2 pm. Notice to follow.
4. The Board meeting we will focus on membership. Members were encouraged to come your ideas and thoughts.
5. Will need to send out membership forms earlier next year, so that we have funds in July.

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

- Rabbi explained how she will take 85% of time off. She will take an additional 7-8 weeks off, likely during the winter months. This will be arranged by the fall.

### May events and activities

- I taught multi-part session Adult Ed "Wisdom of our Sages on Social Justice" 3-7 attendees per week (and several others expressed some interest but could not attend at this time)
- I spoke at Holocaust Memorial Event at the University of Maine





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- I met and worked with a couple of people interested in conversion.
- Had two special Shabbat services  
one morning we had hoped to be out doors but the weather prevented, us so reworked to an indoor event led Kate and Aubri of Religious Ed.  
The other was a Friday night special service and dinner where I taught the choreography of services- why and when Jews move/bow etc in the service.
- I continued working with couples who are having weddings this summer/fall and the Bat Mitzvah family for this year.
- I sent a letter to next years potential Bar/Bat Mitzvah families inviting them to contact me about planning.
- I gave a blessing at the Interfaith Opioid Healing Service held at St Johns Catholic Church.
- We held our Annual meeting and swearing in of new and returning board members.
- I attended an all day workshop for faith communities and various state, local, and federal agencies and non profits about disaster preparedness (fire, flood etc)
- We welcomed a new student and family to Supper Club. great student and family.

## ON GOING Rabbinic activities:

- Many pastoral call, meetings, medical based visits or calls, I engage in outreach to congregants, and to other people in need of Rabbinic care and comfort.
- I am calling/emailing etc Graduating High Schoolers and College students who are home for the summer arranging to meet with them for lunch or coffee, etc.
- Noah Nesin and I are working together to create some Summer Shabbat services with more Kabbalat Shabbat music (early part of service welcoming Shabbat)

## June:

- I officiated a funeral for an unaffiliated but long time friend of community Phyllis Beallor
- We held our last day of Supper Club.. Great time eat (thanks to Aubri and Kate for cooking) played cups, gaga and made some Rosh hashanah cards anger well cards for the Beth El office to send out.
- I will be preparing for the Yamim Noraim the High Holidays:  
Which includes coordinating with Marilyn and choir and other musicians  
Starting to working along with Sid Block to review and adjust services from last year.
- Prepping for -Religious School follow up and planning for next year (much has been done but fine tuning and supporting work)
  - Important Meet with Beth El and Beth Israel about success and challenges of this year and goals etc for next
  - Plan for Youth group and teen programing
  - Possible trips including NY
- There is a Wilson Center Retreat June 12 10-2 I am a board member and will be attending



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- I am also working with EMMC/Northern Light as they redesign the Chaplaincy program and efforts at the hospital and surrounding area.
- Rabbi Seiners asked me to fill in at an unveiling for him on June 16
- June 22 Bat Mitzvah Lizzie Liliav/Pride
- 23 Teaching at Maine Conference for Jewish Life in Waterville
- 29 Havdalah on the beach
- 30 First wedding officiation (offspring of long time supporter of Beth El) on MDI

## Looking ahead---July:

- Travel in Israel July 8-20
- July 8-15 I will be one of 18 specially selected progressive Rabbis to attend "The Rabbinic Seminar in Israel July 2019 with the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)"  
The last few days of my trip July 16-20 is my personal time/vacation to visit friends in Jerusalem.
- July 31 First MDI Discussion night held at the home of the Strumphs and the topic is still TBA

## **Education Report: (submitted electronically, by Kate Cykman)**

Some really exciting things have been happening here in regards to education.

1. We have received pledges for over \$1200 in money for the Readathon, which should be coming in over the next few weeks.
2. Aubri and I are prepping to go to NewCAJE as presenters this summer.
3. I am currently enrolled in a course for new Synagogue leaders through the URJ.
4. I have applied for a Youth Development Fellowship through URJ, I have an interview tomorrow, as well as an interview with the scholarship board, who is offering covering 75% of the cost for small synagogues.
5. The Rabbi has given me a computer to use, and I have finally dug up my desk at home to create a teachers' office downstairs for the RS teachers to use for meetings and curriculum development.
6. We have moved the B'yachad program to a monthly program as per the request from families.
7. All ages had a wonderful last day of Religious School, either through a BBQ or a giant match of Gaga, and we are very excited about next year.

## **Standing Committee Reports**



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No standing committee reports were presented orally on this date. Instead, the Board broke into small groups which focused on priorities for increasing membership and participation in synagogue life. Several ideas were discussed which will be compiled by Mary-Anne.

## Adjourn time: 8:30

Respectfully submitted,

Sondra Siegel

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**The Beth El Members are invited to attend – Executive Sessions are Not Open to members.**

Entry to the building after 6:00 p.m. will be through the front entrance only. For accessible entrance, please call 945-4578 in advance.