



CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

MAINE'S OLDEST SYNAGOGUE - SINCE 1888

MISSION STATEMENT

Congregation Beth Israel is a vibrant egalitarian and progressive Jewish community. We welcome Jews from all backgrounds, their partners, families, and those seeking to live Jewishly. We encourage active participation in synagogue life by each member according to their individual interests and abilities. We empower our members through prayer, learning, community friendships, and the Jewish imperative of Tikkun Olam—repair of the world.

CONTACT US OR DONATE

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1509
Bangor, ME 04402

Physical Address:

144 York Street
Bangor, ME 04401

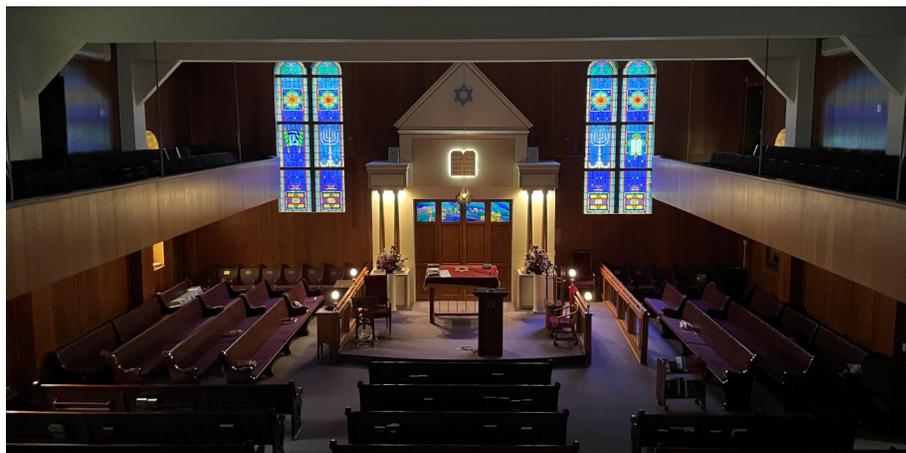
Office:

(207) 945-3433
office@cbisrael.org

Rabbi Siemers:

(207) 852-1903
rabbi@cbisrael.org

www.cbisrael.org



THE MONTH OF ELUL

“One thing I ask of the Lord, that I seek that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to see the pleasantness of the Lord and to visit G-d’s Temple every morning.”

In the pensive and reflective month of Elul, the build-up to the Days of Awe, we recite Psalm 27 as part of our daily liturgy. We also blow the shofar each day (except Shabbat) before sundown, preferably at morning services. Please contact the synagogue if you’d like to learn how to fulfill this interesting mitzvah.

In some households, it’s a great way to wake up your kids!

In the Mishnah, Rosh Chodesh Elul was the date of the yearly donation of animals to the Temple priests. It’s a good month to visit a zoo, aquarium, a farm, or to just go on a nature walk with your family. Take a good amount of water. It’s still hot out there.

Ensure you contact the office about your High Holiday seats!

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RABBI'S MESSAGE

BILL SIEMERS

We are seven or so *haftarot* away from a Rosh HaShanah that falls distressingly early in the solar calendar. As I think about the disruptions of the past year and our (please God) return to the sanctuary, one of the Rav's teachings about *teshuvah* (repentance) rises in the mind. The Rav would teach on a verse from the book of Samuel:

But his return (*utshuvato*) was to Ramah, that was his home, and there he also held court for Israel. And he built an altar there to the LORD. (1 Samuel 7:17)

At the surface level the verse is a part of a description of the rigors of being a circuit judge - in the olden days one had to ride out on the circuit instead of having everything emailed. But the language at the end "**But his return was to Ramah**" is evocative of the season of return or repentance. Reading not at the surface but deeper, the Rav teaches us to understand: Samuel's *teshuvah* was his return to home. Samuel's repentance was rooted in places that had been part of him all his life.

It is a precious teaching that our journey of *teshuvah* does not take us to a far and unknown place. We are not required to abandon things dear in order to live as someone different, the season of repentance is not a time of reaching for the cassettes with the magnet. The human being that I want to be is not a stranger who has never lived before, but it is someone very much like me who is going to do things better in the coming year. And the tools for our journey are to be found in cherished and familiar places. This year we are coming home.

May our *teshuvah* be inspired by our return to the sanctuary we love and have missed. May our return to praying and learning together help us to be the human beings we need to be in the coming year. May we build upon what we have been given for a year of life and peace.

A Sweet New Year,
Rabbi Bill Siemers



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BRIAN KRESGE

In July, Congregation Beth Israel accomplished a few really groovy things that live up to our mission statement, **empower-**

ing our members through the Jewish imperative of Tikkun Olam.

I love our role as a *beit tefilah*, a house of prayer, but we've long recognized that our success as a community also hinges on what we project outward.

At the suggestion of our Head Gabbai, we took up a collection for the victims of the Surfside collapse. Your generosity resulted in a check for over \$600, which we sent to the Greater Miami Jewish Federation's relief fund.

We also hosted the American Red Cross for a blood drive in our newly renovated Epstein Complex. We collected from a minyan's worth of people, including myself, Nanci Miller's family, and our office manager's husband. This is something we'd like to continue to support!

In the last week of July, one of our congregants spoke with our Senators or their staff as part of a Union for Reform Judaism effort to preserve voting rights for people of color.

Finally, in recent weeks, I've had the good fortune to work twice with our Salvation Army soup kitchen crew. These amazing people serve hundreds of meals, and they're a hoot to work with.

Acts of loving kindness, or *gemilut chassadim*, in the spirit of the looming High Holidays, are crucial to our spiritual and communal well-being.

Consider the Yom Kippur haftarah, from Isaiah 58:

Is such the fast I desire, a day for people to starve their bodies?

It is to share your bread with the hungry, and to take the wretched poor into your home; when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to ignore your own kin.

Stay chill and do spectacular things,
Brian Kresge

GARDEN CLUB



Congregation Beth Israel

SISTERHOOD UPDATE

Hello all!

It is hard to believe the summer is moving very fast. Thanks to all who made donations for the Yizkor Book and purchased Honey From the Heart. If you still want to order, the cost is \$18.50 which does include the shipping charge. You may order by calling Angie in the office at 945-3433, or online at www.orthoney.com/BME. Thanks so much for supporting our Sisterhood!

As usual, the Gift Shop is open during office hours. (8-1, Monday -Friday) You may contact Marcia or Paula with requests for merchandise we may not have in stock. We will soon be ordering for the Hanukkah sale in November.

As Shabbat Kiddushes have resumed, many of you must have seen our beautiful new kitchen in the Epstein Room. We are very proud of our new facility and hope you all are, as well!

Meanwhile, have a great August, stay safe and stay well!



HIGH HOLIDAYS AND SUKKOT



The High Holidays are almost upon us. Don't forget to buy your seats. We are sending invoices, but tell your friends, **\$75 for a seat!**

Cantor Bill Slott will once again be joining us from Israel.

We do ask that attendees check the website or our social media, or look for emerging details in our weekly emails. COVID-related guidance could change quickly, and we will do our best to communicate any changes in procedures or service schedules.

We are asking for donations if you use our live-stream over the chagim and don't attend in-person.

After that, we'll surely be resuming events in our community Sukkah this year for Sukkot.

Order your lulav and etrog, too! Contact Rabbi Siemers to get your orders in.



Congregation Beth Israel

BANGOR PUBLIC LIBRARY

I am sending this photo of the Waldo Pierce painting of King David that I found hanging at the Bangor Public Library. There are a few other beautiful Pierce paintings there, too. They all came from the former Bangor Jewish Community Center and are on loan.

I also saw a huge collection of Judaic nonfiction in the open stacks ready to be borrowed. Now that entering the library is possible, don't let the opportunity go by without viewing the artwork and enjoying the wealth of information we have in this beautiful building!

By the way, you can thank Norman Minsky. I'm sure he made it possible for this display to happen!

Marcia Lieberman



MEMBER BULLETIN CONTRIBUTIONS

Our congregation contains many talented, intelligent folks. We would love your submissions for bulletin content!

This month we've included Stan Israel's d'var from July.

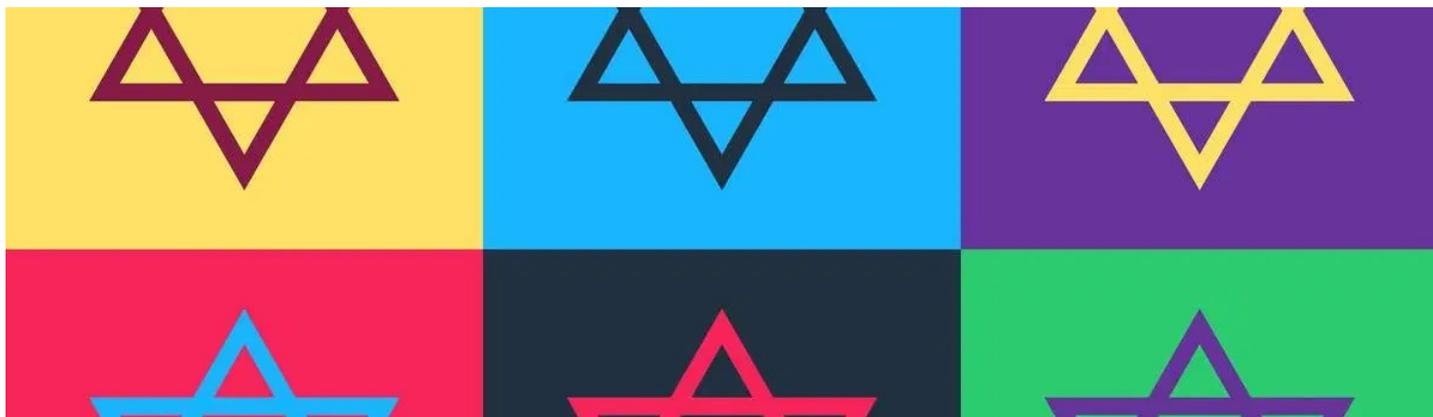
Perhaps you'd like to write a short editorial or musing on current events. Maybe you'd like to share a bit of local history.

We'd like to increase connections to our congregation by showcasing who we are and what we do, and that's best accomplished **with your voice!**

Ensure your submissions are received by Angie (office@cbisrael.org) before the 15th of each month for inclusion in the next newsletter.

AUGUST 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 Light Candles 7:36 PM	7 Shabbat ends 8:42 PM
8 Rosh Chodesh Elul	9 Rosh Chodesh Elul Executive Committee After Minyan	10	11 Intro to Juda- ism 8pm	12	13 Light Candles 7:26 PM	14 Shabbat ends 8:30 PM
15	16 Board Meeting after Minyan	17	18	19	20 Light Candles 7:15 PM	21 Shabbat ends 8:17 PM
22	23	24	25 Intro to Juda- ism 8pm	26	27 Light Candles 7:02 PM	28 Shabbat ends 8:04 PM Selichot
29	30	31				



WHY BE DIFFERENT? AN INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

Who are the Jews? It is a common understanding that Judaism is a religion with rich connections to the traditions of Christianity and Islam, but it is also a civilization that reaches back to the beginnings of history and has been expressed in wide varieties and in diverse cultural settings. This introductory course will provide the basic narrative of the Jewish people, our literature and languages, our beliefs and the ways we connect to each other, to the wider world, and to God. It is designed for both Jews who want a fresh encounter with their tradition and for non-Jews who wish to learn our story. It is suitable for those seeking conversion. Those students who wish to explore that path need to be in touch with Rabbi Siemers to learn of the additional requirements.

The course will begin in June 2021 and be conducted in twice-monthly online classes through the spring of 2022, covering all the Jewish holidays and life-cycle events. In addition to the course, there will be an opportunity to attend and participate in worship services and communal events. Each class will be devoted to a topic and will be self-contained. The textbook for the course will be *Living Judaism*, by Rabbi Wayne Dosick.

Rabbi Siemers is the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Israel in Bangor, Maine. He has taught introductory courses in Judaism at University of Maine, as well as courses in Medieval and Modern Jewish History. His latest academic and communal focus has been on the history of antisemitism.

For further information and to register, please con-

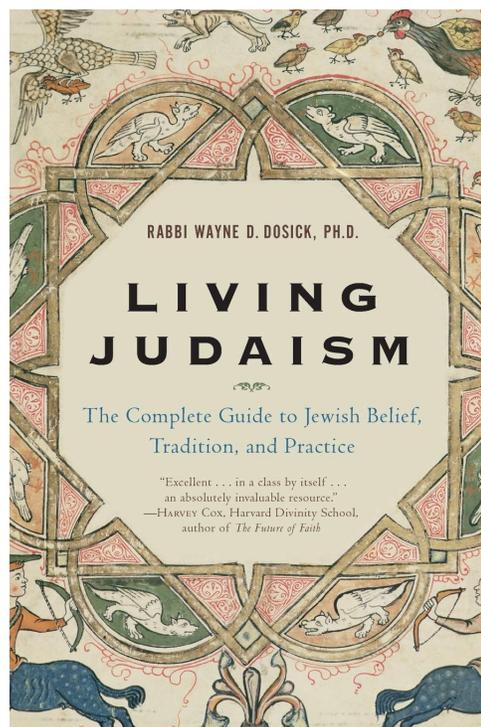
tact the synagogue office or our website to register online.

If you miss a session, videos are available on www.cbisrael.org.

COURSE SCHEDULE THROUGH AUGUST

Date	Topic
August 11th	Shabbat
August 25th	The High Holidays

COURSE MATERIAL



DONATIONS

GENERAL FUND DONATION

In memory of Elizabeth Berleant & Rudolph Schiller

From Riva Berleant

In memory of Morris Rubin

From Barbara Rubin

In honor of Billy Miller's celebration

From Irwin & Susan Singer

In memory of Morris Rich

From Norman Minsky

In honor of Gloria Miller

From Doug & Nori Kazdoy

In memory of Gloria Miller & in honor of Billy Miller

From Barry Goldberg

In memory of Sylvia Berson

From David & Marcia Lieberman

DISCRETIONARY FUND

From Barbara Goldscheider

In memory of Morris Rich

From Eleanor Chason

In memory of Morris Rubin

From Fay Rubin

In memory of Sylvia Rolsky

From Sue Garson

Speedy recovery to Norman Minsky

From Sue Garson

In memory of Sylvia Rolsky

From Paula Adelman

Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of Edythe (Ginsberg) Shapiro

From Beverley Shapiro

In memory of Sara Sklar

From David Sklar

In memory of Doris Israel & Morris Rich

From Stanley & Eleanor Israel

In memory of Harry Broder

From Sherry Broder

In memory of Irene Chotiner

From Terri & Don Lewis

SOCIAL ACTION

Get well to Paula Adelman & Norman Minsky

From Beverley Shapiro

In honor of Susan & Arnold Garson's 61st Wedding Anniversary

From Paula Adelman

JULY KIDDUSH SPONSORS

Billy Miller

Tobey Adelman

AUGUST YAHRZEITS**AV 5781**

Name	Date	Hebrew Date
Max Dennis	1 August	23 Av
Harold Epstein	1 August	23 Av
Rita Baron	2 August	24 Av
Janice Leavitt	2 August	24 Av
Rose Seider	2 August	24 Av
Benjamin Blankenberg	3 August	25 Av
Elizabeth Ollove	3 August	25 Av
Inez Rudman	3 August	25 Av
Rose Bat Louis	3 August	25 Av
Robert Cohen	4 August	26 Av
Pearl Singer	4 August	26 Av
Joel Korbritz	5 August	27 Av
Esther Maisel	5 August	27 Av
Norman Rothschild	5 August	27 Av
Etta Abrams	7 August	29 Av
Irving Garson	7 August	29 Av
Irving Lovit	8 August	30 Av

ELUL 5781

Name	Date	Hebrew Date
Rose Abrams	9 August	1 Elul
Melvin Kahn	9 August	1 Elul
Bernice Kazdoy	9 August	1 Elul
Pear Plesset	9 August	1 Elul
Selma Berger	10 August	2 Elul
Barbara Peters	10 August	2 Elul
Beatrice Leen	11 August	3 Elul
Martin Nachum	11 August	3 Elul
Sydney Gilden	12 August	4 Elul
Bernard Hilson	14 August	6 Elul
Maxwell Rapaport	14 August	6 Elul
Inez Rogers	14 August	6 Elul
Adele Allen	15 August	7 Elul
Harvey Brandwein	15 August	7 Elul
Charlotte Broder	15 August	7 Elul
Ruth Dorsky	15 August	7 Elul
Helen Lyon	15 August	7 Elul
Nathan Sanders	15 August	7 Elul
Isadore Feltenstein	16 August	8 Elul
Rose Sanders	17 August	9 Elul

Bella Dennis	18 August	10 Elul
Louis Rolnick	18 August	10 Elul
Nat Weinstein	18 August	10 Elul
Jennie Baron	19 August	11 Elul
Jennie Bluestein	19 August	11 Elul
Louis Brill	19 August	11 Elul
Lillian Gussman	19 August	11 Elul
Henry Kubetz	19 August	11 Elul
Woodrow Miller	19 August	11 Elul
Rose Lief Ornstein	19 August	11 Elul
Jean Weiss	19 August	11 Elul
Mildreth Rappaport	22 August	14 Elul
Peter Shiro	24 August	16 Elul
Anne Vinick	24 August	16 Elul
Samuel Dennis	25 August	17 Elul
Edgar Goldsmith	25 August	17 Elul
Leah Koritsky	25 August	17 Elul
Mordecai Ollove	25 August	17 Elul
Morris Staub	25 August	17 Elul
Ida Dondis	26 August	18 Elul
Israel Epstein	26 August	18 Elul
Michael Povich	26 August	18 Elul
Robert Folgeman	27 August	19 Elul
Ruth Ann Belanger	27 August	19 Elul
Freda Newman	27 August	19 Elul
Maurice Cohen	28 August	20 Elul
Fishel Kaprow	28 August	20 Elul
John Richardson	28 August	20 Elul
Katie Emple	29 August	21 Elul
Mel Gershman	29 August	21 Elul
Marie Stern	29 August	21 Elul
Harry Grossman	30 August	22 Elul
David Rapaport	30 August	22 Elul
Lena Ginsberg	31 August	23 Elul
Besie Kupsenel	31 August	23 Elul
Bertha Robinson	31 August	23 Elul

OBITUARIES / LIFE HISTORIES

Folks,

Thanks to a truly remarkable effort by Vicki Darrah, we now have captured 964 obituaries/stories/notes of the approximately 1200 folks buried in our cemeteries. Below is the listing of those names for which we have no information. Please, please, please, look through the list and if you have an old obituary, or would write up what you know of a dear friend or relative...or know someone who does...it would be an enormous mitzvah. On behalf of the Cemetery Corporation, thank you.

Miles Unobsky Theeman
Chair

Max Abram	Abraham Abrams	Sarah Abrams	Isaac Acker	Gertrude Adelman	J Adelman
Neal Adelman	Lemuel Allen	Lena Alpert	Rose Alpert	Lena Altman	Fannie Altman
Louie Altman	Eleazer Apple	Mollie Barnett	Lena Berger	Joseph Bernstein	Reuben Berger
Louis Berger	Sarah Berger	Samuel Berger	Anna Bernstein	Fannie Biegeleisen	Annie Braidy
Louis Breidy	Harry Breidy	Moses Brown	Almen Byer	Isaac Byer	Harry Calpert
Ben Zion Cantor	Dorothy Clevenson	Daniel Cleverson	Nathan Cohen (1901)	Rosie Cohen	Haskall Cohen
Rose Cohen	Archie Cohen	Maxwell Cooper	Etta Copperstein	Louis Dannis	Rachel Dannis
John Dannis	Harry Dannis	Morris Dannis	Louis Dannis	Samuel Dennis	Annie Dennis
Sarah Dinkin	Harry Ellis	Nathan Emden	Rachel Emdur	Samuel Emple	Lillian Emple
Nathan Epstein	Bessie Epstein	Archie Epstein	Julia Epstein	Hyman Epstein	Leonard Epstein
Lewis Etscovitz	Rose Etscovitz	Harry Fineberg	Joseph Fish	Annie Fish	Israel Frank
Julius Frank	Benjamin Frank	Joseph Freedman	Edith Friedman	Rose Friedman	Max Galpert
Ralph Galpert	Nettie Galpert	Rose Gold	Bessie Gold	George Goldberg	Moses Goldberg
Hannah Goldberg	Sarah Goldman	Mary Jean Goldsmith	Minerva Goodkowsky	Jennie Goodman	Hannah Goodman
Donald Goodwin	Esther Goog	Fannie Gopan	Shule Gordon	Wolf Green	Boris Green
Robert Grodinsky	Bernard Hall	Manuel Hall	Jochobed Hall	Chayim Harris	Sarah Hillson
Hannah Jacobsen	Abraham Jacobsen	John Johnston	Harry Kagan	Lea Kaminsky	Joseph Kaminsky
Anna Kaminsky	Simma Kaprow	James Katz	Abraham Katz	Levi Klein	Celia Klein
Nathan Klein	Harry Klein	Leah Klipatsky	Minnie Kobritz	Sarah Sally Kobritz	Isaac Koenka
Abraham Kuriloff	Hyman Lait	Howard Leavitt	Morris Leavitt	Sadie Leavitt	Solomon Leavitt
Isador Leavitt	Minnie Leavitt	Max Levine	Rose Levine	Nathan Levine	Annie Levine
Samuel Leivine	William Lightman	Joe Levine	Ida Leah Lipitsich	Nathan Liss	Ethel Lober
Betsy Longer	Frieda Lubell	Max Maltz	Jeanette Maltz	Solomon Mandelbaum	Samuel Marcus
Max Marcus	Max Michelson	Bertha Migowskey	Abraham Maskind	Max Matz	Lena Morris
Emma Newhouse	Dora Paul	Annie Peppar	Stella Pilot	Sam Pilot	Lewis Plesset
Sarah Plevin	Ann Povich	Esther Povich	Sam Price	Rebecca Price	Morris Prilutsky
Joseph Prilutsky	Doris Pullman	Haddie Pullman	A Rachkovsky	Gertrude Radgik	Sarah Raichlen
Anna Rapaport	Idale Resnick	Louis Rich (1922)	Louis Rich (1951)	Ethel Richardson	Katie Richardson

OBITUARIES / LIFE HISTORIES (CONTINUED)

William Richlin	Charles Robinson	Sam Robinson	Lous Rolnick	Lazarus Rosen	Minnie Rosen
Ida "Chiedine" Rosen	Harold Rosenfeld	William Rothschild	Sarah Rubin	Isaac Rubin	Samuel Ellis Rudman
S Rudman (1904)	Freda Rudman	Irene Rudman	Ida Rudman	Richard Sanger	B. Savage (1910)
Hinda Savage	Samuel Savitt	Sidney Schiro	Andrea Schwartzberg	Morris Sclair	Dora Segal
Nathan Shiro	Esther Shiro	JanLee Shiro	Reuben Shur	Celia Sibolsky	Jacob Sibolsky
Gerson Silberg	Ida Silverman	Louis Solomon	Max Solomon	Bella Solomon	Bessie Spear
Gertrude Spear	Barnett Statler	Mamie Stern	Florence Sterns	Louis Sterns	Bessie Sterns
Harry Sterns	Sam Sterns	Bertha Sterns	Bette Tussing	Davis Unobskey	Solomon Urdang
Bella Viner	Kent Wakefield	Fredrica Wallace	John Wanamaker	Hyman Weiss	Benjamin White
Solomon Wolman	Stephen Zetlen	Wolf Zitaner			

CONGREGANT D'VAR FROM STAN ISRAEL

Stan delivered this message to us on Shabbat in July, and we thought it appropriate to share with our wider community.

This is the 50-year Yahrzeit of my mother, Doris Israel. Unfortunately, her untimely death left my family with many small problems, which over time grew bigger, until eventually they became insurmountable. If each family member had taken small steps to reach out and overcome our differences, then our problems would have stayed small. But instead, there was fertile ground for problems to flourish, and they became insurmountable.

Today's Haftorah is about Jeremiah, the prophet of destruction. The people of Israel were doing wrong, especially concerning idolatry, which had become popular and rampant. This small problem led into bigger problems. The entire situation became hopeless and eventually led to the destruction of the temple. The small problems of the day became insurmountable.

Some of the problems that Jewish people have had throughout the ages, still exist today, such as anti-Semitism. Growing up in Berlin, New Hampshire, I had never even heard of the word, let alone know what it meant. But even without the label, I felt it. It existed. And in hindsight I can see that anti-Semitism negatively impacted my options and career trajectory. At the University of Vermont, prejudice was rampant on campus at that time, for both black and Jewish students. We faced discrimination in small and large ways. For example, my brother had to change his name, so that he would be able to get into grad school. He never changed it back.

Today, anti-Semitism is not quite as bad as it was back then, but it still exists and impacts our lives. What bothers me the most locally, are the anti-Semitic letters to the editor, in the Bangor Daily News that attack and blame Israel for the bombings and killing. The letters are one sided and imbalanced because they do not address Hamas.

Who is Hamas? Hamas has been organized to do one thing: promote Islamic

extremism around the world. Their priority is to destroy the country of Israel and murder Jews. Founded in 1987, they steal international aid meant for Palestinian civilians. They do not care who dies during suicides bombings and the destruction of Jewish settlements. They brutally oppress Palestinians in Gaza denying them civil, human, and political rights. Their funding comes from Iran and Turkey; and their money goes for endless war equipment against Israel. They do not build hospitals or schools or care about feeding their own people.

How can we teach people the truth about Hamas, which has become an insurmountable problem? Jeremiah tried to teach the people about idolatry, which was the problem of that day and age. How can we teach the people about the problems that we now face concerning anti-Semitism and Hamas, These problems relate to those that have faced Jewish communities in every generation. I recommend educating yourself about Hamas, so that you can teach others. Make sure to tell those who are receptive and will listen, about the propaganda that blames only Israel, and does not even mention Hamas. We must find ways to make Hamas accountable for their actions.□

There is something challenging about being a member of a group of minority people, with ways that differ from the majority. What the majority does is not always right. And some of the blame lies in the hands of Israel when they bomb and kill innocent children and families. We must hold Israel accountable for their mistakes as well. This kind of accountability and owning up to the mistakes made on both sides, may help to dismantle prejudice. Together, acting responsibly, we may begin to take small steps that lead in the direction of reconciliation and peace.

Accountability is always a relevant issue for each of us. How we are □accountable toward small problems in our own life matters. When we skillfully handle small problems well, they stay small and do not become insurmountable. Together as Jewish people, we can collectively build on our small successes and begin to truly make a difference.

Written by: Stan Israel

Long-time member of CBI

Congregation Beth Israel
P.O. Box 1509
Bangor, ME 04402

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CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

Bill Siemers	Rabbi
Bernard Miller	Gabbai
Nathaniel Rosenblatt	Gabbai
Kathryn Slott	Gabbai
Nori Kazdoy	Gabbai
Leah Kresge	Director of Youth Education

Telephone: (207)-945-3433
Website: www.cbisrael.org
Office Email: office@cbisrael.org

OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Brian Kresge	President
Nori Kazdoy	Vice President
Penny Lamhut	Treasurer
Nanci Miller	Secretary

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Monday, Thursday, Friday - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday - 10:00 a.m.
Sunday - 8:30 a.m.