



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

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PUT ON YOUR YARMULKE, IT'S TIME FOR HANUKKAH!

And so the Adam Sandler song goes.

When someone asks, "what time is Hanukkah this year?", we love to tell the old joke, "same time it is every year: the 25th of Kislev."

That just happens to fall at the end of November this year. If we go by the prevailing calendar, sure, it's early!

Well, CBI is ready. You know we rock the Festival of Lights, with Rabbi Siemers leading us in Peter, Paul and Mary's "Light One Candle," Leah Kresge organizing a great shindig for our kids, and the Sisterhood making latkes and running their Hanukkah sales.

It's a great time of the year to connect with the community, and it's much needed after the long night of the pandemic.

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RABBI'S MESSAGE

BILL SIEMERS

Dear Friends,

Much of our tradition takes the eternity of heaven and earth to be a given - whenever the Torah wishes to make a point it calls them to be witnesses against treacherous humanity. And throughout the days of introspection we have just finished it is impossible not to sense our own smallness in the face of a seemingly static universe. Compared to the stars, the psalmist asks, "what is man that mention should be made"? We behold our beautiful forests and great rivers, illumined by the steady rising and setting of the sun, and we can't help but project a permanence upon our surroundings to set against our fleeting existence.

We know, though, that even though it is very old the earth is not eternal and that the conditions which permit our existence are but a chapter in the long history of our home. Since the late seventies, there has been a theoretical concern that the byproducts of modernity could cause the planet's temperature to rise and in our time the concern has become acute. In both America and Israel, the collection of "hundred year" fires and floods has challenged our way of life, and has suggested that we are moving from the theory to the actual.

Our tradition trains us to understand ourselves as stewards and not possessors of Creation. The practice of saying blessings before we enjoy any aspect of the world reminds us throughout the day that we are dependent upon resources we cannot create. Before each meal we thank the one who brings forth bread from the earth: I can purchase flour and I can bake loaves, but I cannot create seeds, earth or water. Evening and morning we recite the paragraph from the Shema that teaches of the collective responsibility that is required to address our vulnerability in a land where our most critical resource falls unpredictably from the sky. And in Israel this year we observe the *Shemittah* - the commandment to let the land rest in the seventh year - in order to remind us that precious resources are not to be possessed but protected.

The connections between our tradition and the challenges we face are manifold, and it is our intention to devote the coming year to exploring how the texts we study relate to the task at hand. We are going to present the issue from the perspective of scientists who hold the best views of the current problem and its trajectory, of activists who seek to formulate a response, and of thinkers who have studied the nexus between Jewish and environmental thought. We will look at the problem from a global perspective, but also consider the effects of climate change on the places that we carry in our hearts - our beautiful state and of our home in Israel. And we will consider responses to the crisis encompassing public action and personal contemplation. Throughout, we will deepen our commitments to be better citizens and more learned Jews. I hope that you will support and join us on this exciting journey.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Bill Siemers



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BRIAN KRESGE

I hate Zoom services. Hate 'em.

I have worked remotely for well over 5-years now, beginning long before the pandemic started. When I was still a single father to Amelia, back in 2004 and 2005, I worked remotely as well, juggling infant/toddler on my lap as I worked on software. However, it's only in recent years that my work life revolved around Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

Meetings are terrible over the Internet.

I see minyans the same way. Zoom is just intrusive. It's nice if you're away and would like to be a part of CBI, but it's not great if it's the norm.

What about the risk?

Risk mitigation was major component of operations as I gained rank in the military. We're not a congregation of paratroopers, but the principles apply. We identify the risks, and we do what we can to offset them.

In the end it comes down to a choice: what level of risk do we assume to fulfill our mission? For us, our high vaccination rate, masking, and a healthy respect for distance should be enough.

Within that, we still have to remember that we are a community of friends. We don't just weigh what we do and the decisions we make against process and policy. We consider the "who." We consider that there is a baseline of trust assumed to exist between members of our community. Member, non-member, whatever...our friendships **must** come first.

I've had the sense, in recent months, that many of us are chafing. We're dissatisfied, all of us, with conditions imposed by a pandemic. Perhaps we're upset with leadership decisions. Perhaps we're vexed by the constant changes to our services.

I ask us all to take a step back and remember the centrality of Judaism to our lives, and how Congregation Beth Israel is the place best-suited to realize that. We won't always get it right, but we don't usually get it wrong.

With that, we need your help. Those that can, this year, we ask you chip in a little more to ease the stresses on our general fund. Get your Yom Kippur pledges in, perhaps put a little padding on your dues payments. If you received an Aliyah or honor, our custom is to send in a donation related in some way to 18, or "chai."

What you'll get in return? We have an ambitious slate of programming this year. We're making serious improvements to our original building, by making the ground-floor kitchen generally viable and our chapel viable again.

We're getting there, baruch hashem, with your help!

Stay chill and do spectacular things,

Brian Kresge

President

We are thrilled to announce that we have found the perfect spot for the granite bench honoring the memory of our dear friend Janie Solomon.

It is located on Cortland Circle, where Janie resided before her passing.

Fondly,

Janie & Susanne



SISTERHOOD UPDATE

It's hard to believe we're in November already! The national holidays of Veterans' Day and Thanksgiving will happen soon, quickly followed by the first light of Hanukkah on Sunday, November 28!

As you may have heard, our bigger sale with craft vendors and cafe will NOT happen again this year, due to Covid.

However, the Sisterhood is getting ready for a great year-round and Hanukkah Judaica selling event, still to begin on Sunday, November 21st, in the Epstein foyer.

Paula and Marcia have ordered wonderful new merchandise and are eager to put it on display.

There are menorahs, candles, dreidels, and gift items for all ages. There will also be Shabbat necessities, jewelry, and many other items. The sale will continue throughout Hanukkah when the office is open.

In other news, Terri Lewis has accepted the position of Sisterhood Secretary! We are very excited about adding Terri to the Sisterhood Board.

Vicki Darrah and Nanci Miller will continue as Co-Presidents. Nanci is also continuing as Sisterhood Treasurer.

The Sisterhood sends a hearty Mazel Tov to Elaine and Jason Alley on the recent Bar Mitzvah of their son, Aiden! Yashar Koach, Aiden!

Sisterhood membership for 2021-2022 is due.

The Sisterhood will be sending our annual membership letters soon. Dues this year are again \$18.

We are also updating your information including email addresses. Please join/rejoin to help support our many causes including the kitchen, youth activities, and synagogue events.

Donations for life cycle happenings may be sent to Jane Silver. Checks should be made out to the Beth Israel Sisterhood Tribute Fund.

Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Hanukkah to all, and a big Thank You to all our Veterans! Stay safe and be well!

NOVEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 Rosh Chodesh Light Candles 5:00PM	6 Shabbat Ends 6:02PM
7	8	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12 Light Candles 3:52PM	13 Shabbat Ends 4:55PM
14	15	16	17	18	19 Light Candles 3:45PM	20 Shabbat Ends 4:49PM
21 Sisterhood Ha- nukkah sale Latke pick-up	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving	26 Light Candles 3:40PM	27 Shabbat Ends 4:45PM
28 EREV HANUKKAH	29 HANUKKAH	30 HANUKKAH				

NOVEMBER YAHRZEITS

KISLEV 5782

Name	Date	Hebrew Date
Bessie Segal	November 5	1 Kislev
Harry Bayer	November 5	1 Kislev
Rachel Etscovitz	November 5	1 Kislev
Irving Kagan	November 5	1 Kislev
Sally Striar	November 5	1 Kislev
Ida Michelson	November 5	1 Kislev
Alice Rolsky	November 6	2 Kislev
Albert Finn	November 6	2 Kislev
Harold Levy	November 6	2 Kislev
Harold Weisman	November 6	2 Kislev
David Cutler	November 6	2 Kislev
Fannie Welton	November 7	3 Kislev
Janie Solomon	November 8	4 Kislev
Barbara Braverman	November 8	4 Kislev
Betty Lieberman	November 9	5 Kislev
Joseph Ornstein	November 9	5 Kislev
Adolph Theeman	November 9	5 Kislev
Leo Parla	November 9	5 Kislev
Marvin Glazier	November 9	5 Kislev
Charles Miller	November 10	6 Kislev
Lillian Cohen	November 10	6 Kislev
Charles Cohen	November 10	6 Kislev
Pauline Flax	November 11	7 Kislev
Joseph Siegel	November 11	7 Kislev
Lena Lebar	November 12	8 Kislev
Mildred Cohen	November 12	8 Kislev
Lou Wiseman	November 12	8 Kislev
Ethel Richardson	November 13	9 Kislev
William Emple	November 13	9 Kislev
Doris Striar	November 13	9 Kislev
Michael Kaprow	November 13	9 Kislev
Dr. Louis Goodfriend	November 14	10 Kislev
Sanford Miller	November 14	10 Kislev
Minnie Kominsky	November 15	11 Kislev
Sadye Kominsky	November 15	11 Kislev
Frances Pilot	November 16	12 Kislev
Edith Stern	November 16	12 Kislev
Lillian Morris	November 16	12 Kislev
Alfred Abrahams	November 17	13 Kislev
Jerome Baron	November 17	13 Kislev

Lillian Shane	November 17	13 Kislev
Maurice Alpert	November 18	14 Kislev
Frances Bernstein	November 18	14 Kislev
Draize Cohen	November 19	15 Kislev
Ida Rolsky	November 19	15 1 Kislev
Shimon Price	November 20	16 Kislev
Harold Howowitz	November 20	16Kislev
George Cohen	November 20	16 Kislev
Oscar Brown	November 21	17 Kislev
Benjamin Braverman	November 21	17 Kislev
Helen Kamber	November 22	18 Kislev
Gertrude Ginsberg	November 24	20 Kislev
Philip Dresner	November 25	21 Kislev
Paula Sohn	November 25	21 Kislev
William Matson	November 25	21 Kislev
James Kaplan	November 25	21 Kislev
Mary Emple	November 26	22 Kislev
Lillian Goldstein	November 26	22Kislev
Allan Vener	November 26	22 Kislev
Helen Schiro	November 27	23 Kislev
Edward Allen	November 27	23Kislev
Herbert Emple	November 27	23 Kislev
Louis Saltzman	November 27	23Kislev
Etta Epstein	November 27	23Kislev
Theresa Wildstein	November 27	23Kislev
Elias Rosen	November 28	24Kislev
Mollie Kamenkowitz	November 30	26 Kislev
Moisha Ben Boruch	November 30	26 Kislev
Fannie Ginsberg	December 1	27 Kislev
Alexander Goldberg	December 1	27 Kislev
Max Miller	December 2	28 Kislev
Lillian Emple	December 2	28 Kislev
Arlene Keith	December 2	28 Kislev
Morris Kagan	December 3	29 Kislev
Allison Loring	December 3	29 Kislev
Irene Slotnick	December 3	29 Kislev
Fay Lamelle	December 3	29 Kislev
Ruth Dondis Small	December 3	29 Kislev



CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL SISTERHOOD

Have you missed the crispy delicious Latkes the Sisterhood always sold at their Hanukkah Marketplace? We are all bummed that we must again skip the craft fair. We have this beautiful new kitchen and want to use it! The Sisterhood will be selling latkes for Hannukah this year.

All orders must be received by **November 10th** to ensure we make enough. Pick up day will be **Sunday November 21 from 1-3**. Latkes will be frozen as they have been in the past. They will be packaged frozen in environmentally friendly containers.

We will also be having our Judaica tables set up from our gift shop. Please stop by for some Hanukkah shopping on November 21st from 1-3. We will keep the tables up until the end of Hanukkah. Angie will be available if you want to shop after the 21st during regular office hours.

PLEASE complete the form below and return to the office or mail, with payment to:

CBI Sisterhood,
PO Box 1509
Bangor, Maine
04402.

Please make checks payable to the **CBI Sisterhood**.

Latkes are in packages of 6 for \$6.00.

I would like _____ packages of Latkes.

Name _____

Phone: _____



DONATIONS

GENERAL FUND DONATION

In memory of Miriam Viner

From Marcia & David Lieberman

In honor of Congregation Beth Israel

From Alexander & Barbara Wilde

Yahrzeit Fund

In memory of Bella Goldman

From Eleanor & Stan Israel

In memory of Nate Smith

From Jay Smith & Diane Strauss

In memory of Sam Rolsky

From Susan & Arnold Garson

In memory of Gloria Miller & Lillian Silver

From Micheal Serota & Terry Lacombe-Stevens

In memory of Dot Serota

From Michael Serota & Terry Lacombe-Stevens

DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Mae Minsky

From Leonard & Renee Minsky

In memory of Mae Minsky

From Norman Minsky

High Holiday Thank you to Rabbi Siemers

From Michael Serota & Terry Lacombe-Stevens

In memory of Connie Darrah & Helen Rolsky

From Alan & Vicki Darrah

From Scot Miller

BOOK FUND

In memory of Bernie Striar

From Ronald & Wendy Striar

SOCIAL ACTION

From Scot Miller

ALIYAH FUND

Berney & Cindy Kubetz

CHESED COMMITTEE

From Brian Striar

SISTERHOOD

From Scot Miller

YOM KIPPUR

Leonard & Renee Minsky

Jerry Winkelstein

Arthur Schwarcz

Kathy Slott

Nanci Miller

Dr. Alan & Adrienne Butler

Ray & Leah Greenberg

Toby Adelman

Brian & Leah Kresge

Ron & Rose Dennis

Joan Day

Leslie Rosenblatt

Andrea Brownstein

Stan & Eleanor Israel

Paula Adelman

Arthur & Deborah Blank

Nori & Doug Kazdoy

Jason & Elaine Alley

Don & Terri Lewis

Isabel McSweeney

Brian & Barbara Bresnan

Eleanor Chason

Bill & Louise Small

Miles & Sharon Theeman

Alan & Vicki Darrah

Congregation Beth Israel
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CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

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Bernard Miller	Gabbai
Nathaniel Rosenblatt	Gabbai
Kathryn Slott	Gabbai
Nori Kazdoy	Gabbai

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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.