

# THE COMMUNITY NEWS

MARCH 2005

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## JCC PROGRAMMING

The Jewish Community Council is sponsoring a film festival to examine how American Jews are portrayed in the movies including a documentary of the role of Jews in Hollywood. Upcoming dates and films are March 17 (*Jews, Movies, Hollywoodism and the American Dream*) and April 14 (*Hester Street*). All films will be shown at the Bangor Public Library. Watch your mail for details.

The annual observance of Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) will take place on May 2, 2005 with a presentation by Julie Kohner, "Voices of a Generation." Julie Kohner has put a personal face on the Holocaust by telling the story of her parents, whose bond had the strength to survive a war. Julie is a past president of the *Sons and Daughters of the 1939 Club*. The *1939 Club*, based in Los Angeles, is one of the largest and most active Holocaust survivor organizations in the world.

## LOUISE AND BILL SMALL TO ADDRESS SENIOR CITIZENS

The Senior Citizen Friendship Club had their monthly lunch meeting on February 2nd. After the meal, the members enjoyed a delightful movie, *Full-Court Miracle*. It is the story of a Hebrew Academy basketball team who wins against all odds.

The next meeting of the Senior Citizens is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, March 2nd, 2005. Louise and Bill Small will talk about their trip to India. Everyone is invited to join us.

For more information, call Ida Gopan at 947-7685.

## TSUNAMI RELIEF EFFORT

Dear Friends,

By now you have probably all witnessed, through the daily media, the horrific destruction and loss of human life caused by the recent earthquake and resulting tsunami in Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean region.

As difficult as it is to fathom the trauma of loss of life-the challenges of healing the injured, feeding the survivors and rebuilding the area are equally as daunting. We take for granted the many blessings that we have that allow us to read newspapers, watch on television and read on the internet about these horrors from the comfort of our living rooms. As we begin the New Year, we pray for peace, prosperity and good health, something that the families affected by this tragedy may not know for a long time.

A worldwide humanitarian effort has been started by numerous disaster relief organizations and charities committed to stabilizing and rebuilding the affected areas. In this time of need, won't you please open your hearts and your resources

and contribute what you can toward these noble efforts.

Below, please find a list of some of the organizations and accompanying addresses and websites that you can contribute directly to. These organizations are already set up to receive funds and process them more efficiently than we can in the Bangor Jewish community; or you may wish to give to one of the many other organizations listed on the internet or in the media. We ask that you do so at your own discretion to the organization of your choice.

Thank you for your understanding, caring and sharing.

With our deepest appreciation for your generosity,

Executive Committee of the Jewish Community Council

### American Jewish World Service

45 West 36th Street, 10th Floor  
New York, NY 10018  
800-889-7146  
[www.ajws.org](http://www.ajws.org)

### American Red Cross

International Response Fund  
PO Box 37243  
Washington, DC 20013  
800-HELP-NOW  
[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

### CARE

151 Ellis Street, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30303-2440  
800-521-CARE  
[www.care.org](http://www.care.org)

### Doctors Without Borders/Medecins Sans Frontieres

PO Box 2247  
New York, NY 10116-2247  
888-392-0392  
[www.doctorswithoutborders.org](http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org)

### Project HOPE

Asia Tsunami Response  
255 Carter Hall Lane  
Millwood, VA 22646  
800-544-4673  
[www.projecthope.org](http://www.projecthope.org)

### US Fund for UNICEF

333 East 38th Street  
New York, NY 10016  
800-4-UNICEF  
[www.unicefusa.org](http://www.unicefusa.org)

## BETH ABRAHAM SYNAGOGUE

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Jewishbangor.com

### TIKKUN OLAM— REPAIRING THE WORLD

There's been much talk about **Tikkun Olam**- repairing the world, but one really has to ask oneself two questions:

- 1) Why must we repair the world?
- 2) How do we repair the world?

When Hashem (G-d) created the world, He left certain things unfinished and appointed man, the guardian of the world, with the job of completing the work. In order to accomplish our mission, we can either use a willy-nilly method of guessing how to repair it or we can study the instruction booklet, the Torah, and learn exactly how to do it.

When I was a young boy, I remember my bike wheel was wobbling. My father explained that the reason the wheel was wobbling was because some of the spokes were either too loose or too tight. He worked with me to find the problem spokes and using his trusty spoke tightener, I balanced my wheels. Throughout the whole process he explained what needed to be done and carefully guided me through the process. That is exactly what Hashem did when He presented us with His Torah at Mount Sinai. Hashem gave us the blueprints (Torah), explanations (Oral tradition-Talmud) and guided us through the process.

Therefore, it is up to each one of us to delve into the Torah and discover the most efficient method needed to properly do our job of Tikkun Olam.

### EXPERIENCE THE RABBINATE

Did you ever wonder what Rabbinical school was like? Well, if you have, have I got the deal for you. Every Sunday, Beth Abraham has a full schedule of learning. Each class goes into depth, insuring that we understand the text and then we attempt to apply it to our present day, may it be sections of Jewish law or Jewish philosophy. Each class is interactive and questions, discussion and participation are the norm. Everyone is welcome and no previous knowledge, including how to read or understand Hebrew is required. Each class is also set up to be self-contained, so that one may enter anytime.

*The schedule of the day is:*

Shacharit	7:30am
Breakfast	8:15am
Talmud: Tractate Ta'anit	8:45am
Samuel I	9:30am
Kohelet (Ecclesiastes)	10:30am
Jewish Ethics	11:30 am
Program ends	12:30am

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### *Shacharit-Morning services*

Sunday	7:30 am
Mon, Thurs & Rosh Chodesh	6:30 am
Tues, Wed, & Fri	6:45 am
Shabbat	9:00 am

#### *Mincha & Ma'ariv- Afternoon & Evening services*

Call 947-0876 for exact times as they change weekly

### BETH ABRAHAM CLASSES

In addition to our Sunday program, we also learn **Talmud** Mon-Fri morning beginning at 6:00 am. On Shabbat afternoon, we **study the weekly Torah portion** and Sunday night, following evening Ma'ariv, we study **conversational Hebrew**. Please join us as often as you'd like.

### ADAR IS HERE

The Rabbis state that when the month of Adar arrives, our joy increases. With that in mind...enjoy!

*Below are some definitions which your dictionary most probably does not have.*

**ADULT:** A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.

**COMMITTEE:** A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

# Congregation Beth Israel News



*Congregation Beth Israel would like to invite the larger Jewish Community to join with us as we celebrate Jewish Life and Culture through learning and celebration. All are welcome to attend.*

## Highlights for March & April:

- The “Why’s and Wisdom of Judaism” – please join Rabbi Cantor on Thursday Nights at 7:00 for a discussion of the essence of Judaism.



- Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> is our community Seder. Festivities (the Megillah, a play and a costume contest, and a deli dinner) begin at 5:30pm. Please RSVP to the office by Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>.



- Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> is our communal celebration of Passover. Services at 5:30 pm; Seder begins at 6:00 pm. Adults \$22, Children (11 & under) \$12, 2 adults and multiple children \$75. Your pre-paid reservation check made out to “Congregation Beth Israel Sisterhood” must be received by Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. Please mail your check to 144 York Street.
- “Little Bits” is a gathering on the first Saturday of each month for 3-6 year olds. A wonderful time for parents and children to get together, playing games, learning prayers and songs.



Congregation Beth Israel  
144 York Street • Bangor, ME 04401  
Phone 945-3433 • FAX 945-3433

### CONGREGATION BETH EL NEWS

**Beth El, Bangor's Reform Jewish synagogue**, is located at 183 French Street, Bangor, Maine. Our membership includes individuals and families from throughout northern and central Maine. 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. Childcare and a playroom for children are provided at many services. We attempt to arrange rides, carpools, or overnight hospitality for those traveling long distances. Beth El's sanctuary is handicapped-accessible. For information, call Beth El's office at 945-4578; e-mail the synagogue at [bethel@prexar.com](mailto:bethel@prexar.com); or visit our website at <http://uahc.org/congs/me/me002/>.

#### Worship Services

2/18/05	Worship/Chavurah Shabbat	7:30 p.m.	3/26/05	Worship/Grade 7	10:00 a.m.
2/26/05	Worship		4/1/05	Worship/Grade 4	7:30 p.m.
	10:00 a.m.		4/8/05	Worship	7:30 p.m.
3/3-13/05	Beth El Trip to Israel			p.m.	
3/4/05	Worship/Shabbat Across America	7:30 p.m.	4/9/05	Worship/Story Shabbat	10:00 a.m.
3/11/05	Worship	7:30 p.m.	4/13/05	Bar Harbor Discussion	7:00 p.m.
	p.m.		4/15/05	Worship/Chavurah Shabbat	7:30 p.m.
3/12/05	Worship/Story Shabbat	10:00 a.m.	4/23/05	Worship	10:00 p.m.
3/18/05	Worship/Chavurah Shabbat	7:30 p.m.			
3/24/05	Purim Megillah Reading	6:30 p.m.			

**On March 4, Beth El will join synagogues throughout America taking part in Shabbat Across America**, a night on which all Jews are encouraged to come together and celebrate Shabbat. Beth El's celebration will begin with a potluck vegetarian dinner at 5:30, followed by an informal Shabbat service. All are welcome and encouraged to attend, congregants and non-congregants alike. Reservations are required for dinner, due to limited seating; however, reservations are not required for the service. Please call Beth El at 945-4578 to RSVP.

**Story Shabbat** is our family service, held on the second Saturday of each month. The brightly illustrated children's prayerbook introduces children to Jewish prayer, in a service filled with songs and a story. All are welcome.

**Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen**—On the second Wednesday of each month, Beth El provides lunch at the Salvation Army's soup kitchen in Bangor. Volunteers are needed to donate cooked lasagnas and/or desserts, to serve lunch, and/or to donate money to help buy food and supplies. You can donate food even if you cannot go to the soup kitchen: Beth El volunteers will arrange to pick up food from you. Upcoming soup kitchen dates are Wednesday, March 9, and Wednesday, April 13, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For more information, please call the Beth El office at 945-4578.

**The Beth El reading group** continues to meet at the synagogue. All interested persons are welcome, whether or not they have read the selections. For information about upcoming book selections and meetings, please contact the synagogue office at 945-4578.

**Jewish Book of the Year**—Professor Jonathan Sarna's new book, *American Judaism: A History*, will be discussed at our Chavurah Shabbat service on April 15. The book is available now in our gift shop.

**Beth El's gift shop**, open year-round, continues to stock lovely Judaica, including Kiddush cups, challah covers, mezuzot, Havdalah candles, children's books, and more. Any congregant looking for something special as the spring holiday season approaches should feel free to contact the synagogue office at 945-4578, for further information.

**Bon Voyage** to those Beth El congregants traveling to Israel in March.

**Torah study** will take place on Saturday, March 19 and April 16. We will gather for refreshments at 9:30 a.m. and begin with the blessing at 9:40. Please note: Torah study will generally be held on the third full Shabbat of the month, i.e., when there are no Shabbat services scheduled.

**Beth El's Purim celebration** is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., on Thursday, March 24. This year, four "Wise Men"—John, Paul, George, and Ringo—will be providing the commentary for the Megillah reading, and will sing Purim classics such as "Estherday". Don't miss the reading, the music, or the Hamentaschen after the service.

**Beth El's Passover Second Seder** dinner will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 24. For further information about the venue for the Second Seder, as well as details about menu and reservations, please contact the Beth El office at 945-4578.

**JEWISH SINGLES**

Mark your calendars. Saturday, March 12, @ 6:00 p.m. There will be a JASSE potluck dinner at the home of a JASSE member in Orono. Come share the evening with new people and good food around a friendly fire. Please bring a dish to share with the group that will feed approximately 10-12 people. Nonalcoholic beverages will be provided.

If you would like to attend the dinner, please E-mail Bethel@prexar.com. or call Beth El Synagogue @ 945-4578 for more info.

**CONDOLENCES**

- To Ruth Striar on the death of her sister, Edith Weiss.
- To the family of the late Dr. Michael Solomon.
- To the family of the late Rose D. (Derman) Etscovitz.

**COMMUNITY NEWS DEADLINE**

The deadline for the next issue of *The Community News* is Monday, April 18. Please include events for May and June .

Items for our newsletter should be mailed to: Jewish Community Council, 6 State Street #314, Bangor, ME 04401 or E-mail your submissions to sgopan@netzero.net or bangorjcc@verizon.net. Contact us through our web site at www.jccbangormaine.org. For more info, call us at 207-941-2950.

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*Please visit the Jewish Community Council on the web at [www.jccbangormaine.org](http://www.jccbangormaine.org)*

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**HOURS 6-6 MON- THURS, 6-5:30 FRI & 6-2 SUN**

  
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