

a word from southern maine . . .

shalom!

development of our community

jewish federation

schools and youth groups

community and social service agencies

organizations

congregations/chapels and cemeteries

shalom!

... shalom!

DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COMMUNITY

The first United States' census in 1790 lists forty-four persons presumed to be Jewish in the state of Maine. There is no written verification of that and no knowledge of an existing Jewish community within the state until the early 19th century. At that time, large numbers of Jewish people began to settle here, the first Jewish community being in Bangor in 1829.

The history of the Southern Maine Jewish community can be traced to the middle of the 19th century. Joseph Levy, Edward Laveen, and Bernard Aaronson were among the first settlers in the 1860's who helped

establish this community. By the 1880's a strong foundation had been created by the thirty or forty Jewish families in the area.

One hundred years later, Portland's Jewish community is vibrant! There are now 1,600 families, or 4,000 people, in the communities of Southern Maine. While some families can count back four generations of family life in Portland, many new people are choosing to establish their roots here now. To those of you who have helped build and maintain this foundation of Jewish life, we are deeply grateful. To those of you who are joining our Jewish community, we welcome you warmly. Please share what we have and help us grow.

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THE JEWISH FEDERATION- COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN MAINE

The **Jewish Federation-Community Council of Southern Maine** is an umbrella organization which promotes the philanthropic, educational, and communal activities of the Jewish community of Southern Maine and strengthens relationships with the people of Israel and Jews throughout the world.

The Jewish Federation coordinates a variety of Jewish educational and social service agencies. The Federation operates the **Portland Community Hebrew School**, which provides children with a foundation in the religion, history, and culture of the Jewish people.

The **Community Relations Committee** seeks to establish and maintain lines of communication with the general community—the news media, inter-faith groups, and government leaders—on issues of concern to the Jewish community. This committee also sponsors area Holocaust seminars for teachers and librarians.

The Jewish Federation administers the **Smith Street Cemetery**, thereby maintaining this historic landmark.

Hayom is a tabloid newspaper, published by the Jewish Federation from September through June, which focuses on local, national, and international issues of concern to Maine Jews. Hayom is mailed without charge to 3,000 families in Maine.

Funds from the Federation's annual **Combined Jewish Appeal** are distributed to the above programs and to other local, national, and international Jewish organizations. A substantial percentage of the annual campaign supports the United Jewish Appeal for Israel. Locally the funds support the Jewish Community Center, the Levey Hebrew Day School, the Jewish Family Services, the Vaad Hakashruth, Hadassah, the National Council of Jewish Women, AMIT Women, and B'nai B'rith Women. On the national scene, Federation funds the Anti-Defamation League, the American Jewish Committee, the North American Jewish Students Appeal, the American Academic Association for Peace in the Middle East, and the Joint Cultural Appeal, among others.

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SCHOOLS AND YOUTH GROUPS

Schools

Free-to-Be

57 Ashmont Street
Portland, Maine 04103
772-1959

Free-to-Be, a cooperative nursery school stressing a Jewish curriculum, meets five mornings a week and is affiliated with the Jewish Community Center.

Levey Hebrew Day School

76 Noyes Street
Portland, Maine 04103
774-7676

The Levey Hebrew Day School is a fully-certified day school offering an integrated Hebrew and secular program with an individualized and innovative curriculum. A full-day pre-kindergarten program is available. The school spans pre-kindergarten through grade five.

Portland Community Hebrew School

400 Deering Avenue
76 Noyes Street
Portland, Maine 04103
774-2649

The Portland Community Hebrew School is a weekday afternoon and Sunday school, created and supported by the Jewish Federation-Community Council of Southern Maine. The school provides an elementary-level Jewish education for children ages six through twelve. It provides a foundation in the religion, history, and culture of the Jewish people.

Youth Groups

Shaarey Tphiloh Synagogue **773-0693**

Junior National Council of Synagogue Youth
Ages 8-12
National Council of Synagogue Youth
Ages 13-17

Temple Beth El **774-2649**

Junior United Synagogue Youth
Grades 7-8
United Synagogue Youth
Grades 9-12

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COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES

Jewish Community Center

57 Ashmont Street, Portland, Maine 04103 772-1959

A community agency, the Center serves the total community and is operated by a professionally trained staff. It provides educational, recreational, social, and Jewish experiences for people of all ages. From Sunday morning pre-school programs to the adult athletics and seniors' activities, the Center has something for everyone.

The Center publishes a monthly newsletter for the entire community as well as various program brochures outlining all year-round activities. A new year book is distributed with greetings from the community and a picture history of the previous year's activities.

Center Day Camp

Sebago Lake Basin, North Windham, Maine 892-4101

Center Day Camp provides five day, four or eight week, summer programs for children ages 3½ through grade eight, plus a three-day pre-school experience for children ages 3½ to 5. Member and non-member rates available. Every Sunday during the summer season, the Camp's facilities are available to all Center members.

Center Women's Club

Center Women's Club directs its programming toward the social, cultural, and physical enrichment of Portland's Jewish Community Center. As a result of its fund-raising efforts, CWC has been able to contribute buildings and equipment to the Center Day Camp and annually provides substantial amounts for camp scholarships.

Center Men's Club

Center Men's Club directs its programming and fund-raising efforts to the enrichment of the Portland Jewish Community Center. It operates a weekly Bingo, sponsors a softball team, golf tournament, and various other activities throughout the year.

Community Calendar

The calendar of activities for the entire Jewish community is maintained at the Jewish Community Center. All institutions, facilities, organizations, and individuals are asked to clear activities and dates with this master calendar.

Jewish Family Services

57 Ashmont Street, Portland, Maine 04103 773-7254

Jewish Family Services is a social service agency which offers emergency relief during crisis situations, counseling services, supplemental relief, referral services, and transient services. Jewish Family Services provides Hebrew Free Loans, which are interest-free loans for educational or business purposes. All transactions are kept in strict confidence.

Jewish Home for Aged

158 North Street, P.O. Box 466, Portland, Maine 04112 772-5456

The Jewish Home for Aged is a non-profit, non-sectarian, skilled and intermediate nursing care facility founded in 1929. In-patient services provided by the Jewish Home for Aged include 24-hour nursing care, 24-hour licensed nurses, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, recreational therapy, dental care, social services, volunteers, kosher meals, and a registered dietician.

Vaad Hakashruth

The Vaad Hakashruth provides constant supervision of kosher meat outlets and the kosher kitchens of the Jewish Community Center and the Jewish Home for Aged. In addition, a mikvah (ritual pool) is maintained by the Vaad. For further information concerning the mikvah, please contact Shaarey Tphiloh Synagogue at 773-0693.

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ORGANIZATIONS

AMIT Women

AMIT Women, formerly the American Mizrahi Women, is the major women's religious Zionist organization in the United States. AMIT Women sponsor an extensive network of comprehensive, vocational high schools, children's villages, settlement houses, community centers, kindergartens, nurseries, summer camps, day care centers, and other educational, social welfare and child-care programs.

The Israeli Ministry of Education has designated AMIT Women its official Reshet (network) for religious secondary technological education.

The organization takes an active role in Jewish and Zionist affairs; in self education and cultural activities; and in community efforts to achieve more fully the ancient Jewish ideals of justice, brotherhood and peace.

AMIT Women is a member organization of the American Zionist Federation, the coordinating committee for Youth Aliyah, and the Conference Committee of National Jewish Women's Organizations.

AMIT Women cooperates fully with the United Jewish Appeal and actively supports the State of Israel Bond drive, the Jewish National Fund and the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council.

B'nai B'rith

B'nai B'rith maintains the Anti-Defamation League, conducts a public relations program on behalf of Israel, and continues to strive for human rights and dignity . . . better employment, housing, and educational opportunities.

B'nai B'rith Women

B'nai B'rith Women is the sole supporter of the B'nai B'rith Women Children's Home in Israel, a modern residential treatment center for the rehabilitation of emotionally disturbed boys. B'nai B'rith Women combats anti-Semitism through its support of the Anti-Defamation League; works with youth through Hillel Foundations on college campuses and the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO); focuses on career and counseling services, community services and human relations projects in the areas of birth defects, the elderly and women's issues; and sponsors public affairs and leadership training programs.

Hadassah

Hadassah is the Women's Zionist Organization of America. In Israel Hadassah maintains programs for healing, teaching, and research at the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center and the Mt. Scopus Hospital. Hadassah Israel Education Services provide comprehensive high school and vocational programs for the youth of Israel. Hadassah is the largest organizational contributor to Youth Aliyah and Jewish National Fund. Hadassah sponsors Hashachar, the largest Zionist youth movement in the United States. Locally, Hadassah has an on-going study group, an oneg Shabbat, workshops, and meetings of general interest during the year.

National Council of Jewish Women

National Council of Jewish Women is the oldest major Jewish women's organization in the United States. Founded in 1893, NCJW is a volunteer organization dedicated to the spirit of Judaism, advancing human welfare and the democratic way of life. Through a coordinated program of education, community service and advocacy, NCJW works in the Jewish and general communities locally, nationally and internationally. NCJW programs evolve from the five National Priority Areas: women's issues, children and youth, Israel, Jewish life and aging.

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CONGREGATIONS

Beth Israel Synagogue — Orthodox
862 Washington Street, Bath, Maine 04530
443-5181

Beth Israel Synagogue — Orthodox
49 East Grand Avenue, Old Orchard Beach, Maine 04064
934-2973

Congregation Etz Chaim — Orthodox
Bacon Street, Biddeford, Maine 04005
284-5771

Etz Chaim Synagogue — Orthodox
267 Congress Street, Portland, Maine 04101
773-2339

Shaarey Tphiloh Synagogue — Orthodox
76 Noyes Street, Portland, Maine 04102
773-0693

Temple Beth El — Conservative
400 Deering Avenue, Portland, Maine 04103
774-2649

Shaarey Tphiloh Synagogue

Congregation Shaarey Tphiloh, the oldest and largest Orthodox synagogue in Maine, is affiliated with the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations. It is the only synagogue in Southern Maine offering a daily morning and evening minyan throughout the year. Shaarey Tphiloh welcomes all Jews and gears its services to meet the needs of both those with limited or extensive Jewish training. While children are welcome at every service, a junior congregation meets on a regular basis.

Shaarey Tphiloh provides a full complement of educational, social, and cultural activities for all ages and all interest groups. Junior and Senior NCSY chapters for youths ages 10-17, classes in several levels of Jewish study, family retreats, mini-courses, congregational dinners, concerts, and special holiday observances are examples of the general activities sponsored by the synagogue.

Shaarey Tphiloh Sisterhood has its own programming, including a yearly package party, desserts, dinners, and regular meetings. These programs support synagogue and youth activities.

Shaarey Tphiloh Brotherhood sponsors periodic Sunday morning breakfasts with speakers.

The synagogue offers various categories of membership rates, including singles, family and others.

Temple Beth El

Temple Beth El, a Conservative congregation affiliated with United Synagogue of America, offers an atmosphere in which each congregant, young or old, male or female, can find equal opportunity for religious expression. While traditional religious services formalize the temple calendar, professional and lay leadership are supportive of individuals or groups seeking alternative Jewish expression.

The temple sponsors a sisterhood and brotherhood, an active adult education program, youth programming for grades 7-12, junior and senior choir, Saturday morning junior congregation, weekly brown-bag lunch discussions, and several chavurot (extended family groups made up of temple and non-temple members and mixed-marriage families).

New members receive a discount in membership for their first two years as a special introduction to the temple. Family memberships include two adults with or without children. Single memberships include one single adult with or without children. Temple Beth El encourages new memberships and welcomes families and single adults to participate in the full array of religious and social programming throughout the year.

The Temple Beth El Sisterhood promotes the well-being of the temple by sponsoring festive activities during holiday periods

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