



December 11 -17, 2020
25 Kislev - 2 Tevet 5781

tbe-mail



SPECIAL THIS WEEK

We have a new look!
And it's Chanukah!

We are thrilled to announce that we are making a variety of updates to the way we communicate with you. [Click here](#) to learn about it.

We're also excited to be sharing the light with you all this week. Scroll down to see the full schedule. Happy Chanukah!

From Rabbi Braun



Rabbi Carolyn Braun

Among the many lessons of Chanukah, the one that has stood out to me this year is a lesson about identity. For many of us, this is the time where we can proudly display our chanukiot, eat our culturally oily food, and celebrate with others -

Jewish and not Jewish, religious (whatever that means) and non-religious - for any or all 8 days. This year, social media has lit up with Hamilton star Daveed Diggs singing 'Puppy for Hanukkah.' Be sure to catch it, if you can! Meanwhile, Christmas is all around us too and, if we wanted, I bet we could 'deck the halls' Chanukah style. As Jews, our feelings about Christmas and Chanukah are varied; always complex: sometimes confused, sometimes worthy of eyerolls, and sometimes just happy to be part of the festivities. The truth is that we are formed with many identities which we juggle over time. Perhaps that is why every morning in daily prayer, the liturgy asks us, "What are we? What is our life? Our goodness?...Our achievement?" Each one of us is a blend, like a delicious soup of many ingredients. I know that I feel whole when I can accept and rejoice in all that I am.

Not only does this Chanukah season bring all this into focus for me, but so does our new logo, as well as the whole package that is the new branding for TBE. I just received, as many of you have as well, a wonderful letter from Kate, explaining the design. I can't possibly express all the time, thought and energy that went into this new design, but I do know that those who were involved were constantly asked those same liturgical questions: Who ARE we? What IS our life at TBE? What are our values and aspirations? I don't know if any one logo can express the depth of our identity, but ours says 'We are Jews in Maine.' We are attached to the natural and uniquely Maine beauty around us (pine branch), we are interested in peace and offer an olive branch, even in the most difficult and confusing of times. We are Hebrew, we are English; we have a history and we have an exciting future. We are uniquely Maine (remember the amazing blueberry challot that Daniel

used to make?) and we value meaningful engagement with our tradition. So what makes us different from other Maine Jewish organizations? I would have to answer that sometimes nothing distinguishes us, and that is one of the reasons we can slip so easily into a Statewide Chanukah or Shabbat celebration. But other times, it's just the Beth El vibe. Hard to put my finger on it, but maybe it's characterized by our informality or the wacky ideas we attempt to carry out. Or it's the people who walk into our doors; or Bob's coffee cups all around the place... whatever it is, we have tried to portray that vibe in our logo as we strive to be our best TBE selves.

Look around your house at all the Jewish items you have, specifically if you have more than one chanukiah (Chanukah menorah), but also look at your candlesticks or mezuzot or decorations. They are all probably very different; yet they represent YOU, your family, your history, your humor, your taste in art, and what you couldn't give back because you really love the person who gave it to you! Alone, or together at TBE, or as part of society, we are composed of several identities. Maybe that's the miracle of Chanukah.

This Shabbat:

Friday, December 11

8:00am [Virtual Morning Minyan](#)

3:46pm **Candle lighting time**

5:30pm [Kabbalat Shabbat](#)

Saturday, December 12

9:30am [Shabbat Morning Services](#)

4:54pm **Havdalah**

5:30pm [Hanukkah, Together](#)

Parashat Vayeshev

פרשת וישב

Genesis 37:1 - 40:23

Triennial: Genesis 38:1 - 38:30

Maftir: Numbers 7:18-29

Haftarah: Zechariah 2:14 - 4:7

JTS Torah Online

This Week @TBE



CELEBRATE CHANUKAH WITH US

Every night, all events begin at 5:30pm

12/10: Candle lighting and storytelling on [Zoom](#)

12/11: Kabbalat Shabbat and storytelling on [Zoom](#)

12/12: A [Maine Hanukkah Celebration!](#) Featuring a hilarious play written by Lisa Mayer, performed by Maine's rabbis!

12/13: Candle lighting and storytelling in person and on [Zoom](#).

We have reached capacity for this event. We will be keeping an eye on the forecast and send out an update Sunday morning.

12/14: Candle lighting and storytelling on [Zoom](#)

12/15: Candle lighting and storytelling on [Zoom](#)

12/16: Candle lighting and storytelling on [Zoom](#)

12/17: Candle lighting and storytelling on [Zoom](#)



VIRTUAL MORNING MINYAN

8:00am on Zoom Sunday 12/13 through Friday 12/18

Join Tom Berman and the minyanaires for the only daily minyan in Maine! The service lasts about 30 minutes and is a great chance to start the day in reflection and community.

Upcoming TBE Programs:

Shabbat Bachutz

Saturday January 2 - 10:00am

An outdoor Shabbat experience
led by Rabbinic Intern Lorin Troderman



The Giving Corner

Welcome to The Giving Corner! We look forward to using this space to honor and celebrate the many ways in which our members generously give their time and resources to ensure that we can continue to serve our community now, and for generations to come. Click the link below to see the complete list of the previous month's donations and tributes.

[November 2020 Donations and Tributes](#)

Special Announcements

The Bernstein's Hanukah Pop-Up is here!

[Click here](#) to view the menu and place your order. Email hagaibernstein@gmail.com with any questions.

TBE's Mini Chanukah Cookbook

Here is the [digital version of the Chanukah Cookbook](#) we included in the Chanukah bags this year. Please note, there was a minor formatting issue with the cookbooks, so if you were confused about the

steps of some recipes, it was totally our fault! The digital version has been corrected, so take a peek at that one; it should clear up any confusion.

Pop-up Gift Shop Success!

It was great, now it's over, but if you really need something email office@tbemaine.org.

Beware SPAM emails posing as Rabbi Braun

We have been alerted that some congregants, and even our own institutional emails, received an email claiming to be Rabbi Braun. Please note that any email from Rabbi Braun will come from rabbi@tbemaine.org.

Abbey of Hope: Interfaith Holiday Reflections Call for Entries

Abbey of Hope, an interfaith cooperation circle, is looking for reflections on the Jewish holidays throughout 2021. Please contact Lindy Gifford at lindyg@tidewater.net if you are interested in contributing.

Kol haKavod! (Way to go!)

Lorin and Olivia for an inspired and dedicated romp around Mackworth Island last Shabbat.

TBE KIDS



- **PJ Library Hanukkah Hub**
- **ShirLaLa's Chanukah Community Celebration "This Little Light"** - watch any time!
- **Hanukkah, Together: A Statewide Celebration** - 12/12 at 5:30pm / CSTJL
- **Menorahs & Pakoras! A Hanukkah Cooking Event for LGBTQ Families** - 12/13 at 2pm; Keshet
- **KinderKlub: Latkepalooza** - 12/13 at 4pm; Workers Circle
- **Family Hanukkah Concert** - 12/13 at 4pm; PJ Library

Quick Links:

Zoom Links

Simcha List

Community Programs & Events

KBE School

Amazon Smile

Weekly Yahrzeit

How to Reach Us

We are continuing to primarily work from home due to COVID-19. We will be checking our emails regularly and will check the voicemail daily.

By Phone

(207) 774-2549

Because we are working from home, please note that Zoe's cell phone area code is from out-of-state. So, if you have left us a message and are getting a call from a 650 number, it's probably Zoe!

By Email

- Rabbi Braun - rabbi@tbemaine.org

- Kate Shalvoy - director@tbemaine.org
- Zoe Levine Sporer - office@tbemaine.org



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