



February 19 - 25, 2021
7 - 13 Adar 5781

tbe-mail

SPECIAL THIS WEEK

Maine Jewish Film Festival + Black History Month



Join the Maine Jewish Film Festival this weekend to watch *They Ain't Ready for Me*, one of two movies they are showing in honor of Black History Month.

They Ain't Ready for Me is "the story of Tamar Manasseh, an African American rabbinical student, who has led the fight against gun violence in her Southside Chicago neighborhood. A fascinating look at the complex identity and motivations of an extraordinary person who is Jewish and black, and how these intersecting identities offer her a road map for addressing one of America's most urgent crises."¹ This weekend includes a program on Sunday, February 21 at 7pm with Tamar Manasseh and Director Brad Rothschild.

Watch the trailer [here](#) and get tickets [here](#). Read more about Tamar Manasseh [here](#).

From Rabbi Braun



Rabbi Carolyn Braun

Mishenichnas Adar, marbim b'simcha!
When the month of Adar arrives, we increase our joy!

Rosh Chodesh Adar, the new month of Adar, began last Thursday night, ushering in a month that, as we see above, should increase our joy. Perhaps we are joyous because it is the month of Purim when senseless hatred is defeated, or the time when we begin to think about Pesach, celebrating our collective liberation from Mitzrayim (Egypt) and the beginning of our journey to Mount Sinai. Not all of the stories are completely joyous, however. During the plagues, and even at the Sea of Reeds lives are disturbed and even lost. At the end of the book of Esther, because the order to kill the Jews could not be rescinded, the Jews were given permission to strike first, killing many. (Esther 9:5). True to all of our experiences, from the youngest to the oldest of us, life is experienced on a spectrum of emotions and actions. While we rejoice that the Jews of Persia survived a frightful time, and the Jews of Egypt were redeemed from bondage, we still hold the sorrowful parts of the story in our hearts. At the seder, we diminish our joy by taking drops of wine out of

our glasses in remembrance of each of the plagues. At Purim, we celebrate until we become numb to the distinctions between Haman and Mordachai.

Personally, it is rare that I find myself completely happy and content. Sometimes I reflect on those absolutely soul filling, wonderful times. If I count them, there are probably a handful. Equally rare, thank God, are the times that I am just completely inconsolable. More often than not, I, like many people, experience life through a mixture of emotions - in happiness, there is a little sadness, as I remember someone who I wish was present, or realize that this is a fleeting moment. In my sadness, there are those who try to bring comfort, the act of which brings me a bit of happiness.

As I enter into this Adar, I remember Purim last year and am filled with both happiness and sadness. Purim 5780 was the last time we partied and celebrated together without worry, raucously reading the Megillah and sipping drinks together at one of our favorite spots in town - Maine Craft Distillery. Indeed, it was a time of happiness and companionship and celebration. Within that week, however, we entered what turned out to be an extended lock down, forcing us to cut ourselves off physically from those we care about in the name of *pikuach nefesh*. I know for myself, the time just after Purim was a dizzying frenzy of learning Zoom and converting our Passover celebrations online. Looking back, and a little bit forward, it was and continues to be a time of rediscovery and of finding strengths and creativity we may have never imagined before.

This year, at this moment, I enter Adar, not by increasing my joy, but with a sense of sadness; the sadness that comes from knowing we will not celebrate the way we have in previous years. This Rosh Chodesh Adar has been tough as I and others mourn the passing of at least four lives who have walked or crossed paths with us over the years. Part of me is angry at the phrase, "when we enter the month of Adar, our joy increases," and I want to cry out that it is not true - not everybody's joy is increased at this time! I am now sensitive to those who somehow feel that they're not 'living up' to expectations. When someone wishes us a happy holiday and we feel alone, or a "Happy New Year," when the future doesn't look good, I imagine we could feel angry and perhaps even sadder. Here's my advice to me: embrace all the feelings. Feel sad, feel the grief, know the grief, and don't be afraid to talk about it. At the same time, know, feel, and embrace the joy - the joy of being alive, the joys that those who died, gave us in life; the joy of challenge, the joy of knowing that we can hold many parts of many stories in our hearts and be okay. The Hamans and the Pharaohs did not destroy us. We survived and we were changed, and we persisted.

So often I am drawn to the midrash of the Angels singing and celebrating, as the Children of Israel crossed the Sea of Reeds. God, pained that the Egyptians were drowning, asks the Angels to stop, saying, "My children are dying." Life is so rarely one thing or the other. In fact, it is the blending of everything that makes life alive.

May you find joy in Adar, and throughout the year and, no matter where you are emotionally right now, may your joy increase.

Shabbat Shalom.
Rabbi

This Shabbat:

Friday, February 19

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

4:59pm Candle lighting time

Saturday, February 20

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

6:08pm Havdalah

Parashat Terumah

פרשת תרומה

Shabbat Zachor

Exodus 25:1 - 27:19; Deuteronomy 25:17-19
Triennial: Exodus 26:1-30; Deuteronomy
25:17-19

Haftarah: I Samuel 15:2-34

JTS Torah Online

This Week @ TBE



SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

9:30am on [Zoom](#) Saturday 2/20

Join Rabbi Braun and the Shabbat morning crew as they daven the traditional Shabbat morning services. **This week: listen to (10 year old!) Naomi F. read Torah!**

We recently added Closed Captioning though [Rev](#). If you'd like to use them, click on the "CC" button in the control bar at the bottom of the video. Click [here](#) for a more detailed guide on how to turn the captions on.



BIBLICAL PROPHECY AND APOCALYPSE

11am starting on Sunday 2/21, 4 session course

Registration due tonight! Register [here](#).

What is biblical prophecy? What does it have to do with conceptions of the end of the world? Through this four-week course, we will investigate the historical, cultural, and theological contexts of ancient prophecies and apocalypses. We will then put into dialogue these ancient ideologies with contemporary ideations, including those surrounding our current political climate. No prior knowledge is required. Taught by Dr. Sarah Emanuel.



PURIM, TOGETHER

6:30pm on Zoom ([registration required](#)) Thursday 2/25

Join us as we partner with the Center for Small Town Jewish Life and other Maine synagogues for a raucous, online Purim experience. The celebration will include:

- A *spiel* presented by Temple Beth El, Augusta
- A costume parade and contest (Send the Center a picture of your costume, details in Special Announcements section!)
- A special challenge for our local clergy (shhh...it's a surprise)
- A traditional reading of the *megillah*, so get out your groggers and make some noise!

Half of all donations for this program will go to support Maine's Good Shepherd Food Bank, feeding the hungry in our state. It's an easy opportunity to fulfill the Purim mitzvah of providing gifts for the needy.

To receive Zoom details, please register [here](#). After you sign up, you'll receive a confirmation email with the program link.



VIRTUAL MORNING MINYAN

8:00am on [Zoom](#) Sunday 2/14 through Friday 2/19

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

[March 6 at 10am](#)



Kabbalat
Shabbat

[March 12 at 5:30pm](#)



The Giving Corner

Have you considered making a lasting contribution to our community through a planned gift? We would love to talk with you. Contact us by email at giving@tbemaine.org by phone at 207-774-2649 and speak with Kate Shalvoy, ext. 204.

January Donations & Tributes

Special Announcements

Statewide Purim Costume Contest!

The Center is hosting a virtual costume parade during our statewide Purim celebration on February 25. Please send them a picture or short video (5 seconds!) of yourself in costume to feature in the online parade. Everyone who sends in a photo or video will be entered into our costume contest in one of four categories:

1. Best Maine-themed costume
2. Best costume related to the story of Purim
3. Funniest costume
4. Best costume by someone younger than b'nai mitzvah age (kids are eligible for all categories)!

A panel of judges from the community will choose our winners.

PRIZES: Each of our four winners will receive a \$50 gift certificate to [Kolbo Fine Judaica Gallery](#) for some online shopping.

Please email photos to sjrockfo@colby.edu with the following information:

- Your first and last name
- Description of your costume.

Entries must be submitted by February 23 to be considered for the contest!

Shalach Manot

It breaks our hearts that we can't be together to celebrate Purim in person this year, but giving Shalach Manot and being a part of this massive volunteer effort is a great way to keep us connected during this challenging time. Here's how you can get involved:

- **Volunteer to deliver gift bags (on/around 2/21):** Contact [Olivia & Elliott](#) to let them know that you're willing to help!

Phishing Scam Alert

We have been made aware that emails claiming to come from Kate Shalvoy have been received by people in the community, so we just want to remind everyone: No TBE staff member will ever ask you for personal information or to wire them money via email. We will also only email you from an address ending in @tbemaine.org.

If you do not feel confident in your ability to spot a scam email, please read [this helpful document](#) or call/email office@tbemaine.org with questions.

Baruch Habah!

Welcome to new member Jacob Gold!

Todah Rabah!

A big thanks to Pat Davidson Reef for reading her bat mitzvah Torah portion and giving a d'var Torah at Morning Minyan this week.

Condolences

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Melvin Fineberg.

Honey's Edible Garden Seed Money Campaign

Thank you to everyone who has [joined the hive](#) since we launched our Seed Money Campaign on Tu BiShvat last week! We are still working toward our goal of 100 busy bees to join our hive. Click [here](#) to find out how to get involved!

TBE Kids

Upcoming Events for Kids



Come Build a Snow-Haman!

Our theme at KBE this year has been Jews Around the World. With Purim coming so early this year, it's our chance to follow the custom of the [Jews of Bukhara](#), in the snowy mountains of modern-day Uzbekistan. They would build Haman in effigy next to the synagogue and dress him up with props. Then they would light a fire and melt him away (no bonfires at KBE, but we might be able to use a havdalah candle).

The weather looks good for **Sunday, February 21. Meet at TBE in the back at 11am** (or slightly earlier, if you're worried about running into lunchtime). Parents, please plan to stay with your children rather than dropping them off. **KBE and non-KBE families alike are invited!** No RSVP needed.

[PJ Library Purim Story Time & Costume Party](#)

Sunday, February 21st at 3pm

Free via Zoom

Join us to share some Purim fun with a story and songs. Show off your costume, dance along to the music and shake your *grogger* (noise maker)! [Register](#) by noon on Friday 2/19 to

receive the Zoom link. For families with children 0-8 years old.

Rumpus Time @ TBE

It's winter in Maine, it's a pandemic, and your kids are itching to work out their wiggles. Meanwhile, you would love nothing more than to sit down with a cup of something warm and read, work, or just stare into space while your kids enjoy some good clean fun, running wild in a wide open space. Rumpus Time @ TBE is just what the doctor ordered!



Play equipment, a speaker for music, paper goods, and coffee/tea/water will be provided. BYO vegetarian snacks. One family or pod per 2 hour session. Please see the registration form for detailed COVID guidelines and precautions.

\$10 for 2 hours of rumpus time. Pre-registration 48 hours in advance is required:

<https://forms.gle/sK1ypkh74fRjHyQA8>

Upcoming Opportunities for Teens

The **Be'chol Lashon Tzedek Teen Fellowship** is for ethnically and racially diverse Jewish teens ages 12-18 who want to create community with those who have similar experiences. You will be matched with a mentor, also a Jew of Color, who will help you explore and expand your understanding of who you are, who you want to be, and how you want to change the world.



To learn more, sign up, or nominate someone, click [here](#).

The Great Jewish Books Summer Program

This year, the **Great Jewish Books Summer Program** promises to be equally enriching, formatted as a six-week hybrid online/residential program, with five weeks of virtual classes and activities leading up to a week in-person at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachusetts. Under the guidance of college professors, high school students read and discuss important works of modern Jewish literature, engage in an array of social and recreational activities, and connect with other intellectually curious teens from across North America and beyond.

Open to current high school sophomores and juniors, the [application](#) is due **March 1**. Every admitted participant receives a scholarship for the full cost of tuition, room, board, books, and special events. Program dates are June 20–July 23, (online), July 25–30 (in-person; subject to change based on COVID guidance). More details can be found on the [Yiddish Book Center website](#).



The Rising Voices Fellowship is a national leadership development program of the Jewish Women's Archive for female-identified Jewish teens in grades 10–12 with a passion for writing and an interest in Judaism, feminism, and social justice. This ten-month program offers a unique curriculum exploring Jewish women's history and identity, and gives Fellows the tools and training to use their voices to make positive social change. [Applications](#) are due by **March 19**. Visit their [website](#) for more information.

[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) 774-2649

Because we are working from home, we will often return your call from our personal numbers.

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
- Sherri Quint - controller@tbemaine.org
- Abigail Halpern - education@tbemaine.org



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