

# CENTER FOR SMALL TOWN JEWISH LIFE

**April 2021/Nisan 5781**

Dear Friends,

During the holiday of Passover we remember Egypt, or *Mitzrayim*, as a narrow and constricting place that the Jewish people leave behind as they journey toward liberation—both physically and spiritually. In Maine, packing away the heaviest of winter parkas and woolen socks, we also feel like spring's arrival will bring us into a lighter, freer place. It certainly feels that way in terms of Center programming, too.

Now that the clocks have sprung forward, we're excited to bring back statewide Shabbat services! And you must check out the new Shlichei Tzibur prayer leader training program Cantor Sheila Nesis will lead starting in May. Oh, and there's Beit Midrash, and events for teens and kids in the community too! We look forward to praying, learning, and celebrating Jewish life with you.

See you soon,  
The Center Staff

## Shlichei Tzibur Training



A Yearlong Prayer Service  
Leader Training Program  
for Community Members



### **Empowering Worship Service Leaders, with Cantor Nesis**

**Monthly classes on Tuesday evenings, 7–8:30 PM • Starting Tuesday, May 25**

This yearlong experience is designed to empower individuals to lead worship services, shiva minyans, singing circles, and more, within their own communities. Through monthly online

classes and individual coaching sessions with Cantor Sheila Nesis, participants will build the skills they need to succeed as prayer leaders. Enrollment will be limited.

Application deadline: Friday April 23. Applicants will be notified of acceptance to the program on Friday, May 7.

Tuition: \$120 for the yearlong program (\$10/month for class and individual tutoring). Cost should not be a barrier to participating in this program.

*Made possible by the Center for Small Town Jewish Life, the Messerschmidt Memorial Fund at the Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine, and the Covenant Foundation*

[Learn More and Apply Here](#)

Friday, April 16, 2021, 5:30 p.m.

## Shabbat, Together

LED BY RABBI ERICA ASCH  
AND SARA BLUMENTHAL



Join Rabbi Erica Asch of Temple Beth El, Augusta, and rabbinical fellow Sara Blumenthal for a celebratory spring Kabbalat Shabbat. Now that the clocks have sprung forward, we're thrilled to offer Kabbalat Shabbat services through the Center once again. It's sure to be a beautiful way to welcome in the day of rest as a statewide community.

[Register Here](#)

Monday, April 12, 2021, 6 p.m.

## Beit Midrash

DISAGREEING WITHOUT  
BEING DISAGREEABLE:  
HOW FAR IS TOO FAR?



Beit Midrash is an annual series that brings together college students and community members for several evenings of study throughout the year. This spring, Beit Midrash is

going virtual and is the perfect opportunity to connect after Pesach for some Jewish learning.

Jewish texts give us guidance on how we should disagree, but how do we handle encounters with groups which challenge one of our fundamental values? How do these issues relate to responsibilities towards coalitions and communities? We will explore a series of classic and contemporary texts to discuss these questions and more!

[Register Here](#)

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## Spring Funtensive!

~FOR KIDS~

EACH DAY, APRIL 19 -23  
FROM 9-10 A.M.

Spring is coming to us in Maine, and we can nearly taste the chance to hang out together in person, safely distanced outside. But...not yet. Luckily, for spring vacation we're here to offer some fun Jewish learning and to connect with each other over Zoom!

We will offer songs, stories, Hebrew games, and crafts, and every day will have a color, a letter, and a sense we'll learn in Hebrew. Generally recommended for kids ages 4-11, but all are welcome! We recommend that kids have paper, crayons or markers, and a snack with them as needed. If your kids are old enough, they should keep tape or glue and a pair of scissors nearby, too.

You'll receive an email each morning with the day's link and information. Questions about this program? Email Mel Weiss at [maweiss@colby.edu](mailto:maweiss@colby.edu).

[Register Here](#)

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The Jewish Youth Connection

# Get Crazy!

SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 7-8:30 P.M.



Join us on Zoom for an evening of fun! We'll start with some Jewish learning together, and follow it up with interactive games (we're still putting on the final touches, but will let you know if you need any gear on hand). We had so much fun learning and laughing with you at the last event, and hope you'll join us for more.

[Register Here](#)

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## In the Community: Yom Hashoah and Yom Ha'atzmaut Observances

**Presented by the Maine Jewish Film Festival and the JCA**

### **Yom Hashoah Film Screenings and Discussion**

Free Film Streaming beginning Sunday, April 4 at 9 a.m.

[Check out the film selections and register here.](#)

### **Community Yom Hashoah Observance—Holocaust Remembrance Day Wednesday, April 7, 6:30 p.m.**

Advanced registration required by April 7 at 4 p.m. to receive the Zoom link.

Join us for a brief commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day through memorial prayers, poems, and songs, with poet and historian Anna Wrobel and Rabbi Carolyn Braun of Temple Beth El, Portland. [Register through the JCA here.](#)

### **All-Star Musical Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebration**

*Presented by the JCA's Cantor Kurt Messerschmidt Memorial Fund*

**Sunday, April 11, 3 p.m.**

Free! Advanced registration required by Sunday April 11 at 12 noon to receive the Zoom link.

Join Jewish Rock Radio for a celebration of Israel Independence Day featuring Israeli superstar David Broza, Josh Nelson, Chava Mirel, Nefesh Mountain, Rabbi Josh Warshawsky, Rick Recht, Shimon Smith, Laurie Akers, Rabbi Lisa Silverstein, teens and college students from Israel, and special guest leaders including Dan Shapiro (Former US Ambassador to Israel), Rabbi Eric Fingerhut (President and CEO of JFNA)! [Register here!](#)

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Center for Small Town Jewish Life | Colby College, 4270 Mayflower Hill, Waterville, ME 04901

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