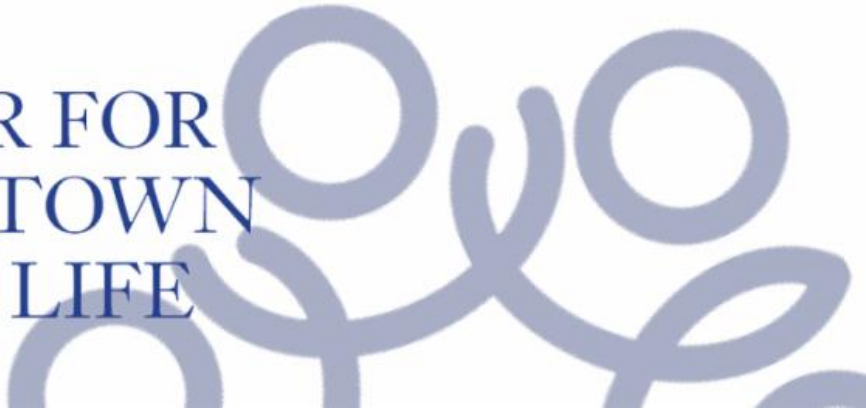


CENTER FOR SMALL TOWN JEWISH LIFE



December 2021/Tevet 5782

Dear Friends,

As the year comes to a close, I am still awash in the glow of the joyous Hanukkah celebrations held throughout Maine this past fall. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, our communities gathered together in frigid temperatures for *sufganiyot* and barely warm latkes with a deeper appreciation than we ever thought possible. The Center also brought sparks of laughter and levity to our statewide Hanukkah party through a festive *shpiel* that showcased our rabbinic community in all its irreverent glory.

The Center has been a beacon of light in a multitude of ways this past year, but I am especially proud of doing the following:

- Cultivating and strengthening community through organizing statewide Havdalah celebrations with our clergy, and training lay prayer leaders from synagogues throughout Maine with Cantor Sheila Nesis.
- Convening hundreds of individuals online and safely in person to sing with Elana Arian and to learn powerful Torah with our rabbinical fellows at the Fall Shabbaton.
- Empowering and mentoring students from five Maine colleges to lead a statewide prayer service; partnering with the Capital Area New Mainers Project to build a community center for new immigrants in central Maine; and inspiring children and teens with the wisdom and values of the Jewish tradition through safe, in-person, accessible programs.

Whatever darkness and uncertainty lies ahead, the Center will keep the fires of Torah learning and community burning bright—with your participation and support. As the year comes to a close, please consider a gift to keep our work going so we can continue to bring the wisdom and strength of Jewish learning and community to every corner of Maine.

B'vrachot—with blessings,



Rabbi Rachel Isaacs, Director
Center for Small Town Jewish Life

Make a Year-End Gift to the Center

HAVDALAH, TOGETHER

Saturday, January 15 • 6:30 p.m.

Welcome in the week as one!

Register to join.

Statewide Havdalah

Saturday, January 15, 6:30 p.m.

Our first Havdalah of 2022 will be a wonderful opportunity to come together as a statewide community to welcome the week. We'll lift our voices in gratitude and hope as we step into a new year. Join us with your candles, spices, and wine or juice.

Please register to receive the Zoom details. We look forward to seeing you soon!

[Register for Havdalah Here!](#)

The Jewish Youth Connection

Craft Your Art Out!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

2-3:30 P.M.

BETH ISRAEL, WATERVILLE

Paint it Yourself at the Beth Israel Studio!

Join us on Sunday, January 23, 2-3:30 p.m. at Beth Israel Congregation, 291 Main Street in Waterville (enter through the side door on Kelsey Street). We're going to be painting and decorating some fine craft works, and doing excellent text study together. Please note two Covid-relevant facts:

1) Because this event will be held inside, no food will be served and masks will be required for the duration of the program. We will, however, send everyone home with tasty treat goodie bags!

2) We'll have rapid tests available, so parents, please plan to arrive early and hang out for 10-15 minutes in your cars with your kiddos so they can test on the spot around 1:45 p.m.

Remember that teens who attend three out of four events during the year are eligible for our year-end special event (TBA)!

Register by clicking on the button below. Please sign up and join us! With questions or more details, contact Mel Weiss, maweiss@colby.edu.

Register Here to Paint and Learn!



CENTER NOTECARDS+BEANIES FOR SALE!

Get Your Maine Artist Notecards and Center Beanies

Stay warm this winter with a soft, cozy hat to protect you from the wind and snow! And how about sending one-of-a-kind cards to family and friends? We have gorgeous, unique treats to send and share: Center insignia beanies, and notecards featuring the work of three Maine Jewish artists:

- *Divinity is Everywhere*, by Camille Davidson
- *Schmita 2020, Five Baskets*, by Asherah Cinnamon
- *Cold Wind, Warm Sun, Maranacook*, by Hélène Farrar

Packets of nine cards, three of each design, and beanies, are available for sale for \$18, shipping included.

To place an order for cards or beanies, click on the links below. Thank you, and enjoy!

Purchase Maine Artist Notecards

Warm Up with A Center Beanie

[Unsubscribe_gleckman@mindspring.com](mailto:unsubscribe_gleckman@mindspring.com)

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