

CENTER FOR SMALL TOWN JEWISH LIFE

February 2021/Shevat 5781

Dear Friends,

Behind the scenes at the Center we've been busy picking up long-overdue projects, cleaning out offices and inboxes, and dreaming of a future where we can gather again in person.

We are thrilled to share part of this work—the Center's brand new website. A much-needed upgrade from our old platform, the new site will be the best place to find all of our up-to-date information on programs and Jewish life in Maine. What we love most are the photos that come to life on the site, pictures documenting this beautiful community. Check it out!

While you're visiting the new site, you can register for the latest Center programs—Purim, Statewide Havdalah, February Funtensive, and more.

See you soon,
The Center Staff

Check out our beautiful new website!



The Center for Small Town Jewish Life has a beautiful and functional new website! We are thrilled to launch this platform as your primary source of programming information and Maine

Jewish happenings throughout the year. Check out the "News" tab for all the latest on upcoming programs and more.

[Visit Our New Home on the Web!](#)



Winter Funtensive!

~**FOR KIDS**~

EACH DAY, FEBRUARY 15 - 19
FROM 9-10 A.M.

As the winter weather continues, our time off from school can feel a little less celebratory than usual. But we're here to offer some fun Jewish learning, and connect with each other over Zoom! There will be songs, stories, Hebrew games, and crafts, and every day will have a color, letter, and number.

The program open to anyone free of charge, though of course your support is appreciated. 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

[Register Here](#)

Havdalah, Together

Saturday, February 13, at 6:30 p.m.



This month, our statewide Havdalah will be led by:



Rabbi Lily Solochek



Rabbi Rachel Isaacs



Cantor Shayna De Lowe

Join us for our second statewide Havdalah, with Rabbi Rachel Isaacs of Beth Israel, Waterville, Rabbi Lily Solochek of Adas Yeshurun, Rockland, and Cantor Shayna De Lowe of Rodeph Shalom, New York. Join community members from across the state as we welcome a new week with ritual, song, and reflection. Have on hand a havdalah candle, kiddush cup, and spices if you wish to participate from home.

To receive Zoom details, please register below. After you sign up, you'll receive a confirmation email with the program link.

[Register Here](#)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 6:30 P.M.

Purim, Together!

A Festive Statewide Celebration!



We could all use a little celebration! Get your costumes ready, grab a festive drink, and join us for Purim. There will be a *spiel* presented by Temple Beth El (the one in Augusta), a chance to share some unusual hamantaschen combinations, and a special challenge for our local clergy (shhh...it's a surprise). As part of the fun we'll invite you to send in a picture of yourselves modeling your Purim costumes; we'll string the images together into a video. Serious prizes will be awarded. More details to come!

We'll also have 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 below. After you sign up, you'll receive a confirmation email with the program link.

[Register Here](#)

In the Community



ISRAELI FOLK DANCING—Online sessions with Barbara Merson Sundays, 2:30–4 p.m.

Looking for a fun way to get some exercise this winter? Join the Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine (JCA) and instructor Barbara Merson Sundays on Zoom for a free Israeli dance class. Dancers of all experience levels are welcome! Each class will start with a review of beginner and classic Israeli dances. The last part of class will focus on a (slightly) more difficult dance and requests. You'll be amazed at how quickly you will learn and how good it will feel to move! Barbara is an experienced Israeli dance teacher with a wide repertoire. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes and have some water handy.

For more information, schedule updates, and to participate, contact Barbara at bfmers@gmail.com.

Folk Dancing Info

[The Center for Small Town Jewish Life](#)



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