

CENTER FOR SMALL TOWN JEWISH LIFE

July 2020/Tamuz 5780

Dear Friends,

Please read on for updates on the next few weeks of enriching Center programming—Ethical Wills with Jay Sherwin, a Tisha B'Av commemoration, Statewide Shabbat Services, and more. There are many ways to engage as we savor the long hot days of summer and enter a time of reflection and mourning for that which has been lost both in ancient times and also in the present day. Each of these programs requires advance registration. We look forward to more learning, prayer, and community time with you—even from a distance.

With warm wishes,
The Center Staff

Jewish Ethical Wills for the 21st Century with Jay Sherwin Sunday, July 26, 9:30-11 a.m.

Ethical wills (*tzava'ot* in Hebrew) offer a wonderful opportunity for people to reflect on their values and life lessons and to offer guidance and blessings to their families and loved ones. In this one-session online workshop with Life Review Adviser Jay Sherwin of Portland, we'll briefly review the rich Jewish history of legacy writing, a tradition that begins with Jacob in Genesis 49. Then, through discussion and brief writing exercises, the workshop will offer advice and a model structure to help you begin crafting your own ethical will or legacy letter.



Registration for this program, which is being offered free of charge, is required. In order to allow for discussion, the program is limited to 20 registrants. (We will keep a wait list if we

are over-enrolled, and let you know if a space opens up.) Donations in support of the program are gratefully accepted.

[**Register Here**](#)

Tisha B'Av Statewide Services

Wednesday, July 29, 7:30-9 p.m.



Mizrah/East artwork by Camille Davidson

Join the Holocaust and Human Rights Center and the Center for Small Town Jewish Life as we commemorate Tisha B'Av. This observance reminds us of the baseless hatred that led to the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem.

We will hear from the HHRC about their efforts to combat hatred in Maine, see and hear about art from the WALLS exhibit sponsored by the HHRC, and join in prayer and poetry commemorating ancient tragedies and acknowledging recent and present-day suffering.

After a brief break, we'll reconvene around 8:40 p.m. for a chanting of the Book of Lamentations. Advance registration is required. All are welcome.

[**Register Here**](#)

Shabbat, Together • Statewide Shabbat Services

Friday, July 31, 6:30 p.m.

And Mark Your Calendars for services on Friday, August 28, 6:30 p.m.

The opportunity to pray and welcome Shabbat as a statewide community has filled us with a deep sense of comfort and solidarity these past months. We are excited to offer two more Statewide Shabbat Services in July and August, with Maine



rabbis and cantors leading part of the Kabbalat Shabbat and Ma'ariv services. Mark your calendars, and [check our Facebook page for more information.](#)

In order to receive Zoom details, you must register below. After you sign up, you'll receive a confirmation email that contains the link for the service. We will also send out a reminder email the day before the service with relevant links.

Register for July 31 Services Here!

Cooking for Teens!

Wednesday, August 12, 7-8:30 p.m.

Join the Jewish Youth Connection on Zoom for an evening of cooking. We'll create some delicious Jewish dishes together and have a chance to catch up and check in. We'll send out an ingredients list a week before the session so you can gather everything you need to make some tasty Jewish food!

Registration for this program, which is being offered free of charge, is required. Donations are gratefully accepted. Once you have successfully completed your registration, you will receive an email confirmation with the Zoom link.

We hope you can come! Questions? Contact Rabbi Erica Asch at rabbiasch@gmail.com.



Register Here!



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