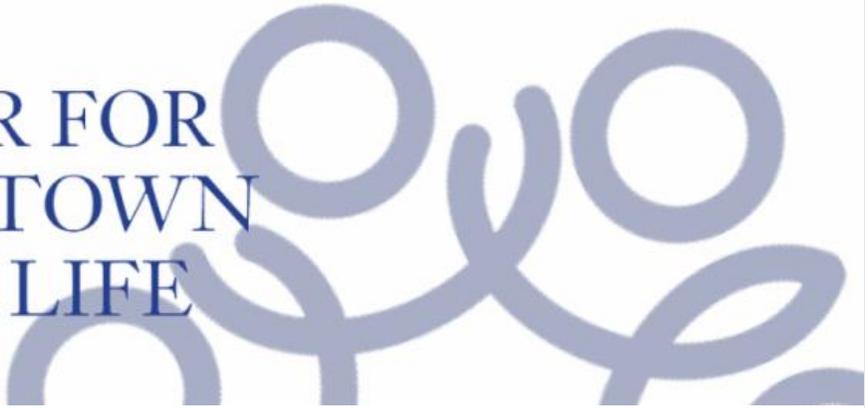


CENTER FOR SMALL TOWN JEWISH LIFE



May 2021/Iyyar 5781

Dear Friends,

By our count, over the past 12 months, the Center has hosted more than 50 Zoom programs on topics ranging from writing ethical wills to baking Passover pastries. We also had a chance to join together for statewide Shabbat services, havdalah, and even a spirited Purim celebration. Staying engaged with the Maine Jewish community has been a source of comfort this past year when so much else became impossible. Reflecting back, we feel a debt of gratitude for the technologies that have kept us connected and to all who taught and led us in prayer. At the same time, we are oh so ready to get offline and to see one another in person.

In this email you'll find our last, big, online program for the summer—a mini Maine Conference for Jewish Life. We are curating an afternoon of sessions meant to inspire and delight. You'll also find registration information for an in-person summer Funtensive for children!

The summer will be a quiet one for the Center as we step back from online programming to prepare for the year ahead. We hope to be able to bring in-person programming—including the Fall Shabbaton—to the Maine Jewish community later this year; we're keeping our fingers and toes crossed that it will be safe to do so. In the meantime, we wish you all many sweet reunions as we begin to meet safely in person.

With hope and gratitude,
The Center Staff

Sunday, June 13, 2021

THE MAINE CONFERENCE FOR JEWISH LIFE



Though we are not able to hold the Maine Conference for Jewish Life in person once again this year, we are still very excited for our online mini-conference on Sunday, June 13, 3-6 p.m. Like all Center programming, one registration link will enable you to come and go throughout the afternoon. A full schedule will be posted online in the coming weeks and will be emailed out to registrants once finalized.

We're looking forward to announcing our full lineup later this month, but we're happy to announce right now that [Tree Spirits](#) of Oakland, Maine, will be offering a cocktail/mocktail lesson at the start of our conference! The first 50 people to register will receive a bottle of their SubLime, a fruit-bitter and brandy-based mixer for FREE!

Later registrants will have the option to buy a bottle with their registration for a discounted price. The Tree Spirits experts will lead us in a brief demo—you can follow along with or without a beverage!

Stay tuned for updates about speakers and sessions. We look forward to seeing you in June!

[Learn More and Register Here](#)



Summer Funtensive!

July 19 - 23, 2021

In person at Temple Beth El, Augusta

Our Summer Funtensive program—the only one of its kind north of Portland—provides a summer experience to children who cannot afford or easily travel to traditional Jewish camps. Based at Temple Beth El in Augusta, the Funtensive attracts students from Waterville, Augusta, Bath, Lewiston-Auburn, Portland, and beyond.

We are thrilled to welcome our friends back for a week of games, learning, art, songs, and more—in person! We will be strictly adhering to national, state, and Colby College COVID-19 guidelines, and will be meeting outside only, requiring masks, and maintaining safe distance. A full list of our guidelines will be available in June, and we are happy to answer any questions you might have at any point!

Please note that we will update this program with hours in the near future. For questions, ideas, or more details, please be in touch with Rabbi Erica Asch (rabbiasch@gmail.com) or Mel Weiss (maweiss@colby.edu).

[Register Here](#)

In the Community

Shmita Educational Series **Mondays May 10 and 24, 7- 8:30 pm.**

Hosted by the Jewish Communities of Vermont

Join this series of conversations preparing for the Shmita year. We'll learn together about issues of climate, economic, and racial justice, and explore ways to make the coming Shmita year meaningful.

May 10: Focus on Racial Justice, with Rabbi Binyamin Murray

May 24: Focus on Economic Justice, with Rabbi Jan Salzman and Shana Ratner

[Register Here](#)

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



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

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