

CENTER FOR SMALL TOWN JEWISH LIFE

November 2021/Kislev 5782

Dear Friends,

We are still feeling energized from the Fall Shabbaton, when we were finally able to dip our toes into being together in person, with music, Torah, and gratitude. With that renewed energy, we are now looking ahead to the winter months. The bright waxing moon of early Kislev in the sky at dusk reminds us that even during the darkest times, a light still shines.

To celebrate this precious light, you'll find in this email news of our upcoming statewide Hanukkah party. You'll also see that we are lighting our own fires—cooking fires!—with Maine teens, who will be gathering to share an outdoor cooking showdown. You can also stoke your inner fire by learning to chant Torah this winter. Keeping the light shining, that is our theme, and our *kavanah*—our intention—as we embrace the shorter days, the longer nights, and the hearths of hope and promise at the center of it all.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

With hope and promise,
The Center Staff

The Jewish Youth Connection **Now You're Cooking!**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

1:30-3:30 P.M.

TEMPLE BETH EL, AUGUSTA



Teens, Torah, and Outdoor Griddles!

Join us for an epic, Iron Chef-style throwdown of camp-stove cooking with Jewish teens from across the state! Meet our amazing Colby leadership fellows (and our friends), do some cool

text study, and then get ready to mix it up—literally—with an outdoor cooking competition like none other. You are *not* going to want to miss this!

Here are the details:

When: Sunday, November 21, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Where: Temple Beth El, 3 Woodlawn Street, Augusta

What: A camping stove throwdown that will challenge your cooking skills! The event will be held outside. Our Colby Jewish leadership fellows will bring their kitchen know-how!

Who: YOU, we hope!

This program is weather-dependent; we will contact you with updates in the event of rain. Register by clicking on the button below. Please sign up and join us!

For questions or more details, contact Mel Weiss, maweiss@colby.edu.

[Register Here to Cook Outdoors!](#)

A Maine Hanukkah Celebration

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 5:30 PM

CELEBRATE THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS WITH HAVDALAH, CANDLE LIGHTING, AN ORIGINAL PLAY, MUSIC, AND MORE, ON ZOOM!



Come to Our Statewide Hanukkah Celebration!

Saturday, December 4, 5:30 p.m.

Oy Hanukkah Oy Hanukkah is right around the corner! True, we still can't gather in a big crowd, eat latkes, light the menorah, and dance hand in hand. But that doesn't mean we can't do those things at home, together! If we've learned anything this year, it's how to celebrate as a community, from near and far, online! Yes, it's not in person, but that also means more people can attend and enjoy the joyous program we have planned.

There will be havdalah and hanukkiah lighting (have yours on hand!). There will be an original play—"Wager in the Bathhouse"—by Rebbetzin Lisa Mayer, performed by our not-ready-for-prime-time rabbis! (Spoiler alert—rubber duckies will make an appearance.) To top it all off, there will be music by Rabbi Sruli! And we will be together—from all four corners of our state—to celebrate this joyous holiday.

To get the link, sign up below. We can't wait to celebrate the Festival of Lights with you!

[Register for Hanukkah Here!](#)

Trope Training

with Eliana Willis



A Three-Week Online
Torah Trope Learning Program
for the Community



Limited
enrollment.
Register early to
secure your
space!

Trope Training with Eliana Willis

January 20 and 27, February 3, 2022

Would you like to learn Torah trope? This three-week class with Center rabbinical fellow Eliana Willis will cover the basics of Torah cantillation, focusing on the most common tropes. Eliana will also discuss how to go about learning an aliyah, using the Rosh Hodesh Torah reading as a case study, and share online resources to support your Torah reading beyond this class.

Enrollment is limited to 10 students. Registrants are required to commit to attending all three classes. The success of this program depends on class attendance. **If you cannot attend all three classes, please do not sign up for the training.**

Days: Thursdays January 20, 27, February 3

Time: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Prerequisites: Participants must be able to read Hebrew text aloud, and should expect to spend time outside of class practicing.

\$36 suggested donation

About the instructor: Eliana Willis, a rabbinical fellow with the Center for Small Town Jewish Life, is a third-year rabbinical student at Hebrew College in Boston. She is a cantillation enthusiast and has taught trope to b'nai mitzvah students and to adults. She teaches Talmud at Teen Beit Midrash, a pluralistic and inclusive learning space for teens, and spent last summer as a fellow with T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights. She has a BA in Environmental Studies from University of California, Santa Cruz, and worked as an outdoor educator before starting rabbinical school. Originally from Los Angeles, Eliana is spending time this year learning, singing, and connecting with the Maine Jewish community.

[Register for Trope Training Here](#)



Maine Artist Notecards Available for Hanukkah

Would you like to send one-of-a-kind Hanukkah cards to family and friends? Treat them to these gorgeous Center for Small Town Jewish Life notecards, featuring the work of three Maine Jewish artists. The cards feature these beautiful images:

Divinity is Everywhere, by Camille Davidson

Schmita 2020, Five Baskets, by Asherah Cinnamon

Cold Wind, Warm Sun, Maranacook, by H el ene Farrar

Packets of nine cards, three of each design, are available for sale on our website for \$18. To place an order, click on the link below. Beautiful to send as a Hanukkah card, to give as a Hanukkah gift, or to surprise someone with any time of year!

[Purchase Maine Artist Notecards](#)

In the Community

Voices of Maine's Lost Synagogues Wednesday, November 17, 7 p.m.

Live virtual panel discussion with audience Q+A

Jews have been living in Maine for 200 years, practicing in up to 30 active synagogues built to anchor Jewish communities across the state. Half of those synagogues no longer exist.

Veteran producer, writer, director, and media consultant Jo Dondis will bring together voices of these lost synagogues in a panel discussion to help tell the story of the impressive span of Maine's Jewish community life throughout the state.



This unique opportunity will bring life to the exhibition on view at the Maine Jewish Museum, housed in the restored 1921 Etz Chaim Synagogue. Streaming link at www.mainejewishmuseum.org.

Presented by the Maine Jewish Museum. Co-sponsored by the Center for Small Town Jewish Life, the JCA of Southern Maine, The Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine, and Documenting Maine Jewry.

[Maine's Lost Synagogues: Register Here](#)

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



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