

CENTER FOR SMALL TOWN JEWISH LIFE

Late October 2020/Cheshvan 5781

Dear Friends,

Never a dull moment here—in the wider world *and* in the Maine Jewish community! Join us online for Community Conversations, a talk about democracy and Jewish values, the Fall Shabbaton, and more in the coming weeks. Read on to learn about all our upcoming offerings, pull out your calendars, and register! We can't wait to study, debate, pray, sing, cook, and connect with our extended Maine Jewish family.

See you soon,
The Center Staff

Community Conversations

WHAT IS THE
ROLE OF
RELIGION IN
CIVIC LIFE?



Sunday, October 25, 7-8:30 p.m.

This online program will feature a conversation between Rabbi Lisa Vinikoor of Beth Israel Congregation in Bath, Zach Heiden, Chief Counsel at the Maine ACLU, and Pastor Craig Riportella of Centerpoint Community Church in Waterville. Following a question and answer session, we will invite community members and college students into breakout rooms to continue the conversation.

[Register Here](#)

Teen Event • Word Power! Sunday, October 25, 7-8:30 p.m.



Let's get together on Zoom for an evening of word play and fun! We'll start with some Jewish learning about the power of words in the world, then break out into a rousing game of Scattergories! This is a chance for teens to meet our awesome new fellows for the year (two college students who are looking forward to hanging out) and reconnect with friends from across the state.

[Register Here](#)

Is Liberal Democracy a Jewish Value?

DR. ELIAS SACKS
RABBI RACHEL ISAACS



Wednesday, October 28, 7 p.m.

In nations around the world, and increasingly in Europe and the Americas, societies are electing leaders and empowering parties that are publicly questioning and challenging the wisdom of liberal, democratic forms of government. We have witnessed animosity toward political values that appeared beyond debate in the post-World World II order: the value of separation between religion and state, international cooperation and alliances, and the separation of powers. The struggle between those who embrace liberal Democracy as an inherent good and those who are skeptical of its value exists not just on a global scale, but is causing major division in Jewish communities as well.

In this conversation, Dr. Elias Sacks, Director of the Program in Jewish Studies at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and Rabbi Rachel Isaacs, Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies at Colby College, will examine these trends through the lens of Jewish history and thought, considering past and present intra-Jewish debates about the best and “most Jewish” forms of political organization, and how global trends could impact the Jewish future in the United States and abroad.

[Register Here](#)

JOIN US ONLINE FOR

The Fall Shabbaton

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 –
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2020



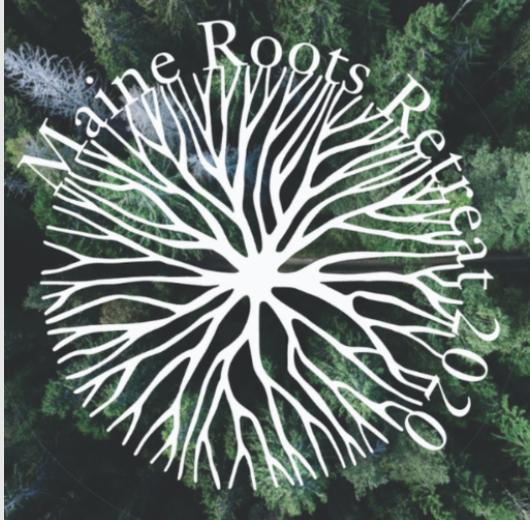
It's the event you've been waiting for: the seventh annual Fall Shabbaton—and the first virtual Shabbaton of its kind! As the stars come out on Saturday, Nov. 7, we will gather in joyful community to welcome in the new week with Havdalah and a concert with Deborah Sacks Mintz of the Rising Song Institute. Over the course of the Shabbaton, Deborah will lead us in song and study, with a focus on Music as a Source of Comfort and Strength.

The Shabbaton continues on Sunday, Nov. 8, with a rich set of sessions where we'll explore topics of racial justice and diversity in the American Jewish community, prepare food from global Jewish traditions, bring our young people together for Jewish values and fun, imagine with our rabbinical fellows what a post-pandemic Jewish community can look like, and more—all on Zoom!

Mark your calendars and register for a weekend of music, learning, and friends.

[Check out our website for more information.](#)

[Register for the Shabbaton!](#)



Maine Roots

Saturday, November 7

Sunday, November 8



A spirited celebration of
young Jewish life in Maine.

Join us for a weekend of connection and reconnection to our roots in the Maine landscape and Jewish community! This virtual retreat is open to Jewish adults, ages 22-33.

The Maine Roots retreat will begin with Havdalah on Saturday evening and run through Sunday afternoon. Our schedule will weave in and out of programming for the Fall Shabbaton—with dedicated sessions just for our cohort. Together, we will explore racial justice and diversity in the Jewish community, move through an embodied Jewish practice workshop, cook delicious food, and build relationships, all while remaining connected to the wider Maine Jewish community.

This retreat is virtual, but we've worked to design offerings to engage our bodies, senses, hearts, and minds. Registration is \$18 and covers an awesome package mailed to your door full of everything you'll need for the weekend.

[Learn More and Register for the Retreat Here!](#)

News from the Center Staff



The Covenant Foundation



Rabbi Rachel Isaacs, director of the Center for Small Town Jewish Life, has been named one of the Covenant Foundation's five 2020 Pomegranate Prize recipients. Each year, the Pomegranate Prize is awarded to innovative rising leaders in Jewish education. We are grateful for Rabbi Isaacs' focused leadership and vision for small-town Jewish communities in Maine and around the country. We hope you'll join us in saying Mazel Tov and Yasher Ko'ach!

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



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