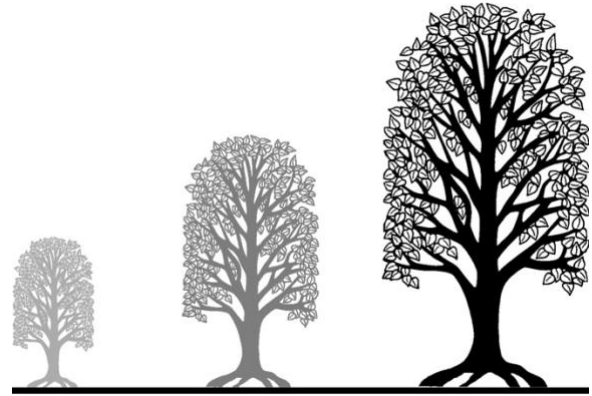


BETH ISRAEL CONGREGATION  
862 Washington Street  
Bath, Maine 04530



March/April 2023

Adar / Nisan / Iyyar 5783

## Rabbi's Message

---

Dear Beth Israel Members and Friends,

Like many of you, I've been enjoying this snowy winter on my skis, skates, and spikes. And at the same time I'm preparing with excitement and anticipation for our joyous spring festival of Passover. At Beth Israel, our community seder will provide us with an opportunity to share a meal, tell stories, connect with friends, meet new people, and engage ourselves and our children in asking questions.

Indeed, asking questions serves as the centerpiece of our seder ritual. In fact, our Passover mandate to teach the next generation about the Exodus from Egypt happens much less through clear answers and much more through fostering a culture of asking questions. This kind of curiosity is built right into the ritual: the youngest amongst us recites the "Four Questions" and we all tell the story of the Four Children who themselves ask additional questions. At the seder we wonder and ask our own four questions such as: What's your favorite charoset recipe? Why do we eat matzah again? Who is enslaved today? What can I do to help?



On the topic of the importance of questions in the seder, scholar Erica Brown teaches: "Questions breed humility. Answers tend to foment arrogance. The seder advances our master narrative through questions that lead to (knowledge) transmission. We sing four questions but, in actuality, so much of the (haggadah) text prompts curiosity."

Alongside our children and youth, who naturally approach the world with wonder, the Passover seder provides each of us an opportunity to be curious and to bring our questions to light. Our ability to ask questions and truly listen to those of others, is a sign of our freedom.

Although it may be hard to imagine, the longer days of April will be here soon. The ground will be covered in mud, the trees full of buds waiting to blossom and we'll be cooking dishes to share at our seder meal. As we prepare to gather this year, in addition to matzah ball soup, and our favorite charoset recipes, let's also bring our questions, our curiosity and wonder in the service of building a stronger future for ourselves and our children for years to come.

L'Shalom,  
Rabbi Vinikoor

## Chloe Zelkha

by Marilyn Weinberg

---

### Friday March 3, 5:30 pm

Souper Shabbat followed by a Kabbalat Shabbat service

### Saturday March 4, 9:00 am

Torah Study followed by Sabbath Morning service

Come together as Rabbinical Student Fellow, Chloe Zelkha, returns to Bath for the weekend of March 3-5.

On Friday she will be joining us for a Souper Shabbat meal followed by a Friday night service that she will co-lead with Rabbi Vinikoor. On Saturday morning she will also co-lead both Torah Study and a Shabbat morning service followed by a nosh of bagels and cream cheese.

She is thrilled to be working this year with Beth Israel in Bath!



## Purim Celebration

by Marilyn Weinberg

---

### Monday, March 6

5:30 pm - Megillah Reading at Minnie Brown

6:15 pm - Pizza & Hamantaschen

Minnie Brown Center

Prepare to laugh and clap your hands for our Beth Israel “players” who will be presenting our own Purim Spiel; a family-friendly retelling of the Purim story, Megillah reading and Purim singing.

Come in costume, bring a gragger (or box of pasta), to make lots of noise every time we hear the name of that dratted villain Haman. Meet your favorite Purim characters! Pasta will then be donated to the local food bank, and prizes will be given out for the best costumes.



## Sounding Trauma, Mediating Memory: Holocaust Economy and the Politics of Sound

*by Janet Marstine*

---

**Wednesday March 29**  
**7:00-8:30 pm**  
**Bowdoin College**

As we continue to struggle with the horrors that comprise the Holocaust, a new generation of research is providing insight into how the Holocaust is represented through museums, memorials and film. Musicologist and Holocaust studies scholar Dr. Kathryn Huether, Visiting Assistant Professor at Bowdoin College, is on the leading edge of this research. Her innovative cross-disciplinary approach is to examine the ways that sound impacts our understanding of the Holocaust. Her study of sound includes but is not limited to music, such as that that composed for or chosen for Holocaust films, survivor testimony and Holocaust museum audio guides. It also comprises ambient noise, such as the wind, the wildlife and the traffic around Holocaust memorials; the effect of diverse video soundtracks in a Holocaust museum gallery space; and the sound of the narrator on an audio guide.



Dr. Huether comes to Bowdoin directly from the US Holocaust Memorial Museum where she was a post-doctoral fellow. We are fortunate to share Dr. Huether with our friends at the Jewish Community Alliance and Bowdoin College for a talk to be held at **Bowdoin on Wednesday March 29, 7:00-8:30 pm, Moulton Union Lounge**. The presentation will be multi-sensory with a key audio component and there will be ample time for discussion afterwards. This event promises to inspire new insights on a very difficult topic.

## Adult Learning Session Unpacking the Passover Seder

*by Rabbi Vinikoor*

---

**Sunday, April 2**  
**4:00 pm**  
**Synagogue**

Looking to deepen your Passover seder experience? Join us for conversation and learning about the history and content of the Passover seder as well as innovative approaches to seders today.



## Community Passover Seder

*by Marilyn Weinberg*

---

**Thursday, April 6**

**5:00 pm**

**Minnie Brown Center**

It's finally time to be together again for Beth Israel's Community Passover Seder.

We will provide all the items you need for the seder including matzoh, charoset, eggs, horseradish, and parsley. Our seder meal will be pot luck.

Reservations required by March 24.

Sign up [here](#).

Once you sign up we will be in touch with you to finalize what you can bring to the pot luck.

To cover expenses:

\$10 per person/\$20 per family for members

\$15 per person/\$35 per family for non-members

You can pay [online](#)

or in person.



## Kulanu - Facing Antisemitism Series

*by Joanne Rosenthal*

---

Beth Israel Congregation, in partnership with St. Paul's Episcopal Church, sponsored a three-part series in January and February entitled "Facing Antisemitism." Held via Zoom, series participants included five Jewish individuals and five non-Jewish individuals. Materials for the series included videos, news articles and a segment from the Ken Burns and Lynn Novick documentary series about the Holocaust.

Participants reflected deeply on the information presented and shared their new understandings of how antisemitism is expressed, experienced, and looking forward, how to work to end antisemitism in our communities and institutions. We look forward to offering this series again as a member congregation of the ADL's Kulanu initiative.

Please contact Joanne Rosenthal at [kulanu@bethisraelbath.org](mailto:kulanu@bethisraelbath.org) with questions or to be placed on a waiting list for the next session.





## Beth Israel Hebrew School

by Marilyn Weinberg

Our Hebrew School students have been busy this winter with multifaceted learning of Hebrew, holidays, prayer and a variety of projects with equal amount of joy and enthusiasm. They helped prepare and participate in a Tu'B'Shevat seder and have been enthusiastically preparing for Purim with games and making Mishloach manot (gifts of food or drink that are sent to family, friends and others on Purim.)

The words *Tikkun Olam* (repair of the world) they know well through words and deeds. They recently prepared four full course meals to deliver to congregation members who have been unwell. Thanks to Beth Israel's wonderful teachers and parents who help make this happen.



## A Social Action Committee Shout Out

by Phyllis Wolfe

---

The Social Action Committee is emerging from its Covid cocoon.

In 2021 the Synagogue's Board of Directors developed a strategic plan that over the course of three years provides the congregation with a framework for progressive and inclusive worship, learning, and cultural engagement within our community and beyond.

A component of this strategic plan was the formation of an engaged Social Action Committee that focuses on racial justice, food insecurity and hunger prevention and healing the environment. The committee co-chairs, Thyle Shartar and Phyllis Wolfe, are eager to begin working on these issues with a group of like-minded individuals who feel that these three areas are critical to our physical, emotional and spiritual well-being not only as individuals and but also as a community.



Hosting guest speakers, films, discussion groups, and intergenerational activities are all possibilities for the committee to consider. Working with local, regional, state, national and maybe even international organizations will add meaningful impact in any one or all of these areas.

Sound exciting? Interested? Please join the committee and be part of the “design team” by emailing Thyle and Phyllis at [socialaction@bethisraelbath.org](mailto:socialaction@bethisraelbath.org)

## Shabbat Winter Hike

by Rabbi Vinikoor

---

Beth Israel members enjoyed a multi-generational Shabbat Winter hike at Woodward Point Preserve in Brunswick.





## Refugee Shabbat

by Michelle Lisi-D'Alauro

---

Beth Israel celebrated HIAS's 5th Annual Refugee Shabbat on February 3rd and 4th. Though the temperatures were frigid, we gathered Friday night for a Souper Shabbat Potluck and evening service with Midcoast New Mainers Group Board Member Odette Zouri speaking about the power of community in action. We reconvened Saturday for a morning service and panel discussion featuring attorneys and organizers from Hope Acts and the JCA, followed by a delicious African luncheon catered by Bath area sisters, Jeanne Karambiri Kontogomde and Rachel Kazumba Kontogomde.



## Havdalah

by Marilyn Weinberg

---

For the past two months we have gathered together with a special braided candle, spices, wine/grape juice and song, to help us savor the end of Shabbat and look with hope towards the coming week.

Each week Rabbi Vinikoor has shared thoughtful notes about this meaningful ritual, and we have ended our gathering with delicious food and good conversation. It has been a wonderful way to get through our cold and dark winter evenings.

We hope this will become a regular winter activity.



## Remembrances for March–April 2023

---

*May their memories be for a blessing.*

### WE REMEMBER

Ann Torow  
Frances Weinberg  
Adele Gurman  
Albert Weiner  
Carol Jablow  
Edward L. Selig  
Carmen Ortega  
Dora Borenstein  
John Ramsey  
Howard Kempler  
Judy Gelles  
Helen Freedman Cohen  
Sarah Goldman  
Edward Haller  
Louis Gurman  
Mishaël Selig  
Susan Linet  
Helen Isaacson  
Linda S Beaumont  
Harry Shartar

### HEBREW DATE

8 Adar I  
8 Adar I  
10 Adar I  
10 Adar I  
12 Adar II  
12 Adar II  
14 Adar II  
15 Adar I  
15 Adar I  
16 Adar I  
18 Adar I  
20 Adar I  
20 Adar I  
20 Adar II  
21 Adar I  
21 Adar I  
21 Adar I  
22 Adar II  
23 Adar II  
24 Adar II

### 2023 CALENDAR DATE

March 1  
March 1  
March 3  
March 3  
March 5  
March 5  
March 7  
March 8  
March 8  
March 9  
March 11  
March 13  
March 13  
March 13  
March 14  
March 14  
March 14  
March 15  
March 16  
March 17



Joseph Silberstein	24 Adar II	March 17
Josef & Marie Haller	26 Adar I	March 19
Esther Lerner	26 Adar I	March 19
Norman Jablow	27 Adar I	March 20
Shirley M Caplan	27 Adar I	March 20
Moshe Ben Gedalyah	27 Adar I	March 20
Herbert Schneiderman	27 Adar I	March 20
Robert Goldstein	28 Adar I	March 21
Jacques Benveniste	29 Adar I	March 22
Jennie Ensel	4 Nisan	March 26
Gerald Feldman	6 Nisan	March 28
Susan Starobin	8 Nisan	March 30
Leo Borenstein	9 Nisan	March 31
Elaine Friedberg Giuliani	9 Nisan	March 31
Virginia King	9 Nisan	March 31
Sandor Polster	10 Nisan	April 1
Fred Gersh	13 Nisan	April 4
Jesse Lane	20 Nisan	April 11
Louis Sarazan	23 Nisan	April 14
Rebecca Patt Cohen	24 Nisan	April 15
Morris Filler	26 Nisan	April 17
Gladys Filler	26 Nisan	April 17
Harold Hershenhart	27 Nisan	April 18
Miriam Weiner	27 Nisan	April 18
Harold Gilman	28 Nisan	April 19
Michael Lobenthal	28 Nisan	April 19
Peter Rubin	28 Nisan	April 19
Cheryl Milkes Moore	29 Nisan	April 20
Jeffrey Robert Cherner	30 Nisan	April 21
Elayne Schoenberg	3 Iyyar	April 24
Rita Pepper	4 Iyyar	April 25
Janice Povich	7 Iyyar	April 28
Mildred Lenox	8 Iyyar	April 29



## New Members

---

- Andy and Sara Litt

## Donations

---

### **Memorial Gifts**

- Merna and Joe Guttentag in loving memory of her mother, Ethel Cohn Schatz and her brother, Ted Cohn
- Karen and Matthew Filler in loving memory of her mother, Frances Feldman and her grandmother, Sarah Lang
- Karen and Matthew Filler in loving memory of their niece, Gillian Leigh Higman
- Marty and Betty Welt in loving memory of his parents, Frank and Shirley Welt
- Gary Torow and Denise Linet in loving memory of his father Morris Torow
- Gary Torow in loving memory of his mother, Ann Torow
- Stan Lane and Norm Dreyfus in loving memory of his brother, Michael Lane
- Stan Lane and Norma Dreyfus in loving memory of his mother, Janet Lane
- Norma Dreyfus and Stan Lane in loving memory of her brother, Nathaniel Goldberg
- Marilyn and John Darack in loving memory of her father, Sterling Shapiro
- Fred and Marilyn Weinberg in loving memory of his parents, Marvin and Frances Weinberg and his brother, Robert Weinberg
- Marilyn and Fred Weinberg in loving memory of her mother, Ann Isacoff
- Morton and Evelyn Panish in loving memory of his mother, Fanny Panish Mutterperl
- Jon and Lorna Lichter in loving memory of his father, David Lichter
- Diane Gilman and Arthur Davis in loving memory of her grandfather, Benjamin Kaplan
- Phyllis and Joseph Lisi and Michelle Lisi-D'Alauro in loving memory of her father and grandfather, Milton Millstein
- Steve and Marina Singer in loving memory of his sister, Anne Alvare
- Shelia Cohen in memory her sister, Deborah Cohen
- Jenna Golub and Stephen Sinclair in loving memory of her mother, Maureen Oppenheim-Golub
- Robert and Barbara Lenox in loving memory of his father, Fred Lenox
- George and Mary Samiljan in loving memory of his mother, Bernice Samiljan
- Mara and Donald Giuliani in loving memory of her father, Leon Berman
- Evelyn and Morton Panish in loving memory of her mother, Else Chaim
- Ellen Hagler in loving memory of her husband, Michael Hagler

### **In Memory of Micki Gersh**

- Fred and Marilyn Weinberg
- Jay and Lenore Friedland
- Matthew and Karen Filler
- Norma Dreyfus and Stan Lane
- Gail and Harvey Klain
- Peggy Brown and John Martell
- Sharon Drake
- Marcy and Greg Babitz

- Michael Klain
- The Berkowitz Family
- Gila Cohen-Shaw and Howard Shaw
- Janet Marstine and Mark Polishook
- Doris Weinberg
- Shari Sage
- Larry Loeb and Linda Silberstein
- Phyllis and Theodore Wolfe
- Joan and Neil Hankin
- Erich and Pauline Haller
- Virginia Fish
- Susan Lubner
- Herb and Harriet Paris
- Steve and Marina Singer

#### **For the Benefit of the Synagogue**

- Sandy and Cynthia Boxerman
- Nils and Karen Tcheyan
- Susan Kamin and Ben Crystal
- Tony Sager
- David and Shifra Kossman
- Carole Bernstein-Eckstein and Martin Eckstein

#### **Building Fund**

- Jon and Lorna Lichter

#### **Education Fund**

- Sarah and Henry Laurence

#### **Centennial Campaign**

- The Povich Family Trust

#### **Rabbi Discretionary Fund**

- Alec Brodsky and Lina Obeidat
- Irwin and Lori Brodsky in honor of the wedding of Alec and Lina
- Food Industry Lodge B'nai B'rith Old Bridge New Jersey to help "New Mainers" - we are all immigrants
- The Herzog/Stern Family



**Jewish Community Alliance**  
of Southern Maine

We gratefully acknowledge that the Beth Israel Congregation Hebrew School is supported financially by the Jewish Community Alliance (JCA) of Southern Maine. For more information visit them at [www.mainejewish.org](http://www.mainejewish.org).



## Birthdays and Anniversaries

---

### March Birthdays

- 2 Ethan Stern-Hayes
- 2 Noah Stern-Hayes
- 3 Donny Giuliani
- 4 Robert Lenox
- 5 Gary Torow
- 8 Teresa Gandler
- 9 Andrew Schoenberg
- 10 Monica Blatt
- 11 Annie Valliere
- 13 Jennie Clegg
- 13 Meredith Vilarello
- 14 Bart D'Alauro
- 15 Michelle Lisi-D'Alauro
- 16 Peter Felsenthal
- 17 David Sickie
- 20 Maurie Libner
- 21 Ken Rosen
- 21 Zachary Stern-Hayes
- 24 Alec Brodsky
- 28 Campbell Clegg
- 28 George Turner
- 30 Merna Guttentag

### March Anniversaries

- 1 Ken Rosen & Ellen Kempler
- 15 Jennie & Campbell Clegg
- 19 Glen & Beth Eisman
- 19 Rachel & Eric Jordan

### April Birthdays

- 2 Lisa Tessler
- 3 Alan Mayer
- 3 Patricia Brennan
- 5 Ellen Kempler
- 5 Gila Cohen-Shaw
- 8 Mort Panish
- 9 Susan Horowitz
- 9 Andrew Helman
- 12 Greg Friedel
- 13 Sheila Cohen
- 13 Elinor Rosenberg
- 15 Andy Litt
- 17 Peggy Brown
- 18 Barbara Baseman
- 18 Leslie Shaw
- 19 Sara Helman
- 19 Eric Jordan
- 24 Jennifer Kanwit
- 24 Elise Friedel
- 28 Solomon Sinclair
- 28 Leopold Sinclair

### April Anniversaries

- 5 Daniel Stone & Laura McCandlish

