



J

JEWISH COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

YEARBOOK  
2021-2022 / 5782





# SHARING OUR STORIES

When we share our stories, we share who we are — our similarities and our singularities. Coffee By Design is honored to support the Jewish Community Alliance and all those whose stories have brought us together.



COME VISIT US AT ONE OF OUR COFFEEHOUSES  
MURAL AT CBD DIAMOND STREET  
COMMUNITY COLLABORATION WITH USM & MUHSANA ALI

## WELCOME



**Molly Curren Rowles**  
*Executive Director*

The Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine is proud to function as a Jewish Community Center (JCC), a Jewish Federation, and a Jewish Family Services program. As a result, there are so many different activities and initiatives at the J! We have welcomed many new community members to Southern Maine over the past year, and whether you are recently arrived or a longtime resident, we strive to create opportunities for growth and connection that will help you make friends and find support. Each of our program areas is described in this yearbook, together with calendars and contact information so you can learn more and get involved. In addition, we have included descriptions of Jewish holidays as well as all of the wonderful Jewish organizations in our community.

Despite the challenges we have all faced over the past year, we look forward to greeting 5782 with hope, health, and joy! We are so grateful for our advertisers who make this publication possible as a resource to the community.

*Shana tova umetukah* – a good and sweet New Year – from all of us at the JCA!

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- Richard Aronson
- Albert Glickman z”l\*
- \*zichrono livracha*  
(of blessed memory)





MISSION

The Jewish Community Alliance (JCA) is a nonprofit organization serving the Jewish community of Southern Maine by providing educational and social programming and fundraising. Our mission is to build Jewish community locally, in Israel and throughout the world. The JCA develops, provides, and supports diverse programs, education and services. We work with an array of organizations and local congregations, and function as the hub of Jewish programming in Southern Maine.

JCA HOURS OF OPERATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

The JCA operates Monday - Friday from 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM

1342 Congress St., Portland, ME 04102  
207-772-1959 | [www.mainejewish.org](http://www.mainejewish.org)

Please visit us on social media or at [www.mainejewish.org](http://www.mainejewish.org) to stay up to date and sign up for our email list!

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JCA STAFF



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**Chris Thurston**  
*Center Day Camp Director*

SOUTHERN MAINE JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

Congregations

**Beth Israel Congregation** (Reform)  
Rabbi: Lisa Vinikoor  
862 Washington Street, Bath, Maine 04530  
207-443-4606 | www.bethisraelbath.org

Beth Israel Congregation is an inclusive reform synagogue, a center of worship, learning, culture and community that connects Judaism to our lives in today’s world. Beth Israel feels alive, vibrant, relevant and evolving, while rooted in the tradition and history that make Judaism strong. It is a place where Judaism is taken seriously and practiced earnestly and where interpretations of Torah, texts and Jewish traditions from a wide variety of backgrounds and perspectives are welcomed and debated. Beth Israel is proud of its long history as the center of Jewish life in the Mid-coast region. We are a nourishing place where people learn, study, question, observe, and connect with God and community.

**B’nai Portland** (Unaffiliated)  
Rabbi: Laura Boenisch  
74 Lunt Road, Falmouth, ME 04105  
207-613-5888 | www.bnaiportland.com

B’nai Portland (“Children of Portland”) was founded by Laura Boenisch as a private Hebrew School in 2009, and following her ordination as a rabbi by the Jewish Spiritual Leaders Institute in 2016, it has become a full-service non-profit congregation. Shabbat and Holy Day worship is typically held at the Lunt Auditorium, located in the Lunt Professional Building, 74 Lunt Road in Falmouth. We have created a warm and inviting classroom for our Hebrew School which is located at 795 Main Street in Westbrook. Many families arrange to hold life cycle events at venues of their choice.

**Chabad House** (Chabad-Lubavitch)  
Rabbi: Moshe Wilansky  
11 Pomeroy Street, Portland, ME 04102  
207-871-8947 | www.chabadofmaine.com

Chabad is an Orthodox Hasidic organization. The word “Chabad” is a Hebrew acronym for the three intellectual faculties of *chochmah*—wisdom, *binah*—comprehension and *da’at*—knowledge. The movement’s system of Jewish religious philosophy, the deepest dimension of God’s Torah, teaches understanding and recognition of the Creator, the role and purpose of creation, and the importance and unique mission of each creature. Chabad of Maine is guided by the idea that there should be a place where everyone can feel at home, within a Jewish context. They offer regular services, holiday programming, summer camp and other programs for children and families.

**Congregation Bet Ha’am** (Reform)  
Rabbi: Jared H. Saks  
81 Westbrook Street, South Portland, ME 04106  
207-879-0028 | www.bethaam.org

Congregation Bet Ha’am is the spiritual home for an active and growing community of Reform Jews in South Portland. With more than 360 member households, over 205 Religious School students from pre-school to high school, weekly Shabbat worship and Torah study, and dozens of other opportunities each month for learning about and participating in Jewish life, Bet Ha’am plays a large role in the Jewish community of Southern Maine.

From the beginning, Bet Ha’am’s emphasis has been to help its members connect – or re-connect – to Judaism by providing an open, caring and energetic community. We have a large and growing number of Jews by Choice and are recognized for our outreach to gay and lesbian Jews.

**Congregation Beth Israel** (Orthodox)  
49 East Grand Ave., Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064  
207-974-2973 | www.cbisrael.me

Congregation Beth Israel is an Orthodox Synagogue in Old Orchard Beach and is one of the oldest synagogues in Maine. Shabbat services are held year round.

**Congregation Etz Chaim** (Non-denominational)  
Cantor: Beth Strassler  
36 Bacon Street, Biddeford, ME 04005  
207-284-5771 | www.etzchaimme.org

The small synagogue with the unusual address (Bacon Street) is where our community meets for holiday parties, Jewish and interfaith religious services, educational events for all ages and potluck suppers.

Congregation Etz Chaim is a non-denominational synagogue which means we serve all types of Jews from orthodox to deconstructionist. Some call themselves “secular” or say they are “somewhere in between”. We offer a wide range of services and welcome everyone.

**Congregation Shaarey Tphiloh** (Modern Orthodox)  
President: Dr. Natan Kahn  
400 Deering Avenue, Portland, ME 04103  
207-773-0693 | www.mainesynagogue.org

Congregation Shaarey Tphiloh embraces an Orthodoxy that is modern, open, and inclusive. We are dedicated to the principles of *halakha* (Jewish law) and Jewish tradition, and we believe that these teachings will lead us on the path of righteousness and toward a spiritual connection to God. We are “modern” Orthodox in the sense that we believe that the modern world should inform our religious experience and enhance our understanding of the laws and traditions of Judaism. We are “open” in the sense that we emphasize that

SOUTHERN MAINE JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

Organizations

**Documenting Maine Jewry**  
www.mainejews.org

Documenting Maine Jewry is a community-based history project providing information on Jewish citizens of Maine through a state-of-the-art genealogical and historical resource reflecting the Jewish traditions of memory, remembrance, and inter-generational learning. In undertaking this task, the DMJ is preserving Jewish traditions and strands in our Maine history.

**The Jewish Funeral Home - Chevra Kadisha**  
471 Deering Avenue, Portland, Maine, 04103  
207-774-3733 | www.portlandjewishfuneralhome.org

The Jewish Funeral Home, owned by The Portland Chevra Kadisha is a non-profit organization that has been serving the surrounding Jewish population for over 100 years. We are a licensed funeral home and proud member of The Funeral Consumers Alliance, operating under the name of The Portland Jewish Funeral Home managed by a dedicated group of Jews and a licensed funeral director. The Jewish Funeral Home arranges funeral services from the Levey Chapel, or from any synagogue or temple.

**Maine Jewish Film Festival**  
P.O. Box 7465, Portland, ME 04112  
207-523-3422 | www.mjff.org

The Maine Jewish Film Festival’s mission is to provide a forum for the presentation of films to enrich, educate and entertain a diverse community about the global Jewish experience. In recent years, waves of immigration and shifting demographics have reshaped many parts of our state. MJFF regards these changes as an opportunity to create programming and events that celebrate and build community within an increasingly diverse population. Through new outreach initiatives and strategic partnerships, they will continue to expand their reach and remain at the vanguard of Maine’s cultural community.

**Maine Jewish Museum**  
267 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101  
207-773-2339 | www.mainejewishmuseum.org

Maine Jewish Museum, located in a restored 1921 synagogue, celebrates and honors the contributions and diversity of Maine’s Jewish immigrants in the context of the American experience. Through exhibits, programming, and dialogue the Museum seeks to build bridges of appreciation and understanding with people of all backgrounds.

our community is responsible for serving the larger community of the Jewish people and the State of Israel, as well as our local community in Portland and the larger American community. Our members believe that they have a responsibility to work to improve the lives of the people in the community around us as well as the lot of all of humanity.

**Etz Chaim Synagogue** (Unaffiliated)  
Rabbi: Gary Berenson  
267 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101  
207-773-2339 | www.etzchaim-portland.org

Etz Chaim is an inclusive synagogue, committed to the opportunities, challenges, and diversity of the Jewish Community of Portland and all of Southern Maine. The Congregation is committed to maintaining its historic roots in traditional Jewish practice, conducting many of its services in Hebrew as it has for almost a century. The congregation also offers services in the liberal Jewish spirit, substantially in English, as a welcoming and inclusive worship experience for many of our members.

We offer a special welcome to interfaith, multi-cultural, and non-traditional individuals and families who are seeking an experience of Judaism’s spiritual ideals and traditions, regardless of religious background. Together we seek to be a “tree of life,” by creating a community of worship, learning, and service, grounded in the timeless Jewish vision of a “house of prayer for all people,” and responding to the mandate of our Hebrew Prophets to work for justice and peace in our community and the world.

**Temple Beth El** (Conservative)  
Rabbi: Carolyn Braun  
400 Deering Avenue, Portland, ME 04103  
207-774-2649 | www.tbemaine.org

Established in 1947, Temple Beth El has become the major regional center of Conservative Judaism north of Boston. With approximately 300 member families and active religious school, Kadima Beth El, the Temple has stood the test of time.

A pioneer on issues ranging from social action to the equal participation of women, Temple Beth El made its mark under the leadership of Rabbi Harry Sky in the 1960’s with its involvement in human and civil rights issues, and in the 1970’s when it installed one of the first female congregational presidents in the country. With the hiring of Rabbi Carolyn Braun in 1995, Temple Beth El became the largest Conservative synagogue in the nation to be led by a woman. Today, Temple Beth El remains in the forefront of progressive Judaism.



SOUTHERN MAINE JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

Organizations Continued

**Southern Maine Jewish Cemetery Association**  
PO Box 251, Portland, ME 04112  
<https://smjca.org/>

SMJCA is a non-profit organization of Jewish community members that is concerned about the worsening state of our area's Jewish cemeteries. By refurbishing these historic sites, we aim to revitalize the memory of those past and honor their contributions to our Jewish heritage. SMJCA's mission is to honor our buried forebears in accordance with Jewish tradition, beliefs, and practices.

Schools and Higher Education

**Hillel at Bowdoin College**  
30 College Street, Brunswick, ME 04011  
<http://students.bowdoin.edu/hillel/>

The Bowdoin Hillel supports students in creating vibrant Jewish religious and cultural life. It serves students in helping to build community, work for justice, explore various aspects of Judaism and engage in spiritual and religious practices.

**Levey Day School**  
400 Deering Avenue, Portland, Maine 04103  
207-774-7676 | [www.leveydayschool.org](http://www.leveydayschool.org)

Levey Day School is an independent elementary school, established in 1952. Northern New England's only Jewish day school, Levey welcomes and embraces families of all faiths and backgrounds. Levey provides a nurturing community and a challenging, personalized curriculum infused with Jewish values and Hebrew language. Students of all backgrounds become lifelong learners committed to *tikkun olam* (improving our world).

**Southern Maine Hillel**  
1342 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04102  
[www.mainejewish.org/programs/southernmainehillel/](http://www.mainejewish.org/programs/southernmainehillel/)

Serving students at USM, UNE, SMCC, and MECA. At each campus, Hillel creates a safe and enriching environment for students who are interested in Jewish life. We offer a Jewish perspective in interfaith dialogues, respond to issues of anti-Semitism, and provide vibrant and dynamic links to the broader Jewish community for students.



**Discounts on accommodations and in-house catering available for JCA Members!**

Call to inquire.

1230 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04102 | 207.774.5611 | [clarionportlandme.com](http://clarionportlandme.com)

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JCA FUNDS



An important part of the JCA's work is to generate financial support for our community. Endowed Funds at the JCA help improve Southern Maine in so many meaningful ways, and a contribution is a wonderful tribute to honor and remember friends or loved ones. To give a gift to any JCA Fund or participate in our Annual Campaign, visit [www.mainejewish.org](http://www.mainejewish.org), email Director of Development Ashley DiPietro at [adipietro@mainejewish.org](mailto:adipietro@mainejewish.org), or call (207)772-1959.

**The Linda and Joel Abromson Award Fund** - Funds projects that allow adult applicants the opportunity to explore Jewish life in a unique and creative way

**The Aronson Young Leadership Award Fund** - Recognizes a promising young communal leader and funds travel and attendance to the Jewish Federations of North America General Assembly

**Mildred and Ernest Baker Scholarship Fund** - Funds Center Day Camp (CDC) Scholarships

**The Cantor Kurt Messerschmidt Memorial Fund** - Dedicated to celebrating the legacy of an honored clergyman, teacher and friend by offering performances, programs and activities to further the understanding and appreciation of Jewish music, composers and performers, as well as programs in Holocaust education

**Rosalynne and Sumner Bernstein Fund** - Funds for the Gift of Israel Program

**Center Day Camp Scholarship Fund** - Funds Center Day Camp Scholarships

**Chi Chi Levine Community Relations Council Fund** - Funds benefit the JCA Community Relations Council

**Early Childhood Education (ECE) Fund** - Funds Goldman Family Preschool scholarships

**Gene & Madelyn Cohen Endowed Campership Fund** - Funds Center Day Camp Scholarships

**Ezra Finberg Playground Fund** - Funds benefit the ECE Playground

**Stephen Brent Jacobson Scholarship Fund** - Recognizes a graduating senior for all-around leadership and community commitment

**Steven Laskoff Fund** - Funds Center Day Camp Scholarships

**William Levi Arts Fund** - Supports Arts programming at Center Day Camp

**Harold P. Nelson Playground Fund** - Funds benefit the CDC Playground

**Jack Novick Center Day Camp Scholarship Fund** - Funds Center Day Camp Scholarships

**PJ Library Fund** - Funds Jewish-themed activities for families and a monthly mailing of a book or music to children age 6 months to 8 years old

**Robert Willis/Nancy Winslow Helping Hands Endowment Fund** - Funds Michael Klahr Jewish Family Services Endowment

**Rita S. Willis Emergency Relief Fund** - Through Michael Klahr Jewish Family Services Helping Hands, this fund supports underserved members of the community with immediate financial needs

MEMBERSHIP

The Jewish Community Alliance is dedicated to building and exploring Jewish culture and community while providing programs and services for people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Membership dues provide important unrestricted support for the J's incredible range of activities and events, from our annual Arts & Culture Series to the Michael Klahr Jewish Family Services diaper bank.

Your membership is an investment in your community. Join the J today!

Membership benefits:

- Discounted member pricing on some classes, programs and special events
- Reciprocity at JCC facilities around the country
- Special opportunities for space rental and events such as birthday parties at both our Congress Street facility and at Center Day Camp on Sebago Lake in Windham\*
- Free admission to Sunday Swim dates at the Center Day Camp waterfront on Sebago Lake (dates listed on website)\*
- 10% discount with proof of membership at the following locations:
  - Hunt + Alpine Club
  - Rose Foods
  - Dunstan Tap & Table
  - The Spa at The Francis
- Discounts at The Clarion Hotel on Congress Street

2021-2022 Rates

- |                                   |                |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| • Family Membership               | \$216 per year |
| • Couple Membership               | \$180 per year |
| • Single-Parent Family Membership | \$120 per year |
| • Individual Membership           | \$96 per year  |

Sponsoring Members

These membership levels contribute an additional \$50 to the membership levels listed above to provide support for reduced-fee memberships for individuals and families with financial need.

- |                                   |                |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| • Sponsoring Family               | \$266 per year |
| • Sponsoring Couple               | \$230 per year |
| • Sponsoring Single-Parent Family | \$170 per year |
| • Sponsoring Individual           | \$146 per year |

Financial need should not be a barrier to participation in JCA programming. For more info please contact [membership@mainejewish.org](mailto:membership@mainejewish.org) or call (207) 772-1959 to discuss discounted membership.

\* Subject to restrictions based on COVID-19







Great movies  
unite us.

October 3, 2021

# YIDDISH CULTURE FESTIVAL

November 6–14, 2021

# MAINE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

MAINE JEWISH  
FILM FESTIVAL

Save the dates for a mix of virtual and in-person movie screenings and cultural events! **Schedules and tickets will be posted at MJFF.ORG**

## ARTS & CULTURE / PROGRAMMING

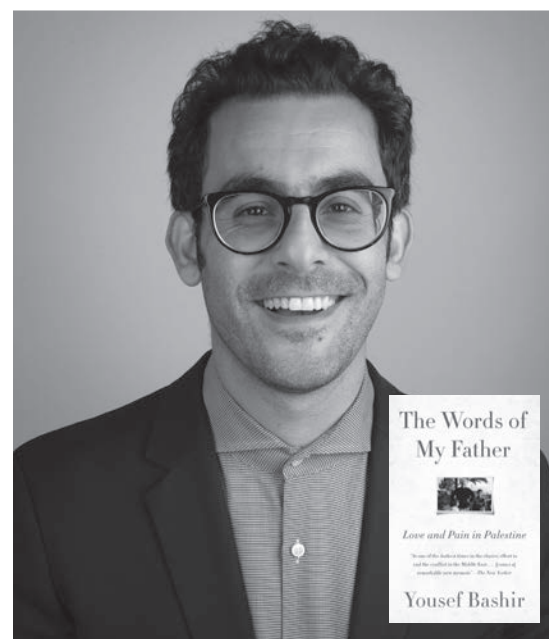
JCA programs explore the vibrant intersection of diverse cultures and ideas that make up our community, through the lens of Jewish values and shared universal principles. Together with our community partners, we aim to nurture mind, body and spirit through a range of programming for all backgrounds, ages and interests. Our programs include:

- Book talks by acclaimed authors
- Contemporary and classic films
- Public lectures by leading scholars and thinkers
- Adult education courses with skilled educators on traditional texts, art, literature, history, the Holocaust, Israel, modern Jewish thought, and current affairs
- Documentary exhibits
- World-class concerts
- Cooking and baking workshops
- Community observances and holiday celebrations
- Special PJ Library programs for children and families
- Social gatherings for young adults in their 20s-30s
- Clubs and discussion groups for older adults
- Fitness classes
- A video and podcast interview series

With the safety and health of our community as our highest priority, we will continue to offer both online and in-person programs in the coming year as guidelines allow. Please visit our website at [www.mainejewish.org](http://www.mainejewish.org), subscribe to our e-newsletter, and follow us on social media for the latest information and updates. We hope you'll join us to see what's new at the J!

### Contact Information:

Deena Schoenfeld, Director of Programming  
[dschoenfeld@mainejewish.org](mailto:dschoenfeld@mainejewish.org) or 207-772-1959





# GOLDMAN FAMILY PRESCHOOL

The Goldman Family Preschool, NAEYC accredited and beginning its 32nd year, has a rich history and an outstanding reputation. Through the ‘High Scope’ curriculum, combined with a Reggio Emilia approach, we offer child-centered, family-oriented programs for children 6 weeks to 5 years old. Educated and trained professionals bring deep commitment and a love of children to our classrooms.

- **Our Philosophy**

Children possess innate curiosity about the universe of people, places, and things around them. We believe that education is a process, initiated through a child’s interaction and investigation of their world. Through these interactions, each child is encouraged to wonder, explore, question and discover, using their own unique learning style and interests. Through the High Scope curriculum, Sheva Framework and inspiration from Reggio Emilia, our program engages children in a broad range of experiences, including meaningful Jewish cultural exploration. By nurturing the minds and spirits of children throughout their first school experience, we give them the foundation to be lifelong learners.

- **Our Mission**

To deliver an excellent early childhood educational program that meets the needs of each child and promotes continuous growth in social/emotional, cognitive, physical, and creative areas of development. As a Jewish school we approach our work through Jewish values, lenses, and culture which follow the JCC Association’s Sheva Framework.

In addition, we provide a sense of positive identity as children explore how they fit within the broader diversity that our school’s families represent.

Contact Information:  
Wendy Getchell, School Director  
wgetchell@mainejewish.org or 207-772-1959



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*If you don't have time . . . we do.*

**THE JEWISH FUNERAL HOME**  
PORTLAND CHEVRA KADISHA

The Jewish Funeral Home  
471 Deering Avenue  
Portland, Maine 04101  
[www.portlandjewishfuneralhome.org](http://www.portlandjewishfuneralhome.org)  
207-774-3733

Levey Day School has  
openings in grades Pre-K to 8

**Love. Learn. Lead.**  
Making mensches and building the  
leaders of tomorrow in an environment  
that nurtures mind, body and spirit.

Levey welcomes students  
of all backgrounds  
Portland, ME 04103  
207-774-7676  
[info@leveydayschool.org](mailto:info@leveydayschool.org)  
[www.leveydayschool.org](http://www.leveydayschool.org)



Established in 1949, Center Day Camp (CDC) has offered a traditional Maine summer camp experience for campers on the wooded shores of Lake Sebago for over 70 years. Just 20 minutes west of Portland, Center Day Camp sits on 27 spectacular acres of woods, fields, and shoreline. Generations of campers have spent their days lakeside, forming life-long friendships, learning new skills, and experiencing the magic of camp. CDC is a non-denominational Jewish day camp that welcomes campers ages 5 - 15 of all backgrounds. This summer CDC operated two 4-week sessions - successfully returning to in-person programming. The passion and energy for camp is so apparent, and we look forward to continuing to make memories for years to come.

All Center Day Camp campers will build confidence by making new friends, exploring new interests, discovering new abilities and learning new skills.

Center Day Camp fosters a strong sense of belonging and connection. All are welcome, and everyone at camp is valued and celebrated. Counselors stress kindness, respect, and character in everything that they do. Our grounding and history as a Jewish camp means that our programs offer a unique focus on universal values like integrity, honesty, responsibility, caring for one another and for the earth. We are a child-centered program that seeks to support children as they build confidence, make new friends, explore new interests, discover their abilities and learn new skills.

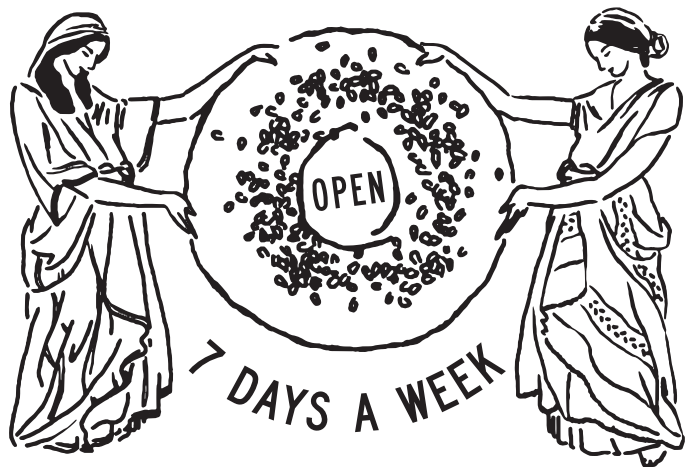
Center Day Camp is accredited through the American Camp Association. We are members of Maine Summer Camps and JCC Camps. Our staff are trained in safety, including CPR; our waterfront staff is Red Cross certified, and we have a certified Emergency Medical Technician on site during camp hours.

cdc@mainejewish.org or 207-772-1959



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**Eric A. Kolben, CFP®, CEPA®**  
Senior Vice President—Wealth Management

**Stonecoast Financial Group**  
**UBS Financial Services Inc.**  
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## PJ LIBRARY

**PJ Library®** sends free, age-appropriate, Jewish children's books to families across the world every month. Families with kids ages 0 through 8.5 years old with Judaism as part of their lives, are welcome to sign up. PJ Library welcomes all Jewish families, whatever your background, knowledge, family make-up, or observance may be.

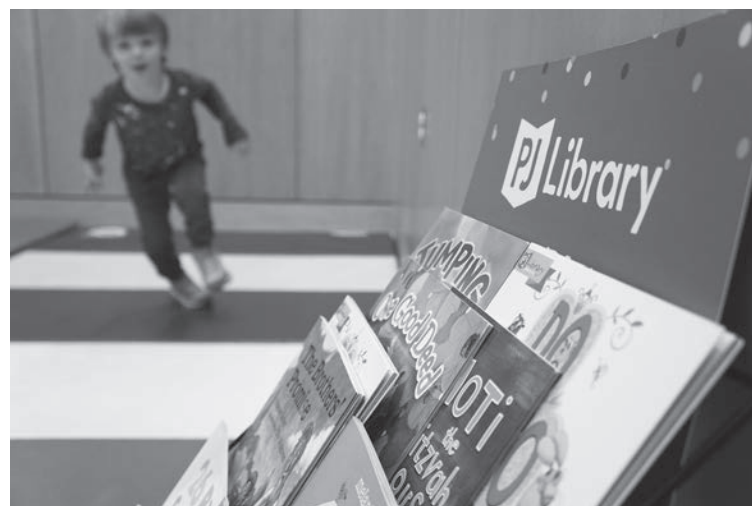
Something magical happens when parents sit down together to read with their children. PJ Library shares Jewish stories that can help your family talk together about values and traditions that are important to you. Regardless of your level of observance or affiliation, the stories are designed to enrich your entire family's Jewish journey.

A program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF), PJ Library® in Southern Maine is a free gift to families provided with funding from HGF, PJ Library Alliance partners, the Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine (JCA), and local donors. The JCA launched our partnership with PJ Library in 2013. We also are pleased to present several PJ Library family programs and engagement opportunities throughout the year.

PJ Our Way is the newest chapter of PJ Library for kids ages 8.5 through 12. It is a kid-driven program – kids choose their own book each month, share reviews, watch videos and answer polls. Southern Maine began partnering with PJ Our Way in 2018. Sign up for PJ Our Way now at [www.pjourway.org](http://www.pjourway.org) and get in on the fun! PJ Our Way is a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, with generous support from PJ Alliance partners.

Whether you are interested in celebrating holidays, traditions, and Jewish culture, gathering for family volunteer opportunities, learning more about Jewish values or connecting socially with other families and learning more about our local community, we welcome you to join us for any of our programs. We hope to see you and your family soon!

Contact Information:  
PJ Library Program Coordinator  
[pjlibrary@mainejewish.org](mailto:pjlibrary@mainejewish.org) or 207-772-1959



## JCA ARTS & CULTURE PREVIEW 2021-22





Advanced registration required for most events. Program schedule is subject to change.  
For more information and to register, visit [www.mainejewish.org](http://www.mainejewish.org) or call (207) 772-1959

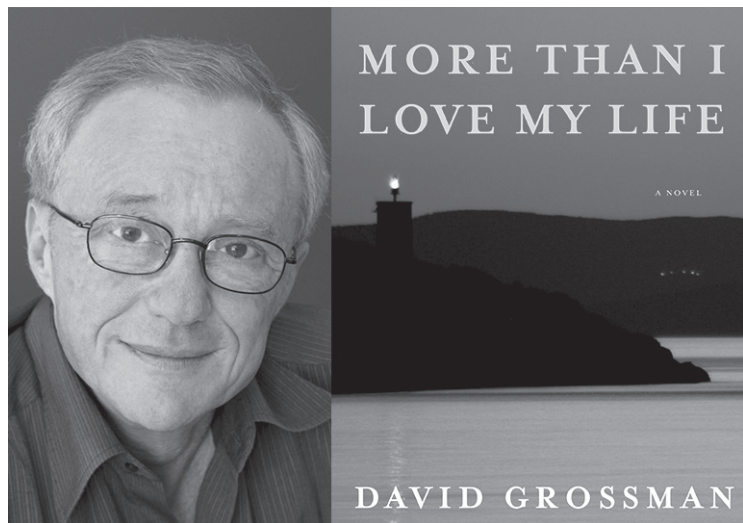
The JCA is pleased to offer virtual programs so that they are accessible to all. Financial support from community members like you makes this programming possible; we encourage you to pay what you can. We appreciate your support!



### A VERY ISRAELI ROSH HASHANAH

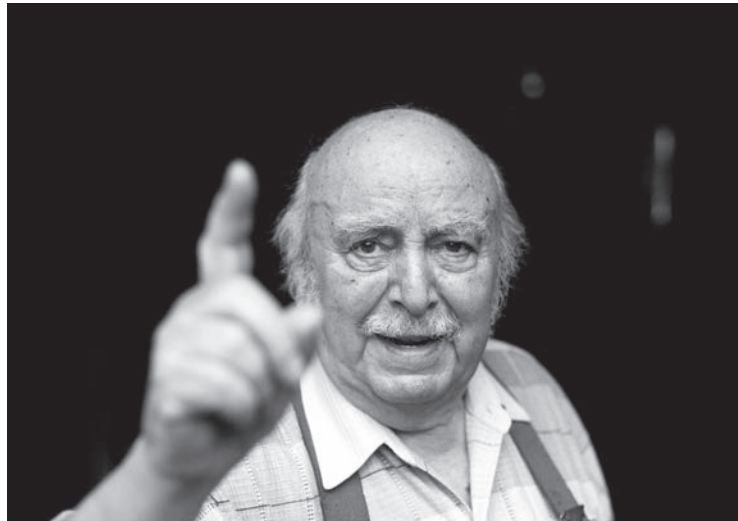
Cooking holiday favorites with chef Michael Solomonov & cookbook author Adeena Sussman

Wednesday, September 1st | 8 PM EST



### MORE THAN I LOVE MY LIFE: A NOVEL

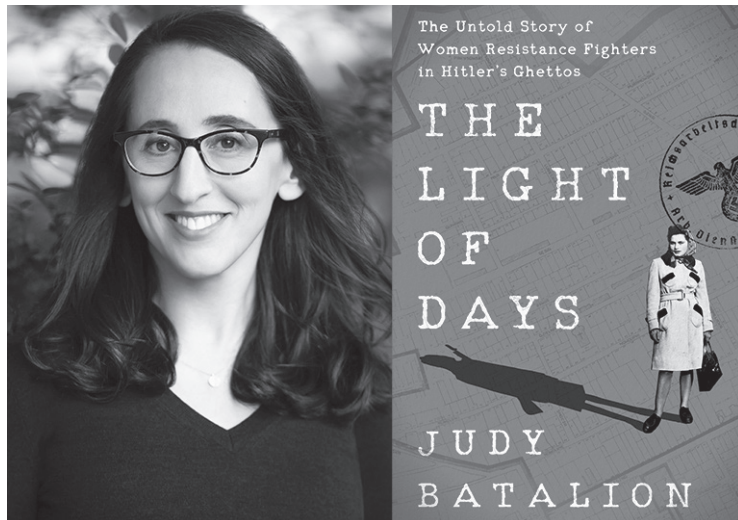
A virtual author talk with David Grossman  
Wednesday, October 20th | 12:30 PM EST  
Hosted by the Jewish Book Council



### YIDDISH CULTURE FESTIVAL

Online films, discussions & music presented with the Maine Jewish Film Festival

October 1st - 3rd | Times TBA



### THE LIGHT OF DAYS: The Untold Story of Women Resistance Fighters in Hitler's Ghettos

A virtual author talk with Judy Batalion  
Sunday, November 14th | 8:00 PM EST  
Hosted by the Houston JCC



### THE UNEXPECTED SPY: From the CIA to the FBI, My Secret Life Taking Down Some of the World's Most Notorious Terrorists

A virtual author talk with Tracy Walder  
Thursday, January 6th | 7:00 PM EST



### WE SHARE THE SAME SKY

A virtual author talk with author Rachael Cerroti

Thursday, February 10th | 7:00 PM EST

Presented with Longfellow Books and the Maine Publishers & Writers Alliance



### SPOTS OF LIGHT - TO BE A WOMAN IN THE HOLOCAUST

A documentary exhibit from the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum, Israel  
April 2022 at the JCA



### COMMUNITY YOM HASHOAH HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY OBSERVANCE & FILM

Presented with the Maine Jewish Film Festival  
Wednesday evening, April 27th | Time TBD



## JCA PARTNER PROGRAMS

**JFEST EVENTS: Fall 2021 / Winter 2021**  
Brought to you by the JCC Association on the Virtual J platform



**SUSTAIN: A Root To Stem Jewish Cooking Experience**  
With Chef Michael Solomonov  
**Thursday, October 21st | 8:00 PM EST**



**SPARKING THE JEWISH STORY: The Objects That Define Us**  
With author Laura Arnold Leibman  
**Sunday, October 24th | 8:00 PM EST**  
*Presented with the Jewish Book Council and Reboot*



**HANUKKAH: The Festival of Lights**  
**Wednesday, December 1st | 6:00 PM EST**  
*Presented with JArts and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston*

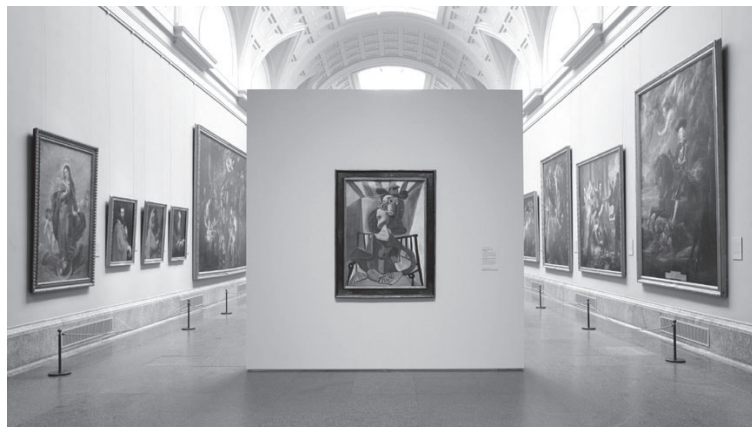


**HANUKKAH CONCERT With Latin Performer Mister G & Friends**  
**Monday, December 6th | 5:30 PM EST**

**NATIONAL JCC ADULT & SENIOR ALLIANCE:**  
Virtual Programs  
*Hosted by the Osher Marin JCC*



**STILL TRAVELING: Breathtaking Barcelona**  
**Mondays, October 4, 11, 18, 25 | 2:00 PM EST**



**ART & ARTISTS: Masters of the Prado**  
**Tuesdays, Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26 | 2:00 PM EST**



**MUSIC & MORSELS: Spanish Dances & Folk Music**  
**Wednesday, Oct. 6th | 4:00 EST**  
Classical piano concerts

Visit [www.mainejewish.org](http://www.mainejewish.org)  
Questions? Call us at (207) 772-1959  
or email [jca@mainejewish.org](mailto:jca@mainejewish.org)



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Rabbi Carolyn Braun

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Congregation Bet Ha'am is a welcoming Reform Jewish community providing vision, voice, and opportunity for connecting to, practicing, and sustaining Judaism.

Bet Ha'am, House of the People, respects and celebrates the divine spark in each individual.

**WORSHIP**

We offer traditional, family, and contemplative services led by our rabbi and by members of our community.

**RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

Our religious school connects toddlers through 12th graders with their Jewish heritage using student-centered teaching.

**COMMUNITY**

Online or in person, we bring our community together for celebrations, discussions, learning, social action, trips, and more.

[www.bethaam.org](http://www.bethaam.org)  
81 Westbrook Street, South Portland 04106

**MICHAEL KLAHR JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES**

Michael Klahr Jewish Family Services (KJFS) proudly serves the Jewish community and reaches out to those in need throughout Southern Maine. Our programs are designed to meet compelling, immediate needs in ways that demonstrate the commitment to *gemilut chasadim* (acts of loving kindness) in the service of *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). Our programs are open to all those in Southern Maine who need help achieving stability and safety. We serve everyone in need regardless of age, race, religion, language, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or any other factor. Programs include:

- Distributing food and essentials to those in need. During COVID-19, we have transitioned to a model that involves collaboration with larger pantries to ensure that clients can safely and easily access larger amounts of food with just one trip. In recent months we were able to partner with Wayside Food Programs and deliver boxed non-perishables to community members.
- Distributing diapers to those experiencing diaper need. Since January 2020, KJFS has distributed over 1,000,000 diapers throughout Southern Maine. Individuals and families have safely picked up their diapers through a bi-monthly diaper drive through. As a diaper bank, we are able to access diapers for 40% of the retail cost.
- Our annual Joe Bornstein Winter Warmth Drive provided 449 area students with new winter boots and additional winter warmth items last year.
- We support local seniors through special outreach and engagement based on their needs and concerns.

Contact Information:  
Adam Seigal, Michael Klahr Jewish Family Services Manager  
[aseigal@mainejewish.org](mailto:aseigal@mainejewish.org) or 207-772-1959





Drummond Woodsum is proud  
to support the Jewish Community  
Alliance of Southern Maine.

## Commitment *to* Community

Like the Jewish Community Center, our law firm and our professionals and staff are committed to improving the communities that we live in. Together, we make a difference!

To learn more about Drummond Woodsum's community involvement, visit us at [dwmlaw.com](http://dwmlaw.com).

*tikkun olam*

**DrummondWoodsum**  
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[dwmlaw.com](http://dwmlaw.com) | 800.727.1941



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What keeps us grounded as we branch out into new services for seniors?

## Our deep roots in the Jewish community.

Since opening as the Jewish Home for Aged in 1929, The Cedars has set the standard for senior care. Today, we are Northern New England's largest comprehensive, non-profit senior living community, offering independent living, assisted living, rehabilitation, skilled care, and community-based programs to older adults of all backgrounds.

The new Sam L. Cohen Households—featuring age-friendly design, the Household Model of person-centered care, and a brand-new Memory Care Assisted Living program—are the latest example of how our community helps us innovate and inspire.



620-640 Ocean Avenue, Portland  
207.221.7100  
[thecedarsportland.org](http://thecedarsportland.org)

NOW OPEN! THE SAM L. COHEN HOUSEHOLDS



JCA OFFICES | 2021-2022 CALENDAR

Sept. 6 Labor Day (closed)  
Sept. 7-8 Rosh Hashana (closed)  
Sept. 15 Yom Kippur (closing 12:30)  
Sept. 16 Yom Kippur (closed)  
Sept. 21 Sukkot (closed)  
Sept. 21-27 Sukkot  
Sept. 28 Shemini Atzeret (closed)  
Sept. 29 Simchat Torah

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Oct. 11 Indigenous People's Day (closed)

Nov. 11 Veteran's Day (closed)  
Nov. 24 Thanksgiving break (closing 12:30)  
Nov. 25-26 Thanksgiving break (closed)  
Nov. 28 - Dec. 6 Hanukkah

NOVEMBER						
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Nov. 28 - Dec. 6 Hanukkah  
Dec. 24 Xmas Day (observed/closed)  
Dec. 31 New Years Day (observed/closed)

Jan. 16-17 Tu B'Shevat  
Jan. 17 MLK Jr. Day (closed)

JANUARY						
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Feb. 21 Presidents' Day (closed)

March 16-17 Purim

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April 15 Passover begins (closing 12:30)  
April 15-23 Passover  
April 18 Patriots' Day (closed)  
April 22 Passover (closed)

May 30 Memorial Day

MAY						
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June 4-6 Shavuot  
June 19 Juneteenth  
June 20 Juneteenth (observed/closed)

July 4 Independence Day

JULY						
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Aug. 6-7 Tisha B'av

GOLDMAN FAMILY PRESCHOOL | 2021-2022 CALENDAR

Aug. 30 First Day of School  
Sept. 6 Labor Day (closed)  
Sept. 7 Rosh Hashana (closed)  
Sept. 15 Early Release (closing 12:30)  
Sept. 16 Yom Kippur (closed)  
Sept. 21 Sukkot Party  
Sept. 21-27 Sukkot  
Sept. 28 Shemini Atzeret / Sept. 29 Simchat Torah

SEPTEMBER						
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Oct. 11 Indigenous People's Day (closed)  
Oct. 22 Staff Development Day (closed)

Nov. 4 Evening Conferences  
Nov. 5 Parent/Teacher Conferences (closed)  
Nov. 11 Veteran's Day (closed)  
Nov. 24 Thanksgiving Luncheon  
Nov. 24 Early Release (closing 12:30)  
Nov. 25-26 Thanksgiving (closed)  
Nov. 28 - Dec. 6 Hanukkah

NOVEMBER						
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Dec. 3 Hanukkah Party  
Dec. 23 Winter Break (closing 12:30)  
Dec. 24 - Jan. 2 Winter Break (closed)

Dec. 24 - Jan. 2 Winter Break (closed)  
Jan. 16-17 Tu B'Shevat  
Jan. 17 MLK Jr. Day (closed)

JANUARY						
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Feb. 3 Staff Development Day (closed)  
Feb. 21 Presidents' Day (closed)  
Feb. 22-25 Vacation Camp

March 16-17 Purim  
March 17 Purim Party  
March 21 Staff Development Day (closed)

MARCH						
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April 15 Passover begins (closing 12:30)  
April 15-23 Passover  
April 18 Patriots' Day (closed)  
April 19-22 Vacation Camp

May 5 Evening Conference  
May 6 Parent/Teacher Conferences (closed)  
May 30 Memorial Day

MAY						
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JUNE						
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June 4-6 Shavuot  
June 12 Pre-K Graduation  
June 17 Last Day of School (closing 12:30)  
June 19 Juneteenth  
June 27 - July 1 Summer Camp Week 1

July 4 Independence Day (closed)  
July 5-8 Summer Camp Week 2  
July 11-15 Summer Camp Week 3  
July 18-22 Summer Camp Week 4  
July 25-29 Summer Camp Week 5

JULY						
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Aug. 1-5 Summer Camp Week 6  
Aug. 7 Tisha B'av  
Aug. 8-12 Summer Camp Week 7  
Aug. 15-19 Summer Camp Week 8

□ Secular holiday (office closed)

■ Jewish holiday (office closed)

■ Jewish holiday (open)

▤ Early Closing

1 School Closed

■ Jewish holiday

2 School Event

■ Vacation Camp

3 Summer Camp

▤ Half Day Early Release





The Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine promotes universal respect for human rights through outreach and education. Using the lessons of the Holocaust and other events past and present we encourage individuals and communities to reflect and act upon their moral responsibilities to confront prejudice, intolerance and discrimination.

[www.hhrcmaine.org](http://www.hhrcmaine.org)

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## JEWISH HOLIDAY GUIDE

**Adapted with permission from InterfaithFamily, a Jewish non-profit that supports interfaith couples and families.**  
Find more resources at [interfaithfamily.com](http://interfaithfamily.com)

**Shabbat:** Hebrew name means “Sabbath” - the English word actually came from Shabbat! **What’s it about?** A day of rest and enjoyment at the end of every week as a parallel to the Biblical story of creation, when God rested on the seventh day. Shabbat traditionally lasts from 18 minutes before sundown on Friday until an hour after sundown on Saturday evening. **Foods:** The rule is yummy. It’s traditional to have two loaves of challah, a braided egg bread. **Activities:** Shabbat begins with the lighting of candles. There are special synagogue services and blessings to say at meals. The point of Shabbat is not to work. Some use a set of rabbinic legal definitions for what does and doesn’t count as work, and don’t drive, carry money, write or use electricity on Shabbat. Others don’t use these definitions, but take the day off. Wherever one falls on the spectrum of observance, Shabbat is a great day to hang out with family and friends, eat together, take walks, study Torah, sing songs, read stories, take a nap, and chill out. **Symbols:** Candles, Challah, wine, and flowers. **Greeting:** “Shabbat shalom,” which means “Peaceful Shabbat.”

**Rosh Hashanah:** Hebrew name means “Head of the year”—idiomatically, New Year. **What’s It About?** One of two “high holidays” along with Yom Kippur. A solemn holiday beginning the calendar year with repentance from sin and the hope of renewal. **Foods:** Apples and honey, round challah with raisins, honey cake, pomegranates, pumpkins and other round foods, sweet foods and foods that are gold-colored, like carrots. **Activities:** Many people attend synagogue services, during which one special activity is the sounding of the shofar, or ram’s horn. At home, a special activity is eating apples dipped in honey to symbolize our hope for a sweet new year. Many send New Year’s cards for this holiday throughout the month of Elul, and between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, many try to repair relationships and make apologies for bad behavior in the previous year. **Symbols:** The shofar, apples and honey, pomegranates, the Book of Life. **Greeting:** “A good and sweet New Year,” or “Shanah Tovah.”

**Yom Kippur:** Hebrew name means “Day of Atonement.” **What’s It About?** A fast day of prayer, reflection, and repentance. **Foods:** None. It’s a fast day! **Activities:** There are many prohibitions on this day - not eating, not drinking, not washing, not wearing leather, not engaging in physical intimacy. Traditionally, it is a day spent in synagogue at services. **Symbols:** White clothing. **Greeting:** You can say “have an easy fast.” Some say “Shanah Tovah”, which is Hebrew for “A good New Year.” The specific greeting for Yom Kippur is “G’mar hatimah tovah” or “A good completion to your inscription in the Book of Life.”

**Sukkot:** Hebrew name means “booths” or tabernacles. The singular is sukkah. **What’s it about?** In ancient times when the Temple stood in Jerusalem, this was a pilgrimage holiday to celebrate the harvest. **Foods:** No specific special food, just more big sumptuous meals. **Activities:** Before the holiday, communities and some families build a sukkah or temporary hut in their yard. The sukkah is open to the elements, and an important activity is eating in the sukkah. There is also a ritual involving blessing and waving the etrog—a citron—and the lulav—a palm branch bound with myrtle and willow. **Symbols:** The sukkah, the lulav and the etrog. **Greeting:** “Hag Sameah” or “Happy Holiday.”

**Shmini Atzeret/Simchat Torah:** Hebrew name means the eighth day, or extra day following Sukkot/Hebrew name means “Rejoicing in the Torah.” **What’s it about?** Celebrated on the same day in Israel and by US Reform groups, and as two days in Conservative and Orthodox communities. We celebrate finishing the reading of the Torah for the year and starting it again. **Foods:** More big sumptuous meals. **Activities:** This is a synagogue holiday with a long service, and in the middle of it, people get up, process through their building with the Torah scrolls and dance with them. It is a chance to honor people by calling them up to make blessings on the Torah, because there is a reading from the end of the scroll—the death of Moses—and another from the beginning—the creation of the world. In some congregations, the assembled people unroll the Torah scroll and stand in the middle of the parchment before they start the cycle again. **Symbols:** The Torah scroll, flags that children carry, dancing people. **Greeting:** “Hag Sameah” or “Happy Holiday!”

**Hanukkah:** Hebrew name means “Dedication.” **What’s it about?** Hanukkah is an 8-day minor holiday that commemorates the Jewish recapture and rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem in 164 BCE. **Foods:** Fried foods, especially potato pancakes (latkes), and jelly doughnuts (sufganiyot). **Activities:** The main observance is lighting the candles in a ceremonial lamp called a hanukkiah or Hanukkah menorah. Playing with a top called a dreidel is another fun tradition. **Symbols:** Menorah, candles, dreidel, gelt. **Greeting:** “Happy Hanukkah!”

**Tu B’shvat:** Hebrew name means “15th day of the Hebrew month of Shvat.” **What’s it about?** When the Temple in Jerusalem was still standing, first fruits of the trees were offerings made on Shavuot. The trees had to be at least four years old, so you could call Tu B’shvat the official birthday of trees. It’s a great day to think about trees and recommit to stewardship of the environment. **Foods:** Fruit, nuts and other things that grow on or in trees. **Activities:** Many have reclaimed the mystical practice of the Tu B’shvat Seder, or ritual meal, as an opportunity to explore environmentalist themes in Judaism. Another practice is to plant trees. This is a minor holiday in that there is no traditional obligation not to work. **Symbols:** Trees and tree fruit. **Greeting:** “Chag Sameah” which means “Happy Holiday.”

**Purim:** Hebrew name means “Lots”. Refers to The Book of Esther 3:7, in which the villain Haman draws lots to set the date for the Jews’ destruction. **What’s it about?** Celebration of a narrow escape from genocide described in the Book of Esther. **Foods:** Triangular pastries called hamantashen (Haman’s pockets), named for the bad guy in the Book of Esther. Some eat other foods with things hidden inside, like dumplings. **Activities:** We read the Book of Esther, wear costumes, eat hamantashen, and use noisemakers called groggers. It’s also traditional to give money to charity, send anonymous packages of goodies to your friends (called mishloach manot or shaloch mones) and to drink alcohol. A minor holiday, with no traditional obligation not to work. **Symbols:** Masks, costumes. **Greeting:** “Purim Sameah,” which means “Happy Purim.”

**Pesach:** Hebrew name means “Passover”, reference to Exodus 12:23 when the Angel of Death passed over the Israelites. **What’s it about?** Passover celebrates God liberating the Israelites from Egyptian bondage. The holiday lasts eight days, though some communities may celebrate only a week. **Foods:** Traditionally, bread and leavened food are not eaten on Passover. Matzah, an unleavened bread, is substituted. Many food traditions spring from this, include matzah balls, gefilte fish and sponge cake. Other popular foods are cookies and cakes made out of nuts, like macaroons. **Activities:** A ritual holiday meal called a seder where the story of the Exodus from Egypt is retold. This is a major holiday, for which work would not be done at the beginning and end of the holiday, but people would work in the middle. **Symbols:** Matzah, lambs (because of the historical Passover sacrifice), eggs, horseradish root, salt water. **Greeting:** “Happy Pesach” or “Happy Passover.”

**Yom HaShoah:** Hebrew name means Holocaust Remembrance Day. **What’s it about?** Europeans commemorate the Holocaust on the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, Jan. 27, 1945, but the Israeli government wanted a date that would honor Jewish resistance to the Nazi genocide of World War II. After some debate, the Jewish community as a whole agreed on the 27 of the Hebrew month Nisan, since it was during the period of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, an act of Jewish heroism and resistance, but still falls after Passover. **Activities:** In many Jewish communities, there are commemorative events. Some light special yahrzeit (annual memorial) candles.

**Yom Ha’Atzmaut:** Hebrew name means “Independence Day.” **What’s it about?** The modern State of Israel formally declared independence from Great Britain on May 14, 1948. Observance of this holiday is tied to the Hebrew date, Iyar 5. **Foods:** This is a good time to get falafel and other Israeli foods. **Activities:** In many Jewish communities, it’s the custom to have a fair or other celebration. Some religious Jews add celebratory liturgy to weekday prayers. **Symbols:** Israeli flags, music, foods.

**Shavuot:** Hebrew name means “Weeks” because it was traditional to count the weeks between Passover and Shavuot. **What’s it about?** Shavuot celebrates the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai. It was a pilgrimage holiday when the Temple was standing in Jerusalem, when farmers brought the first fruits of their four-year-old trees. It’s a one day holiday in the land of Israel and in the Reform tradition; Orthodox and Conservative Jews in the Diaspora keep it for two days. **Foods:** Dairy foods are traditional on Shavuot, like blintzes and cheesecake. **Activities:** One of the traditional texts for Shavuot is the Book of Ruth. Reform Judaism therefore chose Shavuot as the holiday on which to hold Confirmation ceremonies, when teenagers reaffirm their Jewish beliefs. Some Jews follow the mystical custom of an all-night study session, called a Tikkun Leil Shavuot, on the eve of Shavuot. **Symbols:** Tablets, blintzes. **Greeting:** “Hag Sameah” or “Happy Holiday.”

**Tisha B’Av:** Hebrew name means “Ninth day of the Hebrew month of Av”. **What’s it about?** This fast day commemorates the Roman destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem in 70 CE. In the medieval period, Jews began attaching other calamities to the day, including the expulsion from Spain in 1492. **Foods:** A fast day with no food or water. **Activities:** Though this is a major fast day with no food, water or washing, it is a minor holiday in the sense that there is no requirement to abstain from work. The main activity is the chanting of the Book of Lamentations by candlelight in the synagogue, during which it is traditional to sit on the floor.





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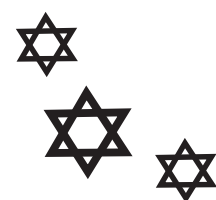
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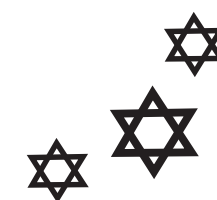
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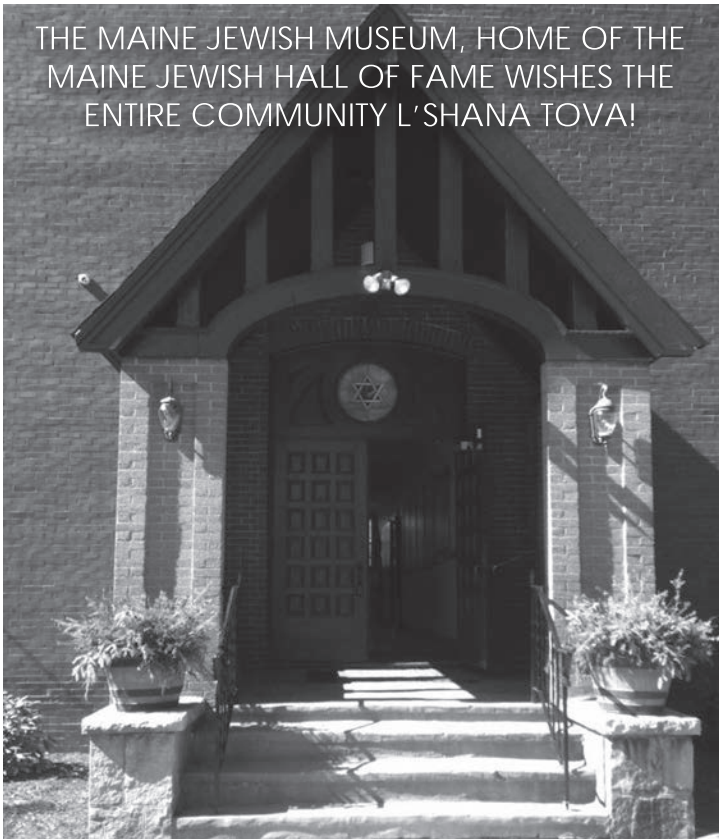
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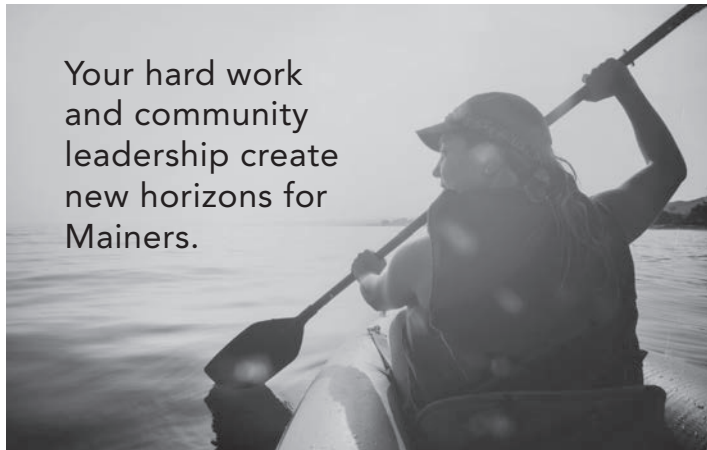
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We wish our entire community a healthy, restorative, and sweet New Year!

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