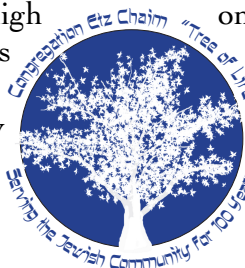


# York County Jewish Community News

Please plan to join us this year for high holiday services. Cantor Scott Rapaport is returning to lead services. (How many years has it been??) Michael Rubin will lead many prayers in English. Community members will read Torah and Haftarah.

David Strassler will lead Family Services



on the first day of Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur.

The entire Jewish community is invited to break the fast after the last shofar blast on Yom Kippur in our social hall. Bagels, lox, kugel and even Annabelle's ice cream are the usual fare.

As always, no tickets are required.

## CAJE 33 in Burlington, VT August 10 - 14

by Barbara Simensky



Hebrew School Teachers attending CAJE: L to R: Barbara Simensky, David Strassler, Joe Strassler, with the Green Mountains in the background..

What a wonderful opportunity I had, to attend the 33<sup>rd</sup> conference of the Coalition on the Advancement for Jewish Education (CAJE) in Burlington, Vermont recently. I knew, from Beth and David's enthusiasm that it was going to be special, but I had no idea how incredible an experience it was going to be for me and for everyone else that attended.

For 5 days, I was immersed in a "Jewish adult camp", with 1500 Jews from all over the USA (and some from Israel and other countries). From small seminars to large lectures concerning Jewish education with fantastic, moving speakers. From kosher food to making new friends. From learning new children's songs with movement to hearing big name Jewish singers. From hearing storytellers to sharing my stories.

Two of my favorites were the coordinator of this year's conference, Joel Hoffman's opening lecture about  
*please see "CAJE" on page 7*

## High Holiday Services at Congregation Etz Chaim

Rosh Hashanah	
Monday, September 29: 6:15 PM	
Tuesday, September 30: 9 AM	
Family Activity & Service: 10:15 AM	
Tashlich to Follow Service: 12:30 PM	
Evening Service: 6:15 PM	
Wednesday, October 1: 9 AM	
Yom Kippur	
	Wednesday, October 8
	Kol Nidre: 6 PM
	Thursday, October 9: 9 AM
	Yitzkor: 11 AM
	Family Service: 11 AM
	Concluding Service: 4 PM
שנה טובה	Community Break Fast Immediately Following Services, approx. 6 PM

Arnold Shapiro, President, and the entire Board of Directors of Congregation Etz Chaim, wish you and yours a very happy, healthy and prosperous year to come.

## Librarian's Corner

by Maureen King

### Book Reviews

Is there a simcha in your future?? Are you planning a baby naming, a bar/bat mitzvah or a wedding? Have you thought about building a sukkah or mastering a latke recipe? The Samuel Osher Memorial Library can help. Our collection is full of wonderful books about holidays, life cycle events, and all that delicious food and wine that goes along with Jewish festive occasions.

I recently assisted one of our Hebrew School families during the planning of their son's bar mitzvah ceremony and party. We consulted a few of the many volumes in the Library's collection as we worked our way through the multitude of details and questions that arose. I've included short reviews of three of those books, but there are many others available for a variety of holidays, tastes, and talents.

***For Kids—Putting God on Your Guest List: How to Claim the Spiritual Meaning of Your Bar or Bat Mitzvah*** by Rabbi Jeffrey K. Salkin (1998, Jewish Lights Publishing). ***For Kids*** is obviously written especially for students becoming bar/bat mitzvah, complete with a glossary, suggestions for tzedakah, and great advice throughout. This is a great book to start reading well before the planning phase begins; you might want to check this one out as soon as the date is set. The Library also has a companion guide for parents, ***Putting God on the Guest List: How to Reclaim the Spiritual meaning of Your Child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah*** by Rabbi Salkin.

***Bar/Bat Mitzvah Basics: A Practical Family Guide to Coming of Age Together*** (2<sup>nd</sup> edition), edited by Rabbi Cantor Helen Leneman (2001, Jewish Lights Publishing). ***Basics*** is a series of articles written by rabbis, cantors, parents, and students about the whole process. The book is divided into three sections: What's a Bar/Bat Mitzvah all about?; The Family's Perspective; and Essentials and Options for the Service and Celebration. I would recommend this book for its many points of view and for its specific sections. You can use it like a reference book and only look up what you need at the time—great for busy families.

***Bar Mitzvah: A Jewish Boy's Coming of Age*** by Eric A. Kimmel (1995, Viking of Penguin Books USA). Although this book is older, it provides a short overview of the bar

mitzvah history and great background, along with brief personal writings from parents and students. Our family found this book very helpful; we bought several copies and sent them to non-Jewish family members and close friends so they would have a better understanding of the service, the process, and the meaning of the bar mitzvah. There is a companion volume, ***Bat Mitzvah: A Jewish Girl's Coming of Age*** by Barbara Diamond Goldin.

Stop by the Library to borrow any of these or one of our many holiday books and cookbooks. Your next family celebration will be uniquely yours. See you at the Library!

### Chevra Kadisha Event: September 14

by Darrell Cooper

A child's death is in itself is sad. It is unfair. What is even sadder is if it is forgotten. We have discovered a children's cemetery within Mt. Sinai Cemetery in Portland. It is a forgotten part of the cemetery, is overgrown, and has graves in the woods.

The Portland Chevra Kadisha (The Jewish Funeral Home) would like to invite you to participate in a mitzvah on Sunday, September 14, 2008. At 10:30 we will gather at the children's cemetery and do a clean up. It will be light work because we really want our students to participate and experience this spiritual mitzvah. This will be a wonderful learning experience.

We are also offering a program called "Adopt a Child" which is to ask students to adopt one of the graves and look after it from time to time.

Just before the high holidays, it is customary to visit the cemetery and say a prayer for your deceased relatives. We will have Rabbis on hand to assist.

After the clean up, there will be a luncheon for participants. Please call 774-3733 if you plan to come and for directions.

## Biographies in Jewish History

### Rabbi Israel Spira (1889-1989)

*by Jack Schraeter*

Let me tell you a true story about faith and redemption like none you have ever heard. It has all the makings of a life-changing event and in many circles, it is a well known story. It has appeared in print in numerous languages and is retold by many at the high holidays.

It involves three main characters: Rabbi Spira; a nasty Kapo named Schneeweiss; and a ruthless SS Officer whose name is unworthy of mention. First let me tell you about Rabbi Spira.

Rabbi Israel Spira was the Grand Rabbi of Bluzhov (named after the city of Blazowa in southeastern Poland) and later became the spiritual leader of a Hasidic branch in Brooklyn and Israel. He was descended from a long line of famous rabbis, and he led congregations in several small Polish cities including the regional center in Lvov (now Lviv, Ukraine).

The Nazis murdered his wife Pearl and their children in the Belzec Death Camp on Oct. 16, 1942 along with most all of his immediate family. He and his younger sister miraculously survived.

When he was transported from the Janowska Slave Labor Camp to the Death Camp at Belzec, he was fortunate to be selected for the clothing work kommando. After a few days he attached himself to the escort that was taking a trainload of clothing back to the Janowska camp. In Janowska, Rabbi Spira detached himself from the escort and mingled with the other Jews. When he loitered near a coffee stall he was recognized by some of the other Jews, who protected him. Rabbi Spira survived Janowska, subsequent deportations to Belzec, and finally in the Bergen-Belsen Camp.

He was released from captivity in 1945 and came to this country in 1946, at the age of 57. It is an amazing feat for a person of his age to have survived the war.

Rabbi Spira was the oldest living Hasidic rabbi at the time of his death. He lived 99 years, 11 months, and 364 days. He died in Brooklyn, NY. His second wife, Bronia, and a sister, Chaya Horowitz, survive him.

*Here is their story:* In the Janowska Road Slave Labor Camp, there was a foreman of a brigade from Lvov by the name of Schneeweiss, one of those people one stays away from if one values one's life. He had known Rabbi Israel Spira in Lvov, but was not aware that the latter was an inmate at the Janowska Camp. Only a handful of people who were close to the rabbi knew the rabbi's identity and they kept it secret.

The season of the Jewish high holidays was approaching. As the date of Yom Kippur was nearing, the fears in the camp mounted. Everyone knew that the Germans especially liked to use Jewish holidays for inflicting terror and death.

It was the eve of Yom Kippur. The tensions and the fears were at their height. A few Hasidim, among them Mendel Freifeld and others, came to the Rabbi of Bluzhov and asked him to approach Schneeweiss and request that on Yom Kippur his group not be assigned to any of the thirty-nine main categories of work, so that their transgression of the law by working on Yom Kippur would not be a major one.

The rabbi was very moved by the request, and despite his fears, for he would have to disclose his identity, went to Schneeweiss. He knew quite well that Schneeweiss did not have much respect for Jewish tradition. Even prior to the outbreak of World War II, he had publicly violated the Jewish holidays and transgressed against Jewish law. Here in Janowska, he was a cruel man who knew no mercy. With a heavy heart, the rabbi went before Schneeweiss.

"You probably remember me. I am the Rabbi of Pruchnik, Rabbi Israel Spira." Schneeweiss did not respond.

"You are a Jew like myself," the rabbi continued. "Tonight is Kol Nidrei night. There is a small group of young Jews who do not want to transgress any of the thirty-nine main categories of work. It means everything to them. It is the essence of their existence. Can you do something about it? Can you help?"

The rabbi noticed that a hidden shiver went through Schneeweiss as he listened to the rabbi's strange request. The rabbi took Schneeweiss's hand and said, "I promise you, as long as you live, it will be a good life. I beg you to do it for us so that we may still find some dignity in our humiliating existence." The stern face of Schneeweiss changed. For the first time since his arrival at Janowska, there was a human spark in it.

*Continued on the next page*

"Tonight I can't do a thing." said Schneeweiss, the first words he had uttered since the rabbi had come to him. "I have no jurisdiction over the night brigade. But tomorrow, on Yom Kippur, I will do for you whatever I can." The rabbi shook Schneeweiss's hand in gratitude and left.

That night they were taken to work near the Lvov cemetery. To this very day, the rabbi has scars from the beatings of that night. They returned to their barracks at one o'clock in the morning exhausted and badly beaten. The rabbi was trying to make his way to his bed, one level of a five-tiered bunk bed made of a few wooden planks covered with straw. Vivid images from the past, of Yom Kippur at home with his family, passed before his tear-filled eyes that wretched night at Janowska.

In the morning, the rabbi and a small group were summoned to Schneeweiss's cottage. "I heard that you prayed last night. I don't believe in prayers," Schneeweiss told them. "On principle, I even oppose them. But I admire your courage. For you all know well that the penalty for prayer in Janowska is death." With that, he motioned them to follow him. He took them to the S.S. Quarters in the camp, to a large wooden house.

"You fellows will shine the floor without any polish or wax. And you, rabbi, will clean the windows with dry rags so that you will not transgress any of the thirty-nine major categories of work." He left the room abruptly.

The rabbi was standing on a ladder with rags in his hand, cleaning the huge windows while chanting prayers, and his companions were on the floor polishing the wood and praying with him.

At about twelve o'clock noon, the door opened wide and into the room stormed two S.S. men in their black uniforms. They were followed by a food cart filled to capacity. "Noontime, time to eat bread, soup, and meat," announced one of the two S.S. Men. The room was filled with an aroma of freshly cooked food as they had not seen since the German occupation: white bread, steaming hot vegetable soup, and huge portions of meat.

The tall S.S. man commanded in a high-pitched voice, "You must eat immediately, otherwise you will be shot on the spot!" None of them moved. The rabbi remained on the ladder, the others on the floor. The German repeated the orders. The rabbi and the men remained glued to their places.

The S.S. men called in Schneeweiss. "Schneeweiss, if the dirty dogs refuse to eat, I will kill you with them."

Schneeweiss pulled himself to attention, looked the German directly in the eyes, and said in a very quiet tone, "We Jews do not eat today. Today is Yom Kippur, our most holy day, the Day of Atonement."

"You don't understand, Jewish dog," roared the taller of the two. "I command you in the name of the Fuhrer and the Third Reich, fress!"

Schneeweiss, composed, his head high, repeated the same answer. "We Jews obey the law of our tradition. Today is Yom Kippur, a day of fasting."

The German took out his revolver from its holster and pointed it at Schneeweiss's temple. Schneeweiss remained calm. He stood still, at attention, his head high. A shot pierced the room. Schneeweiss fell. The rabbi and the group stood as if frozen in their places. They could not believe what their eyes had just witnessed.

Schneeweiss, the man who in the past had publicly transgressed against the Jewish tradition, had sanctified God's name publicly and died a martyr's death for the sake of Jewish honor.

"Only then, on that Yom Kippur day in Janowska," said the rabbi to his followers, "did I understand the meaning of the statement in the Talmud: 'Even the transgressors in Israel are as full of good deeds as a pomegranate is filled with seeds.'"

Sources: Hassidic Tales of the Holocaust, Y. Eliach, NY 1988 and The Death Brigade, the Janowska Road Camp. New York: Holocaust Library, 1978.

Our warmest best wishes go to Jon and Tobie Nathanson, who have relocated to Virginia.

We wish to acknowledge their years of service to this congregation as longstanding, devoted members of the Board of Directors. Their personal commitment and valuable service are deeply appreciated by all of us who have worked alongside them. We have benefited from their insight as well as their generosity of spirit, and we will miss them!



## All Schools Begin in September....

- ..including our Hebrew School and Sunday School.
- Gimmel and Teen Classes begin on Thursday, September 18th from 4 to 5:30. Rabbi Lev Baesh will lead the combined session.
- Teacher Workshop on September 18th from 6:30 to 8 pm.
- All Hebrew School Classes meet on Thursday, September 25th from 3:45 to 5:30 (short session); Teen Class meets from 4:30 to 5:30 pm.
- Sunday School begins with a Family Activity and Family Service on the first day of Rosh Hashanah at 10:15 am.
- Sunday School Sundays begin on October 12th at 9:30.

## So, nu? What About the Greening of the Shul?

*by David Strassler*

- At our recent board meeting, we agreed to change our electrical power source to Maine Renewable Energy. This means that we are getting our Maine Clean Power from hydro and wind for just a few cents more per kilowatt hour. Check it out for your home by going to: <http://www.energymaine.com/mresignup/prices.php>
  - We're investigating an energy audit of our synagogue, to help lower our oil bills as we keep the heat in.
  - We're continuing to replace burnt out bulbs with energy efficient fluorescent bulbs.
  - We're looking into renovating our dairy kosher kitchen to include a dishwasher, therefore using less paper and plastic ware.
  - Our Community Break fast after Yom Kippur will be more mindful on reducing waste and increasing recycling.
  - Our Hebrew School will be looking at ways to recycle more, esp. with snacks, paper, and arts & crafts supplies.
  - Check out our new coffee maker, using *Fair Trade Coffee* (less waste)
  - Our e-mail list for sending synagogue newsletter & notices continues to grow. Join it to reduce our paper consumption. Write "I want to go green" to [mail@etzchaimme.org](mailto:mail@etzchaimme.org)
- So, nu? Any other ideas? Let me know at [strassler@roadrunner.com](mailto:strassler@roadrunner.com)

**Membership dues** is due for 5769. Please choose your level of membership and send in your check today. Basic: \$100; Supporting: \$200; Sustaining: \$300; Patron: \$500; Benefactor: \$1,000. Please mail to: PO Box 905 Kennebunk, ME 04043. Thank you to all who have already renewed their membership.



## Ednamay Throws Out the First Ball

*by Beth Strassler*

At a recent Sea Dogs game, our very own Ednamay Taraba threw out the first ball! As a representative of PROP, she was given the honor. (PROP stands for Peoples Regional Opportunity Program.)

She reports that she got the ball to home plate! Terrific! But, we are going to have to ask her why it looks like she hit *someone* in the second photo. ??

## Rabbi Allowed to Pray in Home

*from ACLU website 8/22/08*

PORTLAND — After more than five hours of testimony from neighbors, clergy, and supporters of religious liberty, the Portland Zoning Board of Appeals unanimously voted to allow a Portland Rabbi to continue prayer in his home. Rabbi Moshe Wilansky had received a cease-and-desist letter from Portland in May, ordering him to stop using his home as a "place of worship". The Zoning Board of Appeals, however, rejected the city's interpretation of the zoning ordinance, finding instead that the Rabbi was using his home in a perfectly acceptable way.

Prior to the hearing, more than 200 people gathered outside city hall to listen to religious leaders from across the state. The show of support from across the religious spectrum continued in the hearing, making a big impact on all who attended.

"Tonight was a victory for all Mainers who care about religious liberty," said Zachary Heiden, Legal Director for the MCLU. "The government is not allowed to tell people where or how to practice religion, and we applaud the Zoning Board for recognizing that truth."



**Maureen King** will spend part of Sukkot living in a shelter---an Outward Bound type of shelter. This begins her participation in the ICL's Leadership Intensive program, which meets two days each month during the upcoming school year. The program "provides participants with collaborative leadership skills, a new multi-sector network and renewed energy.....to successfully lead their organizations and broader community collaborations."



**David & Beth Strassler** will begin their second of two years studying in the Me'ah program offered by Hebrew College. "An invigorating journey,

Me'ah offers...an opportunity to grow as a literate student of Jewish life and to join a growing community of learners—bringing knowledge and insight into your personal life and community as you build your understanding of what Jewish texts and ideas meant historically and what they mean for Jews today." Divided into four semester topics, the coming year will look at the Middle Ages and Modern Judaism. Last year's topics were Bible and Rabbinics.



**Beth Strassler** will begin her second year of studies in the Jewish

Jewish Music Institute at Hebrew College. She is pursuing a Certificate in Jewish Liturgical Music which focuses on "providing the professional skills and knowledge needed to lead and teach Jewish prayer services." Beth spent this summer completing Hebrew I and Hebrew II in intensive classes, as part of the Hebrew language requirement of the program.

### Todah Rabbah to

- **Cynthia Kurtz** for representing York County on the search committee for the director of the JCA.
- **Pam Small Oliver** for donating 13 Chumash in honor of her daughter, Elyse's, bat mitzvah.

### Favorite Jewish Books

We polled our synagogue Board of Directors and asked them to list their three favorite Jewish books. Here is what we compiled:

Marc:

Open, by John Feinstein  
A Good Walk Spoiled,  
by John Feinstein

Alan:

Portnoy's Complaint,  
by Philip Roth  
The Vanishing American Jew,  
by Alan Dershowitz

Maureen:

Jewish Holiday Kitchen,  
by Joan Nathan  
(cookbook)  
Night, by Elie Wiesel  
The Red Tent by Anita Diamant

Cynthia:

The Physician, by Noah Gordon  
The Yiddish Policeman's Union,  
by Michael Chabon  
Practicing, by Glenn Kurtz  
The Winds of War,  
by Herman Wouk

Barbara:

The Red Tent by Anita Diamant

Michael:

This Is My God,  
by Herman Wouk  
The Will To Live On,  
by Herman Wouk  
In The Beginning,  
by Chaim Potok

Sue:

The Ritual Bath  
by Faye Kellerman  
Gabriel Allon series  
by Daniel De Silva

Beth:

A Tale of Love and Darkness,  
by Amos Oz  
Deborah, Golda & Me  
by Letty Cottin Pogrebin  
The Flying Camel  
by Loolwa Khazzoom

David:

A Code of Jewish Ethics,  
by Joseph Telushkin  
As A Driven Leaf,  
by Milton Steinberg  
Walking the Bible,  
by Bruce Feiler  
G-d's To-Do List: 103 Ways to  
Be an Angel and Do  
G-d's Work on Earth,  
by Ron Wolfson

President Shapiro says:

### "Remember the Building Fund!"

Just as we are not getting any younger, so is our beautiful shul not getting any younger. Built in the 1880's as a church, it became a synagogue in 1906. We are constantly repairing something: Pipes, plaster, or peeling paint, just to name a few.

Please be generous, make a contribution, & mail it today to PO Box 905, Kennebunk, ME 04043.

*CAJE continued from page 1*

Jewish history, using an imaginary time line. A man in his forties, brilliant and funny at the same time. An inspirational role model on how to teach our children.

The next night, his father, Lawrence Hoffman, made his first appearance ever at a CAJE conference. He is one of the foremost Jewish scholars in the world. He gave his talk about the most recent "four generations of Jews in America". We are the fourth generation, and he feels that for the Jewish community to survive, we will have to bring more spirituality back into our religion. How funny it was to see these father and son presenters walk around the stage with the exact same mannerisms.

Then there were Peter and Ellen Allard teaching us how to sing some of their children's songs, with movement, especially their shofar song. They have a wonderful way of putting life into what they teach.

As I begin my fourth year of teaching the Aleph class at our Hebrew School, I am certain that this conference will help me be a more effective teacher, with new skills and ideas. This was such an interesting, inspirational and spiritual conference.

I would to thank our Hebrew School for making it possible for me to attend this year's conference. I hope that I will be able to attend CAJE 34 in San Antonio, Texas, next August and that my enthusiasm will rub off on some of our other teachers so they will also want to make the effort to attend.



*Joe Strassler sings in CAJE 33 Chorus.*

## "CAJE-ed!"

*by Joe Strassler*

I honestly did not know what to expect as we drove through the rolling green mountains toward Burlington. My definition of CAJE was basic: A meeting of Jewish educators from around the world to assess the current state of Judaism in the classroom. It did not take me long to realize that this conference was so much more!

After registering at the impromptu admission center set up for CAJE, I was greeted with a rousing "Am Yisrael Chai" sung by the smiling staff members when they learned I was a "First Timer". It was overwhelming to be presented with a large tote bag filled with, among other things, a telephone book-sized directory of the workshops that would take place over the next four days. There were so many excellent choices that I regretted that I could not divide myself into five and enjoy all workshops offered at any one time.

After a brief orientation, everyone went to the beautiful Ira Allen Chapel to hear Joel Hoffman, chair of the conference. I became aware of the size of the conference as I entered with an

estimated 1500 people. Since the official start fell at the end of Tish B'Av, the solemn holiday remembering the destruction of both the first and second Temples, Dr. Hoffman offered an insightful look back at the times when the Jewish people were almost destroyed including the destructions of the Temples, the Spanish Inquisition and the Shoah, and how we recovered from each.

My days were filled with workshops, (which I plan to apply to teaching HS in the coming years); my evenings with a variety of musical concerts (Sam Glaser, or the music of Tin Pan Alley). I went to rehearsals and performed at the closing ceremony with the 40 member CAJE Chorale directed by Jeff Klepper and Mark Bloom. We sang contemporary compositions of prayers such as *Ilu Finu* and *Hava Nashira*, and closed with *For All That is Good*, a get well wish for Debbie Friedman who was unable to attend this year. It was amazing to hear the audience singing along with us and it seemed as if the 1500 voices were one voice!

## This Curious Quinquidial Fray

*by Joel M. Hoffman*

There are strange things done  
in the August sun  
by the folks who frequent CAJE  
Where it is said that Jewish  
education's all the rage  
'Cause here we see how intensively  
we can learn and teach and pray  
And catch up with friends  
who with us attend  
this curious quinquidial fray.

"Quinquidial," I say,  
though it's a word that may  
be hard for some to construe.  
It's a brand new way  
to say "five days."  
I invented it just for you.





### "Paper or Plastic bags?"

The "green" answer is:  
*"Neither-- I have my own."*

Now you may take this large, sturdy canvas bag with you to the supermarket. Our 100th anniversary logo is printed on the side. To order, send your name, address, & how many you would like with \$10 per bag to the synagogue, PO Box 905 Kennebunk 04043.

President Shapiro says:

## "Remember the Oil Fund!"

We are conducting an energy audit and have locked in on an oil rate for the winter, but we still know that this year's oil bill will be a WHOPPER!

Please make your contribution generous, make it today, and mail it to PO Box 905, Kennebunk, ME 04043.



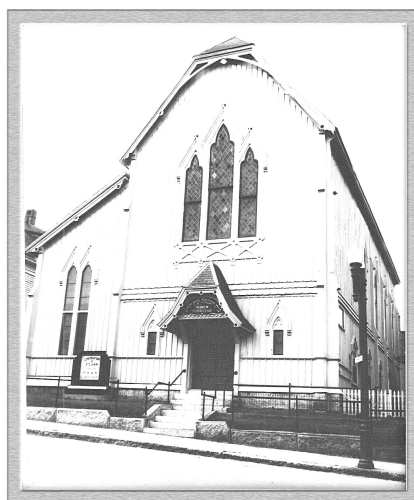
## Friday Night Shabbat Potlucks

by Linda Federman

Please join our Jewish community on Friday, Oct. 24th @ 6:00 PM for our first potluck of the season. The event promises to be warm & friendly with a variety of great culinary dishes.

Please bring a dairy, vegetable or dessert dish. Any volunteers for baking challah would be greatly appreciated. Clean-up help would be appreciated also.

To volunteer or get more information, please email Linda [Petsrluv@aol.com](mailto:Petsrluv@aol.com), Sandra [wiggie152002@yahoo.com](mailto:wiggie152002@yahoo.com) or Elayne [Swanangels@yahoo.com](mailto:Swanangels@yahoo.com). Please include the word "Potluck" in the subject line so it doesn't accidentally get erased. If you wish to telephone, my cell # is 661-269-1233.



*Congregation Etz Chaim, 1954.  
 Original photo courtesy of  
 MacArthur Library.  
 Digital enhancement by  
 Joe Strassler.*

## Synagogue Board of Directors

Jennie Aranovitch    Alan Fink  
 Cynthia Kurtz    Jack Schraeter  
 Marc Feldman & Maureen King  
 Michael & Sue Rubin  
 Arnold & Barbara Shapiro  
 Beth & David Strassler

Reach any of us at [mail@etzchaimme.org](mailto:mail@etzchaimme.org)

## York County Jewish Community News

is published four or five times each year. It is intended to announce & report on Jewish community events in York County, and especially at Congregation Etz Chaim in Biddeford. It offers local perspectives on historical & contemporary aspects of Jewish life.

*Beth Strassler, Editor*  
[mail@etzchaimme.org](mailto:mail@etzchaimme.org)

## York County Jewish Community Calendar

### September

6 & 20 Shabbat Services: 9:30 am  
 18 Hebrew School Begins for Teens & Gimmel Classes: 3:45 – 5:30  
 18 HS Teachers' Workshop: 7–8:30  
 25 Hebrew School Begins for All Classes: 3:45 – 5:30  
 RH & YK Schedule: See page 1

### October

2 & 9 No Hebrew School  
 4 & 18 Shabbat Services: 9:30 am  
 12 Sunday School: 9:30-11:30  
     Topic: Simchat Torah  
 16 Hebrew School Resumes: 3:45 - 5  
     Bring items for Sukkah Decorating  
 24 Shabbat Potluck: 6 pm

### November

1 & 15 Shabbat Services: 9:30 am  
 16 Sunday School: 9:30  
     Topic: Shabbat  
 21 Shabbat Potluck: 6 pm  
 27 No Hebrew School  
 TBA HS Teachers' Workshop  
 TBA Community Education

### December

6 & 20 Shabbat Services: 9:30 am  
 14 Sunday School: 9:30  
     Topic: Hanukkah  
 21 York County Chanukah Party & Potluck (Sunday): 6 pm  
 21 First Night of Chanukah  
 25 No Hebrew School