

# Beth Israel Congregation

291 Main Street/P.O. Box 1882

Waterville, ME 04903

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[bethisraelwaterville.org](http://bethisraelwaterville.org)

October 2018

## **Rabbi**

Rabbi Rachel Isaacs

## **Rabbi Emeritus**

Raymond Krinsky

## **President**

Tiffany Lopes

## **Vice President**

Judy Hansen-Childers

## **Secretary**

Elizabeth Geller

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## Words of Torah from Rabbi Isaacs

“Do not hide your face from me.” This line from Psalm 27 is one of the phrases from the psalm for the days of repentance that has always resonated with me the most. We know that no one literally has ever seen God’s face, even Moses, despite his deep desire to know the Force who gave him the law. So why do we ask God not to hide Their face from us? Obviously, we know the request is not literal. We beg God not to withdraw the Divine Presence from our lives. We ask God not to “ghost” us, not to turn away from difficult conversations, or even from offering rebuke, but rather to be present. God cannot always be loving or accepting, but we pray that God continue to be present.

The great tension that animates Sukkot is that the festival is a time of simultaneous joy and vulnerability. The open places in the roofs of our sukkot are there to provide spaces for God to protect us and to feel the Divine presence. Vulnerability and joy can only be linked when you are secure and confident that someone is there to stand with you in your vulnerability and loneliness. Sukkot is not only a reminder of God’s presence in the world, but a reminder to show up for one another time and time again. Our world is better when we have the opportunity to be vulnerable, but that vulnerability can only be revealed in the context of community and security. Let us show up for one another this Sukkot, and provide each other with the presence and security we need to survive and thrive. It is then, even when life is chaotic and cruel, that we can truly find joy in this world, both during Sukkot, and at every season.

Moadim L’Simcha,  
Rabbi Isaacs

### Simchas and Updates

Have a simcha you'd like to see printed in the Beth Israel monthly newsletter? Email [melanieaweiss@gmail.com](mailto:melanieaweiss@gmail.com) by October 25.



*Want to commemorate a special occasion? Consider engraving a leaf for our synagogue's Etz Chayim -- Tree of Life! Leaves are \$200.*

*Please contact Mel Weiss at [melanieaweiss@gmail.com](mailto:melanieaweiss@gmail.com) for more information.*

### **MEMORIAL PLAQUES**

To purchase a Yahrzeit plaque please contact Rabbi Isaacs or Tiffany Lopes  
\$200 members/\$400 non-members

### **CALL FOR YAHRZEITS**

If you wish to have your loved ones' Yahrzeit observed during services, please e-mail Rabbi Isaacs.

## **WE REMEMBER**

The Yahrzeits for the month of  
October 2018  
(22 Tishrei - 22 Cheshvan):

Gertrude Jacobson  
Dr. Harvey B. Ansell  
Hyman Rosenthal  
Philip R. Jaffee  
Etta Brisk Douglas  
Harry Brisk  
Esther Weiner  
Sarah Jolovitz  
Jack Crane  
Aaron Levine  
Matthew Margolis  
Evelyn F. Rosenthal  
Michael Robert Beckerman  
Betty Levine Kaplan  
Bessie Levine  
Samuel Rosenthal  
Rev. Abraham Hains  
Minna Hains  
Percy "Pacy" Levine  
Steven Levine

**May Their Memories Be For a  
Blessing**



*- You are cordially invited -*

*Inaugural Induction Ceremony of the Maine Jewish Hall of Fame*

Sunday, October 7, 2018 - 3-6 pm

Honoring: Joel and Linda Abramson \* The Adelman Family \* Dorothy and Harold Alfond \* The Bernstein Family \* Morton Aaron Brody \* Sam L. Cohen \* Al Glickman and Judith Glickman Lauder \* Gerda Schild Haas \* Judith and Irving Isaacson \* Bernard Lown \* Philip Lown \* The Minsky Family \* Harold and Mildred Nelson \* The Osher Family \* Roxanne Quimby \* Jack Spiegel

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit: [mainejewishmuseum.org/maine-jewish-hall-of-fame/](http://mainejewishmuseum.org/maine-jewish-hall-of-fame/)

## Upcoming Services & Synagogue Events

**Shemini Atzeret services, including Yizkor:** Monday, Oct 1, 10am.

**Erev Simchat Torah celebration:** Monday, Oct 1, 5pm. Fun for family members of every age! Come sing, dance, and celebrate the Torah.

**Kabbalat Shabbat potluck and services:** Friday, October 5, 6pm at Beth Israel. Welcome in Shabbat with our Beth Israel community, and bring a dairy dish to share!

**Tot Shabbat and Young Families Shabbat Lunch:** Sunday, October 20, 10am at 9 Messalonskee Avenue. A song, a story, a snack -- and a shabbat lunch together! Get to know other young families in a relaxed atmosphere.

**Launch of the Center for Small Town Jewish Life Teen Group – Lunch, Learning, and Laser Tag:** Temple Beth El Augusta and G-Force Laser Tag, Sunday, Oct 21, 12:30pm - 4pm. Need a ride? Contact Mel ASAP!

**The Center for Small Town Jewish Life Fall Shabbaton:** Friday, Oct 26 and Sunday, Oct 27. For a full schedule, please check out the Center's website, [colby.edu/jewishlife](http://colby.edu/jewishlife).

**Lipman Lecture with Masha Gessen: "Where the Jews Aren't: The Sad and Absurd Story of Birobidzhan, Russian's Jewish Autonomous Region":** Thursday, October 18, 7pm / Ostrove Auditorium (Diamond Building, Colby)

Masha Gessen is a journalist and the author of many books. Her most recent book, *Where the Jews Aren't*, tells the story of an area once declared a Jewish homeland. It reveals the complex, strange, and heart-wrenching account of the dream of Birobidzhan—and the true history of Jewish people in twentieth-century Russia.

## Classes and Volunteering at Beth Israel

**Hebrew school:** Thursdays, October 4, 11, 18 and 25. **Our location is changing!** Due to unexpected construction issues at the AYC, Beth Israel Hebrew school will meet at Beth Israel until further notice. If you need to coordinate travel arrangements, please be in touch ASAP.

**Hebrew high:** Thursdays, Thursdays, October 4, 11, and 25. There is no Hebrew high on October 18, as Hebrew high students are invited to attend the Lipman Lecture.

**Torah on Tap Series: Great Sermons in Jewish History:** Wednesdays, Oct 3, 17, and Nov 7, 6pm at Mainely Brews.

**Freeing the Captive: The Work of Kifah Abdulla:** Thursday, Oct 11, 7pm at Beth Israel. If you enjoyed Kifah's work at Kol Nidre, come see a wide variety of his visual art at our synagogue!

**Screening of "Bag It!":** Monday, October 22, 6pm, at Beth Israel. Come enjoy this film about the environmental difficulties posed by plastic bags -- and what we can do about it.

**Congregational Meeting:** Sunday, Oct 28, 10:00am, Beth Israel. Where have we been, and where are we going, as a community? Join us for the congregational annual meeting!

Are you interested in an Intro to Judaism Class? We're looking to put together a class introducing participants -- Jews and non-Jews -- to basic ideas, texts, holidays, rituals, and historical moments in Judaism. We need your input if you think you'd like to attend! Please email Mel ASAP with timing suggestions.

*Have a class you'd like to see? Let us know!*

# Fall Shabbaton

*featuring Joey Weisenberg and the Torah of Music*

Friday, Oct. 26 and Saturday, Oct. 27, 2018

Colby College

*Singing. Hiking. Learning. Celebrating.*



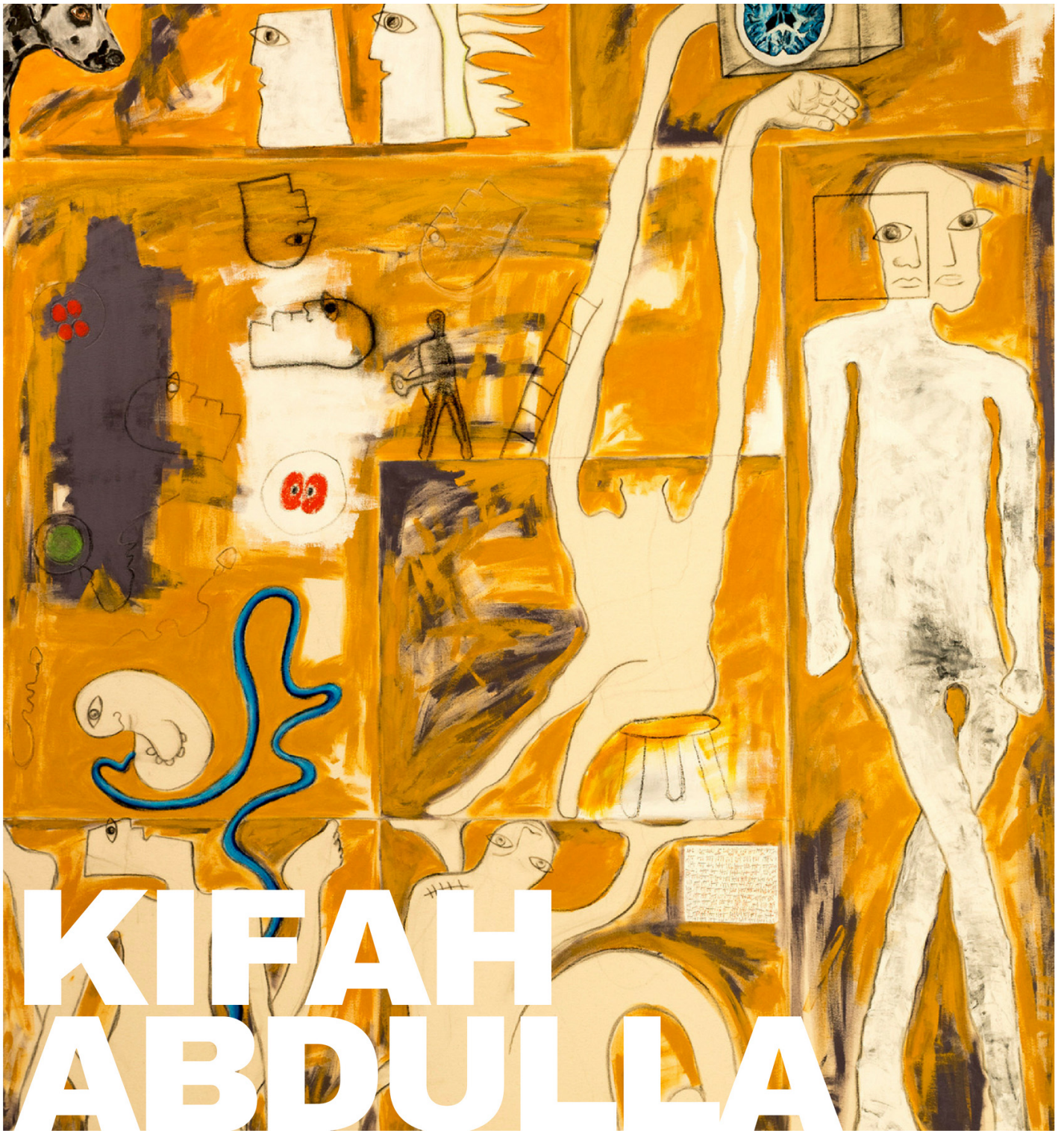
CENTER FOR  
SMALL TOWN  
JEWISH LIFE

For a full schedule, go to  
[colby.edu/jewishlife/fall-shabbaton](http://colby.edu/jewishlife/fall-shabbaton)

[JewishLife@colby.edu](mailto:JewishLife@colby.edu)

 [/MaineJewishLife](https://www.facebook.com/MaineJewishLife)

Photo Credit Emil Cohen



# KIFAH ABDULLA

## **FREEING THE CAPTIVE THE WORK OF KIFAH ABDULLA**

**October 11, 2018 7-9PM • Beth Israel, 291 Main Street**

Exhibit opening and reception for artist, poet, and activist Kifah Abdulla. Join us at Beth Israel Congregation for a night of art and community.

Visit [www.bethisraelwaterville.org](http://www.bethisraelwaterville.org) for more information