



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

January 30, 2022

Beth Israel Congregation
862 Washington Street
Bath, ME 04530

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the people of Maine, welcome to the 100th anniversary celebration of the Beth Israel synagogue! This event is a wonderful occasion to come together in honor and recognition of your shared history.

Since 1922, the Beth Israel synagogue has been a refuge for faith and worship, providing comfort and peace to the people of Bath and surrounding communities. Throughout that time, its congregants have celebrated and mourned together, held each other up, welcomed new members, and zoomed together. It is this community, your community, that provides Christmas dinners for the hungry and raises funds for those in need and organizes for social justice, working for a better tomorrow for your families and your neighbors families.

While our celebrations have looked different these past few years, their meanings have remained the same. In fact, they have taken on even more significance, forcing us to adapt to be together, to connect, and to create new memories. We have learned to appreciate smaller gatherings and the quiet of at-home worship and the good health of our loved ones. And we have stepped outside with those we hold most dear to celebrate events such as this.

I would be remiss not to acknowledge rising acts of anti-Semitism in Maine and beyond. Our nation has made progress in clearing the dark clouds of injustice, but progress is not inevitable. When the ugliness of this world grows too great to bear and the bitterness of hate would make us shrink away from one another in fear and in doubt, let us be brave as we confront bigotry and hate even in the quietest of moments. To call out a casual remark among our friends as readily as we would a social media post. To disagree without dehumanizing one another. And to love, when hate would have us forget how.

As Governor, I congratulate the Beth Israel congregation on this 100th anniversary. I wish you many more years of shared home and community.

Sincerely,

Janet T. Mills
Governor



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