



MaCHADASH!

What's New! The newsletter of Temple Shalom Synagogue Center, Auburn, Maine

מה חדש!

ק"ק היכל שלום

April 2015 / Nisan/Iyar 5775



Friday, April 24th 7:00 P.M.

(We will also hold a very traditional Kabbalat Shabbat service at 6 pm)

For our second "Tish" of the year we will be joined by the amazing Rabbi Rachel Isaacs (named one of America's Most Inspiring Rabbis by the Jewish Daily Forward) from Beth Israel Congregation in Waterville.

We will sing:

*slow songs and lively songs and table banging songs
old songs and new songs
songs of hope and songs of peace
songs of tranquility and songs of ecstasy.
Plus, stories and meditations.*

Home-made Pastries!

FROM THE RABBI...



Hi Everyone.

Between the holidays of Passover and Shavuot our tradition prescribes a very curious Mitzvah: the **Counting of the Omer**. The performance of this Mitzvah is rather straightforward. You simply count each of the 49 days from the second day of Passover until the day before Shavuot. So, on the second day of Passover you count the first day of the Omer, on the third day of Passover you count the second day of the Omer, and so on, until day 49. The next day is the holiday of Shavuot.

Although the origin of this Mitzvah is in the Torah, it is the Rabbis who gave this Mitzvah its contemporary significance. On Passover, we are asked to imagine that we ourselves were redeemed from being slaves in the land of Egypt. Similarly, on Shavuot, we are asked to imagine ourselves receiving (and accepting) the Torah at Sinai. And to receive the Torah you need to be properly prepared. Just like our ancestors who left Egypt, we too use the seven weeks between Passover and Shavuot to ready ourselves to accept anew the primacy of Torah in our lives.

And we do this by counting each day as it goes by. Counted days are meaningful days. Days in which we challenge ourselves to be more ready to accept the Torah than we were the day before. As the days progress, so will our readiness—if we take a proactive role in preparing ourselves for this special day.

So, I thought it would be nice for our community to have a “Virtual Lunch and Learn” during this season. Participants will receive a daily email for each of the 49 days between Passover and Shavuot. This email will contain a short study selection that will take no more than 3 minutes to read through. This email will also include the traditional (short) blessing, as well as the traditional counting formula (performing this ritual takes about 30 seconds per day). By linking Torah study to the counting of the days of the Omer, we will be able to feel our knowledge growing as the Shavuot holiday draws closer and closer.

If you would like to participate in this “Virtual Lunch and Learn,” please email sruli@aol.com as soon as possible with the words “Sefirat HaOmer” in the subject header. As an added incentive, all participants will be invited to take part in a “Siyum” (a traditional festive ceremony which marks the completion of a significant Torah study) during our annual Shavuot luncheon at the Temple.

Wishing everyone “A Zisn Pesach”—A very sweet, wonderful and meaningful Passover!

Rabbi Sruli



Rabbi Sruli is always happy to speak with and meet with members of our Temple. Please call Rabbi Sruli on his cellphone at 914-980-9509 if you would like to speak with him or to arrange a time for a meeting. You can also call or leave a message at the Temple office and Rabbi Sruli will get back to you.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Our next meeting will be on
Monday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



HAPPY PASSOVER to you and your families! I look forward to celebrating together at the second seder with my Temple Shalom family. If you have family or friends attending with you, please be sure to introduce them to me. I am writing this on the first official day of Spring, with snow all around me. I am hoping that Passover will free us from the bondage this winter has imposed. I'm always looking for ways to make the Torah stories relevant to our lives today, and that is what I came up with. This winter weather has often kept us prisoners in our own homes and we are tired of the toil of shoveling every other day. But we know that with the miracle of the seasons this will give way to the crocus and daffodils poking up, even through the snow.

Another miracle I am celebrating is my daughter's return to Maine. Corinne, her husband Butch and my grandson James Finnegan Mockler, are moving here from upstate NY. I call it a miracle because Corinne could not wait to escape rural Maine, and chose to go to college at Pratt in Brooklyn. She loved the big city and took her first major job in Manhattan as Art Director of Playgirl Magazine. She realized corporate America was not what she wanted, so she and Butch moved to upstate NY where she eventually took a job in the non-profit world at the Thousand Island Land Trust. She had an office with a huge window on the St. Lawrence River. They bought a house, had a child, a dog, 2 cats, 9 chickens and a garden. Her life was starting to mimic the environment she grew up in, in Mechanic Falls. The problem? They were not near any good cultural center (or even a movie theater) and 7 hours from Butch's parents, and 9 hours from us. The solution? Move closer to Jame's Bubbe and Papa where he could still be raised in a rural setting with the values that Corinne treasures from her own childhood. She'll be starting her new job as Art Director of The Farmer's Almanac in Lewiston on April 6, and will eventually buy a home near here. In the meantime, they'll be living with us, minus the chickens. (Can you see my grin from ear to ear?!)

So, to tie this in to the Bible story..... It's like Corinne was wandering for 40 years (okay, not quite that long) until she was ready to enter (return to) the Promised Land (Maine, or course!) In the Torah, God keeps the Jews wandering for so long because he needs their mindset to be ready for a new way of life, not slavery. I could have told Corinne a million times over that if they were going to live in upstate NY, they could have just as easily settled in Maine. But she had to come to that realization herself, over time. I am so thankful this is happening now. Some would say, "Believe it and it will come to pass." Chag Sameach!

SPEEDY RECOVERY

We pray for refuah sh'leimah – the full and speedy recovery of, **Tom Bailey, John Calloway, Michelle Lisi Deloro, Doris Factor, Fleck Family, Marie Hendrickson, Christie James, Elizabeth Johnson, Peggy Kraemer, Irene Marshall, Sandy Miller, Guy Pilote, Richard Rau, Joel Salberg, Esther Shapiro, David Sisk, Roger Sutherberg, Toby Wallach, Neal Weiner, Shamilla**, and all others who are not well at this time.

We like to hear good news! Whenever you request that a name be put on this list, please let us know when that name can be removed.





Amy and Robert Jensen

*would like to invite all members of the congregation
to share in the celebration of their twin daughters B'tai Mitzvah,*

Rachel and Jessica

who will be called to the Torah on

Saturday, April 18th at 10:00.

There will be a luncheon and music to follow in the social hall.

Please RSVP to Julie in the office.



HOLD THE DATE

Maine Conference for Jewish Life--June 12 to 14, 2015

An amazing opportunity to immerse yourselves in an environment filled with Jewish learning, spirit, camaraderie, music, prayer, food and each other--for an entire weekend!

Rabbi Sruli



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Anita & Tallus Miles

Apr 9

Paul & Marion Rausch

14

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!BOOK GROUP NEWS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



The Sirens of Baghdad by Yasmina Khadra lured Margaret Meyer, Bertha Bodenheimer, Helene Perry, Judy Abromson and me, Lesli Weiner, to Book Group on March 9. I used the word 'lured' because the title of this book not only refers to the police sirens that were often heard in the city, but also to the mythological Sirens that could lure sailors to their doom. In this story we see the narrator transform from an innocent young man with

an aversion to violence to a fully committed jihadist. The Iraqi war had interrupted his college studies, sending him back to the boredom of his desert village. But it was the American soldiers who came searching for insurgents and hidden weapons, humiliating his family, that was the turning point that sent him to Baghdad to exact revenge. But this is not a book that was written to be anti-American, nor pro-jihad. There are many characters that portray the voice of reason and rational thought. This is a deep and thought provoking book and well worth reading. The following book description says this well:

"Written with all the taut narrative suspense of a thriller, but with a depth of political and psychological understanding rare in literature of any genre, *The Sirens of Baghdad* enables readers in the West to see--and more importantly to feel--what it is like for ordinary Iraqis to live in a war-torn country, a country under siege from within and without. It is, in the end, both an act of witness and a profound exploration of the heights and depths of human nature."

SPECIAL ALERT!!! At our April meeting, we will be phone interviewing the author LAUREL CORONA about her book *The Mapmaker's Daughter*. This is what Booklist wrote about the novel: "It's January 1492, and the king and queen of Spain have issued an order expelling all Jews who refuse to convert to Christianity. With one day remaining to comply, 67-year-old Amalia Cresques waits alone in a room empty except for the chair she sits on. She is waiting for her grandson to arrive. Together, they plan to go into exile. She cannot bring her most treasured possession, a handmade atlas created by her father. As she contemplates her imminent departure, Amalia reviews her long and varied life as wife, mother, family matriarch, and converso, a Jew forced to hide her faith and live as a Christian. Corona (*Penelope's Daughter*, 2010) brings to life one of the most tumultuous periods in European history. Her Amalia is the perfect character through which readers will experience these turbulent times as she spends a lifetime struggling to honor her faith and survive. Vividly detailed and beautifully written, this is a pleasure to read, a thoughtful, deeply engaging story of the power of faith to navigate history's rough terrain."

I hope you will join us on MONDAY. APRIL 13 at 4 PM in the Temple library. Our attendance has been low. (Could it be because of this infernal winter we've had?!) But you won't want to miss this one. We learn so much more about the story behind the story when we chat with the author. I wish we could do this with all our book choices. So get reading.....lesli

YAHREZEITEN

If you are observing a yahrzeit and are planning to come to Thursday morning minyan to say Kaddish, we urge you to contact **Bob Laskoff** (ral@laskofflaw.com) and let him know so that he can include that information in his weekly reminder email. It is your responsibility to call friends and neighbors to make sure there are enough people for the minyan.



We all enjoy our Thursday morning Minyans and breakfast schmoozes.

HELP! We need volunteers to shop and setup. A sign-up sheet is in the kitchen.



Temple Shalom Inter-Generational Shabbaton

Friday, May 8th, 5 PM through Saturday, May 9th, 1:00 PM

Highlights include:

Special Lag B'omer **BONFIRE** (Shabbat compliant)!

IN-SHUL CAMPING!!! Bring your tents, sleeping bags, air mattresses, etc. and camp out in our social hall or on the grounds. Camping is optional of course!

Late-night adult **STUDY** session!

MUSICAL, family Shabbat Service on Friday night and **FAMILY** Shabbat service on Saturday morning!

Shabbat **DINNER**, late night snacks and **BREAKFAST**, Saturday morning.

WINE and **WHISKEY** for adults who are spending the night!

Special **NIGHT ACTIVITIES** for **KIDS** and **TEENS**!

Hold the date—More details to come...



A BISSEL OF JEWISH MAINE (by Nancy Levinsky)

National Council of Jewish Women Scholarships for Jewish students in Maine.

The Southern Maine section of the National Council of Jewish Women awards scholarships to Jewish students from Maine who plan to continue their education at the undergraduate level. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of financial need with consideration for academic achievement and Jewish as well as general community involvement. Please contact Barbara Peisner, Scholarship Chair, at 797-6651 or barbarapeisner@gmail.com to receive an application or if you have any questions. High school guidance offices also have NCJW scholarship application materials available. Complete applications and supporting documents must be received by Friday, April 24, 2015.

Women's Studies Research Center (Waltham, MA)

Opening April 13: Father Tongue. The Hadassah-Brandeis Institute presents Artist-in-Residence Milcah Bassel. Working onsite, Bassel will focus on large-scale drawings based on five letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Multiplying and playing with the space between these letters will provide the basis for a multidisciplinary installation that explores space both by movement and time through an altered language. Opening reception: Monday, April 13, 5– 8 p.m. See website for additional details. Kniznick Gallery, Brandeis University, 515 South St., Waltham, MA, (781) 736-8102, M-F, 9-5 or by appointment.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Finley Barter-Levine	Apr	1
Robert Laskoff		2
Elliot Katz		5
Harold Shapiro		5
Stanley Tetenman		6
Sharon Day		7
Zachary Olstein		8
Judith Ross		12
Julie Cohen		13
Teagan Barter-Levine		15
Daniel Penan		15
Allyson Casares		16
Barry Rodrigue		16
Janet Zidle		16
Joan Levenson		17
Lesli Weiner		17
Andrea Levinsky		19
Riley Barter-Levine		22
Steven Cohen		24
Susan Brown		25
Michael Meyer		29
Lila Wollman		30

APRIL 2014 YAHRZEITEN

2	Robert E. Meyer
5	Lydia Izenstatt
6	Abraham Perry
6	Lillian Shapiro
7	Joseph Margolin
8	Sally Faiman
9	June Margolin
9	Murray Nussinow
11	Pearl Salberg
12	Lillian Schneidman
14	Betty Cohen
19	Burton Wilner
20	Leonard Plavin
23	Louis Silverman
25	Joseph Lifshitz
27	Herman Kleeger
28	Wilfred Goodman
30	Stephen Steinman
30	Richard Wilner

TEMPLE SHALOM PRESCHOOL 2015 Summer Sessions!

a social-skills-based program with
a 50-year reputation of excellence
no religious affiliation

SESSION 1 June 22–25
June 29–July 2

SESSION 2 July 13–16
July 20–23

SESSION 3 August 3–6
August 10–13

Monday – Thursday
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

ages 3–5 (or entering first grade)
must be 3 by 1/1/2015

\$250 per session / 20% discount for siblings

snacks provided / pack a lunch

art
music
weekly themes
group activities
outdoor play
story time

REGISTER NOW
to reserve your spot!



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Located at 74 Bradman Street, Auburn ME

MaChadash/What's New is published monthly by Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center. Temple Shalom is an independent congregation and a member of the Lewiston-Auburn Jewish Federation.

The mission of Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center is to foster a strong Jewish identity and an active Jewish Community.

Rabbi Sruli Dresdner

Office Manager Julie Waite

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Temple Shalom office hours are
9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Monday-Thursday
Telephone: 207-786-4201
Fax: 207-786-4202
www.templeshalomauburn.org
E-mail address: temple6359@aol.com
Rabbi Sruli: sruli@aol.com.
Telephone: 914-980-9509

CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

Thomas & Paula Marcus-Platz

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Funds are used to support the Temple Shalom Nursery/Preschool

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In memory of Judge Morton Brody

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In memory of Rose Nussinow

In memory of Sheldon Nussinow

RABBINIC RETENTION FUND

Dr. Karen Reeves

In memory of Dr. Helene Reeves

In memory of Dr. Edward Reeves

*Thank
You*

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In memory of Gertrude Berent

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In memory of Nathan "Nick" Day

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In memory of Leonard Nemeth

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In memory of Jayne Wilner

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Community Passover Seder

Saturday, April 4 at 5:00 p.m.

*Adults: Members - \$25

*Adults: Non-Members - \$30

*Children 12 & under: \$15

*Children under 5: No Charge

No one turned away for inability to pay, but we must have the reservation.

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Brunch at Temple Shalom - March 22, 2015

David Freidenreich, Pulver Family Associate Professor of Jewish Studies at Colby College and director of its Jewish studies program, talks about the history of sharing food in different religious groups...and we eat.



Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center

74 Bradman Street

Auburn, ME 04210-6330

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DATED MATERIAL

APRIL 2015

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APRIL AT TEMPLE SHALOM

Thursday, 4/2	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Saturday, 4/4	9:30 am	Service for 1 st day of Passover
	5:00 pm	Community Passover Seder
Sunday, 4/5	10:00 am	Family Hebrew School
Thursday, 4/9	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Friday, 4/10		Office Closed
	9:30 am	Service for last day of Passover
Saturday, 4/11	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Sunday, 4/12	10:00 am	Family Hebrew School
Monday, 4/13	4:00 pm	Book Group
	5:15 pm	Program Committee meeting
	7:00 pm	Temple Board Meeting
Thursday, 4/16	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Saturday, 4/18	10:00 am	Jensen B'tai Mitzvah – Please RSVP!
Thursday, 4/23	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Friday, 4/24	6:00 pm	Kabalat Shabbat Service
	7:00 pm	Tish followed by pastry & coffee
Saturday, 4/25	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Thursday, 4/30	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast

