

April 2017/Nisan/Iyar 5777

Community Passover Seder

Tuesday, April 11 at 5:00 p.m.



Paid reservations MUST be made ASAP!

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

FROM THE RABBI...



Hi Everyone.

We recently celebrated the Holiday of Purim which is about how an evil anti-Semite named Haman persuaded the Persian ruler to allow him to slaughter the entire Jewish population of the kingdom—men, women and children—all in one day. What saved us? Not overt miraculous intervention from above. In fact, the Megilla—the Scroll of Esther—does not ever mention God. Not even once! We survived because we spread our kindness and our values long before we knew of the peril that we were soon to face. Mordechai saves the King's life by disclosing an assassination plot. Esther (this is implied), as Queen, earns the respect and admiration of the King. By the

time the peril arose, there was already enough good will in place to counter the threat. The rest, as they say, is history.

I would like to tell you about Cynthia Riley. I met Cynthia when Lisa and I performed a Chanukah concert for the Norway Library several years ago. Cynthia is the Youth and Family Pastor for the First Congregationalist Church in South Paris. We became friendly—Cynthia even invited me to her adult education group to discuss the Jewish approach to Passover last year.

Cynthia has become very upset by the many anti-Semitic incidents occurring around the country. She sent me the email that I shared with our community expressing her (and her Church's) solidarity with us. Recently, she told me this story:

When I was a young girl, my family vacationed on Cape Cod. One day, playing with Rachel, the girl staying in the cottage next door, she said, "You should know...!'m Jewish." I thought that was cool. I was a Congregationalist and at that point had never met anyone who was Jewish. BUT, she added, "so, I guess you won't be able to play with me again." "Why not?" "Most parents won't let their Christian kids play with a Jewish girl." I remember feeling stunned. Why not? My parents didn't feel that way nor did they raise me to shy away from people for any reason. Rachel was from NJ and her town was very divided. She shared stories of how she and her family were treated by Catholics and Protestants. I was little, but also a reader. At the end of summer, back in my home town, I checked out "Night" by Elie Wiesel. In High School, my social studies teacher Mrs. Osias was an Auschwitz survivor. For many weeks, I went to her synagogue with her, as well as attending my own church. Rabbi Samuel was very patient with my questions! At one point, I approached him about converting and he said no. But, he was kind, gentle and gave me a blessing. Paraphrasing, he said, "I feel that you are a Christian, a believer in Jesus, and should remain so. It is not right for me to take you from your own ancestral spiritual heritage. God will bless you and guide you, he will lead you to be a teacher and pastor of Children. Remember always the heart and teachings of the Torah, weave it into your Christian life. I trust that you will reach out across divides to heal hurt and stop hate. Do this in your neighborhood." The very next day, my high school principal signed me up as a teen representative to attend the National Conference of Christian and Jews being held in Hartford Connecticut.

We don't know the future and I am hopeful that the current outbreak of anti-Semitism that we are experiencing will soon subside. But should we ever find ourselves in a situation of real peril, I know that we can count on Cynthia to be there for us—thanks to the kindness, love and wisdom of a Jewish girl, a Jewish teacher and a Rabbi whom she happened to encounter in her travels through life.

Let us resolve to act with holiness and good Jewish values in every one of our encounters so that, like Rabbi Samuel, we create Cynthia after Cynthia. Our very lives may one day depend on it.

Rabbi Sruli

P.S. On Saturday, April 8, at 2:30 p.m., Rabbi Sruli and Lisa will lead Yiddish songs for the We Sing for Peace event at the Rines Auditorium in the Portland Public Library (open to the public). On Wednesday, April 12, at 9:30 a.m., Rabbi Sruli will teach about Judaism for the Faith of Our Fathers Course at Senior College. On Thursday, April 13, at 5 p.m., Rabbi Sruli will participate in a Maundy Thursday Passover Seder at the High Street Congregationalist Church in Auburn. On Wednesday, April 26, at 3 p.m., Rabbi Sruli and Lisa will be performing a concert for Thornton Oaks Retirement Home in Brunswick (this is a reschedule of last month's event which was cancelled due to snow).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Passover is fast approaching. Passover is a time to celebrate our freedom, but not just freedom from Pharaoh, but all oppression. The Eve of Passover, 1943 was a dark time for all Jews, maybe as dark as it has ever been for our people. However, a young man, Mordechai Anilowitz, born in 1919 and just 23 years old, would give us hope, would lead us in an uprising, would fight against extermination.

Mordechai Anilowitz was in the Warsaw Ghetto on April 19, 1943. For many months, he had been preparing an armed resistance to the Germans and their deportation and extermination plans. He put together a small band of 750 lightly armed Jewish fighters. When the Germans entered the ghetto, with 2000 heavily

armed soldiers, on the eve of Passover, 1943, he led an uprising. An uprising that we remember today. With little training and few weapons and only one machine gun, a small band of Jews held the Germans at bay, for 27 days.

In the end, 7000 Jews died during the uprising, along with Mordechai Anilowitz and most of his fighters. Most of the remaining Jews were sent to Treblinka.

Passover has always been my favorite holiday, no matter where we spend it...home, at my grandmother's, at my mother's or at Temple. I enjoy the tradition of reading the Passover story of knowing that we (not 'they') were led out of the Land of Egypt, just as we ultimately survived the dark days of the last century. I enjoy sharing the Seder with family and friends and being together with our shared heritage.

The story of Passover shows us that G-d, ultimately, is on our side. We, as a people, are continually tested, but ultimately, we survive and thrive.

This Passover, take a few moments and remember what those before us had to sacrifice to allow us to be here today and to be free and to be Jewish. Remember Mordechai Anilowitz and his small band of Jews who fought the mighty German army for 27 days...who gave a few hope, in a time and place where little hope existed.

Let's all pray that G-d is done testing us and that we do not have to add any more chapters to our fight for freedom.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Our next meeting will be on Monday, April 24 at 7:00 p.m.

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



Some members had a hard time finding copies of *Second Person Singular* by Sayed Kashua, so we were a small group: Margaret Meyer, Adele Silverman, Helene Perry, Babs Shapiro and me, Lesli Weiner. Kashua, an Arab Israeli, wrote of what he knows. The novel followed an Arab lawyer whose family and friends tried to "keep up with the Joneses" and sent their kids to Jewish schools so they could soak up

Western culture, something they themselves could not provide. Aside from the intersecting story of a jealous husband and an Arab who assumes a Jewish identity, what we found most fascinating about this novel was the look inside the lives of these Arab Israelis, both upper class and lower. The Temple library owns this book, so check it out.

Our next book is *Chasing the Rabbit: A Dad's Life Raising a Son on the Spectrum* by Derek Volk. The author is also a Maine businessman, living in Biddeford with his wife, State Senator Ann Volk. We meet next on MONDAY, APRIL 3 at 4 PM. It's a short book, so start reading as we're meeting a week early because of Passover.

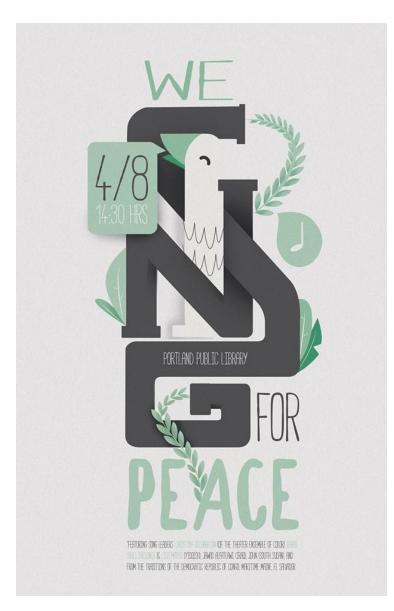
Here is the book description from Amazon:

"The true story of Derek Volk's experiences raising his son, Dylan, who has Asperger's Syndrome. When Derek's oldest child - his only son - was two years old when his wife suggested, "Something is not quite right with Dylan." They struggled for the next several years as they were bounced from one "expert" to another, each offering a unique perspective on Dylan's challenging behaviors. Finally, at eight years old, Dylan was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome and the Volk family was able to start making sense of Dylan's differences. In Chasing the Rabbit, Derek Volk shares his experiences raising a son on the Autism spectrum. Both Dylan and Derek write about the challenges, triumphs and coping strategies from the early days to the adolescent years to life in the "real world" as a young adult. It is a story of how a dad learned to love the son he never expected he would have and how his son learned to accept himself as well. Throughout the book Dylan shares his perspectives on what Derek was experiencing. This book showcases the unique relationship between a father and his son, voices rarely heard in the autism community. It tells the story of a young man who has spent his entire life "chasing the rabbit." The title Chasing the Rabbit derives from Derek's analogy that Dylan is similar to a greyhound dog running around a track. The rabbit is normal. Dylan can see what normal looks like, and he can almost get to it, but no matter how fast he runs he never catches it. It is also a success story and a testimony to faith as Derek and his wife, Amy, never stopped praying and never gave up on their son."

We also chose the next set of books. Here's the list:



Rabbi Sruli is always happy to speak with and meet with members or our Temple. Please call Rabbi Sruli on his cell phone 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.



Portland Cultural Exchange

We're excited to announce our first ever

WE SING for PEACE

event!

April 8th, 2:30pm, at Rines Auditorium in Portland Public Library.

In community: we need to know one another, we need to support and be supported, and we all want and hope for peace. Come sit with your neighbors and sing together for peace-- in your language and theirs!

Songleaders include:

Lisa Mayer & Sruli Dresdner-- Yiddish song Christina W. Richardson-- African American Spiritual song John Nuer -- South Sudanese song Franchely Benazo-- Democratic Republic of Congo song Jawad Alfatlawi-- Iraqi song ... and many more!

YAHRZEITEN

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** (rail@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.

Program/Israeli Brunch

Sunday, April 30th at 11:00am

Catered by Haggai Bernstein Please RSVP by April 25th \$10 per person, RSVP Only

Anthony Wexler is a Faculty Fellow in Religious Studies at Colby College where he teaches courses on Jewish literature, history and culture.

As a bearer of Enlightenment values, and one of the few intellectuals to remain a humanist after Auschwitz, Primo Levi, the Italian writer and survivor, approached the horrific events of the Holocaust with a startling blend of dignity, poise and patience – traits not usually associated with the Jewish survivor. Since his death in 1986, Levi's reputation has continued to grow, and he is now considered one of the most important witnesses of the Nazi genocide

and a major twentieth-century Jewish writer. In the last years of his life, however, Levi became increasingly concerned with the ways that the memory of the Holocaust was being distorted and simplified. In this talk, I'll consider how the aging Levi seeks to preserve the memory of the Holocaust in a coming world without witnesses. I'll focus on his Levi's last work, The Drowned and the Saved (1986), published just a year before his death. In it, Levi turns away

I am constantly amazed by man's inhumanity to man.

Primo Levi

from the figure of the victim and focuses instead on the figure of the collaborator. In so doing, he presents a powerful and unsettling lesson about the Holocaust to future generations.

SPEEDY RECOVERY

We pray for refuah sh'leimah – the full and speedy recovery of Gary Buckman, Deborah Frank Burdo, John Calloway, Carson Hudson, Michelle Lisi Deloro, Enid Ehrlich, Fleck Family, Anne Geller, Ariella Green, Elizabeth Johnson, Mark Johnson, Bethany Kornstadt, George Laskoff, Sandy Miller, Ashley Olstein, Joel Salberg, Roger Sutherberg, Sandy Traister, Toby Wallach, Neal Weiner, Betty Wise, 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.



National Yiddish Book Center Tour Sunday, May 7, 8AM-8PM

(Meet at 8AM at Temple Shalom in Auburn, or 9AM at the JCA in Portland)

This is an amazing opportunity to see, hear and feel Jewish History—with an authentic Yiddish accent—at the most important and magnificent Yiddish cultural center in the world. Aaron Lansky, the man who saved a million Yiddish Books, created a modern shtetl in an apple orchard—the building alone is worth the trip—and our 90-minute tour will include expert explanation and discussion of exhibits ranging from from a multi-media show of seminal Jewish-American moments from television and the movies, to fascinating portraits of Yiddish writers, to the last Yiddish linotype printer from the Yiddish Daily Forverts. There is also a spectacular display of photographs (on loan from St. Petersburg, Russia) taken by ethnographer S. Ansky, who is most famous for writing The Dybbuk. Add to that an interactive experience of how traditional Jewish customs are having a modern renaissance (for example, how is the mikvah being used now?) After the tour, there will be a full hour to explore the museum on your own. Don't miss the gift shop—filled with some of the most unusual Jewish treasures anywhere!

The bus ride will be fun too—with a before-you-get-there video introduction from the Book Center, a short Yiddish story with English translation, a Yiddish cursing contest, and an intimate Yiddish concert by Rabbi Sruli and Lisa. Lunch, when we arrive in Western Mass will be at the delicious Atkins Farm, a real treat.

\$55 per person includes roundtrip comfortable chartered coach bus transportation, with Wifi and lavatory, museum entrance and tour. Minimum 20 registered participants required by Thursday, April 13th, to run the trip. Sponsored by the JCA and Temple Shalom in Auburn

For more information and to register visit https://mainejewish.org/community-calendar/national-yiddish-book-center-tour-224552

MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear Members of the Synagogue:

I was very fortunate to be able to attend the last Kabbalat Shabbat service at our synagogue (March 17). It turned out to be an incredible healing experience, which I did not expect! We began with singing and praying, with music by the rabbi and Lisa and Johnny and Charlie, which enhances the experience multi-fold in itself....Thank you, Dresdner-Mayer family!

What follows is my own likely-imperfect recollection of the evening. Most likely, each person there remembers and experienced it differently.

The rabbi proceeded to present a portion of the week's Torah portion, Ki Tissa. Speaking for myself, I sensed we all kind of groaned, hearing it concerned taking a census of the people, but being unable to count them off one by one, due to "superstitious" beliefs in the Evil Eye. We discussed whether we believed in superstitions, in the Evil Eye, what the Evil Eye could possibly emanate from (we settled on jealousy and ego), and then on how it was averted: by collecting a half-shekel from each person as an indirect way to take a census (and a direct way to fund-raise!) The Torah says each shall give a ransom on being enrolled: their heads will be uplifted by paying the tax.

The rabbi then went on to say that we each have people in our lives who are both pains in the back [I can't remember the exact word he used :)] and great contributors to our life. And what we choose to focus on brings more of the same. So that it's important to remember to acknowledge and thank the people around us for all they contribute to our life. (We can lift them up by telling them how important they are to us.) We counter the Evil Eye by engaging in positive thinking and positive action.

Then Sruli asked us to look around the room at everyone in turn, and thank them for what they contribute to our lives. O.K.... So we began doing that. Then Sruli went around the entire circle of people, one by one, looking deeply at each person, calling their name and telling them "Thank you for all you contribute to my life." Wow! This was extremely powerful! And when he arrived at his wife, he told her this in such a tender sweet way it made my heart ache (in a good way). Such an inspiration Sruli is to us! The more I muse on this, and the more I thank the people in my life for the contributions they make to my life, the more healing I feel. I have been telling my circle all about this since that evening.

This was truly a mystical experience, and full of deep reward. It's encouraged me to reach out to people somewhat estranged from myself. Thank you, Sruli and Lisa and all the members of Temple Shalom for all you contribute to my life! I encourage each of you reading this, even if you weren't at the service, to look at your world in a fresh way and to thank the people in it. And to come to as many services as you can. We can thank our people, over and over again, every day. We are indeed fortunate to have the rabbi and his family with us. Thank you!

Shalom.

Name Withheld





This month's traditional and musical **Kabbalat Shabbat/Passover Service** will be held on Friday, April 14 at 7 p.m.

We will also include a Yizkor service.

The Service will be followed by a Passover Oneg Shabbat.

There will be no Shabbat Services on Saturday, April 15.

Hold the Date!

Cafe Shalom

Saturday Evening, May 6, 2017

Reception at 6:00 p.m., Program begins at 7:00 p.m.

Wine and Cheese—Dessert and Coffee

Lisa Mayer, Rebbetzin of Ceremonies

Cost is \$10.00 per person

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Paul & Marion Rausch Apr 14

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
Janet Zidle		16
Joan Levenson		17
Lesli Weiner		17
Andrea Levinsky		19
Keith Seltzer		20
Riley Barter-Levine		22
Steven Cohen		24
Susan Brown		25
Michael Meyer		29
Lila Wollman		30

APRIL 2017 YAHRZEITEN

(Yahrzeits begin at nightfall on the evening prior to the date listed below)

Betty Granat	April	2
Gertrude Berent		3
Ida Perry		3
Edward Reeves		5
Paulyn Rosenthal		5
Robert Meyer		9
Edward Laine		10
Lydia Izenstatt		12
Abraham Perry		13
Lillian Shapiro		13
Joseph Margolin		14
Sally Fairman		15
June Margolin		16
Murray Nussinow		16
Pearl Salberg		18
Lillian Schneidman		19
Betty Cohen		21
Burton Wilner		26
Murray Rubinstein		27
Louis Silverman		30

Ma Chadash/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

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Telephone: 207-786-4201 Fax: 207-786-4202 www.templeshalomauburn.org E-mail address: temple6359@aol.com

Rabbi Sruli: djsruli@gmail.com Telephone: 914-980-9509

CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

Tom Reeves

In memory of Dr. Helene Reeves

Sheri Blumenthal

In appreciation

Babs & Michael Shapiro

In memory of Lois Barr

Joy & Lewis Zidle

Speedy recovery to Aaron Burke

In honor of the marriage of Sofe &

Steve Gershman

In memory of Joseph Zidle

Candace & James Platz

In memory of Lois Barr

Sheri & Joel Olstein

In honor of the marriage of Sofe &

Steve Gershman

Lesli & Neal Weiner

In honor of the marriage of Sofe &

Steve Gershman

Aaron & Ellen Burke

In honor of the marriage of Sofe &

Steve Gershman

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

In honor of the marriage of Sofe &

Steve Gershman

To Rabbi Sruli & Lisa Mayer in honor of

Zack receiving his masters from the New

England Conservatory of Music

Adele Silverman

In memory of Judge Morton Brody

Marianne Miller

Speedy recovery to Aaron Burke

Stephen & Susan Scolnik

In memory of Mary Abromson Scolnik

James & Susan Lifter

In appreciation

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In memory of Lois Barr

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Cathy & Stan Tetenman

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Steve Gershman

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Funds are used to support the Temple Shalom Nursery/Preschool

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In memory of Philip Renard

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Sharon Day & Family

In memory of Nathan "Nick" Day

Jeffrey & Susan Brown

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APRIL AT TEMPLE SHALOM

AIRILAI TEMILE SHALOM				
Saturday 4/1	0.20 am	Shabbat Service		
Saturday, 4/1	9:30 am			
	7:00 pm	Michael Alpert Concert		
Sunday, 4/2	10:00 am	Family Hebrew School		
Monday, 4/3	4:00 pm	Book Group		
Thursday, 4/6	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast		
Saturday, 4/8	9:30 am	Shabbat Service		
Tuesday, 4/11	5:00 pm	Community Passover Seder – RSVP!		
Thursday, 4/13	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast		
Friday, 4/14	7:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat /Passover Service (includes Yizkor)		
Saturday, 4/15		No Shabbat Service		
Monday, 4/17	5:15 pm	Program Committee Meeting		
Thursday, 4/20	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast		
Saturday, 4/22	9:30 am	Shabbat Service		
Monday, 4/24	7:00 pm	Temple Board Meeting		
Thursday, 4/27	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast		
Saturday, 4/29	9:30 am	Shabbat Service		
Sunday, 4/30	11:00 am	Israeli Brunch with guest Anthony Wexler		
		"Primo Levy's Last Lesson" – RSVP!		