



MA CHADASH!

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

מה חדש!

ק"ק היכל שלום

December 2015 /Kislev/Tevet 5776

Join Us for Our Chanukah Party!



Sunday, December 6th, 2015

4:00 pm

Mega-Menorah lighting by Auburn's Chief of Police,
Phil Crowell, followed by a catered dinner, music, games plus
a special Chanukah play performed by our Hebrew School!

Remember to bring your menorahs and
Chanukah Candles so we can all enjoy the light together!

Crafts and dreidel games available for the kids.

It's LATKE TIME ~ See you there!

Suggested Donation: \$8 for members, \$10 for non-members, children free

RSVP – 786-4201 or temple6359@aol.com

FROM THE RABBI...



Hi Everyone.

From the New York Times, November 21, 2015:

Dua had only been working for two months with the Khansaa Brigade, the all-female morality police of the Islamic State, when her friends were brought to the station to be whipped.

The police had hauled in two women she had known since childhood, a mother and her teenage daughter, both distraught. Their abayas, flowing black robes, had been deemed too form-fitting.

When the mother saw Dua, she rushed over and begged her to intercede. The room felt stuffy as Dua weighed what to do.

"Their abayas really were very tight. I told her it was their own fault; they had come out wearing the wrong thing," she said. "They were unhappy with that."

Dua sat back down and watched as the other officers took the women into a back room to be whipped. When they removed their face-concealing niqabs, her friends were also found to be wearing makeup. It was 20 lashes for the abaya offense, five for the makeup, and another five for not being meek enough when detained.

Their cries began ringing out, and Dua stared hard at the ceiling, a lump building in her throat.

The mother and daughter came to Dua's parents' house afterward, furious with her and venting their anger at the Islamic State.

"They said they hated it and wished it had never come to Raqqa," Dua said. She pleaded with them, explaining that as a young and new member of the Khansaa Brigade, there was nothing she could have done.

But a lifelong friendship, with shared holiday gatherings and birthday parties, was suddenly broken. "After that day, they hated me, too," she said. "They never came to our house again."

Dua recently recalled all of this from the small city in southern Turkey where she now lives after fleeing Raqqa, the self-proclaimed capital of the Islamic State, and its jihadist rulers.

Prior to 2014, Dua belonged to a "generation of Syrian women who were leading more independent lives than ever before. They mixed freely with young men, socializing and studying together in a religiously diverse city with relatively relaxed mores."

Dua did not join IS because she believed in its ideology. She did it to keep life tolerable, so that her family would not be persecuted or killed, and to earn a little money.

"But every concession turned to horror before long, and [Dua. and two other women who had fled from the morality police with her] came to deplore how they were pitted against their neighbors, part of a force tearing apart the community they loved. Only months in... would they see how they were being used as temporary slaves to foreign fighters whose only dedication was to violence and an unrecognizable God."

Dua's story reminds us how complicated life can really be, especially in a war zone. How difficult (even immoral) choices are so often made as a result of unimaginable stress or coercion. That one's most deplorable actions are, at the end of the day, only a snapshot of one moment in a person's life. How you can only know the true nature of a person when the source of their stress is gone.

Our sages warned us again and again to avoid judging the actions of others, reminding us that we cannot possibly know what drives others to do the (even very evil) things that they do.

It is my hope that Dua's family friends, the ones who were whipped by the morality police, the ones who pleaded with Dua in vain, will someday read this article in the New York Times and find it in their hearts to forgive Dua. Perhaps even to reconcile with her.

It is my greater hope that despite the fact that we are living in a very dangerous time, when each day we wake to acts of evil that we cannot comprehend, that we appreciate the wisdom of our sages and forbear from judging others whose lives, stresses and motivations we cannot understand. That we find a way to condemn and fight evil without demonizing the (predominantly young) people manipulated into being on the front lines.

And, mostly, that we give everyone, those whom we read about in the news and those who live close to us, no matter what they have done in the past, an opportunity for clear and absolute redemption.

Rabbi Sruli

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Last month we lost a valued member of our small Jewish community, Judith Isaacson. She was literally and emotionally a true survivor. I can't imagine how anyone can go through the horrors she did and spend the rest of her life with a loving warm heart and a smile on her face. I will never forget her smile. Her book *Seed of Sarah* tells of her experiences as a Hungarian Jew before and during the Holocaust. Her obituary continues with her remarkable achievements as an adult. And for those of you who attended her funeral, you heard many personal anecdotes that helped flesh out the person. We learn so much about someone at their funeral. And every loss is deeply felt.

And that is why we started the storytelling tradition at Temple Shalom. We want to learn about each other while we can still ask questions and get answers. We choose a couple of members to give us their life's story. Of course, it's up to them to decide what parts they want to share with us. We've heard some amazing things, and some ordinary facts that we just didn't know before. We find we come from many different backgrounds yet have a lot of things in common. We discover new things to talk to each other about. This can only help make us a closer knit community. I am grateful to those who have already told their tale. And I hope you will say yes when asked. Better yet, volunteer to be next. We haven't done this in a while but perhaps we should schedule one soon. Although Jutka lived an amazing 90 years, none of us can know for sure.

Lesli Weiner

SPECIAL SABBATH QUEENS SERVICE



FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 18TH!

Once again, the lovely Sabbath Queens of Temple Shalom will lead the service at 7PM

and help prepare (thank you in advance!) a pot-luck supper starting at 6PM.

AND once again, we invite all women who would like to lead a particular prayer OR do a reading from the siddur OR alternate source OR contribute a personal reflection

to contact Rebbetzin Lisa at lamayer@yahoo.com or on her cell: [914-450-6527](tel:914-450-6527).

**Cannot wait to share another royally fun,
sweet, poignant and brilliant Shabbat together!**

Announcing our first Lunch and Learn series of the New Year, 5776!



4 Tuesdays: December 8 and 22 and January 12 and 26.

Lunch at 12:00, Learn from 12:30 to 1:30.

December 8: Chanukah.

We will examine the holiday from a historical/academic perspective compared with texts from the Talmud and the Siddur.

Other topics to be announced.

Anne Allen has once again graciously offered her home so we will meet at

1 Locksley Road, Auburn.

She has even more graciously offered to provide a "spread," so all you have to bring is yourself!

Please RSVP to Julie if you plan on attending so that Anne will have an idea of how much to prepare.

Community, Study and Food—what can be bad?

PRESCHOOL WISH LIST!



Gorilla Swings (2) \$29.00 each (safer than hard plastic ones we have now)

Set of Bristle Blocks \$30.00

2 Tumbling Mats for Social Hall and classroom \$125 each

All available at Wal-mart

TEMPLE MEMORIAL FUNDS

Temple Shalom has about two dozen 'Memorial' and 'Special Use' funds available for friends and relatives to access in order to contribute to the Temple in honor of, or in memory of, an event or individual. Most, but not all, are family oriented and are listed in Ma Chadash every month. When a donation is made the donor is listed and the gift is acknowledged to the family.



Most of us are not aware of how the contributions are used. In an effort to draw attention to the various funds and how the money contributed is of benefit to the Temple we will highlight a few funds each month.

ABROMSON MEMORIAL FUND: In memory of Michael Abromson and his parents, Nat and Ben Abromson. The monies are used for maintenance projects on the Temple structure, and as time passes more and more physical problems requiring repairs occur in our building. Sometimes it's a mere cracked window pane, other times it may be a major project.

BERENT MEMORIAL FUND: In memory of Rabbi David and Gertrude Berent. The rabbi is fondly remembered as a long-time leader of Beth Jacob Synagogue in Lewiston and an early advocate and worker toward inter-religious understanding in the Lewiston-Auburn area. The dollars in the fund can only be used for cultural and educational purposes as decided by the Temple Program Committee.

LIBRARY FUND: This fund was formed a few years ago by the Library Committee for the purpose of obtaining contemporary Jewish literature for the Temple Shalom library.

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND: This fund was established many years ago for needs in the community which are not otherwise covered by any agency. The moneys are administered by the Rabbi and could be used for any emergency brought to the Rabbi's attention.

NUSSINOW MEMORIAL FUND: In memory of Sheldon and Edith (Ecie) Nussinow. The dollars in this fund are dedicated to the Temple Shalom nursery school to supply equipment needed to develop and maintain well rounded programs. Ecie was the founding chairperson of the school.

Watch for more next month!



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.

Israel Trip

Due to security concerns, the Temple trip to Israel, originally planned for March 2016, is being temporarily suspended. We will revisit the trip when the security situation in Israel improves. We hope and pray for a quick and sure resolution to the current violence and for all peaceful citizens of Israel to be able to soon return to normal life.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Our next meeting will be on
Monday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m.



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

The readers are back! This month we had a sizable group: Sandy Traister, Babs Shapiro, Bertha Bodenheimer, Helene Perry, Margaret Meyer, Bonnie Faiman and me, Lesli Weiner. *The Paris Architect* was the first novel by architect Charles Belfoure. We have read novels that were better composed, but the story line and characters were quite compelling. The protagonist is Lucien Bernard, an architect in Nazi-occupied Paris who built ingenious hiding places for Jews. He did not want to do it, and could not understand why anyone would risk

their lives for the Jews, although he did not like how they were being treated. But Lucien was lured in by the money and the prospects of bigger commissions and making a name for himself. So he designed these safe hidey-holes, and at the same time designed factories for the Nazi war machine. He goes through a transformation of conscience, which is really the essence of the story. How far would you go to help a stranger? What would you risk? Would you trade your life for another's in the name of what is right? These questions, and more will get you thinking as you get caught up in this plot. Not just another WWII book. Definitely recommended by the Book Group!

The Sisters Weiss by Naomi Ragen brings us back to Brooklyn. I read the description on Amazon and I feel it had too many spoilers for me to include here. So I will give you a little tease from that: "In 1950's Brooklyn, sisters Rose and Pearl Weiss grow up in a loving but strict ultra-Orthodox family, never dreaming of defying their parents or their community's unbending and intrusive demands. Then, a chance meeting with a young French immigrant turns Rose's world upside down.....Powerful, page-turning and deeply moving, Naomi Ragen's *The Sisters Weiss* is an unforgettable examination of loyalty and betrayal; the differences that can tear a family apart and the invisible bonds that tie them together." The strength of Naomi Ragen's books is their focus on the importance of freedom and choice in a woman's life. I hope you will pick up a copy and join us for the discussion on MONDAY, DECEMBER 14 at 4 PM.....lesli

SHABBAT SERVICES REMINDER

Shabbat morning services begin at 9:30 am each week. We have a prayer service from 9:30 to 10:30 followed by Torah Study from 10:30 to 11:30. Please feel free to attend either or both segments.

In accordance with sacred Jewish tradition and practice, times are approximate



CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to Irving Isaacson and family on the death of Judith (Jutka) Isaacson and to Susan Katzir on the recent death of her mother, Peggy Kraemer.

May God comfort you together with all the others mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

**Rabbi Sruli and Lisa
will be performing a multi-generational
Chanukah Concert
at the Auburn Public Library
on December 17 at 6:00 p.m.**



Other public Chanukah season performances:
December 4, 7 p.m.: Shabbat Service at Beth Israel Congregation, Bath
December 11, 6 p.m.: Norway Public Library
December 30, 2 p.m.: Farnsworth Art Museum, Rockland
We will also be performing for Clover Manor on December 10 at 10:30 a.m.
and December 16 at 6 p.m.

FEDERATION PLEDGES

**DONATE
NOW**

Pledge cards for this year's L-A Jewish Federation were mailed a few weeks ago with the hope that most of the community would respond by mail with a donation, or a pledge to donate.

As many in our community know, the greatest portion of each gift is divided between the Jewish Federation of North America (JFNA) and Temple Shalom. Smaller sums are sent to various other Jewish agencies such as, but not limited to, Hillel, the Anti-Defamation League, and the Maine Holocaust Human Rights Center. The JFNA funding is distributed to several agencies in Israel and the Temple Shalom portion helps assure a continued Jewish life in the Lewiston-Auburn area.

If you have not already done so, please write a figure that makes you feel that you have done your part to the best of your ability and mail the pledge card back to the Federation at Temple Shalom. If you've misplaced the card, a phone call always works!

Each year a few dedicated Temple board members volunteer to make personal calls to our community members who have not responded to the mailing. Please make their job easy by replying before they pick up their phones!

SPEEDY RECOVERY

We pray for refuah sh'leimah – the full and speedy recovery of **Deborah Frank Burdo, Michelle Lisi Deloro, Fleck Family, Christie James, Elizabeth Johnson, Mark Johnson, Bethany Kornstadt, Sandy Miller, Richard Rau, Joel Salberg, Shamilla, Esther Shapiro, David Sisk, Roger Sutherberg, Toby Wallach, Neal Weiner**, 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.



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** (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.

Sponsor an Oneg or a Kiddush!

Having an anniversary, birthday, yahrzeit, or any other special occasion? Increase the joy of the occasion by celebrating with family and friends and sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat on a Friday evening or a Kiddush on Saturday morning. Contact the Temple office to let us know the date!



CHINESE & A MOVIE--IT'S TRADITION! DECEMBER 25th

MOVIE TO BE DETERMINED

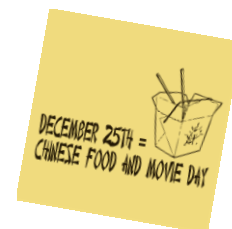
We will meet at the Flagship Cinema in Auburn

TIME TO BE DETERMINED

But it will be early afternoon matinee

DINNER BUFFET AT LOTUS

Immediately following movie



MORE INFO TO FOLLOW ON EMAIL

RSVP WILL BE NEEDED BY DEC 21

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

None in December!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Estelle Rubinstein	Dec	3
Sherman Shapiro		3
Andrew Bodenheimer		6
Joshua Goodman		7
Lillian Zidle		7
Peter Casares		10
Jennifer Nussinow		11
Colby Miles		14
Carla Marcus		15
Alexander Miles		16
Suzan Katzir		17
Isaac Sherwood		22
Sarah Levine		30
Patricia Suzanne		30

DECEMBER 2015 YAHRZEITEN

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

Dec. 4	Dr. Daniel Bell
5	Charles Marcus
6	Nathan Benson
7	Ernestine Friedlaender
7	Ethel Plavin
8	William Markle
9	Morris Zallen
11	Frances Silverman
13	Frances Stern
14	Sylvia LaPerriere
16	Marcia Bell
16	Mazie Schwartz
19	Harry Drabkin
21	Keyla Fuks
23	Deborah Isaacson
26	Erwin Markle
28	Joseph Wilner
29	Shirley Isaacson
31	Ida Wilner

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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	Lewis Zidle
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Personnel	
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	Paula Marcus-Platz
Nursery School	Allyson Casares
Fund Raising	

Temple Shalom office hours are
9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Monday-Thursday

Telephone: 207-786-4201

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www.templeshalomauburn.org

E-mail address: temple6359@aol.com

Rabbi Sruli: sruli@aol.com

Telephone: 914-980-9509

CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

Beverly Hurwitz

In memory of Morris Supovitz

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

In memory of Henry Casares

In memory of Judith Isaacson

Bonnie & Larry Faiman

In memory of Henry Casares

Phyllis & Leonard Bell

In memory of Sina Amsel

In memory of Irving Bell

Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz

In memory of Judith Isaacson

Thomas & Bethel Shields

In memory of Judith Isaacson

Michael Gagne

In memory of Henry Casares

BODENHEIMER PASSOVER FUND

Joan Levenson

In memory of Sadie Baker

FAMILY HEBREW SCHOOL FUND

Nancy & Ken Levinsky

In memory of Henry Casares

LIBRARY FUND

The Bell Family

In memory of Reva Finks Roth

In memory of Irving bell

MITZVAH FUND

Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz

In memory of Judith Isaacson

NUSSINOW NURSERY SCHOOL FUND

Funds are used to support the Temple Shalom Nursery/Preschool

Adele & Morris Silverman

In memory of Judith Isaacson

Lois & Ben Barr

In memory of Ecie Nussinow

In memory of Henry Casares

In memory of Judith Isaacson

Speedy recovery to Michael Shapiro

PULPIT/PRAYER BOOK FUND

Susan & Larry Weiner

In memory of Philip Rosen

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Elizabeth Ellman

In honor of Jay Lapin's bar mitzvah

ABROMSON MEMORIAL FUND
BELL MEMORIAL CHAPEL FUND
CEMETERY FUND
COHEN/LEVOY GARDEN FUND
ENDOWMENT FUND
EVE & GEORGE SHAPIRO MEMORIAL FUND
MARCUS MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND
MINYANAIRES FUND
RANDALL SILVER LIBRARY FUND
SHIRLEY GOODMAN MEMORIAL FUND

For interior decoration and maintenance

Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center

74 Bradman Street

Auburn, ME 04210-6330

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

DECEMBER 2015

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Auburn, ME
Permit #4

DECEMBER AT TEMPLE SHALOM

Thursday, 12/3	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Saturday, 12/5	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Sunday, 12/6	4:00 pm	Chanukah Party – Please RSVP!
Tuesday, 12/8	12:00 pm	Lunch & Learn at Allen home-Please RSVP!
Thursday, 12/10	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Saturday, 12/12	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Sunday, 12/13	10:00 am	Hebrew School
Monday, 12/14	4:00 pm	Book Group
	5:15 pm	Program Committee Meeting
		Menorah Lighting
	7:00 pm	Temple Board Meeting
Thursday, 12/17	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Friday, 12/18	6:00 pm	Pot-luck Dinner – Please RSVP!
	7:00 pm	Special Sabbath Queens Service
Saturday, 12/19	10:00 am	Family Shabbat Service
Tuesday, 12/22	12:00 pm	Lunch & Learn at Allen home – Please RSVP!
Thursday, 12/24	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Friday, 12/25	TBA	Chinese Food & Movie Program – RSVP!
Saturday, 12/26	9:30 am	NO Shabbat Service
Thursday, 12/31	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast

