



# Ma CHADASHI!

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

# מה חדש!

ק"ק היכל שלום

January 2015 / Tevet/Shevat 5775

## **MLK Day program at Temple Shalom features documentary films on community acceptance for all**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 18 AT 10:00 AM**

Standing up for one's neighbors requires courage and commitment. In observance of the 2015 Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, Welcoming Maine activist Sarah Davis and members of the Lewiston-based chapter will screen two documentary films and lead a discussion at 10 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 18, at Temple Shalom Synagogue-Center, 74 Bradman St., Auburn. Brunch will be served at 10 a.m., and the program will begin at 10:40 a.m. The public is invited to attend at no charge, although donations are always welcome. To RSVP, and for more information, please call the synagogue at 207-786-4201.



The PBS-aired film "Not in Our Town" will be followed by "Commemorating Many and One: What's Next," a short documentary created by the Lewiston chapter of Welcoming Maine. The local video reflects on Lewiston-Auburn 10 years after neighbors organized the Many and One Rally in support of the Somali immigrant community.

Twenty years ago in Billings, Mont., a brick was thrown through a 6-year-old Jewish boy's bedroom window, where he had placed the family's Hanukkah menorah. The anti-Semitic incident was one of several hateful acts in Billings that year, including skinheads at an African-American church, racist hate messages on a Native-American woman's home, and the desecration of the Jewish cemetery.

Townspersons of all races and religions swiftly moved into action. Religious and community leaders, labor union volunteers, law enforcement, the local newspapers and concerned individuals stood united and spoke loudly for a hate-free community, proclaiming in no uncertain terms "Not In Our Town!"

The Billings story is part of the origin story at the "Not In Our Town" project and reminds us yearly of the incredible courage of those who stand up for their neighbors. In 1995, the PBS film "Not In Our Town" launched a movement nationwide, spurring hundreds of communities into action to discuss safety and acceptance for all.

This program, scheduled for last year's MLK Day observance, was cancelled due to snow. We look forward to presenting it this year.

## FROM THE RABBI...



Hi Everyone.

We have just celebrated a warm and beautiful Chanukah together. It was so nice to be with so many of you at our joyous and elegant shul Chanukah party and Lisa and I especially thank all who came to our Library performance. I think that between the extraordinary newspaper coverage and the Mayor's participation, everyone living in Lewiston/Auburn (including Santa) celebrated Chanukah this year:

There has been an internet trend over the last few years which imagines what Christmas would be like if our Rabbinic Sages had gotten a hold of it. Some examples:

1. ANY SPECIES OF TREE IS KOSHER FOR USE AS A XMAS TREE, PROVIDED THAT IT HAS NEEDLES AND NOT LEAVES. IN OUR LANDS IT IS CUSTOMARY TO USE A FIR TREE. IT SHOULD BE REASONABLY FRESH, BUT NOT TOO FRESH, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLE "A XMAS TREE WITH NO FALLEN NEEDLES IS LIKE A SUKKAH WITH NO BUZZING BEES."
2. THE TREE SHOULD BE CHOPPED DOWN SPECIFICALLY FOR USE AS A XMAS TREE; IF IT HAD BEEN CUT FOR LUMBER IT IS INVALID.
3. AN INDOOR TREE MUST BE TALL ENOUGH SO THAT IT REACHES WITHIN 3 HANDBREADTHS OF THE CEILING. AN OUTDOOR TREE MUST BE AT LEAST 20 CUBITS TALL.
4. IF THE LIGHTS WERE NOT PUT AWAY AFTER XMAS, THEN IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR EACH BULB MUST BE REMOVED FROM THE WIRING AND REATTACHED.
5. REGARDING A CHILD WHOSE BIRTHDAY OCCURS ON OR AROUND XMAS, SOME SAY TO GIVE HIM A DOUBLE PORTION OF GIFTS, AND OTHERS SAY TO GIVE HIM A SINGLE PORTION. SOME RESOLVE THIS BY GETTING HIM A NORMAL NUMBER OF GIFTS, BUT THEY WOULD BE DOUBLE IN SIZE OR VALUE.

(The above was excerpted from <http://www.jewishworldreview.com/1298/kringler1.asp>. To see others, Google: *Hilchos Christmas*.)

Compare the above parody to the following actual Laws of Chanukah which I have excerpted from a relatively mainstream Orthodox Jewish website, <http://ohr.edu/1304>.

- Ideally, the *Menorah* should be placed outside the house to the left of the entrance. Since anti-Semitism was so common throughout Jewish history it became customary among many communities to place the *Menorah* inside the house, near the entrance or on the table. In many families it is the custom to place the *menorah* in a window facing the public, especially where many people share one entrance (e.g., apartment building). In Israel it is customary to light outside in a special box that prevents the flames from blowing out.
- The *menorah* should be no lower than three *tfachim* from the floor (approx. 10.5 inches or 27cm) and should be no higher than 20 *amot* from ground level (35.5 ft or 10.8 m). Ideally, it should be about 10 *tfachim* high (35 inches or 90 cm).
- The *Menorah* should have all the candle or wicks on the same level, none higher or lower than the others.

(From the Rabbi continued)

## From the Rabbi continued:

- It is customary to have an additional candle (the *shamash*) with which to light the other candles and in order to use its light. The *shamash* should be placed in a way that shows that it is not one of the Chanukah candles.
- There are different customs as to the lighting of the *Menorah*. Some light at sunset. Some light about ten minutes after sunset and some light 1/2 hour after. It is obligatory to put in enough oil, or a long enough candle to burn for at least 1/2 hour after nightfall (i.e. the appearance of three medium size stars).
- It is best to light in the presence of many people in order to publicize the miracle.

Humor aside, it becomes clear from reading the actual Halachot (laws) of Chanukah that our Rabbinic sages were most concerned that the menorah lighting be a community event. Chanukah celebrates our ancestors, and our, refusal to disappear. We survive because we create community. We survive because we celebrate community. And we survive because we value community.

May the Chanukah lights continue to burn in our community for many, many years to come.

Shalom.

Rabbi Sruli



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***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.***



### PLEASE JOIN US!

Friday, January 9

Tot Shabbat at 5:30 pm

Followed by a catered

Pasta dinner at 6:00 pm

Family Shabbat Service at 7:00 pm



Please RSVP, 786-4201 or [temple6359@aol.com](mailto:temple6359@aol.com) as soon as possible!

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Our next meeting will be on  
Monday, January 19 at 7:00 p.m.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Can you feel it? Are those goose bumps on my arms? Is it the cold, crisp winter air? No, wait, they started when I heard the Old World music. My toe tapping. I can't help it. Songs both familiar and unknown. Do you see it? The whole room is swaying. It's infectious. We stand. We clap. We dance. The music unites us.

Can you taste it? Is it the good food we're sharing? Or is it the sweet taste of learning as we discuss text and ideas as is our tradition?

Can you hear it? It's a happy sound. It's the sound of young and old alike. Together. Feeling at home in the same space.

Something for everyone.

Can you imagine it? Our membership growing. Our programs attracting hundreds. Our Hebrew School needing a teacher for every grade. A full time office manager. Minyans in the main sanctuary. A financially secure Temple Shalom.

Yes, Rabbi Sruli and Rebbitzin Lisa have breathed new life into our community. Yes, their music is infectious. But so is their warmth. Their smiles. Their empathy. Their obvious joy in teaching and sharing.

I want you to think about how important this is to the life of the Jewish people in this part of Maine. And how we're laying the foundation for future generations of Jews who will settle here. What we do now is crucial. Our participation is essential. Our enthusiasm is key. And our financial support is fundamental to providing a Synagogue-Center that can meet all our needs and have the leadership we desire.

Money is not everything to keep our doors open. But it is necessary. I hope you will be generous in your patronage. Luckily we have an abundance of the other ingredients needed to keep us vibrant: a Rabbi and Rebbitzin we want to follow, who we can relate to, who we can learn from, who care about us, who can attract others, and who are just plain fun to be around.

It's 2015, a new year. And it's a new year in the life of Temple Shalom. I like to think of life within these walls as "l'dor v'dor", from generation to generation. This is our legacy in the making.

Lesli Weiner  
President

### !!!!VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!!!!

Webmaster needed for Temple Shalom Website

Should have some experience building and maintaining professional web sites. Will train in the basics of current site, which is Wordpress based, using Bluehost as the host server.

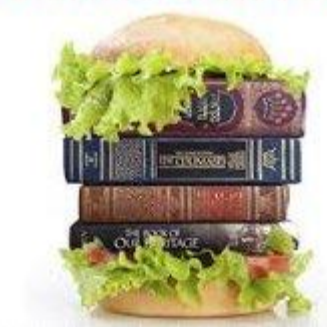
We need your Geek abilities to sustain our web presence.

For more details, please contact Li'el Boudreau: [luvmymaggie@outlook.com](mailto:luvmymaggie@outlook.com)

# LUNCH AND LEARN SERIES CONTINUES!

January 6 and 13  
Lunch at Noon, Study from 12:30 to 1:30.

## Lunch 'n Learn



We will study Chapter 1 of Pirkei Avot.  
Pirkei Avot is usually translated as "Ethics of the Fathers" and is perhaps the most studied portion of the Talmud.

The wisdom that we will encounter will both inspire and challenge and will undoubtedly spark lively discussion.  
There is even a floating skull (okay, that's in Chapter 2, but we will get there soon enough).

Anne Allen has 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 at 786-4201, if you plan on attending  
so that Anne will have an idea of how much to prepare.

## HOLD THE DATE

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

Details to come, but it will be 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



On January 11 at 11:30 a.m., Victoria Wyeth will once again be coming to give a presentation to the Hebrew School about the life and work of her grandfather, Andrew Wyeth.

This will be a multi-media presentation and all are invited to attend.

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Ellen & Aaron Burke	Jan	21
Robert & Jackie Laskoff		29



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



I read *The Seventh Secret* by Irving Wallace on my Kindle while in Qatar. Thanks, Marsha, for filling in for me while I was gone. It's good to be back, and amongst my fellow readers Adele Silverman, Marsha Auster, Malca Wilner, Bertha Bodenheimer, Judy Abromson and Babs Shapiro on December 8. The story was based on the rumor that Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun did not actually commit suicide, but had their doubles killed instead. And also that there was a 7th bunker where they hid after the war. The book was written in the 1980's, and we felt it was a bit dated. While some of the situations were hard to believe, we did like learning some pieces of history. Plus, the premise was intriguing as it got you to thinking, "What if?"

Our first book in 2015 will be *One Summer America, 1927* by Bill Bryson. As a non-fiction writer he "has spun a clever tale of America's coming of age." Bryson's thesis is simple: "to document the "most extraordinary summer" of 1927, beginning with Charles Lindbergh's successful flight across the Atlantic. Even though we know many of these stories--Lindbergh's flight, Babe Ruth's 60-homerun season, the Mississippi River flood, Al Capone's bullet-ridden reign over Chicago--in Bryson's hands, and in the context of one amazing summer of twentieth-century ingenuity and accomplishment, they feel fresh, lively, and just plain fun." (Amazon) I hope you enjoy reading this as much as I did. See you at 4 PM on JANUARY 12!.....lesli

## SPEEDY RECOVERY

We pray for refuah sh'leimah – the full and speedy recovery of, **Tom Bailey, Leo Friedman, Elizabeth Johnson, Peggy Kraemer, Sandy Miller, Guy Pilote, Richard Rau, Joel Salberg, Esther Shapiro, David Sisk, 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.

## Yahrzeiten

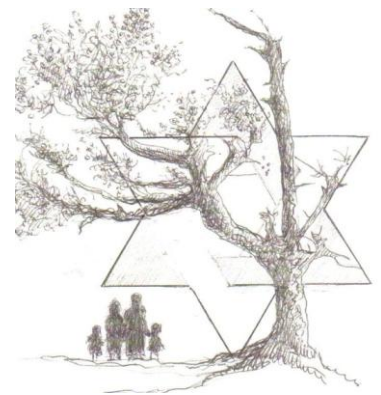
If you are observing a yahrzeit and are planning to come to Thursday morning minyan to say Kaddish, we urge you to contact **Bob Laskoff** ([ral@laskofflaw.com](mailto:ral@laskofflaw.com)) and let him know so that he can include that information in his weekly reminder email. It is your responsibility 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.

## **JEWISH GENEALOGICAL TIDBITS** By Joe Fibel

### Names



On the Jewish Genealogy Bulletin Board, the subject most commonly discussed is difficulty with families' names, especially first names. For example, the poster knows that his grandfather's first name was Lou and asks what his Yiddish name was back in the shtetl. The answer is, we don't know. A good possibility is that it was Leib, but we can't be sure because there is no translation of vernacular names. Furthermore, there are many possible variations of Leib, such as Leibl, Leible, Leibke, Leibush, and all the same variations on Laib. Also, in the shtetlach the neighbors were not always kind, and names that deprecated people were frequently used.

Double names or Kinnuim, were frequent. This practice began with Jacob on his deathbed describing his sons. Judah was described as being like a lion cub and so the double names of Judah Leib and Aryeh (Hebrew for Lion) Leib, was common. Included in this group, Naphtali is another. Naphtali was described as being like a deer, Zvi, in Hebrew. Alternates are Hirsh (Yiddish for deer) Hertz, and Cerf (in French) There are many books about Hebrew first names.

Jewish surnames may provide difficulty especially when the families changed them. Name changes at Ellis Island were myths since the inspectors had written lists of names taken from the Ships Manifests. They didn't ask. They simply called the next name on the list. However, families did change their names both before and after immigration. My wife, Harriet's family proves the point. Harriet's paternal grandmother's surname was Gradzanowski. The Gradzanowskys change their name to Gross. Cousin Herb Gross, a member here some years ago had his parents change the name to Gross. Others in the family, changed this name to Lewis and Greene. One of Harriet's cousin, Morris Kubashky, bought some papers from a man in Danzig, where he working after getting out of Poland and became Morris Kahn. Unfortunately, it is difficult to do research when the name has changed but there may be records showing both names. Gravestones may do the same.

Harriet's father and his parents changed the family name unofficially from Garbel in Poland to Garber in the U S, and then years later they all went to Court to change the name officially. My own name Fibel, was originally Feibel. My grandmother didn't like that spelling and changed it to Fibel. This name was obviously once a first name, Feivel, (B and V, in Hebrew and Yiddish) are the same letter. In our congregation, Phillip Seligman has the Jewish first name of Feivel.

(Note: Joe is married to my mother's first cousin, Harriet. Her father was my grandfather's brother. So the Garbers are my mom's family.....lesli)

## **WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER!**

Please welcome our newest member Daniel Penan of Greene to our Temple Shalom family!

## TONS OF FUN ON DECEMBER 25

It was Men vs. Women. A Battle of the Sexes. Our fearless rabbi read the questions, and we all learned something, like LBD stands for 'Little Black Dress', and how the ref signals 'clipping' in football (and what 'clipping' actually is!) And yes, the Men did win. But I think what we really learned was that Men and Women live in parallel universes!

Then we played the Jewish version of Trivial Pursuit called 'Tradition.' We all got stumped on some of those questions, and we even disagreed with some of the answers. But, isn't that what Judaism is all about?!

Then, about 30 of us descended upon Lotus, the Chinese/Japanese restaurant on Center St. That place was hopping, but we had 3 big tables in the back room. If you haven't tried out their buffet, you should. Good assortment. Good food, Good sushi, too.

No one went home hungry!.....lesli

### A BISSEL OF JEWISH MAINE (by Nancy Levinsky)

Did you know that....

Camp Modin in Belgrade Lakes, ME is the longest running Jewish overnight camp in in New England, founded in 1922, [www.modin.com](http://www.modin.com)

Camp Micah is another popular Jewish overnight camp in Bridgton, ME  
[www.campmicah.com](http://www.campmicah.com)

JCC Camp Kingswood in Bridgton, ME, overnight camp  
[www.kingswood.org](http://www.kingswood.org)

Center Day Camp, Windham, ME  
[www.centerdaycamp.org](http://www.centerdaycamp.org)

There are 15 synagogues in Maine:

Beth Abraham, Bangor

Beth El, Bangor

Beth Israel, Bangor

Etz Chaim, Portland

Shaarey Tphiloh, Portland

Temple Beth El , Portland

Chabad, Portland

Bet Ha'am, South Portland

Temple Shalom, Auburn

Beth Abraham, Auburn

Beth El, Augusta

Etz Chaim, Biddeford

Beth Israel, Bath

Adas Yoshuron, Rockland

Congregation Beth Israel, Old Orchard Beach

**תודה רבה**

**Thank You**

Our thanks to Joel Olstein, Larry Faiman, David Allen, Stan Tetenman and Bob Allen for preparing a lovely brunch on December 7th. We look forward to having the "men" in the kitchen again real soon!

Our thanks to Ally Casares and Stacey Hensen for putting up the decorations and setting up the children's area for our incredible Chanuka Party, and thanks to all who attended to make this event a huge success.



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

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[www.templeshalomauburn.org](http://www.templeshalomauburn.org)

E-mail address: temple6359@aol.com

Rabbi Sruli: [sruli@aol.com](mailto:sruli@aol.com).

Telephone: 914-980-9509

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Penelope Markle	Jan	1
Sarah Olstein		1
Henry Meyer		3
Becca Platz		9
Jennifer Cohen		10
Neal Weiner		12
Elyse Bodenheimer		14
Phyllis Lisi		14
Rachel Fakhery		16
Mika Katzir		16
Adrienne Rau		17
Victoria Cohen		20
Gillian Schair		20
Theodore Graham		22
Susan Teich		22
Bertha Bodenheimer		23
Rosa Cohen		23
Kristine Rausch		23
Behzad Fakhery		25
Sandra Traister		25
Jackie Laskoff		29

## JANUARY 2014 YAHRZEITEN

Jan.	2	Deborah Isaacson
	5	Erwin Markle
	7	Joseph Wilner
	8	Shirley Isaacson
	10	Ida Wilner
	12	Ida Benson
	13	Sylvia Kutzen
	13	Ruth S. Williams
	14	Robert Kelley
	15	Elsie Goodman
	21	Ida Finks
	21	Morris Fishman
	21	Augusta Olstein
	22	Ellen Bodenheimer
	24	Celia Supovitz
	25	Henry Brody
	25	Bernard Marcus
	26	Reevan Levine
	26	Mazie Schwartz
	27	Janet Wilner Kornreich
	27	Maynard Schwartz
	27	Ernest B. Williams
	29	Martin Miller
	30	John A. Platz

# **CONTRIBUTIONS**

## **GENERAL FUND**

Bonnie & Larry Faiman

To Toby Wallach in honor of a speedy  
recovery

Philip Laine

In memory of Edward & Renee Laine

Beverly Hurwitz

In memory of Morris Supovitz

The Bell Family

In memory of Marcia Bell

Phyllis & Leonard Bell

In memory of Daniel Bell

Paula Marcus-Platz & Tom Platz

In memory of Dr. Bernard Marcus

## **ABROMSON MEMORIAL FUND**

Judy Abromson

In memory of Ruth S. Williams

In memory of Dr. Ernest B. Williams

## **MARCUS MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND**

Carla Marcus

In memory of Dr. Bernard Marcus

## **MITZVAH FUND**

Paula Marcus-Platz & Tom Platz

In memory of Dr. Bernard Marcus

## **NUSSINOW NURSERY SCHOOL FUND**

*Funds are used to support the Temple Shalom Nursery/Preschool*

Casaes Family

To be used towards the installation of a  
new A/C unit for the classroom

Adele & Morris Silverman

In memory of Frances Silverman

Rebecca Herzig

To be used towards the installation of a  
new A/C unit for the classroom

## **PULPIT/PRAYER BOOK FUND**

Susan & Larry Weiner

In memory of Philip Rosen

## **RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Shelley Rau

In memory of Leroy Bieringer

Jeff Stern

In memory of Frances Stern

David & Anne Allen

In appreciation

Paula Marcus-Platz & Tom Platz

In memory of Dr. Bernard Marcus

RANDALL SILVER LIBRARY FUND  
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RABBINIC RETENTION FUND  
SHIRLEY GOODMAN MEMORIAL FUND  
*For interior decoration and maintenance*  
YOUTH FUND

*Thank  
You*

**Clover Manor Holiday Party!**



**L/A Holiday Parade!**



**Hebrew School Menorah!**



**Central Maine Jewish Teen Event!**





## Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center

74 Bradman Street

Auburn, ME 04210-6330

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DATED MATERIAL

JANUARY 2015

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Auburn, ME  
Permit #4

## JANUARY AT TEMPLE SHALOM

Thursday, 1/1	7:00 am	NO Weekday morning minyan
Saturday, 1/3	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Tuesday, 1/6, 13	12:00 pm	Lunch & Learn (at Allen home) – RSVP!
Thursday, 1/8, 15	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Friday, 1/9	5:30 pm	Tot Shabbat
	6:00 pm	Catered Pasta Dinner – please RSVP!
	7:00 pm	Family Shabbat Service
Sunday, 1/11	10:00 am	Family Hebrew School
Monday, 1/12	4:00 pm	Book Group
	5:15 pm	Program Committee meeting
Saturday, 1/17	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Sunday, 1/18	10:00 am	Family Hebrew School
	10:00 am	Brunch – Please RSVP!
	10:40 am	Viewing films “Not in Our Town” and “Commemorating Many and One: What’s Next”
Monday, 1/19	7:00 pm	Temple Board Meeting
Thursday, 1/22, 29	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Saturday, 1/24	10:00 am	Family Shabbat Service
Saturday, 1/31	9:30 am	Shabbat Service

