



June 2015 / Sivan/Tammuz 5775

Still time to register for the 2015

Maine Conference for Jewish Life

June 12 to 14



Please go to

<http://web.colby.edu/mainejewishlifeconference>
for more information and to register.

There is a fantastic lineup of scholars and talent.
Guaranteed to be a memorable Jewish experience.

Cost is only \$120 for the entire weekend!
Scholarships are also available.

Great for the entire family (babysitting is available).

FROM THE RABBI...



Hi Everyone.

The famous author, George Orwell, after being shot in the neck while fighting during the Spanish Civil War, wrote:

No one I met at this time — doctors, nurses, practicante, or fellow-patients — failed to assure me that a man who is hit through the neck and survives it is the luckiest creature alive. I could not help thinking that it would be even luckier not to be hit at all.

As you probably already know, I recently shattered my wrist during a hike in Rangeley. Although, my injury pales in comparison to George Orwell's, I have been thinking about this quote ever since. And I have decided that the most appropriate response for me is to count my blessings.

Counting one's blessings, I discovered, requires an active will. Cataloguing one's injuries on the other hand comes very naturally. It is easy for me to recall the pain, the disruption of my day-to-day life, the difficulty getting dressed or showering, the inability to sleep through the night...

But once I started counting my blessings I realized how truly fortunate I am. I am lucky to live in an era where a broken wrist can be completely repaired. I am lucky to have new friends who have steered me towards very competent and skilled medical personnel. I am lucky to have new friends with medical training who have given, and continue to give, of their time and expertise to help me heal. I am lucky that just a little over two weeks after my injury (as I write this), I can already drive, and tie my shoes, and button my shirt, and tie a tie around my neck. I have even begun to play my banjo! Okay, it is the light-weight banjo and I have to fake some of the notes—but I am making music. And I am typing this message by myself, utilizing at least 8 or 9 fingers!

Mostly, in counting my blessings I am counting all of the blessings that I have received from friends near and far. Facebook (also a blessing) helped deliver the news of my fall to distant places and also helped to deliver blessings, prayers and wishes back to me. But the outpouring of love and concern that I have received from you, the Temple Shalom community, has overwhelmed me. I am so grateful for all of your heartfelt get-well cards, phone messages, emails, donations to the Temple, home visits and prayers. All of which, I have no doubt, have contributed and still contribute to my, so-far-so-good, recovery. Sometimes it takes a setback to realize how much blessing is truly in your life.

So I have counted my blessings...and my blessings are you.

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (as reported at the Annual Meeting 5/17/15)



This has been a revival year. I don't know what else to call it. You can just feel the new life being breathed into everything going on here at Temple Shalom. Soon after last year's Annual Meeting, and before he even officially became our new Rabbi, Sruli and his family bought a lovely house here in Auburn and made himself right at home. And Temple Shalom Synagogue Center has been benefitting ever since.

Certainly attendance at programs has increased, just look around you today. During committee reports you will hear about the success of many new programs, and how some old programs exceeded expectations. Toes are still tapping all over town from Cafe Shalom. Our walls have not only reverberated with Klezmer music but also with Franco fiddling, Celtic tunes and even some Gospel. We have also expanded our Jewish rituals and vocabulary to include a tish and a Kiddush Levana. And while attendance at Saturday Shabbat services can still be somewhat scanty, it's almost standing room only at the Thursday morning minyans. And while I secretly believe people come because they heard we now sing L'dor v'dor, I realize it's more likely because the Rabbi always has some interesting insight into this week's Torah reading. I bet you all thought I was going to say it was for the food, for the great breakfast we now prepare, and enjoy, in-house. We have discovered how much fun it is to just hang together every Thursday. This is what Community is all about. And while we're sitting in the social hall schmoozing, the preschoolers are entering the building to attend our successful secular Nursery School. On Sundays, the classrooms, the chapel and the library are filled with Jewish children attending our successful Hebrew School. The library is also home to our long-running Jewish Book Group. And last month the Jensen twins had a very lively B'tai Mitzvah in the sanctuary and social hall.

This is supposed to be a State of the Temple address, so I would like to state that we are alive and kicking. Temple Shalom is still a beautiful building. It is filled with special people attending worthwhile events. Rabbi Sruli, Lisa and their whole mishpuchah seem very happy to be here. And we know how fortunate we are to have them, all. Your Board of Directors works hard to maintain the integrity of the institution and to manage the finances in a fiscally responsible manner. You'll be hearing more detailed reports on these matters, so I just want to say that each and every one of us needs to take some responsibility - physically, spiritually and financially - to ensure that what we've been able to enjoy here in our lifetime, with our family and friends, will still be here for future generations. L'dor v'dor.

Let me close with this. Yes, this has been a very exciting, uplifting year. We have been blessed with spiritual leadership that has inspired us to want more. I now see our Temple members building our future. I want to thank you all for doing this with enthusiasm, and with compassion. We are a presence in Lewiston/Auburn, and we know it. Yasher koach - go in strength - and we shall grow in numbers. Respectfully submitted,

Lesli Weiner , President of the Board of Directors

SPEEDY RECOVERY

We pray for refuah sh'leimah – the full and speedy recovery of **Michelle Lisi Deloro, Doris Factor, Fleck Family, Aaron Garate, Marie Hendrickson, Christie James, Elizabeth Johnson, Mark Johnson, Peggy Kraemer, Irene Marshall, Sandy Miller, Doug Murphy, 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.



PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD



Past recipients of this award choose the winner, keeping it all a secret. Then the President gets to present the award at the Annual Meeting. For those of you who missed this event, here are my remarks:

This person spent most of her youth here, then moved away, then came back, then moved away, then came back again. Within our community she is a sister, a mother, a grandmother and a great-grandmother. Even in friendship, she creates family. She seems tireless and is always front and center at all our programming. And she never comes alone - she always offers rides to those who no longer drive at night. She has a lot to say and has great ideas and volunteers to implement them. She's on the Board, the Program Committee, the Membership/Outreach Committee, the Fundraising Committee and belongs to Book Group. She's the friendly face you see when you arrive at Temple, or if she notices you're wearing a Jewish Star while running errands around town. I really must say that her gift of gab is one of her most valuable assets. She has a wonderful way of expressing herself and makes everyone she speaks with feel special. She has welcomed Sruli and Lisa and the Twinkies into her family. She may be diminutive in size but in my mind she is a towering presence here at Temple Shalom. It gives me great pleasure to present The Person of the Year Award to Bertha Bodenheimer!

YAHARZEITEN

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.

GIMEL CLASS

by Li'el



Had a great year teaching Hebrew to Danali and Jojo Jensen, and Andrew Casares. We completed the Shalom Uvracha primer. We also did some Torah study early in the year, discussed the holidays, and played fun Hebrew games, including Krav Ha'Otiot (War) and modern word guess. This spring we did a four-week unit on Israel, covering its history, kibbutzim, the cities of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa, and the IDF. This is my final year teaching, and it has been a pleasure and honor. I hope my students will continue their Hebrew studies – they are great kids! And many thanks to Amy Jensen for her persistence and

good company.

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



The phone interview with Laurel Corona was worth the wait. On May 11 we called the author of *The Mapmaker's Daughter* from the home of Bertha Bodenheimer. Yes, Bertha was there, and so was Helene Perry, Malca Wilner, Babs Shapiro, Judy Abromson, Adele Silverman, Margaret Meyer and me, Lesli Weiner. The book is about the lives of Conversos in Spain leading up to the expulsion of all Jews in 1492. By the way, Ms. Corona does not believe that Columbus was Jewish, but she is pretty sure he took on Jews as part of his crew, especially as skilled navigators. She said it was the Muslims and Jews who were the mapmakers and astronomers of the day. And when asked about her own background, she half-jokingly said she was a "reverse converso" (meaning she was a Jew by choice.) It's always interesting to ask the author about their writing process. For this book, Laurel wanted to include both Henry the Navigator and Queen Isabella so her time frame had to stretch across a few generations. But while she was writing about known historical times and events, she had to create all the Jewish and Muslim women in the book because only the men had been documented, such as Isaac Abravanel. Laurel Corona speaks as well as she writes, including some exquisite poetry that set the tone of the love story. We recommend you read this book.

Our next book is non-fiction by Israeli Ari Shavit, *My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel*. It was named one of the best books of the year by *The New York Times Book Review* and *The Economist*. This is a review by Ehud Barak, former Prime Minister and Defense Minister of Israel: " *My Promised Land* is an Israeli book like no other. Not since Amos Elon's *The Israelis*, Amos Oz's *In the Land of Israel*, and Thomas Friedman's *From Beirut to Jerusalem* has there been such a powerful and comprehensive book written about the Jewish State and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Ari Shavit is one of Israel's leading columnists and writers, and the story he tells describes with great empathy the Palestinian tragedy and the century-long struggle between Jews and Arabs over the Holy Land. While Shavit is being brutally honest regarding the Zionist enterprise, he is also insightful, sensitive, and attentive to the dramatic life-stories of his fascinating heroes and heroines. The result is a unique nonfiction book that has the qualities of fine literature. It brings to life epic history without being a conventional history book. It deepens contemporary political understanding without being a one-sided political polemic. It is painful and provocative, yet colorful, emotional, life-loving, and inspiring. *My Promised Land* is the ultimate personal odyssey of a humanist exploring the startling biography of his tormented homeland, which is at the very center of global interest."

Do read this important, and timely, book. Join our discussion on MONDAY, JUNE 8 at 4 PM at the Temple. Take notes!!lesli

CONDOLENCES

To the family of Sheila Elz who recently passed away.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMEBERS!

Please welcome our newest members to our Temple Shalom Family!

Linda Sherwood and children: Isaac, Noah, Alice, Josiyah and Yoel of Greene

Sofe Silverman of Lewiston

Jennifer, Joseph and daughter Naysa Worthy of Freeport

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Margaret Meyer	June	1
Charlene Goodman		2
Li'el Boudreau		3
Kenneth Levinsky		6
Naysa Worthy		6
Ellen Burke		7
Melissa Burke		8
William Zidle		11
Arthur Silverman		13
Linda Isaacson		14
Molly Platz		14
Matthew Zidle		15
Joseph Platz		16
Mark Carlson		18
Sruli Dresdner		19
Karen Calloway		24
Linda Sherwood		25
Barbara Shapiro		26
Elizabeth Barter		29
Shelley Rau		30

JUNE 2014 VAHRZEITEN

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

June	4	Lillian Cohen
	5	May Tetenman
	7	Milton Burke
	7	Milton Krasner
	9	Evelyn Levine
	11	Jack Schnitzer
	13	Sara Fishman
	13	Alan Levenson
	16	Rose Bell
	21	A.H. Plavin
	27	Philip Rosenthal
	27	Jeannett Kaye
	29	Philip Isaacson
	30	Avron Persky

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Bonnie & Laurence Faiman	June	5
Margaret & Henry Meyer		6
Arthur & Donna Silverman		18
Andrew & Sharon Bodenheimer		21
Melissa & Mark Johnson		21
Babs & Michael Shapiro		22

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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Telephone: 914-980-9509

CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

Bob & Jackie Laskoff

In memory of William Leavitt
Marcy Plavin
In memory of Leonard Plavin
Harriet & Steve Passerman
In memory of Eve Shapiro
In memory of Miriam Passerman
In memory of Jayne Wilner
Harriet & Behzad Fakhery
In honor of the B'tai Mitzvah of Rachel
& Jessica Jensen
Ruth Kahn
In honor of the B'tai Mitzvah of granddaughters
Rachel & Jessica Jensen
Sandra Traister & Family
In memory of Barry Traister, husband, father
& grandfather
Leonard & Phyllis Bell
In memory of Morris Amsel
Bonnie & Larry Faiman
To Rabbi Sruli in honor of a speedy recovery
To Mark Johnson in honor of a speedy & full
recovery
Penelope Markle
In memory of Michael Dennis
Tom & Paula Marcus Platz
To Rabbi Sruli in honor of a speedy recovery
Estelle Rubinstein
In memory of Murray Rubinstein
Helene & Lewis Perry
To Bertha Bodenheimer in honor of being named
Person of the Year
To Adele & Morris Silverman in honor of
granddaughter Andrea Levinsky's graduation with
magna cum laude honors
Cathy & Stan Tetenman
To Shelley & Rick Rau in honor of their new
grandson Ari

BODENHEIMER PASSOVER FUND

Bertha Bodenheimer
To Andrew & Sharon Bodenheimer – many
thanks for a wonderful time
To Rabbi Sruli in honor of a speedy recovery
Cathy & Stan Tetenman
In memory of May Tetenman

MINYANAIRE FUND

Andrew & Sharon Bodenheimer
To Bertha Bodenheimer for receiving the
Person of the Year award

MITZVAH FUND

Marilyn Simonds

In memory of Goldie Isaacson

To Rabbi Sruli in honor of a speedy recovery

Tom & Paula Marcus Platz

To Rabbi Sruli in honor of a speedy recovery

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Funds are used to support the Temple Shalom Nursery/Preschool

Adele & Morris Silverman

In memory of Louis Silverman

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In honor of Charlie & Johnny's birthdays

The Day Family

In memory of Aaron M. Krakower

Judy Abromson

To Rabbi Sruli in honor of a speedy recovery

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For interior decoration and maintenance

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74 Bradman Street

Auburn, ME 04210-6330

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL
JUNE 2015

JUNE AT TEMPLE SHALOM

Thursday, 6/4	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
	4:00 pm	Program Committee Retreat
Saturday, 6/6	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Monday, 6/8	4:00 pm	Book Group meets
Thursday, 6/11	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Fri.-Sun., 6/12-14	5:00 pm	Maine Conference for Jewish Life
Monday, 6/15	7:00 pm	Board Meeting
Thursday, 6/18	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Saturday, 6/20	10:00 am	Shabbat Service
Thursday, 6/25	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Saturday, 6/27	9:30 am	Shabbat Service



Summer

