



MA CHADASHI! מה חדש!

What's New! The newsletter of Temple Shalom Synagogue Center, Auburn, Maine ק"ק היכל שלום

April 2019/Adar II/Nisan 5779

Cafe Shalom

Saturday, April 27th, 2019

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

Wine and Cheese

Lisa Mayer, Rebbetzin of Ceremonies

Cost is \$10.00 per person

**Jazz, Pop, Classical, Rock, Blues, Irish, French,
American, Yiddish, Klezmer, Magic
and a Special Surprise!**



FROM THE RABBI



Many of us got to see the excellent and fascinating documentary: *Who Will Write Our History*, as part of the 2019 Maine Jewish Film Festival—thanks Phyllis! This riveting documentary focuses on the work of the great Jewish hero Emanuel Ringelblum who at so much personal risk organized an archive of first-hand accounts of the Nazi atrocities as well as the unimaginable suffering of the Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto.

Miraculously, this archive survived the war and is an invaluable tool documenting the horrors of the Holocaust—a real-time window into the minds and hearts of the victims as well as a potent weapon to counter the filth promulgated by Holocaust deniers. Emanuel Ringelblum was murdered by the Nazis in March 1944.

Among the countless journals, newspaper articles, poems, images, keepsakes and documents that make up the archive, is a religious text authored by the Hasidic Rabbi and teacher, Kalonymus Kalman Shapira. Rabbi Shapira took it upon himself to lead and minister to pious Jews throughout his years in the Ghetto. His collection of weekly sermons written in the Ghetto was first published in Israel in 1960. These sermons provide a fascinating glimpse into the mind of an ultra-pious leader and teacher trying to maintain his faith amid the horrors of the Warsaw Ghetto. In his first years in the Ghetto, Rabbi Shapira clung to a simple, mainstream understanding of Jewish faith, one that is shared by almost all pious Jews and it is the faith with which I was raised. Namely, that God controls everything that happens in the world, that no one suffers unless God so decreed, and that everything that God does is for the good of each person. It is a belief system that sees life in the soul and not the body— that the ultimate goal of life is for the soul to be eternally connected to God, that sin distances the soul from God, and that only punishment and suffering can cleanse sin and repair the soul's relationship with God.

Importantly, the sermons written by Rabbi Shapira in 1940-1942, make clear that in his view the suffering of the Jews in the Ghetto, while unimaginably horrible, was qualitatively no worse than that of the many horrors and pogroms suffered by Jews throughout the ages, particularly in Europe. He encouraged his Warsaw Ghetto flock to hold onto their faith as their ancestors did during their periods of terrible suffering. But things changed for him during the Great Deportations in the Summer of 1942. His writings begin to acknowledge that the horrors of the Holocaust are indeed of an unprecedented magnitude and character. Rabbi Shapira even starts to express difficulty believing that the Holocaust can somehow be “punishment” for sin—what sin, or multitude of sins, justifies a Holocaust? Unfortunately, we will never have the benefit of knowing how Rabbi Shapira would have ultimately resolved his issues of faith or what he would have taught his followers post-Holocaust, as Rabbi Shapira was murdered by the Nazis in November 1943.

“How can we continue to have faith in God after the Holocaust?” has become a Jewish FAQ (Frequently Asked Question). For me, the existence of utterly selfless individuals like Emanuel Ringelblum and Rabbi Shapira—who surrounded by so much suffering, horror and death devoted the last few precious years of their lives to causes greater than themselves—is enough.

Rabbi Sruli

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Lesli, thank you for such a wonderful article last month. If you did not read Lesli's article, please do so and if you have, read it again. Her article tells us who we are...family. Jews coming together, either in a small group in our Temple...or walking through the streets of Jerusalem, Jews passing Jews on the street, we are family.

Having a sense that we are all connected, connected through something special...our Judaism...our Jewishness, makes us more whole. This connection tells us that we are part of something larger and to me and hopefully you, something special.

When I was eight or nine, I went to Brookline, MA to visit family friends, Paula and George Yorks, who some of you will remember. Matthew, their son who was my age, was going to soccer practice. I joined him on that day. When I played sports growing up in Auburn, I was usually the only Jew. Every boy on Matthew's team was Jewish. I was surrounded by Jews. Even at that age, I remember feeling different...feeling a part of something, even though I was the outsider from Maine. Even though it was not a Jewish activity, just soccer.

Every time I come to Temple, for a holiday or minyan or event or stopping in to see Julie, or even a meeting, I get that same feeling. The feeling that we are 'in this together', that I am part of something, certainly not the 'part of something' feeling I get with any other group or organization. Lesli is right, it is the community, within our Temple walls, that we have all built, over many years, that brings on this feeling. It starts with the people but becomes embedded in the walls of our Temple...maybe it is just the brick, maybe it is the Yahrzeit plaques, maybe it is the love and community feeling that emanates from all of us into the walls and then back out whenever we visit the building. Something is telling us that we are part of something greater than ourselves.

I hope you get this feeling, too. I hope you get fulfillment, satisfaction, love and more whenever you walk through our Temple doors. I hope you can relax and feel a part of something larger when you walk through our Temple doors. I hope the Temple and our community brings to you what you need in your life at this point in your life. After all, we are one.

David Allen

Chevra Kadisha Notice

Anyone interested in participating in the Tahara process (washing and dressing a body for burial), should please contact Julie or Rabbi Sruli. In the event that a Tahara is requested, you will be notified by the Funeral Home and be given the opportunity to participate. Please contact Rabbi Sruli if you have any questions.

Rabbi Sruli is always happy to speak with and meet with members or our Temple. Please call or text 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.



Lunch and Learn

Tuesday, April 9th

Lunch at 12:00—Learn from 12:30 to 1:30

**We will examine some of the
fascinating poetry of the Passover Haggadah**

**We will gather in the classroom at the Temple
Please bring a lunch!**

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.



REMINDER:

The first Thursday of the month, the service will begin at 8:00 A.M. All other Thursday morning services will continue to begin at 7:00. All services will continue to have a service, discussion and breakfast.



Zach Mayer at Temple Shalom

Sunday, April 14th at 4 P.M.

Zach will present songs from his debut solo album

Modeh Ani

**Original Jewish melodies, rooted in tradition
yet filled with the spirit of the new millennium.**

Suggested Donation: \$10

With over 7 million hits on YouTube for his “Subway Sax Battle,” Zach has performed with John Zorn, Frank London, Michael Alpert, Joey Weisenberg, and Bobby McFerrin. He performs internationally with Zion80, a 10-piece Jewish Afrobeat band inspired by the music of Shlomo Carlebach, and his folk sextet, Night Tree, has toured internationally and has released two albums produced by Seamus Egan of SOLAS. He has been on the faculty at the Brandeis Institute of Music and Art, Laguardia Arts High School in Manhattan, and teaches at Jewish music festivals worldwide. Zach is the musical director of Kahal B’raira, a humanistic Jewish congregation in Cambridge. He received his Masters of Music from the New England Conservatory in Boston.

P.S. Rabbi Sruli and Lisa will offer the invocation and prayer at the Workers’ Memorial Day Dinner, Sunday, April 28th at 4:30 p.m., at the Franco Center in Lewiston. This is a ticketed event. For more information, please contact Elaine Makas at 784-5726 or makas@maine.edu.

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



Helene Perry, Lindsey Walker, Bertha Bodenheimer, Sandy Traister and I, Lesli Weiner, met on March 11 to discuss *A Mission To Paris* by Alan Furst. This was billed as a 'spy thriller' but there was nothing thrilling about it. We all thought of ways the story could have been expanded to make it more exciting, or even a bit more surprising, but Furst did none of that. It wasn't even that informative in a historical sense. We just can't imagine how Furst can

be such a successful fiction writer. Please remind us not to waste good reading time on him again!

Our next book is *Disobedience* by Naomi Alderman, which was also made into a motion picture. Alderman has published award-winning short fiction in a number of anthologies, but this is her first full-length novel. She grew up in an Orthodox Jewish community in London, where she still lives. Here is the book description from Amazon:

"When a young photographer living in New York learns that her estranged father, a well-respected rabbi, has died, she can no longer run away from the truth, and soon sets out for the Orthodox Jewish community in London where she grew up.

Back for the first time in years, Ronit can feel the disapproving eyes of the community. Especially those of her beloved cousin, Dovid, her father's favorite student and now an admired rabbi himself, and Esti, who was once her only ally in youthful rebelliousness. Now Esti is married to Dovid, and Ronit is shocked by how different they both seem, and how much greater the gulf between them is.

But when old flames reignite and the shocking truth about Ronit and Esti's relationship is revealed, the past and present converge in this award-winning and critically acclaimed novel about the universality of love and faith, and the strength and sacrifice it takes to fight for what you believe in—even when it means disobedience."

Apparently, in 2017 this was one of President Obama's favorite reads! So on MONDAY, APRIL 8 at 4 PM come to the Temple library and sit at the round table. As I am currently in Qatar visiting Jocelyn, Nick, Graham and Boden, the discussion will be led by either Helene Perry or Margaret Meyer. And I will see you at the Passover Seder.....lesli

P.S. since this is a very short book, I recommend starting our May selection *The Weight of Ink* by Rachel Kadish, as that one is extra-long. But worth it!

SPEEDY RECOVERY

We pray for refuah sh'leimah – the full and speedy recovery of **Georgette Belanger, Phil Bray, Gary Buckman, John Calloway, June Wilner Chason, Cheryl Dufour, Robert Galumbeck, Isaak Gekhtin, Anne Geller, Ariella Green, Sharon Hemond, Elizabeth Johnson, Suzan Katzir, Bill Lancet, Henry Lefkowitz, Susan Lifter, Bruce Meyer, Sandy Miller, Maude Olsen, Joel Salberg, Sara Tedlow, Sandy Traister, 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 Temple Shalom know when it can be removed.

Community Passover Seder

Saturday, April 20 at 5:00 pm



***Adults: Members - \$25**
***Children 12 & under - \$15**

***Adults-Non-Members - \$30**
***Children under 5 No Charge**

Paid reservations must be made by **April 5th**

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



Maine Conference for Jewish Life

June 21st to 23rd in Waterville

The conference is a fantastic opportunity to gather with hundreds of other Maine Jews for a weekend of learning, shmoozing, eating and fun!

Go to
www.colby.edu/jewishlife/conference/
for more information.

Go to
www.colby.edu/jewishlife/registration/
to register.

Rabbi Sruli and Lisa will be leading a musical Kabbalat Shabbat Service, and both Lesli and Rabbi Sruli will be teaching!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Finley Barter-Levine	April	1
Robert Laskoff		2
Elliot Katz		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



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Paul & Marion Rausch	April	14
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Yahrzeiten

Pearl Steinman	April	7
Lillian Zidle		7
Sheldon Nussinow		9
Gertrude Berent		12
Ida Perry		12
Edward Reeves		14
Paulyn Rosenthal		14
Irving Isaacson		17
Robert E. Meyer		18
Edward Laine		19
Chris Feinstein		21
Lydia Izenstatt		21
Abraham Perry		22
Joseph Margolin		23
Sally Faiman		24
June Margolin		25
Murray Nussinow		25
Maxwell Silverstein		26
Murray Rubinstein		27
Pearl Salberg		27
Lillian Schneidman		28
Betty Cohen		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

Office Manager Julie Waite

Programming/Social Action Phyllis Graber Jensen
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Temple Shalom office hours are
9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Monday - Friday

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Documenting Maine Jewry is a collaborative genealogy and history of Maine's Jewish communities. With your help, we are piecing together the rich story of Jewish community life throughout Maine, researching and reflecting on what it means to be from Maine, to be Jewish in Maine, and what it meant for those who came before us. Conserving the past for the future. That's our mission. For all the many ways your own history connects to the fabric of Maine's Jewish history, we hope you will be part of the story. www.MaineJews.org

We welcome you to:

- Browse the extensive collection of photos, articles and documents
- Get involved in one of our many volunteer opportunities
- Share your family mementos to help broaden our reach
- Connect with us on Facebook and Instagram with mystery photos and stories of Maine's Jewish experience
- Be in touch. We appreciate and rely on the information only you can provide.

CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

Anne & David Allen

In memory of Abe Tetenman

In memory of Bert Bodenheimer

Robert Rovner

In appreciation of Rabbi Sruli

Joel & Elisabeth Salberg

In memory of Pearl Salberg

Harriet & Steve Passerman

In memory of Lloyd Cohen

The Passerman Family

In memory of Stephen Shapiro

Philip Laine

In memory of Edward Laine

The following individuals gave donations

“In memory of Marilyn Simonds”

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

Joel & Sheri Olstein

Aaron & Ellen Burke

Bertha Bodenheimer

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Marcia & Manuel Plavin

Anne & David Allen

Jonathan & Vicky Cohen

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In memory of Rose Nussinow

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In memory of Marilyn Simonds

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Joel Goodman

In memory of my friend since our early teens, Marilyn Simonds

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APRIL AT TEMPLE SHALOM

Monday, 4/1	12:30 pm	Mahjong
Thursday, 4/4	8:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast (please note time)
Saturday, 4/6	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Sunday, 4/7	10:00 am	Family Hebrew School
Monday, 4/8	12:30 pm	Mahjong
	4:00 pm	Book Group Meets
	5:15 pm	Program Committee Meeting
	7:00 pm	Temple Board Meeting
Tuesday, 4/9	12:00 Noon	Lunch & Learn (at Temple) – RSVP!
Thursday, 4/11	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Saturday, 4/13	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Sunday, 4/14	4:00 pm	Zach Mayer Concert
Monday, 4/15	12:30 pm	Mahjong
Thursday, 4/18	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan (no breakfast)
Saturday, 4/20		NO Shabbat Service
	5:00 pm	Community Passover Seder – RSVP Required!
Monday, 4/22	12:30 pm	Mahjong
Thursday, 4/25	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Saturday, 4/27	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
	6:00 pm	Café Shalom (6 pm reception, 7 pm program)
Monday, 4/29	12:30 pm	Mahjong

HAPPY

PASSOVER!