



MA CHADASH!

מה חדש!

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

ק"ק היכל שלום

December 2020, Kislev/Tevet 5781

Join Us for Our Annual Mega-Chanukah Party!

This Year on Zoom!



Sunday, December 13th, 2020, 5:00 pm

Community Menorah Lighting

Chanukah Sing-along

Featuring the world premiere of

The Shtetl Shonda

a brand-new Chanukah play performed by our Hebrew Schoolers!

Special Chanukah Trivia Game

FROM THE RABBI



At the shul in New Jersey where I served as Rabbi before relocating to Maine, there was a congregant I will call Esther. Esther was a determined, even feisty, woman who had recently lost her eyesight and had been declared legally blind. At 75 years of age, Esther had to learn how to navigate the busy streets of North Bergen with a cane and was in the process of being paired with a seeing eye dog. Every Shabbat morning when I would read the blessing—Blessed are you Adonai, our God, Ruler of the Universe, who restores sight to the blind—I would think of Esther who would

have given anything to have her eyesight restored.

I still think of Esther every Thursday and Shabbat morning when Behzad chants the very same blessing. Does God really restore sight to the blind? And what about the other blessings—who straightens the bent? Who frees the imprisoned?

We most often think of gratitude as transactional. Someone does something nice for us and we acknowledge their gift with gratitude. This is, of course, a very important part of being in relationship with other people—and with God. Responding to generosity with feelings of gratitude helps us value what we are given—and not take anything for granted.

But there is another side to gratitude—gratitude as a state of being. A sense of the miracle of our lives and existence---no matter what life sends our way. This is the deeper sort of gratitude that our sages are attempting to instill in us. The kind of gratitude where a blind person, with no hope of recovery, can still be grateful that we have a God who restores sight to the blind! To see God in the white cane—as well as in the countless people who contributed to its development and who trained her in its use.

I am writing this a couple of days before Thanksgiving 2020. I can only imagine the difficulty I, and I assume many of you, will have finding blessing in this most awful year—a year that comedian Bill Maher predicted future generations will refer to as “The Great F***ening!” I hope and pray that even as we eat our “festive” meals alone and without the comfort and camaraderie of those who are the very essence of Thanksgiving for us, we will find the strength to access this deeper form of gratitude and to find much blessing in the way we in our community—and in many communities all across the world--came together to care for, heal, communicate, bond, discover, warn, love—and to find new and meaningful ways of connecting with each other.

On the subject of gratitude, I can't begin to find the words to express to all of you the overwhelmingly deep feelings of gratitude and blessing that flood my soul for the extraordinary honor that you bestowed on me at the Annual Meeting. To know that one's hard work is appreciated, admired, and not taken for granted is a very special gift. I only hope that I can continue to be worthy of this great honor. If I am an “Astounding Rabbi” it is only because you are an astounding community.

Rabbi Sruli

P.S. On Monday, December 14th, at 5:00 p.m., Rabbi Sruli and Lisa will present a Chanukah program on Zoom for the Food for Thought program of Senior College in Lewiston.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Finally, good news. As I write this, it looks like two vaccines will be available by the end of the year and widely available during the first three months of 2021. This pandemic may be nearing its end. Science is real and developed vaccines in record times. And safe vaccines. Once my turn comes up, I will be first in line to get a vaccine. I hope you will join me and get yours as soon as you can.

Our days of social distancing and wearing a mask may be coming to an end, but we are not there yet. I urge you to not let up now. We have come too far. We have sacrificed too much. Our community has remained healthy. Don't let up and become a statistic when we are so close to the end.

All I can think of is those soldiers who died just days or even hours before a cease fire. Couldn't they have just held on a bit longer? I know we can hang on and continue to be vigilant in protecting ourselves and others. Wear a mask. Social distance. Don't give up now. Don't let your guard down. Remain vigilant.

Before news of these two vaccines came out, I thought the Temple building would be closed at least through next Yom Kippur. Now, there is a possibility that we could re-open with our Passover Seder. It would be great for all of us to be in Temple, enjoying Passover and each other's company as we say goodbye to a year that was like no other. Goodbye to a year that saw so many die, but a year that saw our community remain healthy because of our vigilance.

At the Annual Meeting, I was given the honor of Person of the Year for Temple Shalom. Thank you. This award means a lot to me and even a bit more as Anne presented it to me. I will continue to strive to do all that I can to help this community continue to thrive, in these trying times. However, it is a group effort. Our Temple is only as strong as our members. Remember, we need your participation, enthusiasm and financial support.

2020 has been one heck of a year. Pandemic. Riots. An election, like no other. But we remain. We remain here. We remain strong.

Be healthy. Wear a mask. Stay vigilant, even in the waning days of the pandemic.

David Allen



BOARD MEETING

Temple Board of Directors' Meeting

Monday, December 14, 2020

7:00 pm

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



We had a terrific discussion about *The Dutch Wife* by Ellen Keith on November 9. Attending on zoom were Babs Shapiro, Helene Perry, Lindsey Walker, Judy Abromson, Margaret Meyer, Bertha Bodenheimer, Mitch Ross, Joan Levenson and me, Lesli Weiner. None of us had heard of brothels for the prisoners in the labor camps, possibly because they were never for Jewish prisoners. This book was all about choices one makes in life, and we

debated what could or couldn't be avoided. There are two parallel stories going on, one during WWII and the other in Argentina 32 years later during a more modern reign of terror. We discover the thread that binds the two stories together, and that leads to a discussion about karma. Yes, we recommend this book.

Our next book, *Apeirogon* by Colum McCann, takes us to the middle east in a more contemporary time. Read the description:

LONGLISTED FOR THE BOOKER PRIZE • From the National Book Award–winning and bestselling author of *Let the Great World Spin* comes an epic novel rooted in the unlikely real-life friendship between two fathers.

Bassam Aramin is Palestinian. Rami Elhanan is Israeli. They inhabit a world of conflict that colors every aspect of their lives, from the roads they are allowed to drive on to the schools their children attend to the checkpoints, both physical and emotional, they must negotiate.

But their lives, however circumscribed, are upended one after the other: first, Rami's thirteen-year-old daughter, Smadar, becomes the victim of suicide bombers; a decade later, Bassam's ten-year-old daughter, Abir, is killed by a rubber bullet. Rami and Bassam had been raised to hate one another. And yet, when they learn of each other's stories, they recognize the loss that connects them. Together they attempt to use their grief as a weapon for peace—and with their one small act, start to permeate what has for generations seemed an impermeable conflict.

This extraordinary novel is the fruit of a seed planted when the novelist Colum McCann met the real Bassam and Rami on a trip with the non-profit organization Narrative 4. McCann was moved by their willingness to share their stories with the world, by their hope that if they could see themselves in one another, perhaps others could too.

With their blessing, and unprecedented access to their families, lives, and personal recollections, McCann began to craft *Apeirogon*, which uses their real-life stories to begin another—one that crosses centuries and continents, stitching together time, art, history, nature, and politics in a tale both heartbreaking and hopeful. The result is an ambitious novel, crafted out of a universe of fictional and nonfictional material, with these fathers' moving story at its heart."

Join in on zoom on MONDAY, DECEMBER 14 at 4PM. If you're not on my list, be sure to email Julie so I can send you the zoom link. Stay safe until I see you then.....lesli

SPEEDY RECOVERY

We pray for refuah sh'leimah – the full and speedy recovery of **Georgette Belanger, June Wilner Chason, Dougie Fleck, Sara Graf, Robert Galumbeck, Isaak Gekhtin, Detlef Gerlach, Ariella Green, Sharon Hemond, Michael Jeser, Elizabeth Johnson, Suzan Katzir, Lynn Kaduson, Linda Koskela, Henry Lefkowitz, Lee Leveille, Jim Lifter, Bruce Meyer, Sandy Miller, Hershel ben Moshe, Shana Richman, Joel Salberg, Bob Scott, Shmuel Yosef ben Avraham V'Sarah, Sandy Traister, Neal Weiner, Jack Weinstein, William White,** 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.*



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Estelle Rubinstein	Dec	3
Andrew Bodenheimer		6
Joshua Goodman		7
Lillian Zidle		7
Briana Robillard		9
Peter Casares		10
Jennifer Nussinow		11
Carla Marcus		15
Sarah Levine		30
Patricia Suzanne		30



Yahrzeiten

Sonny Isaacson	Dec	2
Renee Laine		3
Charles W. Marcus		9
Ethel Plavin		11
Dorothy Fishman		13
Morris Zallen		13
Morris Silverman		14
Frances Silverman		15
Sherman Shapiro		16
Frances Stern		16
Sylvia LaPerriere		17
Marcia Bell		19
Mazie Schwartz		19
Jack Simons		21
Keyla Fuks		24
Deborah Isaacson		26
Shirley Isaacson		31



Thank You to everyone who responded generously to our Yom Kippur Appeal. Your support makes a difference and we value every contribution as we know it comes from your heart and is an investment in the future of our Temple and community! To make your investment today, please email or call Julie or David. Thank you!

(Updated List as of 11/25/2020)

Judy Abromson
Anne & David Allen
Phyllis Bell

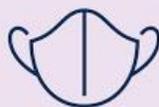
Andrew & Sharon Bodenheimer
We are so grateful to the Shul, Rabbi Sruli, and all of the volunteers who have kept our family so connected to Judaism, and to each other, during this difficult time.

Bertha Bodenheimer
Jeffrey & Susan Brown
Ellen & Aaron Burke
Karen Calloway
Ally & Peter Casares
Jennifer & Jerrold Cohen
Elliott Epstein
Bonnie & Larry Faiman
Harriet & Behzad Fakhery
Ellen Frankel & Herb Levine
Willard Hertz
Donald Isaacson
James & Kristen Isaacson

Phyllis Graber Jensen
Mara & Christopher King
Philip Laine
Bob & Jackie Laskoff
Joan Levenson
Emily & Gigi Macaluso
Margaret & Hank Meyer
Joel Olstein
Daniel Penan
Helene & Lewis Perry
Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz
Marcia & Manuel Plavin
Daniel & Kristine Rausch
Mitchell Ross
Joel Salberg
Babs & Michael Shapiro
Arthur & Donna Silverman
Jeff Stern
Patricia Suzanne
Cathy & Stan Tetenman

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.

If you leave home, know your Ws!



WEAR

a cloth covering over
your nose and mouth.



WAIT

6 feet apart. Avoid
close contact.



WASH

your hands or
use hand sanitizer.

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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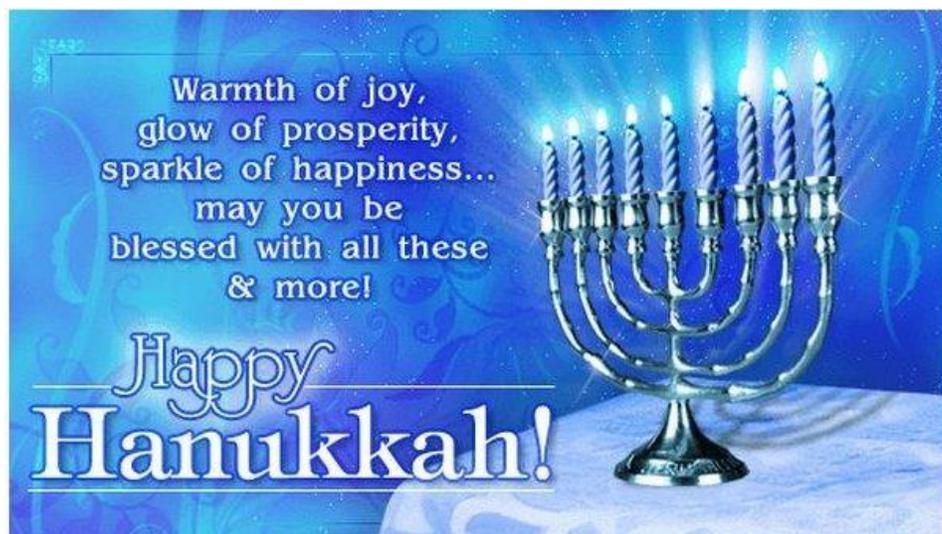
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Preschool Allyson Casares



CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

The following donated in memory
of Adele Silverman

Anne & David Allen

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

Sharon & Andrew Bodenheimer

Ellen & Aaron Burke

Mike & Babs Shapiro

Joel Olstein

Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz

Susan & Ruben Cornelius

Deborah Migdol

Brian Smalley

Noel & Harriet Barstein

Bette Swett Thibeault

Bertha Bodenheimer

Helene & Lewis Perry

Marianne Miller

In appreciation to Rabbi Sruli

In appreciation to Bertha Bodenheimer

Nancy & Ken Levinsky

In honor of Rabbi Sruli & Lisa for a truly
inspiring high holiday experience along with
a thought provoking sermon

In honor of Ilana Dresdner for being the “hostess
with the mostess” as the host of the zoom services

Andrew & Sharon Bodenheimer

In memory of Hilda Kleeger

In memory of Alfred Bodenheimer

Jeff Stern

In appreciation

Marianne Wise

In memory of Gary Buckman

In honor of Anne & David Allen

Joan Levenson

In memory of Sadie Baker

Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz

In memory of Justice Seymour Hendel

Ellen & Aaron Burke

In memory of Gary Buckman

Lesli & Neal Weiner

To Anne & David Allen in appreciation for all
they do

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

Congrats to Rabbi Sruli on receiving the
Rabbi of the Year award

Congrats to David Allen on receiving the
Person of the Year award

In appreciation to Anne & David for the Temple
cleanup

Congrats to Zachary & Eliana on their engagement

Congrats to Elyse Bodenheimer & Chris Burritt on
their engagement

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Bertha Bodenheimer

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Congrats to Elyse Bodenheimer & Chris Burritt on their engagement

To Phyllis Graber Jensen in appreciation for all she does for the Temple

Best wishes to Julie & Jerry Waite

Happy birthday to Michael Gagne

ABROMSON MEMORIAL FUND

Judy Abromson

In memory of Adele Silverman

To Anne & David Allen in appreciation for all they do for our Temple

Michael Gagne

In memory of Gary Buckman

In memory of Adele Silverman

In memory of Michael Abromson

BELL MEMORIAL CHAPEL FUND

Phyllis Bell

In memory of Sina Amsel

COHEN/LEVOY GARDEN FUND

Stuart Cohen & Carmen Comeau

In memory of Adele Silverman

LIBRARY FUND

Edith Deane

In memory of Gary Buckman

The Bell Family

In memory of Reva Finks Roth

In memory of Irving Bell

MARCUS MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND

Carla Marcus

In memory of Rose Marcus

In memory of Paul Roberts

NUSSINOW PRESCHOOL FUND

Estelle Rubinstein

In memory of Hyman Rubinstein

In memory of Adele Silverman

In honor of Michael Gagne's birthday

In honor of Anne & David Allen for giving so much of their time & energy to the maintenance of the Temple Shalom facility

Amy & Scott Nussinow

In memory of Ecie Nussinow

In memory of Abraham Krasner

Allyson & Peter Casares

In memory of Adele Silverman



MITZVAH FUND

Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz

In memory of Adele Silverman

In memory of Justice Seymour Hendel

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Hank & Margaret Meyer

In honor of Seth & Florence's 10th anniversary

In honor of Mike & Ji's 9th anniversary

Harriet & Behzad Fakhery

In memory of Adele Silverman

Estelle Rubinstein

In honor of Rabbi Sruli for the exemplary programming during these difficult times

To David Allen in honor of receiving the Person of the Year award

Joel Olstein

In appreciation to Rabbi Sruli & Lisa

RANDALL SILVER LIBRARY FUND

Malca Wilner

In memory of Adele Silverman

Jerryanne LaPerriere

In memory of Adele Silverman

Michael Gagne

To Malca Wilner in appreciation

BODENHEIMER PASSOVER FUND

CEMETERY FUND

EVE & GEORGE SHAPIRO MEMORIAL FUND

FAMILY HEBREW SCHOOL FUND

KITCHEN/BREAKFAST FUND

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