



MA CHADASH!

מה חדש!

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

ק"ק היכל שלום

January 2020/Tevet/Shevat 5780

Shabbat Together!

שבת ביחד!

Saturday, January 11th, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Great food and drink, bonding, playing, studying, hanging out.



Special Guest: Alty Weinreb, Cantor, Shirat Hayam, Swampscott, Massachusetts, a Jewish music force of nature!

For the entire community—all ages!

In order to create a Shabbat atmosphere, we ask that participants commit to stay through Havdallah and to avoid using phones, tablets, etc.

Please RSVP by Tuesday, January 7th.

FROM THE RABBI



Hine ma tov u'ma na-im Shevet achim gam yachad—Behold how good and how pleasing for brothers and sisters to sit together in unity. [Psalm 133].

We stand together, a Deacon, an Imam and a Rabbi, in unity, to declare our strong belief that God is most pleased when we respect, admire and cherish each other and each other's communities of faith. 15

months ago, a synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania became the victim of a horrific hate crime. 15 months ago, at a synagogue in Auburn, Maine, leaders of all faiths came together to express solidarity with the local Jewish community. And God was pleased. 10 months ago, a mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand, became the victim of a horrific hate crime. 10 months ago, leaders of all faiths gathered in Kennedy Park in Lewiston, Maine, to express solidarity with the local Muslim community. And God was pleased. It is our fervent prayer that we continue to work together, as faith communities, alongside our political leaders, to bring the citizens of our communities together, in unity, thereby bringing God's blessings to all of us.

This is (a first draft of) a prayer that I have been asked to deliver, together with the prayers of representatives of the local Christian and Muslim faith communities, at the inauguration of Mark Cayer, Lewiston's new mayor, on January 6th. That we offer our prayers side by side, in a show of mutual respect and unity, is very important to Mark. It is Mark's vision that our individual words, while rooted in our unique faith traditions, will blend together to form a prayer that is universal in nature.

The year 2019 saw an alarming increase in hate and violence. Targets include immigrants, foreigners, people of color, LGBTQ, political opponents and, of course, and, especially, Jews. For most of my life, it seemed that every new year brought Americans closer together. That, with each new year, tolerance and respect increased and the things that separate us became ever less important. But not 2019.

So, I applaud Mark Cayer for orchestrating this grand display of unity among all peoples and all faiths. We can only counter hate and division with love and togetherness. I am very grateful to be part of a community that understands and is committed to doing just that.

Rabbi Sruli

P.S. Rabbi Sruli will deliver a prayer at the inauguration ceremony for Lewiston's newly elected leaders on Monday, January 6th, at 6:30pm, at the Franco Center in Lewiston. Rabbi Sruli will lead a youth group discussion of Genesis and Exodus at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Auburn on Sunday, January 12th, at 10:30 a.m.

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



A message from Scott Nussinow on behalf of the Safety and Security Committee!

In a relatively short period of time, a small group of us have become minor-league security mavens. Only a few years ago, no one would have imagined the need for such a group, and certainly not within the context of Temple Shalom.

As some may recall, the committee held a meeting for the congregation in September, where members asked questions - David Allen and Scott Nussinow attempted to explain what we were considering, what we had already been done, and some of what we were planning to do.

Since that meeting, we have installed seven wireless emergency call buttons (so-called 'panic buttons') in key areas throughout the Temple. Additionally, there's one that is meant to be kept on the person (most often, Rabbi Sruli). Each of these small devices actually has two buttons, side by side, and when they're depressed simultaneously and for at least three seconds, they quietly summon the cavalry. There is no intermediary, no call-back from the central station to see if everything is alright – just an emergency call for police and fire.

Side note; As I write this, the number struck me - eight of these devices. And while we'll be considering adding a few more, it seemed seasonally appropriate. I digress.

As you've likely observed, we have instituted a policy where for certain significant events, there is a paid police presence, including a highly visible police cruiser. This, and other elements are being added to our new standard protocol.

The Safety and Security Committee (consisting of Hank Myers, David Allen and Scott Nussinow) again met with a representative from MEMA, who confirmed our grant request allocation. Though it was only about 25% of what we'd originally requested, it is still a significant chunk of change. Before we actually receive these funds, we have been requested to present additional documentation and substantiation; y'know, red tape kinda' stuff. Nevertheless, we persist.

Following our congregational safety meeting, several members very graciously reached out to offer their support, including newer members Jonathan Greven and Joel Packer. Both are intimately familiar with the grant-writing process, and we'll be reaching out to them as we look for additional grant funds in the future. It's really wonderful to have such resources in our midst.

Speaking of wonderful resources in our midst, Lesli (interesting – there are some in our congregation who are immediately recognized by first name only) wrote to me about a FEMA-sponsored workshop titled, "Until Help Arrives", which provides tools to educate and empower the public to act in an emergency situation, before professional help arrives. Thanks so much, Lesli - this sounds like a great program initiative to pursue. If anyone else hears of something that could be beneficial, please feel free to let any of us know.

(continued next page)

(continued: News from the Safety and Security Committee)

While we may not always be able to do everything, we want to do our best to be responsive to the needs and suggestions of our congregation.

In wrapping-up where we're at today, the committee has to provide additional formal documentation to MEMA (see red tape from above) before we receive any allocations, and has to also narrow down the phase one elements with our security systems vendors. And, there's lots more.

Our modest-sized Temple Shalom community has much of which to be both proud and thankful. Our Board of Directors is always doing their best to balance our needs, our wants and our budget. And speaking of our budget, we really need more members to step-up financially – and in a meaningful way. Virtually none of these initiatives happen easily, and they're most assuredly not inexpensive and the grant will pay only about 25% of this.. Between our vital and necessary infrastructure investments and of course, our security measures, the upcoming 'tab' approaches \$90,000 – and more now than ever, we need your financial support.

In the spirit of Hanukkah, please join us in creating even greater light and warmth in our community; let's all share of ourselves and commit to being ever more active in our own present day miracles.



MLK Day at Bates **Sunday, January 19th—7 to 8 P.M.**

Once again, the Temple Shalom community will observe MLK Day by participating in the annual Bates College Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Service. Please join Rabbi Sruli and Lisa in a musical offering from our community—song sheets will be provided. This year, the service will be held in the Memorial Commons at Chase Hall, 56 Campus Ave, Lewiston, from 7-8 p.m. The service will be full of music, art, reflection, and word!

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



Winter is here, so stay indoors, keep cozy and read a good book! The weather cooperated so we got a good group on November 9th: Lindsey Walker, Bertha Bodenheimer, Babs Shapiro, Sandy Traister, Judy Abromson and me, Lesli Weiner. We briefly touched on *The Button Man* which I wrote about last month, and everyone liked. Not so much this month's book, *The Lost Family* by Jenna Blum. The novel was about how a Holocaust survivor's trauma invariably affects his new family. It was hard to like the characters, but I suppose

that was part of the story. Food, art, music and more food are all presented in very symbolic ways. They help to tackle some very serious issues such as PTSD, the highs and lows of family life, loss, love, acceptance and forgiveness. The story is told from 3 perspectives: Peter (the survivor/chef/husband/father), June (the model/wife/mother) and Elspeth (the daughter/troubled teen). Jenna, it was a strong start but a weak finish. She will be speaking at the JCA on Thursday, January 9 at 6:30 for \$12. Would you like to join our Book Group to hear her? Maybe she'll give us a hint about her 4th novel!

For our next meeting, MONDAY, JANUARY 13 at 4PM we're reading *The Diplomat's Daughter* by Karin Tanabe. This is from Amazon:

"During the turbulent months following the 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor, twenty-one-year-old Emi Kato, the daughter of a Japanese diplomat, is locked behind barbed wire in a Texas internment camp. She feels hopeless until she meets handsome young Christian Lange, whose German-born parents were wrongfully arrested for un-American activities. Together, they live as prisoners with thousands of other German and Japanese families, but discover that love can bloom in even the bleakest circumstances.

When Emi and her mother are abruptly sent back to Japan, Christian enlists in the United States Army, with his sights set on the Pacific front—and, he hopes, a reunion with Emi—unaware that her first love, Leo Hartmann, the son of wealthy of Austrian parents and now a Jewish refugee in Shanghai, may still have her heart.

Fearful of bombings in Tokyo, Emi's parents send her to a remote resort town in the mountains, where many in the foreign community have fled. Cut off from her family, struggling with growing depression and hunger, Emi repeatedly risks her life to help keep her community safe—all while wondering if the two men she loves are still alive.

As Christian Lange struggles to adapt to life as a soldier, his unit pushes its way from the South Pacific to Okinawa, where one of the bloodiest battles of World War II awaits them. Meanwhile, in Japanese-occupied Shanghai, as Leo fights to survive the squalor of the Jewish ghetto, a surprise confrontation with a Nazi officer threatens his life. For each man, Emi Kato is never far from their minds.

Flung together by war, passion, and extraordinary acts of selflessness, the paths of these three remarkable young people will collide as the fighting on the Pacific front crescendos. With her "elegant and extremely gratifying" (*USA TODAY*) storytelling, Karin Tanabe paints a stunning portrait of a turning point in history.....lesli

SPEEDY RECOVERY

We pray for refuah sh'leimah – the full and speedy recovery **of Georgette Belanger, Phil Bray, Gary Buckman, Elcha Buckman, John Calloway, June Wilner Chason, Bob Fineman, Sara Graf, Robert Galumbeck, Isaak Gekhtin, Detlef Gerlach, Elinor Goldblatt, Joel Goodman, Ariella Green, Sharon Hemond, Michael Jeser, Elizabeth Johnson, Suzan Katzir, Henry Lefkowitz, Lee Leveille, Susan Lifter, Bruce Meyer, Sandy Miller, Joel Salberg, Bob Scott, Sandy Traister, Neal Weiner, 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.*



Wishing you a speedy and complete recovery.

CONTEMPORARY HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATIONS IN POLAND

Please join us at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020, for a brunch followed by a presentation by Bates German Professor Jakub Kazecki about contemporary Holocaust commemorations in Poland.

If you plan to attend the brunch, please R.S.V.P. by emailing the synagogue at temple6359@aol.com or calling 207-786-4201. The suggested donation is \$10 per person.

His talk will precede the international observance of Holocaust Memorial Day on Jan. 27, 2020. "I think it's a fitting occasion to discuss contemporary Poland in this context, and the



change of the narrative surrounding the Holocaust commemorations, at least since 2015, including the attempts to silence Holocaust scholars like Jan Grabowski or Jan Gross," Professor Kazecki says. Holocaust Memorial Day is the day for everyone to remember the millions of people murdered in the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution, and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur.

Jakub Kazecki joined the faculty in German and Russian Studies in 2012 after teaching German language, literature, and film courses at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, Conn., and McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario.

Jakub's research interests include 20th-century German literature (especially literature about the First World War), images of German-Polish relationships in literature, film and visual arts, and laughter and comedy in different media. He is the author of *Laughter in the Trenches: Humour and Front Experience in German First World War Narratives* (2012) and the co-editor of the books *Heroism and Gender in Film* (2014, together with Karen A. Ritzenhoff) and *Border Visions: Borderlands in Film and Literature* (2013, together with Karen A. Ritzenhoff and Cynthia Miller).

MA CHADASH ALERT!!

Online only for February

Next month you will be receiving the newsletter via EMAIL so check your inbox at the beginning of February for all the latest news and upcoming programs!



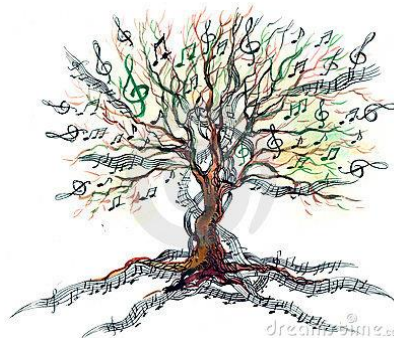
**This month's traditional and musical
Kabbalat Shabbat Service
will be held on Friday, January 24th, at 7 p.m.**

The Service will be followed by an Oneg Shabbat.

There will be no Shabbat Services on Saturday, January 25th.

Save the Date

TU B'SHVAT



Friday evening, February 7th, 7:00 PM

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Jonathan & Jennipher Greven	Jan	19
Ellen & Aaron Burke		21
Robert & Jackie Laskoff		29

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:

For the months of December, January, February and March, the first Thursday of the month, the service will begin at 7:00 AM. All other Thursday morning services will begin at 8:00 AM. All services will continue to have a service, discussion and breakfast.

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

Programming/Social Action Phyllis Graber Jensen
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TEMPLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on
Monday, January 13, 2020 at 7:00 pm

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Sarah Olstein	Jan. 1
Henry Meyer	3
Becca Platz	9
Cynthia Hart	10
Jennifer Ann Cohen	10
Susan Lifter	10
Neal Weiner	12
Elyse Bodenheimer	14
Rachel Fakhery	16
Adrienne Rau	17
Jennipher Greven	18
Victoria Cohen	20
Gillian Schair	20
Susan Teich	22
Bertha Bodenheimer	23
Rosa Cohen	23
Kristine Rausch	23
Behzad Fakhery	25
Sandra Traister	25
Jackie Laskoff	29



Yahrzeiten

Marcia Bell	Jan 1
Mazie Schwartz	1
Jack Simons	3
Keyla Fuks	6
Deborah Isaacson	8
Joseph Wilner	13
Shirley Isaacson	13
Peter Olejer	15
Pauline Cohen	15
Ida Wilner	16
Michael Shain	17
Walter Jaeger	18
Sylvia Kutzen	19
Ruth S. Williams	19
Jayne Wilner	20
Elsie Goodman	21
Marie Rau Stein	21
Ida Finks	27
Augusta Olstein	27
Ellen Schleicher Bodenheimer	30
Bernard Weiner	30
Henry Brody	31
Bernard Marcus	31



CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

Phyllis Bell

In memory of Sina Amsel

Steve & Harriet Passerman

In appreciation

Philip Laine

In memory of Renee Laine

Andy & Debbie Cohen

In memory of Dorothy Fishman

Andrew & Sharon Bodenheimer

In memory of their parents

Donald Isaacson

In memory of Sonny Isaacson

Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz

In memory of Dr. Bernard Marcus

Bertha Bodenheimer

In memory of Keyla Fuks

Scott Eicher

In appreciation

ABROMSON MEMORIAL FUND

Judy Abromson

In memory of Ruth Williams

LIBRARY FUND

Elcha Shain Buckman

In memory of Harvey Shain

In memory of Michael Shain

MARCUS MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND

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In memory of Charles & Rose Marcus

MITZVAH FUND

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NUSSINOW PRESCHOOL FUND

Amy & Scott Nussinow

In memory of Abraham Krasner

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Nancy & Ken Levinsky

Adele Silverman

In memory of Morris Silverman

Joan Levenson

In memory of Sadie Baker

Jamie Isaacson

In memory of Sonny Isaacson

In memory of Shirley Isaacson

Sandy Allen

In memory of Morris Zallen

Harvey & Elaine Bell

With thanks to Rabbi Sruli, Johnny & Charlie
for joining us to install the mezuzah on our
new home

Jeff Stern

In memory of Frances Stern

BELL MEMORIAL CHAPEL FUND
BODENHEIMER PASSOVER FUND
CEMETERY FUND
COHEN/LEVOY GARDEN FUND
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DATED MATERIAL
JANUARY 2020

JANUARY AT TEMPLE SHALOM

Wednesday, 1/1		New Year's Day
Thursday, 1/2	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Saturday, 1/4	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Monday, 1/6	12:30 pm	Mahjong
Thursday, 1/9	8:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Saturday, 1/11	10:00 am	Shabbat Together – RSVP!
Monday, 1/13	12:30 pm	Mahjong
	4:00 pm	Book Group Meets
	5:15 pm	Program Committee Meeting
	7:00 pm	Board Meeting
Thursday, 1/16	8:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Saturday, 1/18	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Sunday, 1/19	7:00 pm	MLK Program at Bates College
Monday, 1/20	12:30 pm	Mahjong
Thursday, 1/23	8:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Friday, 1/24	7:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Saturday, 1/25		NO Shabbat Service
Sunday, 1/26	11:00 am	Brunch with guest speaker Prof. Jakub Kazecki – RSVP!
Monday, 1/27	12:30 pm	Mahjong
Thursday, 1/30	8:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast

