



# MA CHADASH!

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

## מה חדש!

ק"ק היכל שלום

May 2018/ Iyar/Sivan 5778



### Saturday Evening, May 12th, 2018

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**

*Kora Highlanders, Scottish Pipes and Drums · Amy Jensen and Jeff Wright, Blues Rock · Divertimenti, Classical Song · Mark Vaillancourt, Magic · Sruli and Lisa, Klezmer · Hoot 'n Annie and Family, American Folk Music · Le Bon Truc, Traditional French Music and Song · Lew Zidle, Irish Song · Anthony Shostak and Una, Fiddle and Pipes · And More!*



## FROM THE RABBI



### Counting the Omer—Living the Imperative that Every Day Counts

Hi Everyone.

Counting the Omer is a sacred ritual that involves counting each of the forty-nine days between Passover and Shavuot.

I encourage you to search in YouTube for: *Premishlaner Rebbe Counting The Omer - Pesach 2017/5777*. What you will see is a Hasidic community (of men, of course) who are reciting the traditional Omer blessing and count with the intensity and fervor of the most sacred, life or death, Yom Kippur prayer. Why? All it is, is a rather standard blessing—similar to the one we say before lighting Shabbat or Chanukah candles—followed by a simple declaration that today is, for example, the twenty-third day—which makes three weeks and two days—of the Omer.

What do these Hasidim (and countless other Jews) see in this rather formulaic pronouncement?

Lisa often reminds me that when she was growing up, her father would often remind her that the days of her life would pass whether she did something worthwhile or not. (This, by the way, is why Lisa can now play the violin.) Her father taught her, and, by extension, me, that we give meaning to our days by filling them with worthwhile endeavors. By making sure that we are using each day to be a little better than we were the day before.

Over the years, many friends of a certain age have confided in me their dread of one day being confined to a nursing home, sometimes humorously referring to the home as “God’s Waiting Room.” Underlying their dread is the realization that once we stop growing, we are simply waiting to die.

The counting of the Omer is a visceral reminder that, like the period of the Omer, our lives are finite. That’s why, for some, the daily counting feels like a mini Yom Kippur—which also reminds us that our lives are finite. But that’s not, in my opinion, its true function. Better to use the Omer as a reminder, an encouragement to use every day wisely, as an opportunity for growth. And that we can fill our lives with meaning by making good use of each of our days.

Rabbi Sruli

P.S. If you would like to receive a daily Omer email, please send me an email asking to be added to the Omer email list.



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



Israel turns seventy. Seventy years that we have had our homeland back after wondering the world for 2000 years. At our Passover Sedars, *for 2000 years*, we said 'L'Shana Haba'ah B'Yerushalayim - Next Year in Jerusalem'. To generation after generation after generation, that meant, maybe, with G-d's help, we would have our homeland back. Now, it means we can go anytime we want...that maybe next year we will travel to Israel...not a dream, but a choice.

To me, at age 54, Israel has always been a fact. Israel has always been there. To the generation before me, that was not true. The miracle of Israel happened in their lifetimes. The miracle, in 1948, of turning back seven armies, as they tried to push us into the sea, happened in their lifetimes. The miracle of the unlikely victories in 1967 and 1973 happened. In 1967, the unification of all of Jerusalem, under Jewish authority, happened.

We built a modern country in the dessert. We turned the brown blowing sands, the rock strewn fields and the marshland, into green fields, pastures, forests and orchards. We made the dessert blossom like never before. We made Israel into a technological leader. We educated our children and now Israel, on a per capita basis, has more Noble Prize winners than any other country.

Israel is our home. Although terrorism and wars still happen, we can be safe in our land. We never have to fear a pogrom. We never have to fear an Inquisition. We never have to fear being forced into ghettos and we never have to fear a holocaust. It is our home. We now protect ourselves. We do not depend on a benevolent leader or society who may love us (or tolerate us) one day and then turn on us another day.

Israel has brought us in from all corners of the world. Jews have come from Russia and the Ukraine. Jews have come from Ethiopia and Yemen. Jews have even come from the US. All have come to make Israel our home. To make Israel a place we can feel safe. A place that we can be Jews without any compromise and without fear of our own country turning on us.

Since 1948, over 23,000 Israeli soldiers have died. They died protecting their homes and families. They died ensuring that all Jews always had a safe place to call home. Today, we as Jews, are safe in America. I hope and pray that tomorrow we will continue to be safe in America, but, times do change and as a Jew in America, I feel comforted knowing that I can always go home. I can always go to Israel and I will be accepted with open arms.

May G-d bless the memories of the 23,000 who have died protecting our homeland and may G-d bless all of those protecting Israel and building her as a safe home for all of us.

David Allen  
President

As we know, Irving Isaacson passed away recently. The Temple has received a generous donation from his estate. The Temple family greatly appreciates the thoughtfulness of the Isaacsons in remembering us. Thank you to Irving and Yutka Isaacson – May their memories be a blessing to us and their family.

Dot Fishman passed away a number of months ago. In her will, she too left a generous donation to the Temple. The Temple family greatly appreciates the thoughtfulness of Dot Fishman in remembering us. Thank you to Dot and Louis Fishman – May their memories be a blessing to us and their family.

When it is time to make your will and determine your final wishes, please consider leaving a donation to the Temple. Your thoughtfulness and generosity in life and death go a long way in keeping the Temple on sound financial footing.

# Sunday, May 20

## “Towards a Pedagogy of Forgiveness; Lessons from the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict”

10 AM: Shavuot Service with YIZKOR

12 PM: Blintz lunch catered by Krissy Benson

1PM: Guest lecturer, **Marcia Weston**, with visuals

Followed by Q & A

\$10.00

**RSVP by May 15 (786-4201)**



Many of you will remember Marcia Weston, whose love of Judaism began as a member of Temple Shalom in 1990. She now lives in McLeansville, North Carolina. She earned her PhD in Education Leadership with an emphasis on Cultural Foundations in May, 2017. She will share highlights from her dissertation with us, which she describes as follows:

“I interviewed three Palestinians, three Israelis and three Americans all involved in some way with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Following the interviews and during my writing, I spent three weeks traveling to Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Jordan, and other surrounding areas with a home base in Ramallah. I wished to investigate the concepts of forgiveness through philosophical, religious, historical, and practical lenses as understood by those who are intimately involved in the conflict’s resolution. I was able to meet many of the Israelis and Palestinians that I interviewed and several others on my trip that added to my studies. I believe that the tenets of forgiveness include empathy, sympathy, benevolence, and other human capacities that we all possess, but too many times we don’t use. What we have in common: Judaism, Islam, Christianity – all view forgiveness as most holy.



I look forward to sharing the many aspects of my trip and my studies that embrace humanistic views and practices. I hope to convey the concept of forgiveness as a human behavior as opposed to a purely emotional response.”





**Friday Evening, MAY 4th**

**Dinner from 5:30 TO 6:30**

**Program from 6:30 to 7:30**

**BONFIRE!**

**HOT DOGS-VEGGIE BURGERS-MARSHMALLOW ROAST**

**Sing and Dance around the Fire**

**FOR ALL AGES!**

**Suggested donation: \$5.00 for adults, kids are free**

**MEET AT THE TEMPLE SHALOM FIRE PIT (NEAR THE MEGA-MENORAH)**

**RSVP'S ENCOURAGED**



**This month's traditional and musical**

**Kabbalat Shabbat Service**

**will be held on Friday, May 18th at 7 p.m.**

**The Service will be followed by an Oneg Shabbat.**

**There will be no Shabbat Services on Saturday, May 19th.**



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

Since we canceled April Book Group as too many of us were away, I will just reiterate what I said about our next book, *Eternal Life* by Dara Horn. We don't usually read a book that is hot off the press, but since she is coming to speak at the JCA in Portland on May 3 we broke our rules. Plus she is one of our favorite authors. Here is the book description:

### **“What would it really mean to live forever?”**

Rachel is a woman with a problem: she can't die. Her recent troubles—widowhood, a failing business, an unemployed middle-aged son—are only the latest in a litany spanning dozens of countries, scores of marriages, and hundreds of children. In the 2,000 years since she made a spiritual bargain to save the life of her first son back in Roman-occupied Jerusalem, she's tried everything to free herself, and only one other person in the world understands: a man she once loved passionately, who has been stalking her through the centuries, convinced they belong together forever.

But as the twenty-first century begins and her children and grandchildren—consumed with immortality in their own ways, from the frontiers of digital currency to genetic engineering—develop new technologies that could change her fate and theirs, Rachel knows she must find a way out.

Gripping, hilarious, and profoundly moving, *Eternal Life* celebrates the bonds between generations, the power of faith, the purpose of death, and the reasons for being alive.”

We will meet again on MONDAY, MAY 14 at 4 PM. At this meeting we will also choose our next group of books. So, come prepared! I've been away for a while and miss you all  
.....lesli

### **SPEEDY RECOVERY**

We pray for refuah sh'leimah – the full and speedy recovery of **Gary Buckman, John Calloway, Lloyd W. Cohen, June Wilner Chason, Carson Hudson, Enid Ehrlich, Isaak Gekhtin, Anne Geller, Ariella Green, Elizabeth Johnson, George Laskoff, Susan Lifter, Sandy Miller, Joel Salberg, Sandy Traister, Toby Wallach, Neal Weiner, Janet Zidle, David Izenstatt, Phil Bray, Michael Jesser, Georgette Belanger, Jimi LaPerriere, Judy Rizk** 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**

Laurence Faiman	May	1
Jessica Teich		1
Mazie King		2
Stuart Cohen		3
Miriam Sofia Cohen		5
John Calloway		9
Jennifer Cohen		9
Jenna Wise		9
Amelia Ross		16
Susan Shapiro		16
Lucas Rau		19
Alison Fakhery		21
Mark Johnson		25
Greg Levinsky		26
Mitchell Ross		31

## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO**

James & Susan Lifter	May	10
Daniel & Kristine Rausch		15
Matthew & Janet Zidle		25

## **MAY 2018 YAHRZEITEN**

Eve Shapiro	May	2
William Leavitt		6
Jean Renard		6
Steve Bieringer		7
Beatrice Garber		11
Lillian Rosen		17
Aaron M. Krakower		18
Robert Allen		19
Jack Kaduson		20
Ruth Schleicher		25
Barry Traister		25
Cecile Kates		27
Lillian Cohen		31

# **Annual Meeting** **Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 P.M.**



**Annual reports, election of board members,  
Proposed By-Law change and presentation of the  
"Person of the Year."**

**Entertainment by Chicks with Sticks!**

**Desserts and Coffee!**

**Please RSVP by May 17<sup>th</sup>, 786-4201 or [temple6359@aol.com](mailto:temple6359@aol.com)**

## **DO A MITZVAH!**

We are always looking for sponsors for Thursday morning breakfast....right after Thursday morning minyan. You can also sponsor a Friday night Oneg. In either case, you can go out and buy the needed items or email Julie and ask if someone can do the shopping on your behalf and then you pay the Temple back. Also, you can do the work in the kitchen or again, ask Julie and we can find someone to do the work or help you out. Anything you can do is a big help and a mitzvah!





## TEMPLE SHALOM PRESENTS UNFORGETTABLE FOOD, FILM, AND COMMENTARY



Please join us at 11 a.m. on Sunday, June 3, for a delicious Israeli brunch catered by Portland-based chef Haggai Bernstein, followed by a noontime screening of the dramatic film "God on Trial." Rabbi Sruli Dresdner and historian, teacher, and poet Anna Wrobel will lead a discussion after the film.

If you plan to attend the brunch, please RSVP by emailing the synagogue at [temple6359@aol.com](mailto:temple6359@aol.com) or calling at 207-786-4201 by May 29. Admission to the brunch will be \$15 per person by RSVP only.

"God on Trial," an 86-minute 2008 BBC/WGBH television drama directed by Andy De Emmony and written by Frank Cottrell Boyce, takes place in Auschwitz during World War II.

The Jewish prisoners put God on trial *in absentia* for abandoning the Jewish people. The debate centers on the question: Has God broken his covenant with the Jewish people by allowing the Nazis to commit genocide? The play is based on an event described by Eli Wiesel in his book "The Trial of God," though Boyce describes this tale as "apocryphal." Wiesel later confirmed that the story was true, and that he was personally witness to it."

Los Angeles Times film critic Mary McNamara writes:

"For although the various arguments made during "God on Trial" never deviate from the specific concerns of the Chosen People, larger questions crowd the drama's edges like the silent, rapt men who follow the trial from their bunks. The nature and existence of God, the nature and necessity of faith, the role humans occupy in the universe and, most important, how to reconcile the idea of a loving deity with the ongoing tragedy of war and genocide. They are big topics addressed with a striking lack of sentimentality, quite a feat considering the setting. You will weep, but you will also think. And although the weeping will stop fairly soon after the credits role, with any luck, the thinking will not."

To help us with post-screening "thinking," Sruli and Anna will reflect on the film's themes and engage us in a discussion you won't want to miss.



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  
Paula Marcus-Platz  
Preschool Allyson Casares

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Temple Shalom office hours are  
9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday - Friday

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E-mail address: [temple6359@aol.com](mailto:temple6359@aol.com)

Rabbi Sruli: [djsruli@gmail.com](mailto:djsruli@gmail.com)  
Telephone: 914-980-9509

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Ritual	Larry Faiman
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## 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.



## **PASSOVER SEDER A HUGE SUCCESS!**

The families of Temple Shalom gathered together on the second night of Passover for our annual community Seder. We had 120 adults and children attend.

This year was another year of the Musical Seder! Rabbi Sruli, Rebbitzen Lisa, and their son, Aaron, led the families in a combination of a traditional Seder with music, song, and dancing. Their family brings much love and warmth to our congregational family.



Mike Gagne, our adopted congregational family member, set the tables. We are grateful to have him as part of our community.

Aaron and Ellen Burke were again kind enough to pick up and deliver the wine to the Temple.

Because of the generosity of some of our members, we were able to keep the price very affordable. We thank the following for their kind donations: Fredda and Ken Wolf, John Isaacson, Marilyn Simonds, Jackie and Surfer Baruch Laskoff, and Paula and Tom Platz.

We also wish to thank 2 anonymous donors who have made contributions for the past few years. Alvin Miller of Arizona also helped us out. Alvin is the son of the late James and Ruth Miller. We truly appreciate their helping the Jewish community in which they grew up.

We also extend our thanks to Joe Moscinski and Melissa Johnson for all their help in handling many of the details of the Seder.

Norma, Krissy and their crew did a wonderful job preparing and serving our fantastic Seder meal. We appreciate all they do to help with our celebrations.

Please feel free to let us know your comments about the Seder. You may leave your comments with Julie or you can contact me at [stettnman@gmail.com](mailto:stettnman@gmail.com) or call me at 998-2767.

We need both your participation and financial support to continue our Jewish heritage in central Maine.

Thank you.

Stan Tetenman

# CONTRIBUTIONS

## GENERAL FUND

Joel Salberg

In memory of Pearl Salberg

Tom Reeves

In memory of Dr. Edward Reeves

In memory of Irving Isaacson

Phyllis Bell

In memory of Morris Amsel

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

In memory of Irving Isaacson

Michael Gagne

Speedy recovery to Bertha Bodenheimer

Speedy recovery to David Allen

Estelle Rubinstein

In memory of Murray Rubinstein

To Joan Levenson in honor of her special birthday

Bertha Bodenheimer

To Lesli Weiner in honor of her birthday

Anne & David Allen

Speedy recovery to Ellen Burke

Mazel tov to Amy & Scott Nussinow in honor  
of Jennifer's wedding

In memory of Robert Allen

To Marilyn Simonds in honor of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday

Joel & Lewis Zidle

In memory of Donald Kinny

In memory of Milton Lezberg

Speedy recovery to Bertha Bodenheimer

Jerryanne LaPerriere

In honor of Danali & Joseph Jensen's

B'nai Mitzvah

Bonnie & Larry Faiman

To thank Melissa Johnson for her efforts

To welcome Julie Waite back

In memory of Donnie Bornstein

In memory of Sue Mersky Gordon

In memory of Linda Abromson

Wishing Bertha Bodenheimer a healthy summer

Wishing David Allen a healthy summer

Scott Eichler

In appreciation

## CEMETERY FUND

*(Grounds Improvements Project)*

Ted & Cheryl Schwartz

In memory of Morey Plavin

## COHEN/LEVOY GARDEN FUND

Bruce C. Cohen

In memory of Rebecca Cohen Schaffer

**EVE & GEORGE SHAPIRO MEMORIAL FUND**

Harriet Passerman

In memory of Eve Shapiro

**SHIRLEY GOODMAN MEMORIAL FUND**

Joel Goodman

In memory of Wilfred Goodman

**NUSSINOW PRESCHOOL FUND**

Amy & Scott Nussinow

In memory of Sheldon Nussinow

In memory of Lillian Schneidman

In memory of Murray Nussinow

Estelle Rubinstein

Mazel tov to Amy & Scott Nussinow in honor  
of Jennifer's wedding

In honor of Marilyn's Simonds special birthday

**RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

James & Candace Platz

In memory of Irving Isaacson

Babs & Michael Shapiro

In memory of Irving Isaacson

In memory of Wilfred Goodman

Speedy recovery to David Allen

James & Susan Lifter

In memory of Helen & Leslie Rosenthal

**ABROMSON MEMORIAL FUND**

**BELL MEMORIAL CHAPEL FUND**

**BODENHEIMER PASSOVER FUND**

**ENDOWMENT FUND**

**FAMILY HEBREW SCHOOL FUND**

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**PRAYER BOOK/PULPIT FUND**

**RANDALL SILVER LIBRARY FUND**





**Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center**

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## MAY AT TEMPLE SHALOM

Thursday, 5/3	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Friday, 5/4	5:30 pm	Lag B'Omer dinner & program – RSVP!
Saturday, 5/5	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Thursday, 5/10	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Saturday, 5/12	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
	6:00 pm	Café Shalom (reception 6 pm, program 7 pm)
Monday, 5/14	4:00 pm	Book Group
Monday, 5/14	5:15 pm	Program Committee Meeting
Thursday, 5/17	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Friday, May 18	7:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Saturday, 5/19		No Shabbat Service
Sunday, 5/20	10:00 am	Shavuot Service, lunch, guest lecturer Marcia Weston – RSVP!
Tuesday, 5/22	7:00 pm	Temple Annual Meeting
Thursday, 5/24	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Saturday, 5/26	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Monday, 5/28		Memorial Day – Office closed
Thursday, 5/31	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast

