



# MA CHADASHI!

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

# מה חדש!

ק"ק היכל שלום

November 2018/ Cheshvan/Kislev 5779

# Shab-Bates

**We will celebrate Shabbat  
together with the students of the Bates Hillel  
with a Dinner and Musical Service**

**Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.**

**at Temple Shalom**

**This is our opportunity to show the  
Bates students how much we love them!**

**The dinner will be catered  
so please RSVP by November 27<sup>th</sup>  
so we will know how much food to prepare.**



## FROM THE RABBI



So, last week a friend of Johnny's asked me if he could tell me a story that he learned in Catholic school. It was about a Jew, so he figured I might be interested. He began by describing how a Jew was robbed and left for dead at the side of the road. First, he was ignored by a priest, then another Jew ignored him as well. At this point I understood that he was telling me the famous New Testament story of the Good Samaritan—but with a local twist. He went on: "but then a SOMALIAN came by who helped the Jew." He then asked me who God loves most. The obvious answer—the Somalian!

This made me curious to look up the actual Good Samaritan story. Here it is:

*<sup>25</sup>On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>26</sup>"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it? <sup>27</sup>He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" <sup>28</sup>"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." <sup>29</sup>But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" <sup>30</sup>In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup>A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup>So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup>But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup>He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup>The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" <sup>37</sup>The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise." Luke 10:25-37 New International Version (NIV)*

Reading this account gave me a jolt. The "expert in the law" reminded me of so many Talmudists whose statements, pronouncements and discussions were the primary focus of my Rabbinic education. An obsession with establishing parameters for everything—from the size of an Etrog to how much Matzah to eat at the Seder. The message of Jesus: sometimes you need to follow your heart not your head, brilliantly cloaked in a parable that helped the Talmudist reach this conclusion on his own. While Jesus was rejected by his Talmudic contemporaries, similar insights can be found in the Talmud as well.

So, whether we encounter a Samaritan or a Somalian, all deserve our most authentic love.

Rabbi Sruli

P.S. Rabbi Sruli will be delivering a benediction of as part a community-wide Veterans Day Prayer Service on Monday, November 12, 2018, 6:30 p.m., at Holy Family Church in Lewiston. On Wednesday, November 14, 10:30 a.m., Rabbi Sruli will deliver a lecture on Jewish music for the Androscoggin Retired Educator Association at the Village Inn in Auburn.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thoughtfully written by Elcha Buckman



Hello fellow Temple Shalomers. I was honored to be asked by our president, David Allen, to write this month's President's Message. Before I get to it I just want everyone to know what a blessing the Synagogue has been to me and my sons upon our relocating to Maine five years ago. The warmth, close friendships, community, programs, and religious learning and celebrations of my synagogue family have become the core support of my life. I thank you all for embracing us.

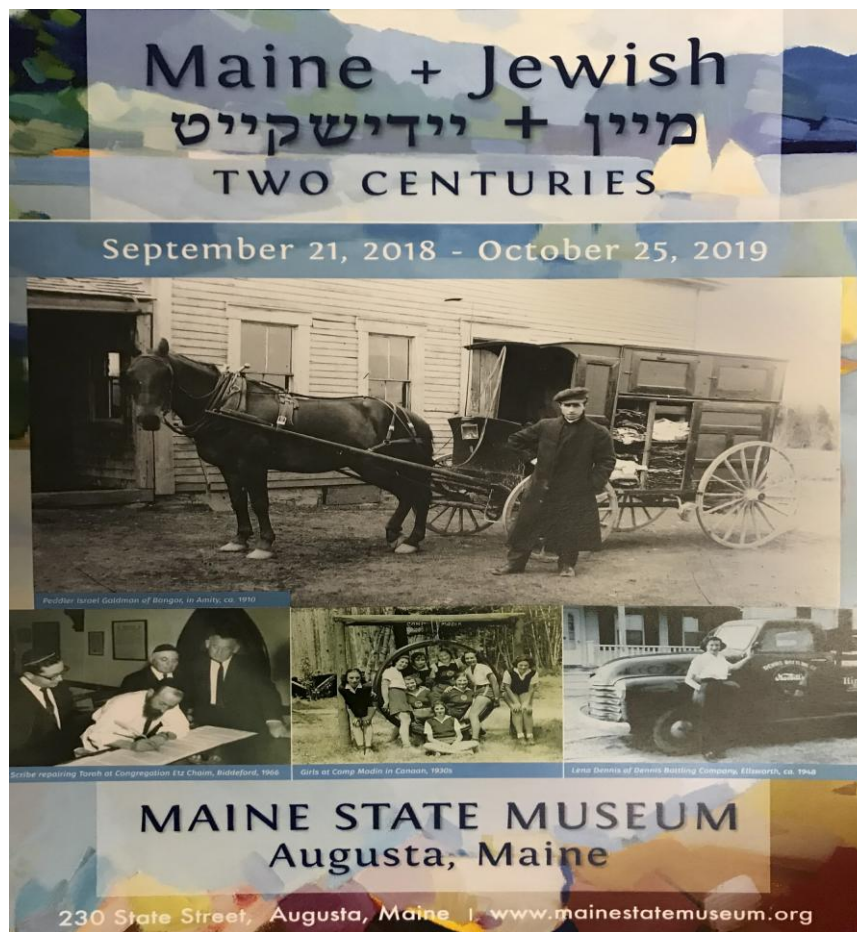
Growing up I was an incessant questioner. Of course! A sign of being Jewish, I find out later. Until that revelation I was a pain in the tuchas. Much, much, much later I was to pay for it when I would get an infrequent, thank G-D, sore throat that always turned into laryngitis – couldn't ask, couldn't talk, not a good thing for a psychotherapist, but good for my kids though who reveled in it: "Ma can't talk!!!" But, I digress.

When I turned 8 years old I magically became inquisitive...until then asking questions made me the family's prime pain in the "tuchas." Anyway, little girls were to be seen and not heard – I was the only girl among cousins and a brother. At 8 I started holding my father hostage when he was relaxing in his easy chair after a big, Jewishly unwholesome dinner. Sitting on his lap I launched into "Daddy, why this, why that, why the other thing?" – incessantly, for hours. My father had the patience of a saint. A first generation American and a child of the Great Depression, my Dad wasn't a classically educated man, but he was smart, learned, wise, self-taught and to me, a sage. He would patiently answer all my questions beyond the endurance that anyone should. Even Daddy, however, had his limits. And when he reached that limit he would stand me up between his legs, his gentle hands at my waist, look me lovingly in the eye, and with the wisdom and intensity of a talmudic Rabbi he'd say: "My Elchala, 'Why' is a crooked letter!" Knowing Q & A was over, I would wander away with wonder and asking myself "What??? Why?"

I have many stories like this from my life with my Father. Little did I know then the fabulous lessons my Father was teaching me. Besides the life and professional lessons, he taught me what it means to be Jewish, to be a Jewish woman, and the importance my synagogue should have in my life. Temple Shalom truly is a Synagogue Center; a place where we come to commune, socialize, play Mah Jongg, learn, pray, sing, dance, seek solace, and celebrate, alone and together. We are blessed with each other, the best and most talented Rabbi and Rebbetzin in the world, and a place where we can question, listen, and learn to our hearts content. Come, be with us at Shabbatim, holydays, programs, celebrations at Temple Shalom Synagogue Center, where a never-ending supply of "Whys" are left to ask.

Shavuah tov,

*Elcha Shain Buckman*, Former Board Member



Please join Temple Shalom Synagogue-Center on Saturday, November 17, 201, as we take a guided tour of the Maine State Museum’s newest exhibition *Maine + Jewish: Two Centuries*, a presentation of the experiences of one of Maine’s most enduring communities, from 19th-century immigrants to more recent residents and summer visitors. Naturally, the Jewish community of Lewiston-Auburn is a featured part of the exhibition. **Temple Shalom members will gather at 9 a.m. in the synagogue parking lot at 74 Bradman Street, Auburn, where we will determine carpooling arrangements and then proceed to the Maine State Museum at 230 State Street in Augusta. We plan to arrive at the Museum at about 10 a.m.**

Once at the museum, we will be joined by the exhibition’s guest curator Amy E. Waterman, an educator, museum specialist, and former executive director of the Eldridge Street Project, who will speak to us as we explore the exhibition. Following our exhibition tour, we will adjourn to a room set aside for us, where we will have a Torah study session with Rabbi Sruli. To indicate your interest in going, or for more information about this trip, please contact the synagogue at 207-786-4201.

In creating such a rich and historic presentation, Waterman was supported by Maine State Museum staff, an advisory committee of scholars and community members, and a partnership with Colby College’s Center for Small Town Jewish Life.

The exhibit gives voice to generations of people from every corner of the state, illustrating how Jewish life has become an essential part of Maine’s rhythms and character. It looks at such subjects as: where and why Jews settled in Maine; religious traditions; obstacles to full integration in Maine and barriers overcome; working lives; Jewish summer camps and tourism; agencies that served Jewish citizens; and organizations that have made community service an essential part of Jewish life.

According to museum director Bernard Fishman, “In its breadth, depth, and sharp focus on one ethnic group, *Maine + Jewish: Two Centuries* is something of a departure from past Maine State Museum exhibits. Although we have touched on matters of ethnic identity before, this one explores the whole range of a large Maine community’s history, connections, and cultural expressions. We anticipate that future exhibits will provide opportunities for museum visitors to learn about other groups that are as distinctive and surprisingly varied as Maine’s Jewish community.”

“This exhibition is truly a community effort,” explains curator Waterman, whose career in museums has had a concentration in Jewish history projects. “It draws heavily from Jewish citizens and organizations throughout the state and, with items from the Maine State Museum’s own collection, includes more than 200 images and 170 objects from 62 lenders. In many ways, both non-Jewish and Jewish visitors will find the exhibit reflective and spirited, illuminating and fun.”

One of the exhibit’s most dramatic and unique artifacts is a majestic, Art Deco-style Torah ark, dating from the 1930s. The museum acquired the ark from the former Beth

Abraham Synagogue in Auburn. Museum staff and contractors meticulously dismantled it, then moved, stored, and finally reassembled it in the museum exhibit gallery.

In addition to the ark, the exhibit incorporates interactive audio and video presentations, thematically related works of contemporary art, and educational activities to appeal to a wide range of audiences. An exhibition handbook will be produced in conjunction with the show.

*Maine + Jewish: Two Centuries* will remain on view through October 25, 2019. The lead sponsor for the exhibit is the Sam L. Cohen Foundation, supplemented by significant support from the Maine Humanities Council, the Jewish Community Endowment Associates (Bangor), the Unobskey Foundation, and the Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust, among dozens of supportive private and institutional friends.

## **2018 Kol Nidrei Pledge Donors**

(Additional)

Joel Goodman  
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Marcia & Manny Plavin  
Fredda & Ken Wolf

Thanks!  
for your  
Support!!

To all who have a subscription to the SunJournal newspaper – the Temple can received a \$100 credit to be used for advertising from each person who calls!

Call now and ask for Will at 689-2954 and ask that it be credited to Temple Shalom!



# Farnakht

Sunday, November 11th at 3:00 P.M.

Temple Shalom Sanctuary

This concert is free and open to the public.

Sponsored by generous donations to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Farnakht combines the extraordinary talents of Zoë Aqua and Mattias Kaufmann.

Zoë lives Brooklyn, NY and plays violin. She is a founding member of Tsibele, a 5-person klezmer ensemble and is quickly becoming an in-demand violinist in the Klezmer scene. From February to August of 2017, she served as the full-time understudy for the Klezmatics' Lisa Gutkin in the Broadway production of "Indecent", ultimately going onstage over 18 times. "Indecent" is a Tony-winning play by esteemed playwright Paula Vogel about the creation of the Yiddish play "The God of Vengeance".

Mattias currently lives in Montreal, QC and plays button accordion. Mattias has made numerous trips to Eastern Europe to explore different styles of traditional folk music, studying in Belgrade Serbia with accordionists Nenad and Predrag Ivanović, and in villages throughout Hungary and Romania.

Farnakht's debut album "Ultraviolet" released June 2018 combines new compositions with klezmer, Romanian, Serbian and Hungarian folk music. Check out Farnakht on YouTube!



***Rabbi Sruli is always happy to speak with and meet with members or 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.***

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



On October 15 we had a full round table singing Happy Birthday to Judy Abromson. Helping her eat her cake were Babs Shapiro, Bertha Bodenheimer, Bonnie Faiman, Helene Perry, Elinor Goldblatt, Lindsey Walker (and granddaughter Jade), Sandy Traister, Margaret Meyer and me, Lesli Weiner.

Then we got down to business discussing *The Two-Family House* by Lynda Cohen Loigman. I'm glad I had my tissues out while reading this family saga. Even though the author lets the reader in on the baby-switching secret, we still get drawn in to the drama as the families live with the repercussions of each characters actions and decisions. We had much discussion about who was right, who was wrong, how could things have been different and how did our loyalties change. And while this was definitely a story about a Jewish family, it could have been any number of ethnicity. We all agreed that this is an author worth reading, and a story worth telling. Read it, and weep!

Our next book is *Rashi's Daughters, Book 1: Joheved* by Maggie Anton, the first of a dramatic trilogy set in eleventh-century France about the lives and loves of three daughters of the great Talmud scholar. This is how the author describes her works:

"Rashi's Daughters" is the story of the three daughters of the great Talmudic authority Salomon ben Isaac, a.k.a. Rashi, who lived in 11th century Troyes, France and had no sons. At a time when most women were illiterate and the rare educated woman was one who could read the Bible, Rashi's daughters studied Talmud. They were also vintners, merchants and mothers of the next generation of Talmudic scholars.

Built on seven years of exhaustive historical research and ten years of Talmud study, "Rashi's Daughters" explores what might have been, weaving actual events, as described in responsa literature and Talmud commentaries, into an account of the lives of these amazing women. Talmud is an integral part of these novels; readers will learn along with Rashi's daughters as he explains selected texts. This is also the story of the medieval French Jewish community, how they lived, loved, worked, ate, prayed and interacted with their non-Jewish neighbors. A wealth of material about Jewish women's daily lives is provided, including how they observed life cycle events and holidays. I wrote this book because I wanted to share my research into Jewish women's lives in medieval France, how the prosperity and tolerance they enjoyed differed from the negative stereotypes usually associated with the Middle Ages. In addition, I wished to encourage women to study Talmud, the foundation of Jewish Law that, until very recently, women have been unable to access. I hoped to share the excitement and pleasure Talmud study can engender."

The next Book Group will be on MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12 at 4 PM. This sounds like a meaty book, so start reading.....lesli

## A "Thank You" recently received!

Dear Temple Shalom,

Thank you for the amazing necklace! It is so cool! I wear it almost every day. Thanks again,

Sincerely,  
Andrew Casares

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4  
11 AM  
CATERED BRUNCH & SPEAKER**

**“KRISTALLNACHT - CITIZENSHIP, STATELESSNESS  
AND THE POWER OF LAW”**

**FEATURING ANNA WROBEL**



Anna loves coming to our community and we love having her!! This is how she describes her choice of topic, which is so relevant to today's world:

“When asked by frightened clergymen to stop breaking the laws of segregation, Dr. King responded: “Everything that Hitler did was legal.” Anna will examine ways in which persecution and terror can be justified by discriminatory rhetoric and supported by legal means - then and now, there and here. She will also share poetry of commemoration, noting that Kristallnacht was, in essence, the opening shot of the Final Solution.”

**Bio:**

Anna Wrobel, daughter of Shoah survivors - partisan and soldier - is an American historian, teacher, poet and Holocaust Studies educator. Her history essays and poetry appear in *Cafe Review*, *Lilith*, *Off the Coast* and *Jewish Currents*, where she is a contributing writer, and has two published poetry collections. Anna's history and poetry works have been presented at UMA's Klahr Center, Puffin Foundation, Jewish Community Alliance, Maine Conference for Jewish Life, Maine Jewish Museum, USM's OLLI courses and Sage Lectures, and Maine State Museum's new exhibit, *Maine Plus Jewish*. Shoah poems, taken from her manuscript *Sparrow Feathers*, are used for education in several U.S. states, Israel, Poland and Germany. Anna co-hosts the poetry series, *Lowry's Lodge*, with musician/writer Jim Donnelly.

Please join us for this stimulating discussion.  
There will be time for Q&A, as well as lots of good food to eat.

**\$10.00 DONATION PAYABLE AT THE DOOR**

RSVP by OCTOBER 31 – [temple6359@aol.com](mailto:temple6359@aol.com) or 786-4201





**This month's traditional and musical  
Kabbalat Shabbat Service  
will be held on Friday, November 2nd at 7 p.m.**

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

**There will be no Shabbat Services on Saturday, November 3rd.**

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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.



## **Welcome New Members!**

Emily and Annette Macaluso of Lewiston

### **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, Lloyd W. Cohen, Cheryl Dufour, Louise Forgues, Isaak Gekhtin, Anne Geller, Ariella Green, Sharon Hemond, Elizabeth Johnson, Suzan Katzir, Susan Lifter, Bruce Meyer, Sandy Miller, Maude Olsen, Sybil Rohilly, Joel Salberg, Bert Silverstein, 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.*



## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO**

Jennifer Kaplan	Nov 1
Shana Platz	2
Jillian Penan	8
Michael Shapiro	10
Jeff Stern	10
Joshua Kahn	12
Philip Laine	18
Lauren Traister	19
Nancy Levinsky	20
Carolyn Traister	20
Pepper Robillard	21
Samuel Cohen	23
Anne Allen	24
Scott Nussinow	24
Michael Traister	24
Aaron Burke	29
Harriet Fakhery	26
Jocelyn Weiner Mitchell	27
Allison Penan	29
Annette Macaluso	30

## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO**

Harold & Doretta Shapiro	Nov 10
Amy & Scott Nussinow	28

## **YAHRZEITEN**

Alfred Bodenheimer	Nov 1
Sina Amsel	2
Irving Bell	5
Heinrich Kraemer	5
Allen Bean	8
Abraham Krasner	12
Rose P. Marcus	15
Arnold Goldblatt	16
Michael Abromson	17
Max Lezberg	17
Hilda Kleeger	18
Philip Rosen	18
Harvey J. Shain	20
Sonny Isaacson	24
Renee Laine	25
Morris Supovitz	26
Leroy Bieringer	28

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  
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Temple Shalom office hours are  
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In memory of Enid Ehrlich

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In memory of Enid Ehrlich

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In congratulations for Rabbi Sruli's  
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To Behzad Fakhery in appreciation

Joel & Sheri Olstein

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Speedy recovery to Marilyn Simonds

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Judy Abromson

In memory of Enid Ehrlich

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In memory of Ben & Natalie Abromson

In memory of John & Ada Abromson

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In honor of Helene Perry's special birthday

In honor of Samantha Kahn's heartfelt conversion

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In memory of Enid Ehrlich

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In memory of Enid Ehrlich

**RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Sharon Day & Family

In memory of Esther "Ebby" Krakower

Anne & David Allen

With gratitude & love to Rabbi Sruli &  
Rebbetzin Lisa for all they do & how special  
they are

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NOVEMBER 2018

## NOVEMBER AT TEMPLE SHALOM

Thursday, 11/1	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Friday, 11/2	7:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Service, Oneg
Saturday, 11/3		NO Shabbat Service
Sunday, 11/4	11:00 am	Kristallnacht led by Anna Wrobel, brunch – RSVP!
Monday, 11/5	12:30 pm	Mahjong
Thursday, 11/8	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Saturday, 11/10	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Sunday, 11/11	3:00 pm	Farnakht Concert – Free!
Monday, 11/12	12:30 pm	Mahjong
	4:00 pm	Book Group
Thursday, 11/15	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Saturday, 11/17		Maine State Museum Field Trip (leave Temple at 9 am)
Sunday, 11/18	10:00 am	Family Hebrew School
Monday, 11/19	12:30 pm	Mahjong
	5:15 pm	Program Committee Meeting
	7:00 pm	Temple Board Meeting
Thursday, 11/22		Office Closed for Thanksgiving (Thurs. & Fri)
		NO Weekday morning minyan
		NO Shabbat Service
Saturday, 11/24		
Monday, 11/26	12:30 pm	Mahjong
Thursday, 11/29	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Friday, 11/30	6:00 pm	Shabbat Dinner & Service with Bates Students–RSVP!