

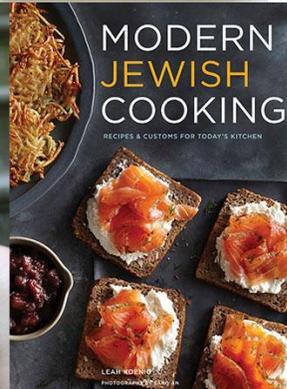
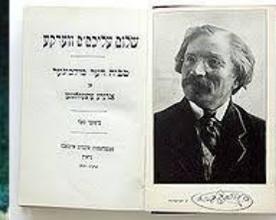


MA CHADASHI! מה חדש!

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

November 2020, Cheshvan/Kislev 5781

Temple Shalom Celebrates!



FROM THE RABBI



So...on my now “famous” bike rides (that many of you heard me talk about on Rosh Hashanah), I made a friend. There is a gentleman (retired?) who parks his car at the same beautifully scenic spot on Lake Shore Drive most every day, whom I pass while riding several times a week. At first, we simply acknowledged each other, but with each subsequent encounter, our relationship has deepened. Over time, our initial brief eye contact morphed to eye contact plus a knowing head nod and, ultimately, to eye contact plus a head nod plus

a wave of the hand. It is, of course, a Mainer’s hand wave—which, I have learned, involves a barely perceptible movement of fingers—but in Maine apparently, it is the equivalent of a New York hug!

I don’t know this man’s name and he doesn’t know mine. In fact, I know nothing about him except that he drives a white car and enjoys the view of Lake Auburn. All he knows about me is that I like to ride my bike. Yet, we have formed a bond—a true bond. I sense that he is glad to receive my greetings each time I ride by, as I am to receive his. Our encounters nourish my soul and, I believe, his. I just know that he would be there for me, as I for him, should either of us ever need assistance. A friend. Really.

Shakespeare famously wrote: “The eyes are the window to your soul.” Each time we get together for prayer, we recite the Priestly blessing. The third and final line reads: May Adonai lift God’s face towards you and grant you peace. In order for us to receive God’s blessing of peace, God needs to lift God’s face—to actually look at us—and we at God. Only through eye contact can the greatest of all blessings—peace—be transmitted from God to us. Or perhaps, the eye contact itself is enough to bring us peace.

It is in these difficult times of forced and unnatural social separation, that we can most acutely sense the essence of what truly connects us. If necessity is the mother of invention, we can attest to how necessary human connections are for us in all of the many (and often complicated) ways that we have invented in order to stay safe yet still connect—meaningfully connect.

Last Sunday, Lisa and I (and Charlie and Johnny) were asked to provide the music for an outdoor, socially distanced, Simchat Torah parade for the Waterville Jewish Community. Following the joyous event, Rabbi Isaacs and Melanie Weiss invited us to their home for an outdoor, socially distanced, lunch with their family. As we were leaving, I absent mindedly raised my hand towards their adorable 3-year-old daughter, Hadas, inviting her to “high five” me. Instead of a high five, I was gently scolded—by 3-year-old Hadas! “We don’t high five because of Co-RO-na-Vi-rus.” As I sheepishly withdrew my hand, Hadas asked, “Would you like to know how we hug during Co-RO-na-Vi-rus?” I nodded yes. Hadas then flashed me the sweetest smile, her eyes bubbling with excitement as she wrapped both of her arms around her own body, and tightly squeezed. I responded in kind—with a smile, a gleam in my eyes as I tightly wrapped my arms around my body. It was perhaps the most meaningful hug I have ever shared with anyone.

Rabbi Sruli

P.S. On Wednesday, November 4th, at 1:00 p.m., Rabbi Sruli will lead a Zoom class for Senior College in Lewiston, on the Spiritual Effects of the Pandemic.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I know this pandemic is getting old. It is time for it to end, but the end is not near and I'm afraid, the end is not all that close. So, be vigilant. Do not let up on your social distancing and mask wearing. This pandemic is here for a while and it is deadly. A bit over 2% of those who contract COVID-19 end up DEAD. That's two out of every 100 people. Would you play Russian Roulette with those odds? I wouldn't. Two percent is still too high for me. Not when the alternative is so easy...wearing a mask and social distancing. I hope it is too high for you as well. Beyond the 2% many more have lingering effects that may last a lifetime...we just don't know. Don't risk your health and those around you. Wear a mask...Social Distance!

Wear a mask whenever you are around those who you don't live with. I know many of you think your friends and family who don't live with you are safe or clean. But it is not a safe or clean issue. Your friends can get a cold or the flu. They can get COVID-19 as well. Remember, they could be asymptomatic. Are you willing to risk your DEATH or your friend/relative's DEATH or long-term ill health? Any what about the stranger that you may give it to? Are you willing to risk their health and life just so you can be with friends/family and not wear a mask and not social distance?

Some people say that you (or the government) cannot make people wear masks. Well, in public, you can be made to wear a mask. We make people wear clothes when out in public...same thing here. Further, are you that selfish that you feel you are so special or so entitled that you can ignore science and put yourself, your relatives, your friends and strangers at risk? Are you really that selfish? I hope not.

We are now into the eighth month of the pandemic. Eight months of social distancing. Eight months of wearing a mask. Eight months of not seeing our friends and family. Eight months of not being able to hug those who don't live with us. This is getting old. I get that. I know it is hard to do. Our best friends live in Massachusetts. We have seen them once in eight months...a social distanced picnic at a park in Portsmouth. Do not become complacent. Do not become lazy about taking proper precautions. Your life and the lives of others are in YOUR hands. You can make a difference. COVID can happen to you. It will not always be someone else.

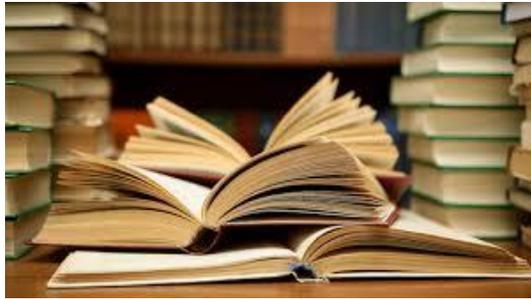
With the cold weather coming, it is going to be much harder to visit outside with friends/relatives. Don't let your guard down. Dress warmly and sit outside. Dress warmly and sit in the garage and visit, with the garage door open. Dress warmly and have a camp fire. Have hot chocolate or something else warm. Wear a mask and social distance. Do not become complacent.

If you save just one life – by wearing a mask AND by social distancing – it is as if you saved the entire world.

Wear a mask!
Social Distance!
Use hand sanitizer...liberally!
Wash your hands...often!
Do not...do not...do not become complacent!

David Allen

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



What does 'Inheritance' mean to you? What did it mean to Dani Shapiro when she titled her latest memoir as such? This was one of the topics we discussed on October 12. Present were Lindsey Walker, Helene Perry, Estelle Rubenstein, Judy Abromson, Bertha Bodenheimer, Mitch Ross, Margaret Meyer, and me, Lesli Weiner. *Inheritance* was beautifully written and quite engrossing as Shapiro unfolded the mystery of why she didn't 'look Jewish' and what her mother meant

by saying she was conceived in Philadelphia. Was she now only the child of a sperm donor or was the father who raised her still a part of her identity? There was so much to reflect on and talking it out with one another added so much to our understanding. We recommend you read this moving memoir and come to your own conclusions.

Our next book is *The Dutch Wife* by Ellen Keith. Pick up your copy now:
"A sweeping story of love and survival during World War II

AMSTERDAM, MAY 1943. As the tulips bloom and the Nazis tighten their grip across the city, the last signs of Dutch resistance are being swept away. Marijke de Graaf and her husband are arrested and deported to different concentration camps in Germany. Marijke is given a terrible choice: to suffer a slow death in the labor camp or—for a chance at survival—to join the camp brothel.

On the other side of the barbed wire, SS officer Karl Mÿller arrives at the camp hoping to live up to his father's expectations of wartime glory. When he encounters the newly arrived Marijke, this meeting changes their lives forever.

Woven into the narrative across space and time is Luciano Wagner's ordeal in 1977 Buenos Aires, during the heat of the Argentine Dirty War. In his struggle to endure military captivity, he searches for ways to resist from a prison cell he may never leave.

From the Netherlands to Germany to Argentina, *The Dutch Wife* braids together the stories of three individuals who share a dark secret and are entangled in two of the most oppressive reigns of terror in modern history. This is a novel about the blurred lines between love and lust, abuse and resistance, and right and wrong, as well as the capacity for ordinary people to persevere and do the unthinkable in extraordinary circumstances."

We will meet via zoom on NOVEMBER 9 at 4PM. If not already on the Book Group email list and you want to participate, just contact the Temple and I will add you to the list. 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, Henry Lefkowitz, Lee Leveille, Susan Lifter, Bruce Meyer, Sandy Miller, Shana Richman, Joel Salberg, Bob Scott, Shmuel Yosef ben Avraham V'Sarah, 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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Jennifer Kaplan	Nov. 1
Shana Platz	2
Karen Brooks	3
Jillian Penan	8
Michael Shapiro	10
Jeff Stern	10
Nicholas Mitchell	11
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
Harriet Fakhery	26
Jocelyn Weiner Mitchell	27
Aaron Burke	29
Allison Penan	29
Annette Macaluso	30



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Karen Brooks & Richard Forcier	Nov. 14
Amy & Scott Nussinow	28



My Dear Temple Family,

We are truly a loving, caring, supportive family. From the bottom of my heart I, Scott and Joel want to thank each and every one of you for your generous donations to our Synagogue In honor of my son Gary OBM.

With love, gratitude and hugs,
Elcha

I wanted to submit to the synagogue newsletter this email I sent to Sruli and Lisa after Yom Kippur. I'm sure many in the congregation share these sentiments!

Thanks,
Ellen Frankel

Dear Sruli and Lisa,

How do we value you--let me count the ways: We appreciate

- the extraordinary energy you bring to the davvening;
- the heartfelt kavvanah with which you share your prayers and your invitations to us to join you;
- the menschlichkeit you demonstrate in how you relate to each congregant, making everyone feel noticed and valued;
- the humor you include to lighten all that solemnity;
- the flexibility you show in adapting Zoom to tradition, including asking Maya to hold up the mahzor for hagbah;
- the imagination you muster to invigorate tired words and traditions;
- the hospitality you exemplify by inviting your Klezmer network and your own family into our living rooms;
- the respect you model in making us stretch old muscles to reach new intellectual and spiritual heights;
- the freedom you embody in spreading your own religious wings;
- the creativity with which you renew prayers, rituals, and customs;
- the open-hearted affection with which you love-bomb our whole community.

We feel so fortunate to have landed on your planet! Thank you for truly meaningful High Holy Days!

Yahrzeiten

Samuel Cohen	Nov	1
Marie Jaeger		1
Abraham H. Miller		2
Martin Burke		3
EC Nussinow		4
Hyman Rubinstein		4
Sadie Baker		8
Reva Finks Roth		9
Alfred Bodenheimer		10
Sina Amsel		11
Irving Bell		14
Allen Bean		17
Abraham Krasner		20
Rose P. Marcus		23
Michael Abromson		25
Max Lezberg		25
Hilda Kleeger		26
Philip Rosen		26
Leroy Bieringer		28
Harvey Shain		28



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!

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
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

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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GENERAL FUND

Anne & David Allen

In honor of Johnny's amazing shofar blowing

In honor of Sruli leading such meaningful
holiday services

In honor of Lisa for conceiving and directing the
Torah photo shoot and enriching our services
with her beautiful music

In honor Phyllis Graber-Jensen for being a photo
wizard and putting together a lovely slide show
for the holiday services

For Anne's high holiday honor of holding a Torah

For David's high holiday honor of holding a Torah

In memory of Saiid Mahjoory

In memory of Gary Buckman

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

In memory of Gary Buckman

Bertha Bodenheimer

In memory of Gary Buckman

In memory of Joseph Fournier

To Lisa Mayer in appreciation

To Johnny for being a shofar extraordinaire on the
holidays

To Charlie for her calling the notes out for Johnny
with her beautiful voice

Joel Olstein

In memory of Gary Buckman

Harriet & Behzad Fakhery

In memory of Gary Buckman

Bonnie & Larry Faiman

Sincere thanks to Rabbi Sruli & Lisa for
conducting meaningful, inspiring and lively
services

Sincere thanks to Ilana Dresdner for all her
work to make Zoom services so enjoyable

Sincere thanks to Julie Waite for all she does
for our congregation

Sincere thanks to Aaron Burke for coordinating
prayer book distribution

Sincere thanks to David Allen for his efforts on
behalf of Temple Shalom

Sincere thanks to Jonathan Greven & Scott
Nussinow for their efforts relating to Temple
security

In memory of Gary Buckman

Mazel Tov to Anne & David Allen on their 30th
anniversary

Mazel Tov to Phyllis Garber Jensen and Hilmar
Jensen on their anniversary

Happy special birthday to Hilmar Jensen

Sincere appreciation to Phyllis Graber Jensen
for taking photos of our members with Torahs
for the High Holidays

Ally & Peter Casares

To Ilana for her wonderful job as technology
hero during services

To Lisa Mayer in honor of her new job

Babs & Michael Shapiro

In memory of Gary Buckman

Marianne Miller

In memory of Elaine M. Miller

Andrew & Sharon Bodenheimer

Speedy recovery to Shana Richmond

Ellen & Aaron Burke

In memory of Adena Rosenthal

Karen Calloway

In memory of Gary Buckman

Steven Gruverman & Family

In appreciation

Judy & Barry Berman

In memory of Gary Buckman

Joy & Lewis Zidle

In memory of Gary Buckman

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Helene & Lewis Perry

In memory of Gary Buckman

Judy Abromson

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In memory of Gary Buckman

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Hanna Griff-Sleven & Paul Sleven

In honor of Rabbi Sruli & Lisa Mayer

Joan Levenson

In memory of Harvey Baker

Jenn & Jerry Cohen

In memory of Louis Cohen

Benjamin & Jeri Brem

In appreciation

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**2020 VIRTUAL
ANNUAL MEETING**

TEMPLE SHALOM ANNUAL MEETING
Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting
of the Congregation will be held via Zoom
(the link will be sent to Temple Members)

**Sunday, November 15, 2020
5:00 P.M.**

The meeting agenda will include annual reports, election of board members and presentation of the "Person of the Year."