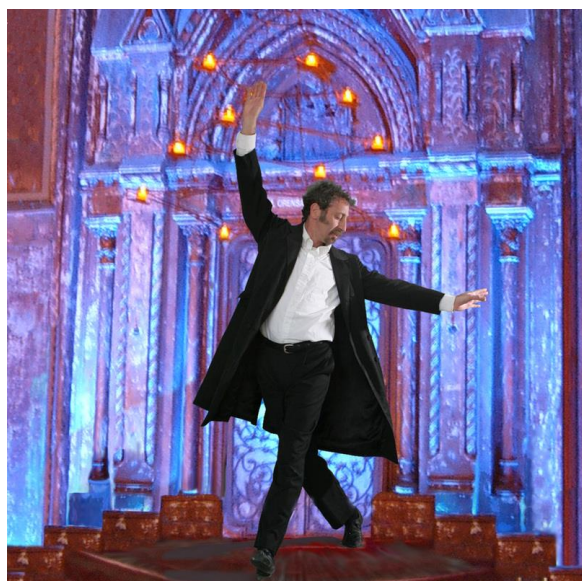




# Ma CHADASHI! מה חדש!

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

October 2020, Tishrei/Cheshvan 5781



## Simchat Torah (and Sukkot)

Friday, October 9th,  
6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Zoom

**The Most Joyous Night of the Year!**  
*A very special inter-  
generational Simchat Torah  
celebration!*

**This will be a Simchat Torah not-to-be-missed! If you always come to sing and dance with the Torahs, or if you have not yet come, this is the year to celebrate like we never celebrated before! The world-renowned Jewish dance leader, Steve Weintraub, will expertly guide us through (the traditional) seven exciting and lively Simchat Torah Zoom Dances! We will also bless the Lulav and Etrog and Rabbi Sruli might even perform a magic trick!**

---

Tuesdays at Temple Shalom!



## FROM THE RABBI



I write this in the afterglow of our beautiful and meaningful Rosh Hashanah services. Our community has so much to be proud of. Prioritizing health and life—as Jewish tradition teaches we must do—we have successfully transferred all of the warmth, depth, learning, music and love that makes our community so special to the Zoom platform. Virtually all of us, together, have risen to the occasion—we learned how to follow a link, to mute and unmute ourselves, to navigate the various display options, and, most importantly, to find meaning and togetherness in our virtual shul. And we did all this in record time! So by the time Rosh Hashanah came around, unlike most

other shuls, we were able to do practically everything we always do—every prayer, every song, a full Torah reading including Aliyot...

Okay, so we were also the victims of a Zoom bombing. It was exceedingly unpleasant, scary and, for a few of us, it was understandably too much to bear—but it did not stop us! Most of us hung in there, quickly implementing Zoom controls that minimized the disruption and the hurt (thanks, Ilana), and continued the services. After a while, the Zoom bombers knew they were beaten—their goal, I believe, was to get us to abandon our services—and so, like all bullies and cowards, they soon slunk away into oblivion. We on the other hand, continued to experience the exquisite beauty of the Rosh Hashanah prayers, music and song. And we proudly sounded the Shofar—proclaiming to ourselves and the world of haters that we will never disappear. But, of course, anti-Semitism is still a serious concern. As Lesli Weiner, our Vice President, put it: “We all learned a valuable lesson and got reminded that even in our insulated world, hate for the Jews is still out there.”

An inspiring story about the power of a Shofar being blown in the very worst of times:

Chaskel Tydor was an inmate at Auschwitz who served as a work dispatcher during the fall of 1944. As the Jewish high holidays approached, it was strictly forbidden to pray, and any Jews caught in communal prayer were shot dead on the spot. Chaskel helped religious prisoners by sending them to work details far away from the center of the camp, so there would be fewer guards watching and they could furtively join in prayer. On Rosh HaShanah one of the prisoners returned to the barracks and said, “You won’t believe it, Chaskel! Somebody had a shofar! Somebody blew a shofar on Rosh HaShanah!”

In a 2019 interview with the CBC, Chaskel’s daughter Judy Tydor Schwartz, a Holocaust scholar, explained how significant this was. “People who heard [the shofar blast] said that it gave them incredible strength, incredible moral-spiritual—spiritual not only in the religious sense, in the sense that I’m a human being.”

Chaskel himself didn’t see the shofar until three months later, when Auschwitz prisoners were sent on a death march as the Soviet Army closed in. Judy described what happened, “As they were setting out for this march when they were still in the camp, my father said that a prisoner came over to him and put something into his hands. And it was the shofar that was wrapped with rags. And this prisoner said I’m not going to survive, I’m dying, you’re stronger than I am—maybe you’ll survive, this is the shofar, take it, and if you make it out tell the world we had a shofar here in Auschwitz.”

In 2019, the Tydor family shofar was featured in an exhibition about Auschwitz at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York.

Rabbi Sruli

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



5780 is now in the history books. What a year it was....Pandemic, riots, political unrest like we have never seen in this country and anti-semitism reared its ugly head at our Rosh Hashana Zoom services. Not since the tumultuous 1960's – and maybe not even then – have we, as a country, had such a difficult time.

A year ago, as we sat in Temple, celebrating the new year, we all looked to 5780 with hope and optimism. As we sat listening to the rabbi, as the calendar changed from 5779 to 5780, none of us could have predicted the year that was to be.

During the first day of Rosh Hashana Zoom services, our Zoom service was 'broken into' by anti-semites. They verbally and through chat spewed hatred. Many of our members responded in a positive way, until Ilana (Thank you Ilana) was able to boot them off. Ilana then instituted other precautions, so we don't expect this to be repeated, but it showed that hatred continues. This incident is being reported to the FBI as a hate crime.

Whether it is against Jews, African Americans, Asians, gays, lesbians or any other minority, hate is still here in America. We need to remember, to always stand for peace and understanding, love and acceptance. In 5781, make an Action Pledge to do just one thing, to bring more justice to the world. I encourage you to make your Action Pledge public, by emailing me or Julie and giving us specific permission to list your Action Pledge in the Ma Chadash. If you do this, others will follow and we, as a small community, can make difference.

We look forward to every year with a sense of hope and optimism. This year is different. For 5781, we have the same wish, but with a deeper and stronger sense of hope...one that goes to the core of our being. This year we truly hope for change...for life to return to a more normal...for the pandemic to end or begin to abate...for the riots to stop, but bring positive change...for an election that brings the leaders that we need (this is not meant as pro or con Trump or Biden), in these challenging times...for anti-semitism and all hate to finally subside and become part of history and not part of the present.

Lastly, as the virus still rages, with ebbs and flows, do not become complacent. Be vigilant in your personal protection, to protect yourself and this will protect others as well. As I tell my children, make smart choices.

Anne and I wish all of you a happy and healthy, a peaceful and prosperous and especially, a virus free 5781.

David Allen

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



L'Shana Tova to you all and to your families. May this New Year bring peace, health, happiness and prosperity to us all. Amen!

A large group zoomed in on September 14: Helene Perry, Bertha Bodenheimer, Mitch Ross, Margaret Meyer, Bonnie and Larry Faiman, Judy Abromson, Marsha Auster and me, Lesli Weiner. The book was *Cry of the Peacock* by Gina Nahai. Most of us

had read the book, or at least started it, and we all agreed that the story was confusing with too many characters recurring here and there. It's too bad Lindsey, who chose it, wasn't able to join us, as she told me she loved the book so much she read it twice. The story was told in a fairy-tale, fable style narrative so at times it was hard to tell what was actually the true history of Iran. We did agree that the best part of the book was the colorful names Nahai gave to all her characters.

Our next book is a bestseller by Dani Shapiro, *Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love*. Although only 58, this is her 5<sup>th</sup> memoir. This one digs deep down into who she really is – way down to her DNA. Here is the synopsis from Amazon:

“What makes us who we are? What combination of memory, history, biology, experience, and that ineffable thing called the soul defines us?”

In the spring of 2016, through a genealogy website to which she had whimsically submitted her DNA for analysis, Dani Shapiro received the stunning news that her father was not her biological father. She woke up one morning and her entire history--the life she had lived--crumbled beneath her.

*Inheritance* is a book about secrets--secrets within families, kept out of shame or self-protectiveness; secrets we keep from one another in the name of love. It is the story of a woman's urgent quest to unlock the story of her own identity, a story that has been scrupulously hidden from her for more than fifty years, years she had spent writing brilliantly, and compulsively, on themes of identity and family history. It is a book about the extraordinary moment we live in--a moment in which science and technology have outpaced not only medical ethics but also the capacities of the human heart to contend with the consequences of what we discover.”

Hope this sparks your curiosity as to what secrets Shapiro uncovers. It's available on kindle and at the library so pick up your copy now. Join us on MONDAY, OCTOBER 12 at 4 PM. See you then.....lesli



## SPEEDY RECOVERY

We pray for refuah sh'leimah – the full and speedy recovery of **Georgette Belanger, Gary Buckman, 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, 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.*



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Jocelyn & Nick Mitchell	Oct.	6
Joel & Elisabeth Salberg		6
Shelley & Richard Rau		9
Kenneth & Charlene Goodman		28
Lewis & Joy Zidle		29



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Sophie Kaplan	Oct	1
Melanie Rausch		4
Boden Mitchell		8
Willard Hertz		10
Judy Abromson		15
Amy Nussinow		16
Amy Jensen		17
Phoenix Amerston		18
Ian Mason Rausch		20
Lewis Zidle		21
Matthew Cohen		22
Elcha Buckman		23
Timothy Zidle		23
John Isaacson		24
Jerryanne LaPerriere		25
Ian Bodenheimer		27
Scarlett Chervenak		29



## Yahrzeiten

Particia Schnitzer	Oct.	1
Jeffrey Bell		1
Samuel A. Nussinow		1
Natalie Abromson		3
Edyta Bialuski		4
Anita Graber		6
Elaine M. Miller		6
Harvey Baker		9
Moones Elyeshmerni		9
Elaine Kaduson		9
Esther Krakower		10
Paul Roberts		11
Barry Silverstein		12
Norman Izenstatt		13
Louis Cohen		14
Louis Steinman		15
Marsha Plavnick		19
Marcy Plavin		20
Beverly Hurwitz		23
Ruth Burke		28
Richelle Cohen Levoy		31



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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President David Allen  
Vice President Lesli Weiner  
Secretary Scott Nussinow  
Treasurer Aaron Burke

Board Members Judy Abromson  
Bertha Bodenheimer  
Allyson Casares  
Elliott Epstein  
Laurence Faiman  
Joel Goodman  
Jonathan Greven  
Lewis Zidle

**Contact Info:**

Physical Address: 74 Bradman Street  
Auburn, ME 04210

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 3315  
Auburn, Me 04212-3315

Telephone: 207-786-4201

[www.templeshalomauburn.org](http://www.templeshalomauburn.org)  
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  
Membership/Outreach Bertha Bodenheimer  
Budget/Finance/Endowment Stan Tetenman  
Cemetery Henry Meyer  
Hebrew School/Education Allyson Casares  
Programming/Social Action Phyllis Graber Jensen  
Paula Marcus-Platz  
Preschool Allyson Casares

**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.**

**Temple Shalom Summer Cemetery Clean-up – 8/12/20**

The Summer Cemetery Clean-up went well. It was a hot, dry, and dusty day, but we were able to clean and edge most of the paths in the cemetery, pick up downed branches, and trim some dead branches. I want to thank those who showed up: Margaret Meyer, Scott Nussinow, Lew and Helene Perry, Jon and Jen Greven, and Elliot Katz. Thank you everyone. We are going to schedule a Fall clean-up, weather permitting.

# **CONTRIBUTIONS**

## **GENERAL FUND**

Bonnie & Larry Faiman

Speedy recovery to Stan Tetenman

Speedy recovery to Susan & Bob Scott

Marianne Miller

To Behzad Fakhery in appreciation

Robert A. Scott

In memory of Verrill Scott

Behzad & Harriet Fakhery

In memory of David Feldman

In memory of Moones Alyeshmereni

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

In memory of Ruth Shapiro Miller

Bertha Bodenheimer

In memory of Ruth Shapiro Miller

Anne & David Allen

In memory of Ruth Shapiro Miller

In memory of Mike Gagne's Uncle,  
Joseph Fournier

Michael Gagne

In memory of Ruth Shapiro Miller

Babs Michael Shapiro

In memory of Mike Gagne's Uncle,  
Joseph Fournier

Lesli & Neal Weiner

In memory of Theodore Kehn

## **ABROMSON MEMORIAL FUND**

Judy Abromson

In memory of Ruth Shapiro Miller

In memory of Mike Gagne's Uncle,  
Joseph Fournier

In memory of Natalie Abromson

## **BELL MEMORIAL CHAPEL FUND**

Phyllis Bell

In memory of Leonard Bell

## **COHEN/LEVOY GARDEN FUND**

Helene & Lewis Perry

In memory of Ruth Shapiro Miller

## **LIBRARY FUND**

Sandra & Allen Miller

In memory of Dorothy Miller

Marcy Plavin's Children

In memory of Marcy Plavin



**MITZVAH FUND**

Phyllis Graber Jensen

In memory of Theodore R. Kehn

**NUSSINOW PRESCHOOL FUND**

Estelle Rubinstein

In memory of Hyman Rubenstein

In memory of Enid Ehrlich

**BODENHEIMER PASSOVER FUND**

**CEMETERY FUND**

**EVE & GEORGE SHAPIRO MEMORIAL FUND**

**FAMILY HEBREW SCHOOL FUND**

**KITCHEN/BREAKFAST FUND**

**MARCUS MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND**

**MINYANAIRES FUND**

**PRAYER BOOK/PULPIT FUND**

**RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

**RANDALL SILVER LIBRARY FUND**

**SHIRLEY GOODMAN MEMORIAL FUND**



**Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center**

PO Box 3315  
Auburn, ME 04212-3315

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL  
OCTOBER 2020

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Auburn, ME  
Permit #4

# CORONAVIRUS PREVENTIONS

