

December 2011 / Kislev - Tevet 5772



MEGA-MENORAH LIGHTING TIMES – Please come and join in the lighting of our Mega-Menorah on each night of Chanukah!

1 st night - Tuesday, 12/20	5:00 pm
2 nd night - Wednesday, 12/21	5:00 pm to start our annual Chanukah party!
3 rd night - Thursday, 12/22	5:00 pm
4 th night - Friday 12/23	3:30 pm before Shabbat begins
5 th night - Saturday 12/24	5:00 pm after Shabbat ends
6 th night - Sunday 12/25	5:00 pm
7 th night - Monday 12/26	5:00 pm
8 th night - Tuesday 12/27	5:00 pm

♪“CHANUKAH, CHANUKAH, JOYOUS HOLIDAY!!” ♪

Our Festival of Lights and Freedom is here again!

The first night of Chanukah is on Tuesday evening, December 20th. We will light our Mega-Menorah behind the synagogue each night of the holiday. For times each night, please see the schedule above and the calendar elsewhere in this bulletin.

Our annual Temple Shalom Family Chanukah Party will be on the second night, Wednesday evening December 21st. We will begin at 5:00 p.m. with lighting the Mega-Menorah, then come back in to light our individual family Menorahs (please bring yours from home!), singing, games, and of course dinner with latkes!



Please RSVP by Thursday, December 15th to the synagogue office, 786-4201 or temple6359@aol.com so we know how many latkes to make!

FROM THE RABBI



One of the important buzzwords of American Judaism these days is “interfaith families,” which make up a huge and growing percentage of the American Jewish community.

In mid-November, I attended a conference in the Boston area, organized by the Reform Movement’s regional office, about working with children of interfaith families in Hebrew Schools. Early this month, Sara Bumby, the chair of our Outreach Committee, and I will be attending another seminar, organized by the same office, for membership and outreach committees, on marketing our synagogue to interfaith families.

Here at Temple Shalom, of course, many of our families include one Jew and one member of another faith - or of no faith. My impression is that, among our families with young children, it is mostly the latter: the parent who is not a Jew is not actively practicing another faith. My guess is that this makes it easier for that parent to agree that the children be raised as Jews at Temple Shalom.

At the conference I attended in November, a parent on a panel of interfaith families told us professionals that she thinks ‘interfaith’ is the wrong term when only one religion – Judaism – is being practiced in the home, even when one parent isn’t officially a Jew. She may have a point, and maybe we need to come up with another buzzword. I tend to think of those families not as ‘interfaith’ but as Jewish families that look a little different from the traditional Jewish family of earlier generations. Whatever we call them, they have become an integral and important part of our community, especially the Family Hebrew School community.

Another issue that came up at the conference was what to do when children identify themselves as ‘half-Jewish and half-something else.’ There was general agreement at the conference that people might identify as half-Irish or half-Russian, but when it comes to religion, you are either one thing or another. Children who are being raised as Jews, even when one parent is not, are not ‘half-Jewish.’ They are all-Jewish. And even when they

go to grandma and grandpa’s house on December 25, they are not celebrating Christmas; they are helping their beloved grandparents to celebrate their holiday, just as they welcome the grandparents to help them celebrate Chanukah.

Whatever your Jewish family looks like, I wish you a Happy Chanukah, and a good time helping relatives celebrate their holidays in this busy season of celebrations.

B’vracha,
Rabbi Hillel

* * *

SPEEDY RECOVERY

We pray for refuah sh’leimah – the full and speedy recovery of **Steve Bieringer, Sydni Rose Birnbach, Lloyd W. Cohen, Lucia Cullivan, Martha Katz-Hyman, Jolene LaPerriere, Sandy Miller, Murray Rubinstein, Elisabeth Salberg, Joel Salberg, Mazie Schwartz, Martha Simmons, Ernie Wallach, Toby Wallach** 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 us know when that name can be removed.

HOSPITAL VISITS

Please let us know if you or a family member enters the hospital. Rabbi Hillel would be glad to pay you a visit if he knows. Due to privacy laws, the hospital cannot contact him to visit patients.

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.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

This morning (Sunday, 11/20) was an invigorating experience for me. I came to Temple for the Book Fair which Phyllis Graber Jensen coordinated. And for the Craft Fair chaired by Bonnie Faiman and Suzan Katzir. And to hear Penelope Markle speak about the Cuban Jews she met on her trip there. And, of course, for the catered lunch. Plus, Hebrew School was in session. So there were people of all ages, and for many different reasons, milling throughout the building. And while each separate part of the day 'catered' to different interests of our membership, there was a lot of overlap. What we all share is our identity as Jews, coming together in a place where we all can feel at home. After hearing Penelope's account of how the remaining 1500 Cuban Jews have retained this identity without rabbis, without Jewish books, without places to worship openly until recently, I realize how lucky we are to have it so 'easy' to be Jews. At this time of year it's nice to browse through a stack of children's books for my grandson where EVERY book is about Chanukah, or something Jewish. It's nice to buy handcrafted gifts showcasing our member's talents, and support our Temple at the same time. And it's wonderful to see parents and children learning together. I do believe that every member of our Temple will find some reason to be here at some point in their lives. Today, many people experienced the joy in giving as well as in receiving. And it's not even Chanukah yet!



Happy Holidays!!

Lesli Weiner

* * * * *

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

No anniversaries this month!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

No meeting in December – our next meeting will be on Monday, January 16th at 7:00 p.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

From the Board Meeting of October 17, 2011:

Rabbi's report: Rabbi Hillel reported that our Family Hebrew School got off to a good start this year, with 25 students, an increase over last year. The synagogue's sukkah was put up and decorated by the students, with help from parents and other synagogue volunteers. Rabbi Hillel is once again teaching this year at Bangor Theological Seminary in Portland. He will be attending a seminar in the Boston area in November on working with children of interfaith families in Hebrew schools.

Finance report: Treasurer Harvey Bell gave the Board his monthly report on the synagogue's finances. Details are available in the office for members to review.

Committee report highlights:

House committee: Lew Zidle reported that the windows in the Chapel have been replaced; and that the synagogue building has been restained.

Membership/Outreach: Elliot Katz reported that several new people came to High Holiday services and have shown possible interest in joining.

Program/Social Action Committee: Board president Lesli Weiner, who is also a member of the committee, reported on upcoming programs, including Simchat Torah, "Women of the Bible" one-woman play; the Book and Craft Fair, and a film about Jews of Cuba. It was suggested that information about our programs be posted on our Facebook page, and that special emails be sent to members about upcoming events.

Ritual Committee: Toby Wallach reported that the committee had met twice to assign honors and aliyot for the High Holy days. She thanked Board members for taking turns sitting on the bima during services. The book burial ceremony went very well, as did the film "100 Voices" shown after the ceremony – the film is now available in the library for anyone interested.

New Business: Li'el Boudreau would like to add a link on the Temple website for the Bates Hillel group. It was the consensus of the Board to go ahead and add the link, and to ask the Hillel group to add a link on their website to the Temple Shalom website.

Secretary Aaron Burke suggested that all Board members should have a copy of the updated by-laws – copies will be available at the next Board meeting.

Old Business: letters have been sent to Suzan Katzir and Behzad Fahkery thanking them for leading services during the Rabbi's sabbatical over the summer, and thanking Suzan for blowing the shofar at High Holy Day services.

!!!!!!!!!!!!!!BOOKGROUP NEWS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Meeting at Bertha Bodenheimer's home once again in anticipation of an author phone interview, it was with great disappointment that I had to report I had never heard back from Ayelet Waldman, the author of Red Hook Road. So Judy Abromson, Helene Perry, Malca Wilner, Margie Goldberg, Marsha Auster, Elinor Goldblatt, Bertha and I, Lesli Weiner, had to discuss this book on our own. This is something we never seem to have trouble doing! And it's not always the best books that make for the best discussions. This book was not the best written literature. And some were put off by the beginning chapter that featured the death of a young couple within an hour of their wedding vows. But the true theme of the book resonated loud and clear with us – grief and recovery. Waldman explored so many different facets of each, even throwing in thoughts about the Holocaust and Jewish tradition. There's a lot to be gleaned from this book.....plus it's a Jewish book set in Maine!

Our next meeting will be on MONDAY, DECEMBER 12 to discuss The Blue Nude by Elizabeth Rosner. As I write this, Bertha is trying to set up a phone interview with the author, so please keep attuned to the time and place. I haven't started the book yet, but I quote from the jacket: "Using words to paint the landscapes of body and soul, Elizabeth Rosner conveys the art of survival, the complexity of history, the form of exile, the shape of desire, and the color of intimacy. Blue Nude is the narrative equivalent of a masterpiece of fine art." Darn.....I knew it had nothing to do with the blue nude I painted in art school!

GOOD NEWS! Bertha has arranged for Elizabeth Rosner to phone interview with us about Blue Nude. So, we will be meeting, once again, at Bertha's place at 3:30 on December 12. I encourage you all to make an extra effort to attend as these interviews add so much to our appreciation of the book. Rosner has suggested that we all check out her website before we meet www.elizabethrosner.com

Lesli Weiner

MAZEL TOV!

Toby and Ernie Wallach were recently recognized at a dinner for volunteers by American Red Cross for the many, many hours they have volunteered at the weekly blood drive in Portland.

**ROSH CHODESH KISLEV:
A TIME OF MIRACLES**

Sunday, December 4
5:00 - 7:30 p.m.



A pot-luck women's event to welcome in the month of Miracles. Come and celebrate, in sisterhood, the miracles and light of the season.

Please RSVP, 786-4201 or temple6359@aol.com

SOUP KITCHEN – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sunday, December 25, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.
Trinity Church Soup Kitchen
247 Bates Street, Lewiston

AMAZON.COM

Remember to order from Amazon.com by going through the link on the Temple website: www.templeshalomauburn.org. The Temple gets a percentage of sales, but ONLY if you place your order by using the link on our website.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Estelle Rubinstein	Dec	3
Sherman Shapiro		3
Joshua Goodman		7
Mark Shraiberg		7
Lillian Zidle		7
Peter Casares		10
Jennifer Nussinow		11
Colby Miles		14
Carla Marcus		15
Alexander Miles		16
Suzan Katzir		17
Michael Griswold		20
Isaac Sherwood		22
Sarah Levine		30

CONDOLENCES

We offer our condolences to the Blatt family on the recent passing of Selma Blatt and to Candace Platz on the recent passing of her mother, Paula Kagan. *May God comfort the mourners together with all the other mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.*

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MaChadash/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 Hillel Katzir

Office Manager Julie Waite

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Lesli Weiner
Vice President	Jerryanne LaPerriere
Secretary	Aaron Burke
Treasurer	Harvey Bell
Board Members	Judy Abromson
	Sara Bumby
	Laurence Faiman
	Joel Goodman
	Elliot Katz
	Morris Silverman
	Toby Wallach
	Lewis Zidle

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Ritual	Toby Wallach
Membership/Outreach	Sara Bumby
Budget/Finance/Endowment	Harvey Bell
Cemetery	Philip Isaacson
Hebrew School/Education	
Personnel	
Programming/Social Action	Phyllis Graber Jensen
	Paula Marcus-Platz
Nursery School	Allyson Casares
Fund Raising	

Temple Shalom office hours are
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday
9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Friday

Telephone: 207-786-4201

Fax: 207-786-4202

www.templeshalomauburn.org

E-mail address: temple6359@aol.com

Rabbi's e-mail address:

veyeh.bracha@gmail.com

CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

Sandra & Allen Miller

In appreciation

Harriet & Behzad Fakhery

In memory of Mounes Elyeshmerni

Sandra Traister

In honor of the birth of Ian Mason Rausch

Stan & Cathy Tetenman

In honor of the birth of Ian Mason Rausch

In memory of Selma Blatt

Hank & Margaret Meyer

In memory of Marie Jaeger

Joan Levenson

In memory of Sadie Baker

Phyllis & Leonard Bell

In memory of Sina Amsel

In memory of Irving Bell

Tom Platz & Paula Marcus-Platz

Speedy recovery to Toby Wallach

ABROMSON MEMORIAL FUND

Judy Abromson

In memory of Selma Blatt

In memory of Michael Abromson

BELL MEMORIAL CHAPEL FUND

Bob & Jackie Laskoff

In honor of Harvey Bell who does so much
for the Temple

LIBRARY FUND

Sandra & Allen Miller

In memory of Abraham H. Miller

Joy & Lewis Zidle

Speedy recovery to Toby Wallach

Tom Platz & Paula Marcus-Platz

Speedy recovery to Toby Wallach

MARCUS MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND

Carla Marcus

In memory of Rose Marcus

In memory of Charles Marcus

MINYANAIRES' FUND

Li'el Boudreau

In memory of Bella Schreider

In memory of Lipman ben Lieb

MITZVAH FUND

Isaacson/Simonds Family

In memory of Harris M. Isaacson

Tom Platz & Paula Marcus-Platz

Speedy recovery to Toby Wallach

NUSSINOW MEMORIAL FUND

To support the Temple Shalom PreSchool

EC Nussinow

In memory of Selma Blatt

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Susan DeLaRosa & Family

In memory of Edward L. Weisberg

Estelle & Murray Rubinstein

In memory of Hyman Rubinstein

Sam & Bob Allen

In memory of Dorothy Allen

Penelope Markle

In memory of William Markle

SHIRLEY GOODMAN MEMORIAL FUND

For interior decoration & maintenance

Sheri & Joel Olstein

In honor of the birth of Ian Nason Rausch

In memory of Selma Blatt

Daniel & Kristine Rausch

In appreciation of Dr. Joel Olstein

BODENHEIMER PASSOVER FUND

CEMETERY FUND

COHEN/LEVOY GARDEN FUND

ENDOWMENT FUND

GEORGE E. SHAPIRO MEMORIAL FUND

HEBREW SCHOOL FUND

PRAYER BOOK FUND

RABBINIC RETENTION FUND

RANDALL H. SILVER LIBRARY FUND

YOUTH FUND

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A THANK YOU FROM TRINITY JUBILEE CENTER

The following thank you note was received from the Trinity Jubilee Center for the food that we collected during the holidays.

"Thank you so much for collecting food for our food pantry. We are seeing 200-250 families each week and your donations helped a lot of families. Since we have recently increased our Soup Kitchen Meals program from 4 to 7 days each week we have had to use some food pantry food in our meals and your donations helped us fill the empty shelves. Thank you for thinking of us and for your continued support. It was perfect timing and great food!"

Sincerely, Erin Reed

FAMILY HEBREW SCHOOL UPDATE

From Ally Casares and our 3-4 yr olds:

Clink clink! That's the sound of our Tzedakah box filling up with coins from the 3 and 4 year old Hebrew School students. My little friends have been very busy reading good Jewish literature, crafting and singing traditional Jewish songs. During the past Hebrew School sessions, we have role played a Rosh Hashanah dinner, created our own shofars, decorated a preschool size sukkah and made decorations for the Temple Sukkah. We learned about preparing for and celebrating Shabbat by setting the Shabbat table and creating our own special Challah covers. The Torah was celebrated with a joyful Simchat Torah parade and colorful flags waving in the air. We visited the Torahs in the chapel and learned how we stand when the Ark is opened. We continue to learn to follow the Torah teachings by fulfilling mitzvahs and learning how it is important to help those in need in our Temple community and in our local community. We put together a food basket for a local charity and sent get well cards to a Temple member in recovery. My little friends and I are very busy learning what it means to be Jewish but also enjoying play time with their Jewish friends. We find both to be equally important!

From Nancy Levinsky and our 5-7 yr olds:

We have been very busy learning Hebrew letters and Hebrew words. We studied Rosh Hashanah and why some people call it the "round" holiday. We discovered that time is like a circle with no beginning and no end. The year keeps going round and round and we eat round challah as a symbol. We also burned some calories by doing "Rosh" (head) and Shoulders, Knees and Toes very fast! We studied Shabbat along with the blessings over the candles, wine and challah. We also studied the mezuzah and why it is an important symbol in Judaism. We even made our own mezuzot and brought them home to hang on the doorpost of a room in our home!

From Jerryanne LaPerriere and our 8-10 yr olds:

The students in my class of 8 to 10 year-olds started out by creating a tzedakah box and have been donating to a cause which we will choose toward the end of the school year. We have been studying all of the holidays between Rosh Hashanah through Simchat Torah. Last week, we studied our weekly holiday, Shabbat; Chanukah will be the next holiday we study. Besides the holidays, we have been learning beginning Hebrew and have thus far covered shin, bet, tet, gimmel, dalet, aleph, mem, and the vowel sounds "ah" and "ee." They are getting quite good at decoding short words and syllables. I look forward to their being able to sound out short prayers in the near future. The students seem to be working very diligently but at the same time seem to enjoy their time in class. It's an absolutely lovely group of children and I am enjoying teaching them very much. Each one is different and brings their own special self to the group. It promises to be a great year.

From the Rabbi and our B'nai Mitzvah age class:

This is a great age to work with, as the students prepare for their B'nai Mitzvah, but more importantly as they prepare for life. We are spending half our time learning Hebrew skills, and the other half talking about how Judaism gives us a useful set of lenses through which to see the world and be a part of it. At our first meeting in September, I asked the students to anonymously write down questions that they would like to have answered during the year. They gave me excellent questions from which to work, including questions about Israel, about how Judaism views other religions, and about dating people of other faiths. We may not always come up with clear answers to these questions; but, as I tell my students, Judaism demands that we ask the tough questions, whether or not we ever get the answers!

DECEMBER 2011 YAHRZEITEN

Dec.	1	Pasyah Fersht Schneider	5
	3	Rose P. Marcus Kislev	7
	4	Arnold Goldblatt	8
	5	Michael Abromson	9
	5	Max Lezberg	9
	5	Pasyah Fersht Schneider	9
	6	Philip Rosen	10
	6	Ruth Supovitz	10
	8	Charlotte Litel	12
	9	Edward Cortell	13
	12	Lipman Simmons	16
	14	Morris Supovitz	18
	16	Allan Creighton	20
	18	Dr. Daniel J. Bell	22
	19	Albert Levenson	23
	19	Charles W. Marcus	23
	20	Nathan Benson	24
	21	Ethel Plavin	25
	22	Daniel Kurz	26
	22	William Markle	26
	23	Morris Zallen	27
	25	Frances Silverman	29
	27	Frances Stern Tevet	1
	28	Sylvia J. LaPerriere	2
	29	Arlene Fine	3
	30	Marcia Bell	4

OUR PRESCHOOL'S WISH LIST!



Our Temple Shalom Preschool helps support our congregation, how about helping them with their needs! Our talented teachers are working hard to teach and nurture young minds in the Preschool. The strong reputation of our program continues in the L/A community. The Preschool Committee has asked Miss Claudette and Miss Ginna for a Wish List, so we know how best to help them continue to be successful. We are pleased to note that the teachers do not have a request for the Wish List this month!

We are so pleased to report that EC Nussinow has gifted Temple Shalom Preschool with the Sit and Spin that was listed on the Wish List. She contacted us from Florida informing us of her generous gift. How wonderful it is that our Temple family continues to support our Preschool whether they are living near or far. We are so grateful for your support! With our deepest appreciation, Allyson Casares, the Preschool Committee, and the little friends who will be sitting and spinning.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CALENDAR SPONSORS

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 Dr. & Mrs. Mitchell Auster
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 Cameron Tire & Service, Inc.
 Center Street Auto Service
 Center Street Cafe
 Charlie's Motor Mall
 C.L.H. & Sons, Inc.
 Stuart Cohen & Carmen Comeau
 Collette Monuments, Inc.
 Ada & Charles Creighton
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 Robert & Jackie Laskoff
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 Nason Mechanical Systems
 Pacios, Rausch, Chasse, CPAs
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Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center

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DATED MATERIAL
December 2011

DECEMBER AT TEMPLE SHALOM

Thursdays, 12/1, 8, 15, 22, 29	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan
Thursdays, 12, 1, 8, 15	7:00 pm	Adult Ed: Ketuvim/Writings
Saturday, 12/3	9:30 am	Service for Shabbat
Sunday, 12/4	10:00 am	Family Hebrew School
	5:00 pm	Women's Rosh Chodesh event – Please RSVP!
Tuesdays, 12/6, 13,	10:00 am	Line Dancing Class
Saturday, 12/10	9:30 am	Service for Shabbat
Monday, 12/12	3:30 pm	Book Group to discuss The Blue Nude
	5:15 pm	Program and Social Action Committee
Saturday, 12/17	9:30 am	Service for Shabbat
Sunday, 12/18	10:00 am	Family Hebrew School
Tuesday, 12/20	5:00 pm	Mega-Menorah lighting for 1 st night of Chanukah
Wednesday, 12/21	5:00 pm	Mega-Menorah lighting for 2 nd night of Chanukah and TSSC Annual Chanukah Party – RSVP!
Thursday, 12/22	5:00 pm	Mega-Menorah lighting for 3 rd night of Chanukah
Friday, 12/23	3:30 pm	Mega-Menorah lighting for 4 th night of Chanukah
Saturday, 12/24	9:30 am	Service for Shabbat
	5:00 pm	Mega-Menorah lighting for 5 th night of Chanukah
Sunday, 12/25	5:00 pm	Mega-Menorah lighting for 6 th night of Chanukah
Monday, 12/26	4:45 pm	Mega-Menorah lighting for 7 th night of Chanukah
Tuesday, 12/27	4:45 pm	Mega-Menorah lighting for 8 th night of Chanukah
Saturday, 12/31	9:30 am	Service for Shabbat

