



# MA CHADASH!

# מה חדש!

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

ק"ק היכל שלום

January 2012 / Tevet - Shevat 5772



## **BATES PROFESSOR TO SPEAK AT BRUNCH ON THE NAME "JEW"**

Professor Cynthia Baker will be the guest speaker at Temple Shalom's annual Martin Luther King Weekend brunch, on Sunday, January 15 at 10:00 a.m.

Her topic is: "What's in a Name?"

As Prof. Baker explains, "Exploring the history and uses of the name 'Jew' can tell us a lot not only about the distant and recent past, but also about some of the most significant cultural and political dynamics unfolding in the twenty-first century. In addition, it might lead us to

discover things we didn't even know about ourselves."

Cynthia Baker is Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Bates College, where she teaches courses on Judaism and on early Christianity. She is working on a book about the word "Jew" to be published in the Rutgers University Press series "Key Words in Jewish Studies." Her research has been funded in part by a Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Following Professor Baker's talk, there will be an opportunity for questions and discussion of her topic.

Please RSVP for the brunch by telephone at 786-4201 or by email to [temple6359@aol.com](mailto:temple6359@aol.com).

## FROM THE RABBI



"What's in a name..."

Wm. Shakespeare

That's the title of the talk that Bates Prof. Cynthia Baker will present at our brunch program on Sunday, January 15. Shakespeare, in *Romeo and Juliet*, was talking about a rose, that "by any other name would smell as sweet." Prof. Baker, however, will be taking about Jews.

Why are we called Jews, and what does that name and identity mean to us?

We might have been called "Rubes"! Reuben was Jacob's first-born, and the nation and religion that was founded by Jacob's twelve sons might have been named for him. He challenged his father's authority by sleeping with his father's concubine (Gen. 35:22), thereby disqualifying himself. Brothers number two and three, Simon and Levi, were disqualified for tricking and then killing all the men of a town, because of what their prince had done to their sister Dinah (Gen. 34).

That left the fourth son, Judah. He was the one who argued his brothers out of killing their bratty young brother Joseph. Instead, they sold him (Joseph) into slavery in Egypt, and the rest is history, or rather Bible.

Eventually, a kingdom founded by descendants of Jacob was named for Judah, although they used his Hebrew name, Yehudah. In English, the citizens of that kingdom are often called Judeans; and when the time came that there were many Judeans living outside Judea, they became known as "Jews."

I find it interesting that many people I meet of other faiths are reluctant to call us Jews; they refer, instead, to "Jewish people." Some of them have explained to me that they thought it was derogatory to call someone a Jew. It is true that the word has sometimes been used that way in history; but that's not our fault. We need to reclaim that proud name, and I encourage those people to use it.

As for being called "Jewish," that must mean being only sort-of a Jew, as in "I'll be there five-ish," meaning around five o'clock. I'm not sort-of a Jew; I'm a Jew, and proud of it. How about you?

Come hear Prof. Baker's talk on the 15<sup>th</sup>, and join in the discussion. It promises to be a fascinating program.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Hillel

## SPEEDY RECOVERY

We pray for refuah sh'leimah – the full and speedy recovery of **Steve Bieringer, Lloyd W. Cohen, Ada Creighton, Lucia Cullivan, Julia Feldman, Gladys Freedman, Martha Katz-Hyman, David Kurz, Jolene LaPerriere, Murray Rubinstein, Joel Salberg, Mazie Schwartz, Martha Simmons, Rebecca Stevens, 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](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.

## THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

A very generous donation was received from the Max Kagan Family Foundation. It is the generous support of the Kagan family and others in our community that enables us to keep Judaism alive in central Maine.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



As the secular New Year approached, I kept telling myself, "Next year has got to be better!" Health wise, it has been a very tough year for me, and I feel much too young to be having so many problems.

And apparently the year is not over yet, for I just came from the ER while vacationing in Florida, where I had an abscess drained from my elbow that got infected from a fall I had 2 weeks earlier. But as I sit here with my 83 year old mother, Bernice, I realize how lucky I am to still have her with me to share all the nachas, all the joys, I've had this year. First of all, I retired, and so I can come visit her in Florida for as long as I want. Then there was the birth of my grandson Graham. My mom is now a great-grandmother who just bought a laptop so she could skype and see Graham grow, take his first steps and say his first word ("ook" meaning book!) In June I became president of the Temple. Not to be out-done, my mom is now co-president of her Hadassah chapter (of which I am a life member). And to top it all off, my youngest daughter Corinne had a beautiful wedding in up-up-up-state NY, where my mother danced the night away. She is an inspiration to me. And when the end of next year rolls around, I know it will be the good things I remember of 2011. I have always been blessed with 'selective memory', which will come in quite handy this year.

I wish each of us good health, good times and good memories in the year to come.

Lesli

\* \* \* \* \*

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Ellen & Aaron Burke	Jan	21
Robert & Jackie Laskoff		29

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Next meeting will be on Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

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



On December 12 we had another phone interview with the author and a full house at Bertha Bodenheimer's: Malca Wilner, Marsha Auster, Margie Goldberg, Margaret Meyers, Adele Silverman, Judy Abromson, Helene Perry, Linda Griswold, Sandy Traister, Bertha and me, Lesli Weiner. Elizabeth Rosner, author of Blue Nude, answered our questions from her home in California. Rosner is also a poet, as was evident in her gorgeous, yet concise, prose. Being the daughter of Holocaust survivors, she writes of people haunted, years later, by the events of this time in history. This book was enjoyed by all, and enriched by the author's insights. Do read this one!

Julie Orringer's The Invisible Bridge has already been read by a few of our members, and given the thumbs up. This is a long book - 784 pages, or 22 CDs in audio! But we made an exception as it got such good reviews. It has been likened to Dr.Zhivago, not only because of its heft, but also since it is a love story, this time a Jewish love story set against the backdrop of Hungary and France. It is also "dense in Jewish and Hungarian names." (Remember all of Tolstoy's Russian names? No? Neither can I !!!) It's a good thing I'm on vacation for a couple of weeks so I can find the time to read! Pick up your copy at the library, and join us on MONDAY, JANUARY 9 at the Temple at 4 PM.

See you next year!  
Lesli Weiner

### MAZEL TOV!

To Estelle Rubinstein, longtime director of Androscoggin Head Start who retired at the end of December after a career of more than 40 years. We wish her the very best!

### SOUP KITCHEN – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sunday, January 22, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.  
Trinity Church Soup Kitchen  
247 Bates Street, Lewiston

## TEMPLE SHALOM FINALLY BIDS GOODBYE TO DIAL-UP!

A high-speed DSL internet connection came to the Temple Shalom office in mid-December, bringing a long-overdue end to our era of dial-up!

Until very recently, no internet provider was able to provide a DSL connection to our building back in the woods near the end of Bradman Street. Over the last few years, Julie would call possible providers once or twice a year to check if they had brought a cable internet connection to our neighborhood. The answer was always 'no' – until now.

Thanks to a friendly and professional Fair Point technician who spent several hours fixing glitches in our phone system, Julie and the rabbi are now able to access the internet much more easily and efficiently.

A side benefit of the new system is that we now have wi-fi available in the building. If you come to the synagogue with your laptop and would like to log on, please check with Julie for the security code.

## AMAZON.COM

Remember to order from Amazon.com by going through the link on the Temple website: [www.templeshalomauburn.org](http://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!

Penelope Markle	Jan	1
Sarah Olstein		1
Henry Meyer		3
Maya Katzir		4
Becca Platz		9
Jennifer Cohen		10
Neal Weiner		12
Diane Hemingway		14
Rachel Fakhery		16
Mika Katzir		16
Adrienne Rau		17
Victoria Cohen		20
Gillian Schair		20
Theodore Graham		22
Susan Teich		22
Rosa Cohen		23
Kristine Rausch		23
Behzad Fakhery		25
Sandra Traister		25
Jackie Laskoff		29
Dovid MUYDERMAN		30

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

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Nursery School	Allyson Casares
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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](http://www.templeshalomauburn.org)

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

Rabbi's e-mail address:

[veyeh.bracha@gmail.com](mailto:veyeh.bracha@gmail.com)

# CONTRIBUTIONS

## GENERAL FUND

Bonnie & Larry Faiman  
Speedy recovery to Toby Wallach  
In memory of Selma Blatt

Stan & Cathy Tetenman  
In memory of Paula Kagan

Harriet & Behzad Fakhery  
In memory of Paula Kagan

Dorothy Fishman  
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In honor of Estelle Rubinstein's significant  
career at Head Start  
Speedy recovery to Toby Wallach

Jackie Wilner  
In memory of Paula Kagan

Betty & Julius Wise  
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Speedy recovery to Gladys Freedman

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In memory of Morris Supovitz  
In memory of Celia Supovitz

Phyllis & Leonard Bell  
In memory of Daniel Bell

Michael Gagne  
In memory of Paula Kagan  
In honor of Estelle Rubinstein's retirement  
from Head Start  
In memory of Jay Graber  
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Paula Marcus-Platz & Tom Platz  
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In memory of Paula Kagan  
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The Bell Family  
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In memory of Daniel Gurewitz

## ABROMSON MEMORIAL FUND

Judy Abromson

In memory of Paula Kagan

Continued recovery to Toby Wallach

## BODENHEIMER PASSOVER FUND

Bertha Bodeheimer

To Sandra & Allen Miller in honor of their  
grandson's bar mitzvah

In memory of Sue Benjamin

## LIBRARY FUND

Marianne Miller

Speedy recovery to Toby Wallach

Suzan Katzir

In honor of Bonnie & Larry Faiman

In memory of Paula Kagan

Betsey Bailey

Speedy recovery to Toby Wallach

## MARCUS MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND

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## MITZVAH FUND

Marilyn I. Simonds

Speedy recovery to Toby Wallach

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In honor of Estelle Rubinstein's significant  
career at Head Start

## NUSSINOW MEMORIAL FUND

*To support the Temple Shalom PreSchool*

Adele & Morris Silverman

Speedy recovery to Toby Wallach

In memory of Paula Kagan

Lois & Ben Barr

In memory of Paula Kagan

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Sharon Day

In memory of Paula Kagan

Jeff Stern

In memory of Frances Stern

Fredda & Ken Wolf

In honor of Estelle Rubinstein's retirement  
from at Head Start

Penelope Markle

In memory of Erwin Markle

## CONTRIBUTIONS (continued)

### RANDALL H. SILVER LIBRARY FUND

Dorothy Fishman

Thank you to Malca Wilner

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*For interior decoration & maintenance*

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### ENDOWMENT FUND

### HEBREW SCHOOL FUND

### PRAYER BOOK FUND

### RABBINIC RETENTION FUND

### YOUTH FUND

\* \* \* \* \*

## 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!

Our Preschool does have a few openings for January in the 2 day and 3 day programs from 9:00 am – 12:00 noon. Please call the Temple office for more information and registration forms or check out the website: [www.templeshalomnurseryschool.com](http://www.templeshalomnurseryschool.com).

## TWO NEW ADULT ED COURSES IN JANUARY

**SYNAGOGUE SKILLS** – 2 Thursdays 1/5 and 1/12 at 7 pm

People occasionally tell the rabbi that they don't come to services, or are uncomfortable if they do come, because they don't understand what's going on. Here is your chance to learn! We will spend the first part of this short two-session course learning about the structure of the service and the uniform (prayer shawl and tefillin); then we'll go into the chapel and learn about the 'choreography of prayer' – standing, sitting, even standing on tip-toes!

All are welcome, and there is no cost for this course. However, preregistration is requested; please call the office at 786-4201 or email to [temple6359@aol.com](mailto:temple6359@aol.com).

**MIDRASH** – 4 Thursdays 1/26 through 2/16 at 7 pm

Jewish teaching includes a wealth of stories, called *midrash* (pl. *midrashim*), that teach us much about both Jewish law (*midrash halakha*) and Jewish wisdom (*midrash agadah*). This four part series will focus on the origins of these stories, and how they are used in the Jewish tradition.

There is no cost for this course for members of Temple Shalom; non-members are asked to pay a \$25. registration fee. All are asked to preregister, by calling the office at 786-4201 or by email to [temple6359@aol.com](mailto:temple6359@aol.com).

## TOILETRIES COLLECTION

A basket is set up on the table in the lobby to hold your donations of small travel hotel size toiletries: soap, shampoo, creams, razor blades, etc. These are distributed to local worthwhile organizations on a regular basis.

## INKJET CARTRIDGES

Please keep those inkjet cartridges coming. It builds up the Mitzvah Fund, and also keeps the cartridges out of the landfills – a double mitzvah! Please wrap each empty cartridge in its original wrapper or a plastic sandwich bag. There is a box set up in the Temple lobby. Inkjet cartridges only, no laser cartridges, please!

**SPONSOR AN ONEG OR KIDDUSH!**

Having an anniversary, birthday, yahrzeit, or any other special occasion? Increase the joy of the occasion by celebrating with family and friends and sponsoring an Oneg Shabbat on a Friday evening or a Kiddush on Saturday morning. You will have performed two mitzvot. One is celebrating the special occasion, and the other is ensuring a minyan where everyone can share the joy. Contact Julie at the Temple office, who will take care of all the arrangements.



**JANUARY 2012 YAHRZEITEN**

Jan.	2	Harry Drabkin	Tevet	7
	5	Benjamin Deane		10
	6	Deborah Isaacson		11
	9	Erwin Markle		14
	11	Joseph Wilner		16
	12	Shirley Isaacson		17
	13	Pauline Cohen		18
	14	Ida Wilner		19
	16	Ida Benson		21
	17	Sylvia Kutzen		22
	17	Ruth S. Williams		22
	18	Daniel Gurewitz		23
	18	Robert Kelley		23
	19	Elsie Goodman		24
	21	Marie Rau Stern		26
	23	Stella Schreiber		28
	25	Ida Finks	Shevat	1
	25	Augusta Olstein		1
	26	Herman Wallach		2
	28	Celia Supovitz		4
	29	Henry Brody		5
	29	Bernard Marcus		5
	30	Reevan I. Levine		6
	31	Janet Wilner Kornreich		7
	31	Maynard Schwartz		7
	31	Ernest B. Williams		7

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CALENDAR SPONSORS**

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## JANUARY AT TEMPLE SHALOM

Tuesdays, 1/3,	10:00 am	Line Dancing
Thursday, 1/5	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan
	7:00 pm	Adult Ed: Synagogue skills
Saturday, 1/7	9:30 am	Service for Shabbat
Sunday, 1/8	10:00 am	Family Hebrew School
Monday, 1/9	4:00 pm	Book Group – “The Invisible Bridge”
Tuesday, 1/10	10:00 am	Line Dancing
	5:15 pm	Program and Social Action Committee
Thursday, 1/12	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan
	7:00 pm	Adult Ed: Synagogue skills
Saturday, 1/14	9:30 am	Service for Shabbat
Sunday, 1/15	10:00 am	Brunch and speaker – RSVP!
Monday, 1/16	7:00 pm	Board Meeting
Tuesday, 1/17	10:00 am	Line Dancing
Thursday, 1/19	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan
Saturday, 1/21	9:30 am	Service for Shabbat
Sunday, 1/22	10:00 am	Family Hebrew School
	4:30 pm	Volunteer at Trinity Church Soup Kitchen
Tuesday, 1/24	10:00 am	Line Dancing
Thursday, 1/26	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan
	7:00 pm	Adult Ed: Midrash
Saturday, 1/28	9:30 am	Service for Shabbat
Tuesday, 1/31	10:00 am	Line Dancing

