



MA CHADASH! **מה חדש!**

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

October 2016/Elul/Tishrei 5777



Simchat Torah 2016!

Friday, October 21, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Pizza in the Sukkah!

Celebrate with the Torahs!

Seven Exciting Dances and Games!

Watch Bertha Capture the Kippah!

“CONToRAH” Dance!

(led by contra-dance caller, Cindy Larock)

Interactive Drum Circle with Peter Floyd!

Live Music! All Ages!

FROM THE RABBI...



Hi Everyone.

I would like to share an unusual Yiddish word that I remember from my childhood: *koyshela*. The *koyshela* is the pale-yellow, Y-shaped holder that you insert the *lulav* (palm branch) into the center of. You then insert the *hadasim* (myrtle branches) and the *aravot* (willow branches) into the tubes on either side in order to make the *lulav* ready for *Sukkot*. It is sort of a cross between the cheap woven sunhat that you might find in a Caribbean tourist bazaar and a traditional Chinese finger trap—and it is made entirely out of *lulav* leaves! If you Google a picture of a *lulav*, you will see exactly what I am talking

about.

Why do we have the *koyshela*? There are two seemingly contradictory Rabbinic traditions relating to the *lulav*. The first: to bind the three types of branches together. The second: not to add any new materials to the “four species” (the three types of branches, plus the *etrog*). How do you bind the branches together without introducing a new *species*, such as a cord or string? Ashkenazic Jewry’s answer is the *koyshela*, which binds the branches all together but, as it is fashioned entirely from *lulav* leaves, does not add an additional specie. Similarly, in order to keep the *lulav*’s leaves from spreading apart, we use “rings”—also fashioned out of *lulav* leaves.

The idea of “not adding” is sourced in Deuteronomy—do not add or subtract from the mitzvot outlined in the Torah. The Talmud extrapolates from this rule the maxim of “*kol hamosif gorea*”—one who adds is, in fact, subtracting—or as we say nowadays: “less is more.” Thus, each time we hold the *lulav* in its *koyshela* we are reminded of this ancient and important Jewish idea—less is more.

The problem is we have the exact opposite tradition with respect to the *etrog*. When it comes to buying an *etrog*, the Talmud insists, “more is more.” In fact, it is the custom of many Jews to spend extraordinary amounts of time and excessive amounts of money (in recent times, hundreds or even thousands of dollars) purchasing the most beautiful *etrog*.

So, during *Sukkot*, on the one hand (or, literally, *in* the one hand) we have the message of less is more and on (or, *in*) the other hand we have the opposite message—more is more!

Each year, our community conducts a study/discussion on Yom Kippur afternoon prior to Neilah (the service that concludes Yom Kippur). This year, I would like us to focus on the issue of “less is more” versus “more is more,” as applied to our Jewish rituals, practices and experiences. And services. Especially services.

When do we get more out of less? When is more—more meaningful? More frequent or less frequent? Longer or shorter? In relation to prayer or study, meditation or song?

Please prepare, if you can, to share your *personal* thoughts on this topic with the community. Who wants more, who wants less? Of what? And why?

My wish is that though this process we will learn to better respect where each of us is coming from and, hopefully, learn to see things from each other’s perspectives. E.g., “She finds this meaningful, perhaps I should take another look at it myself!”

May we engage in constructive and meaningful spiritual dialogue for many years to come.

Rabbi Sruli

P.S. Rabbi Sruli will be offering the Benediction at the Back to Bates, Interfaith Service, on Sunday, October 9 at 11 a.m. Rabbi Sruli and Lisa will be performing for the Southern Maine Hillel, at the University of Southern Maine, on Tuesday, October 19 at 12 p.m. in honor of *Sukkot*.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are now just days away. As much as Labor Day is a marking point for change, so are the Holidays. It is a time to reflect on the year that has been and contemplate the year coming up. It is a time to be thankful and grateful for all that we have (hopefully, health, happiness, financial comfort and times free from worry) and a time to ask G-d and man for forgiveness. It is a time to pledge to do better and then **strive to actually do better**. Maybe that 'better', is to show more patience with people, maybe it is to give more to charity (for this one, keep Temple Shalom, at the top of your list), maybe you pledge to volunteer more or maybe you want to improve yourself, spiritually, educationally or become more healthy. Find what it is for you and then follow through on making your you 'better'. Then, really take action to improve yourself, whatever that means to you. You only have two to answer to...yourself and G-d.

To finish out the year 5776, I had the honor of being on a Bet Din – a panel of judges – overseeing the conversion of two of our newest members. Many of us are Jews by birth and all we have to do to be Jewish is to be born. I am so impressed with those who are Jews by choice. The work to become a Jew, the commitment to become a Jew, the dedication to become a Jew is telling of who these, Jews by choice, are.

During the final conversion process, each Jew by choice, answers ten questions. These questions probe why each wants to become a Jew, what their commitment to Judaism is, how they will continue to grow as a Jew. The answers each gave, were well thought out, impressive and to me, enlightening. I learned so much about each of them during a short two hours.

Each took a Jewish name that meant something to them. They did not just go through a book of names, but put thought into the name and who had that name before them.

The conversion ended with both using Taylor Pond as a Mikvah.

Mazel Tov to Brianna Robillard (Hebrew name: Rachel) and Sarah Graf. Sarah's Hebrew name is, Hadassah Ariella and as she said, "Hadassah, because Esther has always been very dear to my heart." May each of you have the first year as a Jew be a happy and healthy and sweet year. May you continue to grow as women and as Jews.

Joel Salberg sent me a prayer a few years ago and I always liked it. To all of our members, families, friends, but especially to Rachel and Hadassah...May G-d our Father, walk through your homes and take away all worries and illness. May He bless your homes and family with peace and health and happiness.

From me and my family, may all of your loved ones experience a happy, healthy and sweet new year.

L'Shana Tova,
David Allen, President

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to the Berman Family on the recent passing of C. Martin (Sonny) Berman.

May God comfort you together with all the other mourners on Zion and Jerusalem.

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

The Secret Chord: A Novel by Geraldine Brooks was our September 12th choice. Some of our



best discussions have been about books we do not like, and this held true for Bonnie Faiman, Bertha Bodenheimer, Adele Silverman, Melissa Johnson, Margaret Meyer and me, Lesli Weiner. The title comes from the line in the Torah where David played a secret chord and it pleased the Lord. Well, after reading this well-researched account of King

David's life we found it hard to swallow his deceit, his poor judgment, his excesses, his transgressions, and all that violence. But of course, Brooks was trying to give us a sense of what life was really like in those days, and in that, she succeeded. No wonder where *Game of Thrones* gets its storylines! Incest, treachery and murder. Marriages for love and political alliance, plus love triangles. This is a fictional account of the ancient story, but the Bible is full of this stuff. Rabbi Sruli is always reminding us that was then, and we've come a long way. We recommend that you read Geraldine Brooks' *People of the Book* instead!

Our next book brings us to this century and current events. *Notorious RBC: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg* by Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik is playfully written about serious subjects such that the NY Times reviewer aptly described it as being "as if a scrapbook and the Talmud decided to have a baby." Here's what the book description says:

"Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg never asked for fame—she has only tried to make the world a little better and a little freer. But nearly a half-century into her career, something funny happened to the octogenarian: she won the internet. Across America, people who weren't even born when Ginsburg first made her name as a feminist pioneer are tattooing themselves with her face, setting her famously searing dissents to music, and making viral videos in tribute.

Notorious RBC, inspired by the Tumblr that amused the Justice herself and brought to you by its founder and an award-winning feminist journalist, is more than just a love letter. It draws on intimate access to Ginsburg's family members, close friends, colleagues, and clerks, as well an interview with the Justice herself. An original hybrid of reported narrative, annotated dissents, rare archival photos and documents, and illustrations, the book tells a never-before-told story of an unusual and transformative woman who transcends generational divides. As the country struggles with the unfinished business of gender equality and civil rights, Ginsburg stands as a testament to how far we can come with a little chutzpah."

So whatever your politics may be, or whether you're a feminist or not, pick up your copy and read this book. Then join us for the next Book Group on MONDAY, OCTOBER 17 at 4 PM. By the way, the pages are peppered with knockout photos!.....lesli



Rabbi Sruli is always happy to speak with and meet with members or our Temple. Please call Rabbi Sruli on his cellphone 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.





Erev Rosh Hashanah Sacred Music Concert and Service

Sunday, October 2, 7 p.m.

We usher in the High Holiday season with a concert of Sacred Music to set the mood for the beautiful Erev Rosh Hashanah service.

A fabulous selection of apples and honeys, plus home-baked honey cake follow the service.

YAHREZEITEN

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.



We all enjoy our Thursday morning Minyans and breakfast schmoozes.

HELP! We need volunteers to shop and setup. A sign-up sheet is in the kitchen.

YOM KIPPUR BREAK-THE-FAST

There will be a Break-the-Fast this year **on Wednesday, October 12**. All are welcome.

There is no set fee required; as we have in the past, we ask for donations to help defray our costs. Suggested donations; \$5 per person (child or adult). For those who observe the traditional prohibition against carrying money on Yom Kippur, there will be slips of paper next to our donation jar. Write an "I.O.U." and you'll be billed. **This is a catered food event and we need to know that you will be attending, please R.S.V.P. 786-4201.**





Celebrate Sukkot 5777/2016



Sunday, October 16

Holiday Services at 10:00 followed by a pot-luck lunch in the Sukkah at 12:00.

Join us for a very special Holiday service that includes saying the blessings over the lulav and etrog as well as a parade around the chapel! Learn how to “wave” a lulav in 6 directions! Includes a special extended study session of the Bible’s extraordinary book of wisdom, *Ecclesiastes*. No services on Shabbat, October 15.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Our next meeting will be on
Monday, October 17th at 7:00 p.m.



SPEEDY RECOVERY

We pray for refuah sh’leimah – the full and speedy recovery of **Leonard Bell, Nicole Buck, Gary Buckman, Deborah Frank Burdo, Michelle Lisi Deloro, Fleck Family, Ariella Green, Christie James, Elizabeth Johnson, Mark Johnson, Bethany Kornstadt, Irene Marshall, Dennis McCreery, Sandy Miller, Shelley Rau, Joel Salberg, Roger Sutherberg, Toby Wallach, Neal Weiner, Betty Wise, David Wyman, Enid Ehrlich**, 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.



Please join us at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 30, for a brunch served by the men of Temple Shalom Synagogue-Center, followed by the rare screening of "Tevey," a 96-minute black and white film directed in 1936 by Maurice Schwartz. If you plan to attend the brunch, please RSVP by emailing the synagogue at temple6359@aol.com or calling at 207-786-4201.

The Museum of Modern Art in New York screened the Yiddish picture with English subtitles in 2008 and described its historic importance: **"In production just as German tanks rolled into Poland, this bittersweet Yiddish fable is no "Fiddler on the Roof." Projecting the lessons of the past into an uncertain present, Schwartz's adaptation of Aleichem's story offered little comfort for audiences of the time."**



Schwartz's adaptation of the classic Sholem Aleichem play centers on Khave, Tevey the Dairyman's daughter, who falls in love with Fedye, the son of a Ukrainian peasant. Her courtship and marriage pit Tevey's love for his daughter against his deep-seated faith and loyalty to tradition. The clash between tradition and modernity, parental authority and love, customs and enlightenment are foreshadowed by the anti-Semitism of the rural community. Tevey's world is a

microcosm of the larger world of Russian Jewry in the early 1900s.

"Tevey" is the first non-English language film to have been deemed "culturally significant" by the United States Library of Congress and selected for preservation in the National Film Registry in 1991.

"With all due respect to Zero Mostel and Topol in [Fiddler on the Roof](#), it was Maurice Schwartz, the great Yiddish actor/director, who first showed Tevey the Dairyman in his full light as a mensch for all seasons. A rare opportunity to see Schwartz in what may have been his most magnificent role," wrote Judy Stone of the San Francisco Chronicle.

[The National Center for Jewish Film](http://www.jewishfilm.org), a unique, independent nonprofit motion picture archive, distributor, resource center, and exhibitor based at Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass., provided film restoration and English subtitles for this film.



**The National Center
for Jewish Film**
www.jewishfilm.org

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Sophie Kaplan	Oct	1
Melanie Rausch		4
Joseph Worthy		6
Willard Hertz		10
Judy Abromson		15
Ezra Ablitz		16
Amy Nussinow		16
Amy Jensen		17
Lisa Belanger		18
Ian Mason Rausch		20
Lewis Zidle		21
Matthew Cohen		22
Elcha Buckman		23
Timothy Zidle		23
John Isaacson		24
Jerryanne LaPerriere		25
Jennifer Worthy		25
Ian Bodenheimer		27



OCTOBER 2016 YAHRZEITEN

(Yahrzeits begin at nightfall on the evening prior to the date listed below)

Charles Schneidman	Oct	1
Alfred Pennamacoor		2
Frieda Barr		4
Winnie Plavnick		6
Paul Krasner		7
Louis Fishman		9
Ann Forin		11
Charlotte C. Shapiro		11
Kathleen Cawthon		12
Natalie B. Cohen		13
Jeffrey Bell		15
Samuel A. Nussinow		15
Natalie Abromson		17
Anna Kraemer		17
Anita Graber		20
Elaine M. Miller		20
Harvey Baker		23
Mournes Elyeshmerni		23
Elaine Kaduson		23
Esther Krakower		24
Paul Roberts		25
Norman Izenstatt		27
George Shapiro		27
Louis Cohen		28
Louis Steinman		29



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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CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

Joel & Sheri Olstein

In memory of Bernice Harris

Law Offices of Joe Bornstein

In honor of Nancy Levinsky

Marianne Miller

In memory of Lester Miller

Harriet & Behzad Fakhery

In memory of Bernice Harris

Speedy recovery to Sandy Traister

Candace & James Platz

In memory of Bernice Harris

Joel Salberg

In memory of Arthur Salberg

Bonnie & Larry Faiman

In memory of Bernice Harris

Speedy recovery to Bob Allen

Libby Koocher & Deb Benton

In memory of Bernice Harris

Michael Gagne

In memory of Bernice Harris

Aaron & Ellen Burke

In memory of Bernice Harris

Sandy Traister

To Mrs. Dan Scott in memory of her
husband

To Mrs. Eli Brownstein & Family in memory
of her husband, father & grandfather

Valerie Joseph Philanthropic Fund

In honor of Joel & Sheri Olstein with great
appreciation for Shabbat dinner & kayaking

ABROMSON MEMORIAL FUND

Judy Abromson

In memory of Bernice Harris

Speedy recovery to Sandy Traister

BODENHEIMER PASSOVER FUND

Bertha Bodenheimer

In memory of Bernice Harris

Speedy recovery to Betty Wise

To Marilyn Simonds in honor of receiving
the 2016 Women of Achievement Award

To Harriet & Behzad Fakhery in honor of their
granddaughter's bat mitzvah

To Lewis Perry in honor of his special birthday

CEMETERY FUND

Donald & Ellen Bloch

In honor of Lewis Zidle

LIBRARY FUND

Toby & Ernie Wallach

In memory of Bernice Harris

Sandra & Allen Miller

In memory of Dorothy Miller

Speedy recovery to Sandy Traister

MARCUS MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND

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In memory of Bernice Harris

MITZVAH FUND

Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz

To Marilyn Simonds in honor of receiving
the 2016 Women of Achievement Award

Marilyn Simonds

In memory of Bernice Harris

NUSSINOW NURSERY SCHOOL FUND

Funds are used to support the Temple Shalom Nursery/Preschool

Adele Silverman

In memory of Pearl Brody

In memory of Bernice Harris

Estelle Rubinstein

In memory of Hyman Rubenstein

To Marilyn Simonds to honor her contribution
to children & families in our community

Anne & David Allen

To Marilyn Simonds in honor of receiving
the 2016 Women of Achievement Award

Lois & Ben Barr

In memory of Bernice Harris

To Marilyn Simonds in honor of receiving
the 2016 Women of Achievement Award

Amy & Scott Nussinow

In memory of David Krasner

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Candace & James Platz

To Marilyn Simonds in honor of receiving
the 2016 Women of Achievement Award

RANDALL SILVER LIBRARY FUND

Malca Wilner

To Marilyn Simonds in honor of receiving
the 2016 Women of Achievement Award

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For interior decoration and maintenance

Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center

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Auburn, ME 04210-6330

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OCTOBER 2016

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OCTOBER AT TEMPLE SHALOM

Saturday, 10/1		NO Shabbat Service
Sunday, 10/2	7:00 pm	Erev Rosh Hashanah Sacred Music Concert & Service
Monday, 10/3	9:00 am	Rosh Hashanah 1 st Day, Office Closed
Tuesday, 10/4	9:00 am	Rosh Hashanah 2 nd Day, Office Closed
Thursday, 10/6, 13, 20, 27	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Saturday, 10/8, 22, 29	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Tuesday, 10/11	6:00 pm	Kol Nidrei Service
Wednesday, 10/12	9:00 am	Yom Kippur Morning Service, Office Closed
	4:00 pm	Yom Kippur Afternoon Service
	5:45 pm	Yizkor
	6:45 pm	Break-the-Fast – Please RSVP!
Saturday, 10/15		NO Shabbat Service
Sunday, 10/16	10:00 am	Sukkot Service followed by potluck lunch in Sukkah
Monday, 10/17	4:00 pm	Book Group
	5:15 pm	Program Committee Meeting
	7:00 pm	Board Meeting
		Office Closed
Friday, 10/21	5:30 pm	Simchat Torah Service & pizza party – Please RSVP!
Monday, 10/24		Office Closed
Sunday, 10/30	11:00 am	Brunch, screening of Tevye - Please RSVP!

