



MA CHADASHI! מה חדש!

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

December 2016/Kislev/Tevet 5777

Join Us for Our Chanukah Party!



Sunday, December 18th, 2016, 4:00 pm

Mega-Menorah lighting (by Auburn Mayor, Jonathan LaBonte),

followed by a catered dinner, music, games

plus

a special Chanukah play performed by our Hebrew School!

Remember to bring your Menorahs

and Chanukah Candles so we can all enjoy the light together!

Crafts and dreidel games available for the kids.

It's LATKE TIME ~ See you there!

Suggested Donation: \$8 for members, \$10 for non-members, children free

RSVP – 786-4201 or temple6359@aol.com

FROM THE RABBI...



Hi Everyone.

As you probably already know, this year, the first night of Chanukah falls on Christmas Eve, or as some people are calling it, "Chrismukkah." Some of you may remember that just three years ago, we had "Thanksgivukkah." What accounts for the huge disparity in the dating of Chanukah?

A little background. In ancient times, some societies chose to base their calendars on the solar cycle, others on the lunar cycle. We chose both. But in order to sync up the solar and lunar calendar years we needed to make adjustments. A solar year lasts approximately 365 and $\frac{1}{4}$ days. A lunar month is approximately 29 and $\frac{1}{2}$ days. The

problem is that 12 lunar months only add up to 354 days--eleven days shorter than the solar year. In early Talmudic times, the Sanhedrin (a ruling council comprised of about 70 leading scholars), would periodically add a leap month to ensure that the Jewish holidays continued to fall in their appropriate seasons. By the 4th century, C.E., Hillel II synchronized the Jewish calendar to the more commonly used Western solar calendar by adding leap months to 7 out of every 19 years. Hillel's calendar, with minor adjustments, continues to serve us well. Every 19 years, any given Jewish calendar date will be the same as its Western solar counterpart. So, in 19 years, we will once again light the first Chanukah candle while our neighbors are observing Christmas Eve.

The bigger question for me is why confuse things by using both systems? Judaism teaches us to notice and celebrate, through holiday rituals and prayer, each and every sunrise, sunset, weekly Shabbat as well as the arrival of each new season and each new year--all solar related. But we also are taught to acknowledge and appreciate the coming of every new moon. And many of our holidays coincide with the full moon--the first nights of Passover and Sukkot, the night of the Purim feast, Tu B'shvat and Tu B'av. How nice that each year on my Jewish calendar birthday--the fifth of Tamuz--the moon will be just beginning to wax into a beautiful crescent or that my father's yahrzeit will always be marked by the new moon of the month of Nisan. To live a Jewish life is to be in tune with the entirety of our natural world. The fact that that makes the Jewish holidays always early or late--but never on time-- is surely a small price to pay for living in sync with both of the most important time-keeping devices that govern our world.

May we continue to celebrate each new day, week, month, season and year together--for many years to come.

Rabbi Sruli

P.S. Rabbi Sruli and Lisa will be performing as part of the Bates Village Club Series, Faculty and Staff Showcase, on Thursday, December 9 at 9:00 p.m. at the Benjamin Mays Center on the Bates Campus. Rabbi Sruli and Lisa will be performing at the Holiday dinner for the residents of Clover Manor on Wednesday, December 14 from 5 to 7 p.m.



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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Last week, I visited Beth Abraham, so...frozen in time. It was sad to see the building so empty and cold. Cold because the heat was not on. Cold because it is dismantling. Cold because no more memories will be made.

Many of the items, the Ark, a stained glass window over the front doors, Torah covers, spice box and other items will go to the Maine State Museum for an exhibit on Maine Jewry. Others items will be sold and some items will come to Temple Shalom. We expect the Yahrzeit Boards, many dedication plaques and the dedication sections of many stained glass windows to make their way to Temple Shalom where they will be proudly displayed.

As I walked around Beth Abraham, I could see many ghosts of the past. The ghost of the 70's rose up when I saw the shag carpeting in the rabbi's upstairs office. I saw the kitchen bustling with cooking and preparations for an event with 150 people. I saw the Sukkah with lulav and Etrog, colorfully decorated for the season with seasonal produce and, of course, a paper chain or two. On the stage, a magician was preparing to amaze us with his rabbits and slight of hand. In the balcony, I could see the women, from before my time, separate and consigned to the upstairs. On the bima, I could see the ghost of Rabbi Gellar leading the services, as he did for over 25 years. I saw David, his son assisting and growing into a young man, much too soon. I saw the congregation on Yom Kippur 1973, as a bird flew into the sanctuary. Was it a symbol of war or peace? I saw the ghosts of the large congregation that gathered together for holidays, happy times and sad times. The synagogue is quiet, but the memories remain.

The stage no longer had a play or a magician or a clown act, but many items, from tables to dishes to 19th century books that came from Eastern Europe, ready to be sent to their next homes. I saw a sisterhood plaque with the name Elaine Tetenman on it...reminding me of when I was 12 or 13 and thinking that was odd, as that was not her name any longer. It is strange how a young mind (or any mind, for that matter) thinks and what things we remember and have an impact on us.

I saw the same chairs in the little chapel reminding me of the many Shabbat mornings I was there with the kids of my generation...Scott Shapiro, Jamie Shapiro, Linda Koss, Jeff Koss, Lisa Perry, Jennifer Cohen, Anne Gellar and a few others....How times have changed in our lives and the world since Beth Abraham was brimming with a large congregation. Most of that generation, my generation, have grown, moved away, had families, but at Beth Abraham, time stands still. At Beth Abraham, we are all still kids trying to stay out of trouble, or at least, not get caught. The mikvah is dry, the kitchen is barren, the Sukkah is empty, but the ghosts remain...the memories...they remain....many of the family and friends that we shared so much time with at Beth Abraham are gone, but at Beth Abraham time stands still and we are all still there.

David Allen

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to the families on the recent passing of Marcy Plavin and Burt Barr.

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

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

The Girl From the Garden: A Novel by Parnaz Foroutan was the book discussed on November 14.



Present were Margaret Meyer, Babs Shapiro, Adele Silverman, Bonnie Faiman, Elinor Goldblatt, Bertha Bodenheimer, Judy Abromson and me, Lesli Weiner. We found this to be an interesting historical look at the lives of women in early 20th century Iran, and was actually based on the life of a real person. In the opening pages Parnaz writes, "The word paradise is a Farsi word. It means 'the space within enclosed walls, a cultivated place set

apart from the vast wilderness.'" If there is one thing this book portrays vividly, it is that not all enclosed spaces are paradise; some of them are cages. The one thing we did not like about this book was the confusion as to which time frame we were in at the moment, as the story was told in flashbacks. This was Foroutan's first novel, and we feel there may be a sequel, perhaps about the Iranian Jewish immigrants in Los Angeles.

Our next book is *The Devil's Arithmetic* by Jane Yolen. This young adult book was a winner of the National Jewish Book Award. Geared towards ages 10 – 14, Yolen attempts to answer those who question why the Holocaust should be remembered. Following is the book description, just to whet your appetite:

"Hannah is tired of holiday gatherings—all her family ever talks about is the past. In fact, it seems to her that's what they do every Jewish holiday. But this year's Passover Seder will be different—Hannah will be mysteriously transported into the past . . . and only she knows the unspeakable horrors that await."

So be sure to read this short 170 page book and join us on MONDAY, DECEMBER 12 at 4 PM. See you then.....lesli



**We will celebrate Shabbat
together with the students of the Bates Hillel
with a Dinner and Musical Service
on Friday, December 2 at 6:00 p.m.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Our next meeting will be on
Monday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m.





**This month's traditional and musical
Kabbalat Shabbat Service
will be held on Friday, December 23 at 7 p.m.**

The Service will be followed by an Oneg Shabbat.

There will be no Shabbat Services on December 24.

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.



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.

A BISSEL OF MAINE

Let There Be Light, 2016 Menorah Invitational, 11-20-2016 to 1-20-2017
Etz Chaim Synagogue, 267 Congress St., Portland, ME, 207-773-2339
www.etzchaim-portland.org

Chanukah concert!

The Levees, Port City Music Hall, Portland, ME, 12-18-2016
www.thelevees.com



CLYNK!!

The newest, easiest way to support Temple Shalom.
Redeem your empty bottles and cans at any Hannafords.

1. Pick up a green CLYNK bag at the Temple.
2. Take home and FILL with empty bottles & cans.
3. Bring to Hannaford redemption.
4. Scan barcode label.
5. Drop full bag into bin.

That's it!

Because of the barcode Hannaford knows to send the
money to Temple.

What do Jews do on December 25th?



CHINESE AND A MOVIE!!

Movie matinee first then
buffet at LOTUS

Time and movie TBD
SAVE THE DATE!



Second Multi-Faith Round Table at the Auburn Public Library on Tuesday, December 6, 12:30 P.M.

The Auburn Public Library is very excited to announce the return of the Multi-Faith Roundtable discussions. The All-Clergy Round Table will continue on Tuesdays, January 10 and February 7. All programs run from 12:30 to 1:30PM.

Rabbi Sruli will be joined by Pastor Roger Cousineau of East Auburn Baptist Church, Rev. Doctor Jody Cohen Hayashida of First Universalist Church in New Auburn, and Pastor Richard Waller of the Auburn Church of the Nazarene.

Copies of the Biblical texts will be provided, and the audience will have an opportunity to ask questions.

SPEEDY RECOVERY

We pray for refuah sh'leimah – the full and speedy recovery of **Nicole Buck, Gary Buckman, Deborah Frank Burdo, Michelle Lisi Deloro, Enid Ehrlich, Fleck Family, Anne Geller, Ariella Green, Christie James, Elizabeth Johnson, Mark Johnson, Bethany Kornstadt, Dennis McCreery, Sandy Miller, Ashley Olstein, Joel Salberg, Roger Sutherberg, Sandy Traister, Toby Wallach, Neal Weiner, Malca Wilner, Betty Wise, 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.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

None in December!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

| | | |
|--------------------|-----|----|
| Estelle Rubinstein | Dec | 3 |
| Sherman Shapiro | | 3 |
| Andrew Bodenheimer | | 6 |
| Joshua Goodman | | 7 |
| Lillian Zidle | | 7 |
| Briana Robillard | | 9 |
| Peter Casares | | 10 |
| Jennifer Nussinow | | 11 |
| Carla Marcus | | 15 |
| Suzan Katzir | | 17 |
| Sarah Levine | | 30 |
| Patricia Suzanne | | 30 |

DECEMBER 2016 YAHRZEITEN

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

| | | |
|------------------------|------|----|
| Allen Bean | Dec. | 1 |
| Abraham Krasner | | 4 |
| Rose P. Marcus | | 7 |
| Arnold Goldblatt | | 8 |
| Michael Abromson | | 9 |
| Max Lexberg | | 9 |
| Hilda Kleeger | | 10 |
| Philip Rosen | | 10 |
| Harvey Shain | | 12 |
| Renee Laine | | 17 |
| Morris Supovitz | | 18 |
| Dr. Daniel Bell | | 22 |
| Charles Marcus | | 23 |
| Nathan Benson | | 24 |
| Ernestine Friedlaender | | 25 |
| Ethel Plavin | | 25 |
| Morris Zallen | | 27 |
| Morris Silverman | | 28 |
| Frances Stern | | 30 |
| Sylvia LaPerriere | | 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

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Temple Shalom office hours are
9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Monday-Friday

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Telephone: 914-980-9509

CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

In memory of Grace Feinman

In memory of Marcy Plavin

The Bell Family

In memory of Reva Finks Roth

Tom Reeves

In memory of Leonard Bell

In memory of Marcy Plavin

Marilyn Isaacson

In memory of Leonard Bell

Irving Isaacson

In memory of Peter Isaacson

Elcha Buckman

To Malca Wilner for a speedy recovery

To Melissa Johnson for a speedy recovery

Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz

In memory of Leonard Bell

Phyllis Bell

In memory of Sina Amsel

In memory of Irving Bell

Elinor Goldblatt

In memory of Arnold Goldblatt

In memory of Avis Schwartz

Phyllis Bell

In memory of Marcy Plavin

Ellen Wasserman

A very generous donation was received

BELL MEMORIAL CHAPEL FUND

The Bell Family

In memory of Irving Bell

BODENHEIMER PASSOVER FUND

Joan Levenson

In memory of Sadie Baker

Bertha Bodenheimer

To Michael Shapiro in honor of his special
birthday

In memory of Marcy Plavin

CEMETERY FUND

The Day Family

In memory of Charles E. Day

COHEN/LEVOY GARDEN FUND

Stuart & Carmen Cohen

In memory of Richelle Cohen Levoy

In memory of Samuel Cohen

ENDOWMENT FUND

Marcia & Manny Plavin

In memory of Leonard Bell

In memory of Burt Barr

LIBRARY FUND

Sandra & Allen Miller

In memory of Abraham Miller

MITZVAH FUND

Marilyn Simonds

In memory of Leonard Bell

Phyllis Graber Jensen

In memory of Anita Graber

NUSSINOW NURSERY SCHOOL FUND

Funds are used to support the Temple Shalom Nursery/Preschool

Estelle Rubinstein

In memory of Hyman Rubinstein

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In memory of Ecie Nussinow

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Phyllis Bell & Family

In memory of Leonard Bell

Sam & Bob Allen

In memory of Dorothy Allen

RANDALL SILVER LIBRARY FUND

Marianne Miller

To Malca Wilner in honor of a speedy recovery

ABROMSON MEMORIAL FUND**EVE & GEORGE SHAPIRO MEMORIAL FUND****FAMILY HEBREW SCHOOL FUND****MARCUS MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND****MINYANAIRES FUND****PULPIT/PRAYER BOOK FUND****SHIRLEY GOODMAN MEMORIAL FUND**

For interior decoration and maintenance

*Thank
you*

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DECEMBER AT TEMPLE SHALOM

| | | |
|-----------------|----------|--|
| Thursday, 12/1 | 7:00 am | Weekday morning minyan & breakfast |
| Friday, 12/2 | 6:00 pm | Shabbat Dinner/Service with Bates Hillel |
| Saturday, 12/3 | 9:30 am | Shabbat Service |
| Sunday, 12/4 | 10:00 am | Family Hebrew School |
| Thursday, 12/8 | 7:00 am | Weekday morning minyan & breakfast |
| Saturday, 12/10 | 9:30 am | Shabbat Service |
| Monday, 12/12 | 4:00 pm | Book Group |
| | 5:15 pm | Program Committee Meeting |
| | 7:00 pm | Board Meeting |
| Thursday, 12/15 | 7:00 am | Weekday morning minyan & breakfast |
| Saturday, 12/17 | 9:30 am | Shabbat Service |
| Sunday, 12/18 | 4:00 pm | Chanukah Party – Please RSVP! |
| Thursday, 12/22 | 7:00 am | Weekday morning minyan & breakfast |
| Friday, 12/23 | 7:00 pm | Kabbalat Shabbat Service |
| Saturday, 12/24 | | NO Shabbat Service |
| Sunday, 12/25 | TBA | Chinese Food & Movie |
| Thursday, 12/29 | 7:00 am | Weekday morning minyan & breakfast |
| Saturday, 12/31 | 9:30 am | Shabbat Service |

