



MA CHADASHI! מה חדש!

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

July 2017/Tammuz/Av 5777



photo by Phyllis Graber Jensen

**3rd Annual
MAINE-LY JEWISH STORYTELLING
FESTIVAL**

Thursday, July 13th

7PM

Auburn Public Library

**Featured Tellers: Dr. Ellen Frankel, Antonio Rocha, Jen Wren,
Rebbetzin Lisa Mayer, and other writers, poets and bloggers.**

Dessert Reception to follow

Suggested Donation \$5

FROM THE RABBI...



Hi Everyone.

Last week, I had the honor of participating in a clergy panel for the Messalonskee Middle School in Oakland, Maine. On my way into the school, a group of students commented on my appearance. “Interesting get-up,” one said. I assumed she was referring to my yarmulke. I decided to take it as a compliment and move on. Later, when a student asked if I was ever taunted or teased about my religion, I could say, “yeah--about 45 minutes ago!”

The point of the panel (I was joined by a Mormon Bishop; an Islamic representative had been there the day before) was to introduce the mostly 8th grade students to religions different from their own in the hopes of increasing tolerance and acceptance and reducing bigotry and prejudice. When another student asked if it was difficult to follow the rules of Judaism, I took the opportunity to respond that the Jewish restrictions regarding food, holidays, etc., are relatively easy to follow. It is the rules common to all religions—to act honestly, ethically, charitably, generously and kindly—that are the hardest to live up to.

That same night, I happened across an article in the blogosphere (if you have no idea what the blogosphere is, consider yourself blessed), by the Orthodox Rabbi, Natan Slifkin. Rabbi Slifkin, who used to be ultraorthodox, asserted that Rashi, the beloved 11th century Torah commentator, believed in the corporeality of God—that God has an actual, physical body.

But Maimonides, of the 12th century, held that God is incorporeal—that He does not have any physical form. Maimonides taught that any belief to the contrary is, and has always been, heretical to Judaism. Maimonides felt that descriptions in the Torah of God’s finger, or hand, or arm, are merely metaphorical. He enshrined these ideas in his famous “13 Articles of Faith,” which we sing as “Yigdal” at the conclusion of the Friday Night Service.

Needless to say, Rabbi Slifkin’s comment about Rashi caused the Jewish blogosphere to erupt. How could he have the chutzpah to accuse Rashi, among the most revered Jewish scholars, of being a heretic? Rabbi Slifkin responded that obviously Rashi did not consider God’s corporeality to be a heretical belief, and we need to reevaluate the correctness of Maimonides’ original premise. Of course, Rabbi Slifkin’s opponents found this statement to be equally heretical.

So that was my day. I spent the morning involved in a beautiful and meaningful exercise in tolerance and openness, and the evening drawn into an ugly and vituperative debate about which ideas—and which Rabbis—should be labeled heretics. I closed the computer and thanked God (corporeal or not) for my fabulous and inspiring morning.

Rabbi Sruli



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Some random thoughts...

As many of you know, my dad passed away a few weeks ago. He was 87. I always used to get a chuckle when I would read an obituary and it would say that so and so was 90 years old and died unexpectedly. Did they really expect this relative to live forever? I now understand this. Although, my dad was 87, he did die unexpectedly. Many Temple members saw him at the Annual Meeting, just five days before he passed. He seemed not just fine, but great. Yet, a few short days later, he passed, unexpectedly. We did not think he would live forever, but we were really hoping for a bit more time.

Another way to look at it is that I am the youngest of his four children and I got to have a dad for 53 years...well into adulthood. Not everyone gets so many years with their parents. I feel lucky and blessed.

Last week, Anne and I went out to Steamboat Springs, CO to visit our son, Jake and then onto Jackson Hole, WY to visit my cousin Marc. If you have never been, plan a trip. Both areas are spectacular.

In Steamboat, we went hiking and the beauty of nature was breathtaking. Could such beauty be created at random? Is nature, alone, proof that G-d exists? Is nature just another one of G-d's miracles?

In Jackson Hole, we floated down about ten miles of the Snake River – remember, Evel Knievel tried to jump that river, many years ago – every time we came around a bend, we saw the Tetons. A spectacular mountain range.

Three years ago, when my uncle passed away, I was so touched by the love and support the Jewish community showed my family. Again, this May, when my dad passed away, I was again touched by the love and support shown to my family. It was amazing having so many people come to our home and sit Shiva with us, followed by a beautiful musical Shabbat. Even with the sadness of my dad's passing, come Shabbat, we all put that aside and welcomed the Sabbath.

Thank you to all of you for being the people who you are and helping form the community that we are. I feel honored to be a member of this community.

David Allen
President

Attention all Temple members!

Over the past couple of weeks I have been working with a professional cleaner to assure that our kitchen is both clean and safe. During this process, under the advisement of the Board of Directors, there are many items that have not been used for a very long time.

In the social hall there are several sets of glass dishes, pots and pans, and quite a few silver items. Some of the silver items are engraved and if your family or someone you know donated any of these items, you are welcome to claim them.

Please come into the Temple within the next 3 weeks and select any items that you want and please take them home.

Thank you for your cooperation and help with the effort to make our kitchen up to date and more efficient.

Melissa Johnson

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



Gathered around the round table on June 12th were Bertha Bodenheimer, Adele Silverman, Helene Perry, Margaret Meyer, Bonnie Faiman, Sandy Traister, Elinor Goldblatt and me, Lesli Weiner. *The Midwife of Venice* by Roberta Rich was discussed. The novel was not very deep or thought provoking, but we found the historical references interesting, the author having done thorough research into life in sixteenth century Venice. However, the story lines were, at times, too coincidental, and the ending wrapped up too neatly. As a whole, we decided, that while it was a pleasant read, we had better books to recommend.

Our next book, *As Close to Us as Breathing* by Elizabeth Poliner, is a more modern story much closer to home. It is an Amazon Best Book of the Year. Here is their description: "In 1948, a small stretch of the Woodmont, Connecticut shoreline, affectionately named "Bagel Beach," has long been a summer destination for Jewish families. Here sisters Ada, Vivie, and Bec assemble at their beloved family cottage, with children in tow and weekend-only husbands who arrive each Friday in time for the Sabbath meal.

During the weekdays, freedom reigns. Ada, the family beauty, relaxes and grows more playful, unimpeded by her rule-driven, religious husband. Vivie, once terribly wronged by her sister, is now the family diplomat and an increasingly inventive chef. Unmarried Bec finds herself forced to choose between the family-centric life she's always known and a passion-filled life with the married man with whom she's had a secret years-long affair.

But when a terrible accident occurs on the sisters' watch, a summer of hope and self-discovery transforms into a lifetime of atonement and loss for members of this close-knit clan. Seen through the eyes of Molly, who was twelve years old when she witnessed the accident, this is the story of a tragedy and its aftermath, of expanding lives painfully collapsed. Can Molly, decades after the event, draw from her aunt Bec's hard-won wisdom and free herself from the burden that destroyed so many others?

Elizabeth Poliner is a masterful storyteller, a brilliant observer of human nature, and in *As Close to Us as Breathing* she has created an unforgettable meditation on grief, guilt, and the boundaries of identity and love."

I hope you'll find this book, whether on Kindle, in paperback or at the library, and join us on MONDAY, JULY 10 at 4 PM at the Temple. It sounds like some good summer reading.....lesli

SPEEDY RECOVERY

We pray for refuah sh'leimah – the full and speedy recovery of **Gary Buckman, Deborah Frank Burdo, John Calloway, Carson Hudson, Michelle Lisi Deloro, Enid Ehrlich, Fleck Family, Isaak Gekhtin, Anne Geller, Ariella Green, Elizabeth Johnson, Mark Johnson, Bethany Kornstadt, George Laskoff, Susan Lifter, Sandy Miller, Ashley Olstein, Joel Salberg, Rabbi David Ross Senter, Roger Sutherberg, Sandy Traister, Toby Wallach, Neal Weiner, Betty Wise,** 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.





Shabbat at the Lake

(hosted by the Olsteins)

Saturday, July 15

10:00 a.m. Service followed by a potluck lunch.

Please RSVP with intended potluck contribution.

Address: 48 Waterview Drive, Auburn

(Phone if lost - 241-7848 or 576-7927)

Directions - From Hotel Road take East Shore Road. Take the first right which is Waterview Drive. White house with green trim.



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

The Service will be followed by an Oneg Shabbat.

There will be no Shabbat Services on Saturday, July 8.

Back by Popular Demand:
Dr. Jocelyn Sage (Weiner) Mitchell
**INCONVENIENT ARTIFACTS: REPURPOSING
QATAR'S PAST FOR THE NEW
NATIONAL MUSEUM**
Friday, July 21 at 7 PM
Musical Shabbat, Oneg, Lecture and Q&A



Dr. Jocelyn Sage Mitchell is assistant professor of political science at Northwestern University in Doha, Qatar, where she has lived since 2008. She has received over one million USD in grant funds from the Qatar National Research Fund, most recently for a three-year grant on citizen and expatriate responses to the new National Museum of Qatar. This museum is still under construction and will be portraying the history of Qatar.

Between 1956 and 1964, Danish archeological and anthropological expeditions to Qatar took thousands of photographs and created a 20 minute film depicting an undeniable Bedouin past, separate from the merchant and pearl-diving culture of the coast. However, the new museum seeks to promote a different narrative, namely one of a unified national identity that emphasizes the similarities of Qatari citizens rather than the differences. Artifacts such as these Bedouin photos and film can become inconvenient when they do not fit new and improved civic myths. Yet these important pieces of evidence cannot be left out. How can the museum make the evidence fit its theory?

Please join us for this annual event, as Jocelyn is a fascinating speaker and can make most any topic interesting and entertaining. Am I biased, being her mother? Of course, but I do learn so much from my daughter. She has much to tell us about a culture we should know and understand better. Qatar has been in the news lately, being the subject of a blockade by its neighboring Arab nations. Jocelyn will be happy to answer your questions concerning this topic, too. After all, she is a political scientist.

.....Lesli Weiner

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.

FEDERATION REPORT



The L-A Jewish Federation experienced what was probably its poorest fund raising year in its history last November and December! Hopefully, the low total of under ten thousand dollars was because our community members opened their hearts, and pocketbooks, to other Jewish causes.

The 2016 campaign showed pledges totaling only \$9,578. Many long-time donors recall Federation campaigns raising nearly two-hundred-thousand dollars back in the hey-day of the shoe industry; and in more recent years the totals were double, triple, or even more, than this past campaign. Our 'saving grace' is the generous sums that were bequeathed to our

Federation by the estate of Eli Isaacson and a gift from the late Leonard Bell. Both are being used in relatively small amounts annually to enhance our total funding of the organizations listed below.

The largest recipients of our campaign dollars are Temple Shalom and the Jewish Federation of North America (JFNA). Those two entities were allocated \$8000 and \$3500 respectively. The Temple Shalom funding is used for its everyday expenses in order to maintain our Jewish life in Lewiston-Auburn; the JFNA moneys are re-allocated to various groups which enhance Jewish life both in Israel and worldwide.

Smaller allocations ranging from \$100 to \$500 were sent to the following organizations:
Jewish National Fund (Rehabilitation of both land and lives in Israel),
Magen David Adom (The Israeli ambulance service),
Birthright Israel Program (American youths are given free trips to Israel),
Anti-Defamation League (Combats anti-Semitism in the USA),
CAMERA (Alerts letter writers and columnists to respond to anti-Semitic propaganda),
National Hillel (Supports college Hillel groups across the USA),
National Yiddish Book Center (Archive and museum of Yiddish and Hebrew books),
Holocaust Human Rights Center (Augusta based Holocaust remembrance center and educational source).

In addition to the above, \$1075 is set aside for Federation expenses, such as staff, office equipment, supplies and \$250 is held in reserve for local Jewish family assistance. Any of these unused funds are carried over from year to year.

Joel Goodman, Campaign Chairman

Mazel Tov to Greg Levinsky, grandson of Adele Silverman and son of Nancy and Ken Levinsky for making the Dean's List at Boston University College of Communication. Greg will also be a digital content intern at WEEL Sports Radio Network in Boston in the fall!

Mazel Tov to Andrea Levinsky, granddaughter of Adele Silverman and daughter of Nancy and Ken Levinsky who will be an education program manager at Temple Shalom in Newton, MA beginning in August.

'Discover the Joys of Classical Music'



Musicians from Sebago-Long Lake Music Festival

**Sunday, July 23, 2:00 p.m., at Temple Shalom
Free and Open to the Public**

BEETHOVEN: Eyeglasses Duo for Viola and Cello
BARTOK: Duets for Two Violins
MOZART: String Quartet in D Major, K.499

**Varty Manouelian and Movses Pogossian, violins;
Laurie Kennedy, viola; Bonnie Thron, cello**



*Bonnie and Larry Faïman Cordially Invite
the Temple Shalom Community to our
Fourth-Annual Kiddush Levana Event!*



When: Saturday, August 5, at 7:00 pm

*Where: At the home of Bonnie and Larry Faïman,
1 Shore Path Road, in Auburn.*

Dessert and scintillating conversation will be served.

*The Kiddush Levana/Havdallah service will be accompanied
by Instrumental music, singing, and dancing.*

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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Jeffrey & Susan Brown	July	1
Allyson & Peter Casares		3
Karen & John Calloway		7
Behzad & Harriet Fakhery		7
Joe & Chrissy Zidle		8
Victoria & Jonathan Cohen		31

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

David Teich	July	1
Sharon Chandler Bodenheimer		2
Roz Kutzen		3
Melissa Johnson		5
James Nesbitt		5
Olivia Casares		7
Naomi Nesbitt		7
Rose Wollman		7
Jeffrey Brown		8
Bonnie Faiman		8
Paul Rausch		11
Marion Rausch		12
Phyllis Graber Jensen		14
Lisa Mayer		17
Jane Persky		17
Jonathan Cohen		18
Marianne Wise		22
Anita Miles		25
Richard Rau		27
Melissa Brown		28

JULY 2017 YAHRZEITEN

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

Philip Rosenthal	July	4
Jeannette Kaye		4
Philip Isaacson		6
Elaine Cohen		14
Goldie Goldberg		14
Howard Kates		17
Esther Shain		20
Irving Goldberg		21
Jennifer Lee Levine		29
Randall Silver		29
Dorothy Krasner		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

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

Telephone: 207-786-4201

Fax: 207-786-4202

www.templeshalomauburn.org

E-mail address: temple6359@aol.com

Rabbi Sruli: djsruli@gmail.com

Telephone: 914-980-9509

CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

In memory of Louise Cohen

To Candy & Jim Platz on the birth of a new grandson

To Melissa Johnson in honor of receiving the "Person of the Year" award

Candy & Jim Platz

In honor of Joel Goodman's 90th birthday

Bertha Bodenheimer

To Candy & Jim Platz on the birth of a new grandson

Jan & David Wilner

In honor of Elinor Goldblatt's 90th birthday

Karen, Avi, Elya Lavi, Rhoda & Faith Wilner

Ken, Debbie, Adam & Elana Wilner

In honor of Elinor Goldblatt's 90th birthday

Dr. Mitchell Ross

In memory of Louise Cohen

Phyllis Bell

In memory of Evelyn Levine

In memory of Rose Bell

The following have made donations

"In memory of Bob Allen"

Candy & Jim Platz

Joy & Lewis Zidle

Aaron & Ellen Burke

Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz

Harriet & Steve Passerman

Judy Abromson

Harriet & Behzad Fakhery

Jerryanne LaPerriere

Bonnie & Larry Faiman

Joel & Sheri Olstein

Babs & Michael Shapiro

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Phyllis & Stanley Wilner

Maine Thread & Machinery Company

Carol & Seth Alberts

Lesli & Neal Weiner

Tom Reeves

Karen, Avi, Elya Lavi

Brenda & Avraham Zlatin

CEMETERY FUND (Grounds Improvements Project)

Dr. Mitchell Ross

Estelle Rubinstein

To Sidney Rubinstein in honor of his 80th birthday

COHEN/LEVOY GARDEN FUND

Stuart Cohen & Carmen Comeau

In memory of Bob Allen

BODENHEIMER PASSOVER FUND

David & Anne Allen

To Melissa Johnson in honor of receiving
the "Person of the Year" award

In memory of Robert Allen

Speedy recovery to Behzad Fakhery

Tom & Paula Marcus Platz

In memory of Bob Allen

Joan Levenson

In memory of Bob Allen

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

In memory of Bob Allen

In memory of May Tetenman

LIBRARY FUND

Bob & Jackie Laskoff

In memory of Bob Allen

MITZVAH FUND

Marilyn Simonds

In honor of Elinor Goldblatt's 90th birthday

In honor of Joel Goodman's 90th birthday

In memory of Goldie Isaacson

In memory of Bob Allen

Phyllis Graber Jensen

In memory of Bob Allen

Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz

In memory of Bob Allen

NUSSINOW PRESCHOOL FUND

Funds are used to support the Temple Shalom Preschool

Estelle Rubinstein

To Candy & Jim Platz on the birth of a new
grandson

In memory of Bob Allen

Amy & Scott Nussinow

In memory of Milton Krasner

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Sharon Day

In memory of Bob Allen

Elcha Buckman

Wishing good health to son Gary & grandson
Jordan

Jenn & Jerry Cohen

In memory of Lillian Cohen

RANDALL SILVER LIBRARY FUND

Malca Wilner

In memory of Bob Allen

ABROMSON MEMORIAL FUND
BELL MEMORIAL CHAPEL FUND
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MARCUS MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND
MINYANAIRES FUND
PULPIT/PRAYER BOOK FUND
SHIRLEY GOODMAN MEMORIAL FUND

For interior decoration and maintenance

Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center

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JULY 2017

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JULY AT TEMPLE SHALOM

Saturday, 7/1	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Monday, 7/4		Office Closed
Thursday, 7/6	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Friday, 7/7	7:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Saturday, 7/8		No Shabbat Service
Monday, 7/10	4:00 pm	Book Group
	5:15 pm	Program Committee Meeting
Thursday, 7/13	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Saturday, 7/15	10:00 am	Shabbat at the Lake – Olstein cottage, potluck lunch – RSVP!
Thursday, 7/20	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Friday, 7/21	7:00 pm	Musical Shabbat, Oneg, Lecture - Dr. Jocelyn Sage (Weiner) Mitchell and Q&A
Saturday, 7/22	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Sunday, 7/23	2:00 pm	Temple Shalom - a Concert by the Musicians from Sebago-Long Lake Music Festival, 'Discover the Joys of Classical Music' - Free and Open to the Public!
Thursday, 7/27	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Saturday, 7/29	9:30 am	Shabbat Service

