



# MA CHADASH!

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

# מה חדש!

ק"ק היכל שלום

December 2019/Kislev/Tevet 5780

## Join Us for Our Mega-Chanukah Party!



Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019

4:30 pm

Mega-Menorah lighting

followed by a catered dinner,

music, games,

plus, a heart-warming

**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](mailto:temple6359@aol.com)

## FROM THE RABBI



Over the past month or so, our Shabbat morning study has grappled with the mysteries hinted at in the early chapters of the Book of Genesis. The tree of knowledge of good and evil is said to make humans just like God (or Gods?). What knowledge was gained from eating of its fruit? What did Adam and Eve know before they ate? Or after? Do we now know more than them? Or less?

When explaining these mysteries, the most revered medieval commentators to the Torah frequently resort to phrases, such as, “this is all I am permitted to reveal” or “only very few individuals will understand what I am saying,”.

The notion that there are secrets out there that have been preserved by Jewish teachers and texts (or elsewhere), has captured many imaginations. It has motivated countless people to devote their lives to their discovery and, also, to despise others (often Jews) thought to be hoarding these secrets.

*That's where secret societies, and the hatred of secret societies, comes in. Because these groups, real or imagined—Freemasons, Rosicrucians, Illuminati, Jews, always Jews—are thought to be in possession of the secret, which they use to manipulate the multitudes. If not, then why the codes, the symbols, the strange languages and signs? ... And what about the rituals? The goat loaded with sin and driven into the wilderness, the horned helmet worn only in the inner sanctum, the staff and the flowing robes?*

*A man in my town told me that he gets goose bumps whenever he walks past the synagogue, wondering what's being said in there. I can assure you, I told him (it's my synagogue), nothing is being said. Or, if we are talking, it's not about you. We know nothing you don't know, which is why I have trouble connecting with the services. I am searching for the same thing as you, I tell him. In fact, the core of Judaism, as far as I'm concerned, is not knowing. We had the secret, then lost it. That's the worldview. That's the humor. That's the food. That's the sad old men. That's the klezmer. That's why people pray to a wall in the desert. Because the wall used to support a temple, in which there was a room where the secret was spoken once a year, but the room and the building have been destroyed.*

Richard Cohen, the Paris Review, November 12, 2019.

As a child, I remember being told that there are secrets out there—mind blowing secrets that only certain individuals have access to. How do you become one of the privileged few? I would ask. Study hard, separate from worldly pleasures, find a teacher willing to accept you as a student and, if you are lucky—and patient, something, someday, might be revealed to you. Who has these secrets? I would ask. Holy men of the past and present. Read their books, and pray to understand them.

(continued next page)

**(From The Rabbi Continued)**

**Mr. Cohen's advice is to give up. His article concludes: "No book, no teacher, no religion, no philosophy, no scientific discovery will ever satisfy. You are looking for something you will never find, which they used to call God."**

**For me, the secret is in the looking—in the striving to understand the unknowable, that which is beyond our understanding. To accept that the secrets—which we will never be privy to—are what gives meaning to our lives. And that meaning is what we still call God.**

**Rabbi Sruli**

**P.S. Rabbi Sruli will lead Chanukah services for the pre-school as well as the residents of Clover Manor on Thursday, December 19 at 10 A.M.**

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



**featuring**

**Rebbetzin Lisa**

**Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Kabbalat Shabbat at 6:30 pm**

**Lisa's Story and Dessert at 7:30 pm**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This past summer, I witnessed as Gigi chose to become a Jew. At her conversion, she spoke beautifully giving her reasons she choose to become Jewish and why Judaism is important to her and in her life. Recently, I asked her to write up the following for this month's Ma Chadash. I hope you enjoy her words as much as I did.

“Becoming a Jew”, By Gigi Macaluso

I had the honor of converting this past July on what was the hottest day I've ever experienced in Maine. When I entered Taylor Pond, our natural mikvah, it was like passing into another world. The perfect rush of water over my head matched the perfect rush of joy I felt to become a Jew. The joy is easy to feel, but the sorrow is a much more complex thing that I sought to understand.

I do not know what it is like to have a part of the human family—whole groups and civilizations turn on you as has happened with our people throughout many years. However, I do know what it is like to have an actual family turn on you and question your belonging. I know what it is like to have a life dedicated to trying to make sure people never feel mistreated and turned away like I have.

Regardless of all the things I do not have, I do have the great privilege to have accepted Judaism into my life as a gift instead of an inheritance. An inheritance is rich in its own way, full of history and connectedness. However, a gift is intentional and unique, as it is a statement that may be given and accepted in so many ways. I hope to always accept this gift with the grace and kindness with which our Jewish community has given it to me. The courage to go towards a change in life, instead of being moved by the inertia of the familiar is an amazing thing. Abraham was willed to leave his life and all he knew because his faith had changed him. I am changed and for the better.

This betterment has come through what I have learned in study and participating in services. Judaism reminds us that advocating for what you need is just as important as being thankful for what you receive. Every Shabbat the community asks for things that many take for granted. No matter how good or bad things are for you, you are asking that the community heal, grow, and learn. I like that our everyday prayer centers the individual as part of a bigger and more important picture—that picture is a family, a community, a tradition, and a never ending love. And those things are what I need.

My personal and home life has changed quite a bit because of Jewish tradition. I am much more cognizant of the shape of the week and the rhythm of the year. I not only make the effort to go to shul on Saturday, but I make the effort to treat the day as a gift and cause of celebration. Shabbat is a bright spot in any week. I spend my Friday nights singing with my amazing wife, Emily, and our dog, Dolly (Emily has a beautiful voice. Dolly on the other hand...). To see the world only in a candlelight's glow has a sort of gentleness that is lacking in modernity. The traditions that Judaism has infused into my life are an antidote to the cold, sharp angles of our rational world. To let the brain rest and the spirit grow as it is simultaneously expended is a beautiful thing. Being a Jew is a beautiful thing.

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



Winter weather hit us early this year, and I got home from Qatar just in time for the first snow. So for safety reasons, I canceled the November meeting which was a shame since those who read *Button Man* by Andrew Gross found it fascinating. While it read like a novel it's actually, "with only a few embellishments," the story of the author's own grandfather who stood up to the mob that was dominating the garment and fur workers unions of the 1920s and 1930s. And behold.....the

Leslie Fay line!

We rearranged our book schedule so the next title is *The Lost Family* by Jenna Blum. She will be speaking at the JCA in Portland on Thursday, January 9 at 6:30 PM. (\$12) As before, we will go out to eat and then attend as a group. Details to follow by email. It always adds so much to hear from the author. Please join us.

Here is a synopsis of *The Lost Family* from the back cover:

“The *New York Times* bestselling author of *Those Who Save Us* creates a vivid portrait of marriage, family, and the haunting grief of World War II in this emotionally charged, beautifully rendered story that spans a generation, from the 1960s to the 1980s.

In 1965 Manhattan, patrons flock to Masha's to savor its brisket bourguignon and impeccable service and to admire its dashing owner and head chef Peter Rashkin. With his movie-star good looks and tragic past, Peter, a survivor of Auschwitz, is the most eligible bachelor in town. But Peter does not care for the parade of eligible women who come to the restaurant hoping to catch his eye. He has resigned himself to a solitary life. Running Masha's consumes him, as does his terrible guilt over surviving the horrors of the Nazi death camp while his wife, Masha—the restaurant's namesake—and two young daughters perished.

Then exquisitely beautiful June Bouquet, an up-and-coming young model, appears at the restaurant, piercing Peter's guard. Though she is twenty years his junior, the two begin a passionate, whirlwind courtship. When June unexpectedly becomes pregnant, Peter proposes, believing that beginning a new family with the woman he loves will allow him to let go of the horror of the past. But over the next twenty years, the indelible sadness of those memories will overshadow Peter, June, and their daughter Elsbeth, transforming them in shocking, heartbreaking, and unexpected ways.

Jenna Blum artfully brings to the page a husband devastated by a grief he cannot name, a frustrated wife struggling to compete with a ghost she cannot banish, and a daughter sensitive to the pain of both her own family and another lost before she was born. Spanning three cinematic decades, *The Lost Family* is a charming, funny, and elegantly bittersweet study of the repercussions of loss and love.”

Our next meeting is MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 at 4PM.....lesli





## **Lunch and Learn**

**Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Lunch at 12:00—Learn from 12:30 to 1:30**

**We will study**

## **Chanukah in History**

**We will meet at Temple Shalom (not at the Allen home)**

**Anne Allen has graciously offered to  
prepare a homemade lunch!**

**Please RSVP to the Temple Office  
786-4201 or [temple6359@aol.com](mailto:temple6359@aol.com)**

# CHINESE AND A MOVIE

A DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> TRADITION

MOVIE AT FLAGSHIP CINEMA, AUBURN  
(UNDETERMINED AT THIS TIME)

SOMETIME IN THE AFTERNOON



DINNER AFTER  
THE SHOW  
AT LOTUS

STAY TUNED FOR FURTHER DETAILS

**RSVP**  
BY DECEMBER 18  
786-4201

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**Save the Date**  
**Shabbat Together!**  
**שבת ביחד!**

**Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**Great food and drink, bonding, playing, studying, hanging out.**

**Special Guest: Alty Weinreb, Cantor, Shirat Hayam, Swampscott,  
Massachusetts, a Jewish music force of nature!**

## 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.



### REMINDER:

For the months of December, January, February and March, the first Thursday of the month, the service will begin at 7:00 AM. All other Thursday morning services will begin at 8:00 AM. All services will continue to have a service, discussion and breakfast.

When calling the Temple, the ONLY number to use is 207-786-4201. We do have another number, but it is dedicated to the Pre-School. If you know the other number, do not call it. The Pre-School teachers cannot help you as they only know Pre-School information. They have to dedicate their time to the children. Julie is checking the messages throughout the day. So please respect the Pre-School teacher's time and ONLY call 207-786-4201 and leave a message.

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With Julie gone, we could use volunteers to let Pre-School parents in from 11:45 - 12:15 each day. Can you volunteer? You can pick and choose the days you want to come in. You can come in as often or as infrequently as you like....even just a couple of days a month. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Ally Casares at [allycasares@yahoo.com](mailto:allycasares@yahoo.com) or 207-312-2046. THANKS!

## SPEEDY RECOVERY

We pray for refuah sh'leimah – the full and speedy recovery **of Georgette Belanger, Phil Bray, Gary Buckman, Elcha Buckman, John Calloway, June Wilner Chason, Bob Fineman, Sara Graf, Robert Galumbeck, Isaak Gekhtin, Detlef Gerlach, Joel Goodman, Ariella Green, Sharon Hemond, Michael Jeser, Elizabeth Johnson, Suzan Katzir, Henry Lefkowitz, Lee Leveille, Susan Lifter, Bruce Meyer, Sandy Miller, Joel Salberg, Sandy Traister, Neal Weiner, William White** 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 Temple Shalom know when it can be removed.*



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

Programming/Social Action Phyllis Graber Jensen  
Paula Marcus-Platz  
Preschool Allyson Casares

Office Manager Julie Waite

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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#### **Contact Info:**

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Telephone: 914-980-9509

#### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Ritual Larry Faiman  
Membership/Outreach Bertha Bodenheimer  
Budget/Finance/Endowment Stan Tetenman  
Cemetery Henry Meyer  
Hebrew School/Education Allyson Casares



### **TEMPLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

No Meeting in December

Our next meeting will be held on  
Monday, January 13, 2020 at 7:00 pm

## **History of L-A Jewry Project**

I am requesting that any members who have vintage photos of Jewish businesses in the L-A area dating from the 1920s through the 1970s, photos of Jewish professionals (such as doctors, attorneys, accountants), from that period or photos of local Jewish men or women who served in the armed forces in World War I, World War II or the Korean War provide me with copies so that I can incorporate them into an historical exhibit on L-A Jewry I am preparing for Temple Shalom. Please mail to Elliott Epstein, 8 Cushman Place, Auburn, ME 04210.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

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



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

None in December

## YAHREZEITEN

Abraham Krasner	Dec.	2
Rose P. Marcus		5
Arnold Goldblatt		6
Michael Abromson		7
Max Lezberg		7
Hilda Kleeger		8
Philip Rosen		8
Harvey Shain		10
Sonny Isaacson		14
Renee Laine		15
Charles Marcus		21
Ethel Plavin		23
Dorothy Fishman		25
Morris Zallen		25
Morris Silverman		26
Frances Silverman		27
Sherman Shapiro		29
Frances Stern		29
Sylvia LaPerriere		30



# CONTRIBUTIONS

## GENERAL FUND

Anne & David Allen

To Lewis Zidle in honor of a speedy recovery

The Bell Family

In memory of Reva Finks Roth

In memory of Irving Bell

Bertha Bodenheimer

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

## ABROMSON MEMORIAL FUND

Judy Abromson

In memory of Beverly Hurwitz

In memory of Michael Abromson

Harriet & Behzad Fakhery

In memory of Beverly Hurwitz

## LIBRARY FUND

Sandra & Allen Miller

In memory of Abraham H. Miller

## NUSSINOW PRESCHOOL FUND

Amy & Scott Nussinow

In memory of E.C.Nussinow

Estelle Rubinstein

In memory of Hyman Rubinstein

## SHIRLEY GOODMAN MEMORIAL FUND

Babs & Michael Shapiro

Complete recovery to Joel Goodman

## YOM HOO-LEDET SA-ME-AKH, CHAI

Stan & Cathy Tetenman

In honor of Scott Tetenman's birthday

## BELL MEMORIAL CHAPEL FUND

## BODENHEIMER PASSOVER FUND

## CEMETERY FUND

## COHEN/LEVOY GARDEN FUND

## EVE & GEORGE SHAPIRO MEMORIAL FUND

## FAMILY HEBREW SCHOOL FUND

## INVESTMENT FUND

## KITCHEN/BREAKFAST FUND

## MARCUS MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND

## MINYANAIRES FUND

## MITZVAH FUND

## PRAYER BOOK/PULPIT FUND

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

## RANDALL SILVER LIBRARY FUND



**Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center**

74 Bradman Street

Auburn, ME 04210-6330

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DECEMBER 2019

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**DECEMBER AT TEMPLE SHALOM**

Monday, 12/2	12:30 pm	Mahjong
Thursday, 12/5	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Friday, 12/6	6:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Service & Storytelling
Saturday, 12/7	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Monday, 12/9	12:30 pm	Mahjong
	4:00 pm	Book Group Meets
	5:15 pm	Program Committee Meeting
Thursday, 12/12	8:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Saturday, 12/14	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Monday, 12/16	12:30 pm	Mahjong
Thursday, 12/19	8:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Friday, 12/20	4:30 pm	Chanukah Party – RSVP!
Saturday, 12/21	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Monday, 12/23	12:30 pm	Mahjong
Wednesday, 12/25	TBA	Movie & Chinese Food – RSVP!
Thursday, 12/26	8:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Saturday, 12/28		NO Shabbat Service
Monday, 12/30	12:30 pm	Mahjong

