



# MA CHADASH!

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

# מה חדש!

ק"ק היכל שלום

May 2023, Iyar/Sivan 5783



## **Cafe Shalom is Back! Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**

Reception at 6:00 p.m., Program begins at 7:00 p.m.

Wine and Cheese

***Great Music, plus Humor and Magic!***

Cost is \$10.00 per person

**Open to the Public. Please Tell All Your In-Person and Virtual Friends!**



## ***Lag B'Omer***

**Friday, May 5th, 7:00 P.M., at Temple Shalom**

***All Ages!***

***Bonfire, Music, Desserts, Marshmallows, Dancing!***

## FROM THE RABBI



I really like jokes. Jokes among other things help me to better understand human nature. I also really like history. So, I was really excited to come across a joke from the 1st Century B.C.E.! The joke was told by the most prominent Roman officials—even Augustus Caesar himself—and the target of the joke was the prominent Judean King, Herod. Herod was a powerful ruler, who among many other grand achievements, splendidly refurbished the Temple in Jerusalem. He even built the Western Wall! He was also a ruthless leader who reportedly

murdered to become king and continued to murder, a lot, including family members, to remain the king.

Now for the joke: *“It is better to be Herod’s pig, than his son!”*

Israeli professor Yonatan Adler of Ariel University, who is also a Rabbi ordained by the Chief Rabbinate of Israel, cites this joke in his exhaustive research into when Jews began to observe the laws of the Torah. His thesis is that widespread observance of basic Torah laws, such as not eating pork, observing the Sabbath, and not making graven images, began approximately 200 years before the common era (around the time of the Maccabees). Obviously, the joke would not have made sense if Jews were not already known by that time as people who avoided pork.

The joke is funny because it pokes fun at someone who was too pious to eat pork—a uniquely Jewish prohibition—yet had no problem murdering his own family members—something that all can agree is egregiously immoral.

This was and remains a vexing problem. How do we process so many incidents of outwardly religiously observant people doing some of the most awful things? Bad enough when the terrible deeds are personal—a result of greed, lust, ambition. But what about when the bad behavior seems to be part of—even caused by—the religious beliefs themselves?

Just last month the Jewish world (and the rest of the world) watched in horror as thugs sporting large yarmulkes, the fringes of their tzitzis flying out from underneath their shirts, rampaged through the Palestinian town of Huwara. The settler thugs were understandably enraged by the murder of two young Jewish men (fellow settlers) as they drove through the town earlier that day. Less understandable was the response as dozens of violent, identifiably religious, settlers went on an hours-long rampage, indiscriminately setting fire to Palestinian houses, shops and cars. A Palestinian resident of Huwara was killed during this riot as well (although the circumstances of his death are unclear and disputed). One of the most jarring images however was a video of the rioters *davening Maariv* (praying the evening service) in the glow of burning buildings and cars.

If we try hard enough, we could probably adapt the joke about Herod to the ultra-nationalist settlers. Perhaps: *“We faithfully follow Jewish Law, who needs moral or civil law!”* But, somehow, I don’t think that any of us are in the mood to laugh.

Rabbi Sruli

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



If you are reading this, then you obviously have an interest in the Temple and the Jewish community of Auburn. Well, the Temple also has an interest in you. What do you enjoy doing? What are you reading, or watching on TV? Do you have children or grandchildren? Where do they live? Where were you born? Where have you traveled to? Do you believe in God? Have you ever been to Israel? What is your level of observance? Can you read Hebrew? Do you like to sing? What is your favorite holiday?

Well, I could go on and on. Curiosity is endless. So next time you're here, at Temple, ask someone some questions. You can't possibly know all there is to know about anyone. This could spark some interesting conversations, and maybe create some new bonds. Our Program Committee is always looking for new programs, so these conversations could suggest some interesting topics or activities we could try.

If you are a Temple member reading this, please show up to our Annual Meeting on May 8<sup>th</sup> via zoom. This is a great way to show your interest in the Temple and the Jewish community. Your Board of Directors will appreciate your support. And besides, wouldn't you like to know who will be **Person of the Year?!** See you then.

Lesli Weiner  
President

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### Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center

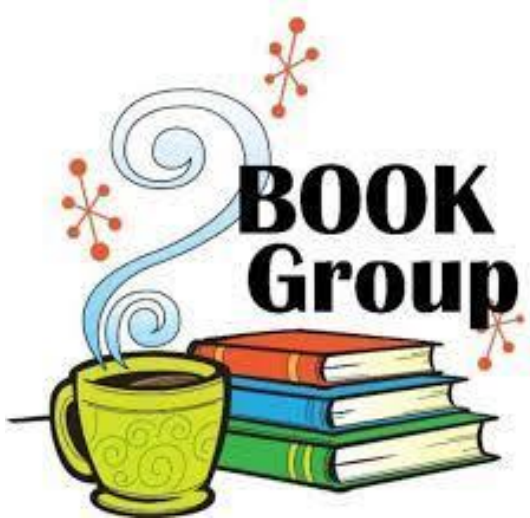
#### Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Monday, May 8, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.  
(Zoom only)

The meeting agenda will include annual reports, election of board members and presentation of the "Person of the Year."



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



On April 10, Babs Shapiro, Helene Perry, Bertha Bodenheimer, Marsha Auster and I, Lesli Weiner, zoomed in to Book Group. We had read Mel Brook's autobiography *It's All About Me!* While some parts were interesting, overall, we would not recommend this book. I read about a third of it and then stopped, as I had learned enough about Mel Brooks. TMI (too much information)!

Our next novel, *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin sounds much more exciting and engrossing:

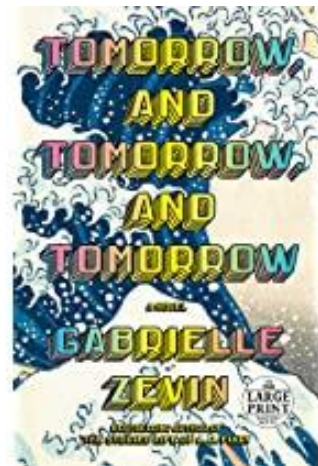
"NEW YORK TIMES BEST SELLER • Sam and Sadie—two college friends, often in love, but never

lovers—become creative partners in a dazzling and intricately imagined world of video game design, where success brings them fame, joy, tragedy, duplicity, and, ultimately, a kind of immortality. It is a love story, but not one you have read before.

From the best-selling author of *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry*: On a bitter-cold day, in the December of his junior year at Harvard, Sam Masur exits a subway car and sees, amid the hordes of people waiting on the platform, Sadie Green. He calls her name. For a moment, she pretends she hasn't heard him, but then, she turns, and a game begins: a legendary collaboration that will launch them to stardom.

These friends, intimates since childhood, borrow money, beg favors, and, before even graduating college, they have created their first blockbuster, *Ichigo*. Overnight, the world is theirs. Not even twenty-five years old, Sam and Sadie are brilliant, successful, and rich, but these qualities won't protect them from their own creative ambitions or the betrayals of their hearts.

Spanning thirty years, from Cambridge, Massachusetts, to Venice Beach, California, and lands in between and far beyond, Gabrielle Zevin's *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow* examines the multifarious nature of identity, disability, failure, the redemptive possibilities in play, and above all, our need to connect: to be loved and to love."



We will meet again on MONDAY, MAY 8 at 4PM via zoom. See you then.....lesli



## ISRAELI BRUNCH AND PROGRAM, SUNDAY, MAY 21 AT 10:00 AM

Please join us at 10 a.m. on Sunday, May 21, for a delicious Israeli brunch catered by Portland-based Israeli chef Haggai Bernstein.



Haggai has fed us on numerous occasions with unforgettable, mouthwatering Israeli cuisine. Admission is \$15. Those planning to attend should RSVP by emailing the synagogue at [Temple6359@aol.com](mailto:Temple6359@aol.com) no later than Monday, May 15.

Haggai's meal will be followed by an 11 a.m. talk by Bates College English Professor Sanford Friedman on "Two Novels of Sayed Kashua, The Wandering Palestinian,"

Sayed Kashua (Arabic: سيد قشوع, Hebrew: סייד קשוע; born 1975) is a Palestinian author and journalist born in Tira, Israel, known for his books and humorous columns in Hebrew and English.

Sanford has taught at Bates since 1978. A brilliant scholar of literature with wide-ranging interests that include Israel, he offers familiar courses on Shakespeare and 18th-century British literature. But the forces of change ensure that "every course is different every year," he says. Each year, preparing a course is like "climbing a familiar mountain and taking a different route to the top." Recently, he taught a new course entitled "Anti-Semitism and the Literary Response, 1850–1940: A Primer."

This exciting May 21 program will feed our hearts and minds. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

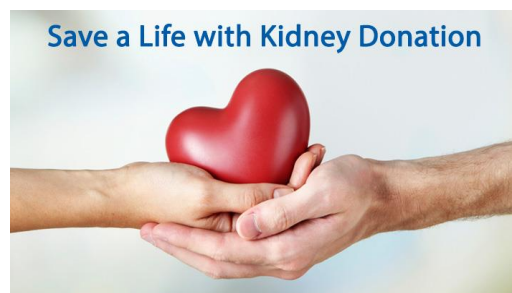
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## Maine Medical Center- Living Kidney Donations

Temple member and friend Bob Scott needs our help! He has been on dialysis for 3+ years, 3 times a week for 4 hours a session. A kidney transplant is his only chance of getting off of dialysis.

Please consider being a donor to give the gift of life and to make a difference!

Register to donate at [mmc.donorscreen.org](http://mmc.donorscreen.org)



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

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Ritual	Larry Faiman
Membership/Outreach	Bertha Bodenheimer
Budget/Finance/Endowment	Stan Tetenman
Cemetery	Henry Meyer
Hebrew School/Education	Allyson Casares
Programming/Social Action	Phyllis Graber Jensen
	Paula Marcus-Platz

## SPEEDY RECOVERY

We pray for refuah sh'leimah – the full and speedy recovery of **Valci Braga, Eli Brenner, Rachel Corvi, Lee Jay Feldman, Andrea Finn, Dougie Fleck, Sara Graf, Robert Galumbeck, Isaak Gekhtin, Detlef Gerlach, Ariella Green, Sharon Hemond, Suzan Katzir, Michael Kendall, Lynn Kaduson, Linda Koskela, Henry Lefkowitz, Michelle Lemieux, Lee Leveille, Bruce Meyer, Alice Richman, Bob Scott, 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.*



**Rabbi Sruli is always happy to speak with and meet with members or 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.**

# **CONTRIBUTIONS**

## **GENERAL FUND**

Estelle Rubinstein

In memory of Murray Rubinstein

Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz

To congratulate Andrew Casares for his  
swimming accomplishments

Bertha Bodenheimer

In memory of Sylvia Greenberg

In memory of Marianne Miller

In honor of the birth of Emi Tatsumi Platz

Helene & Lewis Perry

In memory of Abraham Perry

Marion & Paul Rausch

In memory of Sandra Miller

Philip Laine

In memory of Edward Laine

Joy & Lewis Zidle

In memory of Lillian Zidle

Joan Levenson

In memory of Sandra Miller

In appreciation

Barda Leavitt

In appreciation

Miriam Danziger

In appreciation

Lawrence & Nilda Wolman

In memory of Sandra Miller

Joel & Elisabeth Salberg

In memory of Pearl Salberg

Michael Gagne

In memory of Marianne Miller

Babs & Michael Shapiro

In memory of Marianne Miller

## **LIBRARY FUND**

Melissa Johnson

In memory of Mark Johnson

## **NUSSINOW EDUCATION ENRICHMENT FUND**

Amy & Scott Nussinow

In memory of Rose Nussinow

In memory of Sheldon Nussinow

In memory of Murray Nussinow

In memory of Lillian Schneidman

In memory of David Woods

## **PRAYER BOOK/PULPIT FUND**

Hank & Margaret Meyer

In memory of Robert Meyer

## **SHIRLEY GOODMAN MEMORIAL FUND**

Joel Goodman

In memory of Wilfred Goodman

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO**

Laurence Faiman	May 1
Reece Greven	1
Mazie King	2
Stuart Cohen	3
Miriam Sofia Cohen	5
Jennifer Cohen	9
Jenna Wise	9
Amelia Ross	16
Susan Shapiro	16
Lucas Rau	19
Alison Fakhery	21
Shayna McGinley	24
Greg Levinsky	26
Mitchell Ross	31

**YAHREZEITEN**

Stephen Steinman	May 2
Morris Amsel	4
Pauline Bondorowsky	4
William Goldstein	5
Steve Beringer	7
Eve Shapiro	8
William Leavitt	12
Jean Renard	12
Beatrice Garber	17
Sara Supovitz	18
Ernest Hyman	20
Lillian Rosen	23
Susan Goldseder	24
Aaron M. Krakower	24
Robert Allen	25
Jack Kaduson	25
Miriam Passerman	31
Ruth Schleicher	31
Barry Traister	31

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO**

Daniel & Kristine Rausch	May 15
Matthew & Janet Zidle	25



**Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center**

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MAY, 2023

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**Shavuot Service and Lunch**  
**Saturday, May 27th at 10:00 A.M.**  
Please join us as we celebrate the holiday of Shavuot!  
We will have a musical Shavuot holiday service,  
including Yizkor,  
followed by a traditional lunch of  
blintzes and cheesecake!

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