



MaCHADASH!

מה חדש!

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

ק"ק היכל שלום

June 2023, Sivan/Tammuz 5783



THE MAINE CONFERENCE FOR JEWISH LIFE



June 9-11
Thomas College
jewishlife.colby.edu

Jewish Community Alliance
of Southern Maine presents

KlezMAJNEia



Saturday, June 3, 2023
10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
Center Day Camp | Windham, ME

A full day of **workshops, dance, music, and Klezmer mayhem!**
led by Boston/Brooklyn based band **Mamaliga** along with local
favorites the **Casco Bay Tumblers** and **Rabbi Sruli & Lisa**
www.mainejewish.org

FROM THE RABBI



This past month our community lost three beloved members: Marianne Miller, Joel Salberg and Neal Weiner, may their memories be a blessing for their families and our community. At each of their funerals, I was honored to chant the 23rd Psalm—a psalm that makes an appearance at virtually every Jewish and Christian funeral service. Mostly for the line: “Even as I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall not fear, for You are with me.” The shadow of death—*tzalmavet* in Hebrew. A unique contraction of the words *tsel*, shadow, and *mavet*, death.

Often, I would wonder: why invoke the “shadow of death” when in the presence of actual death? And what does it

mean to be in the valley of the shadow of death? This is traditionally understood as an exclamation by the biblical David (not yet King of Israel) as he was being mercilessly pursued by King Saul all over the Judean hills and who was determined to kill him. Which makes its inclusion at funerals even more puzzling as David, in fact, survived to become king.

For me, the powerful image of the valley of the shadow of death, at least in the context of funerals, is intended to resonate with the surviving family and community members—those who most acutely feel the loss of their loved one. The grieving spouse or child or sibling or parent or friend who, in contemplating the death of their beloved, literally feel that they have just been thrust into the valley of the shadow of death. How to continue living without the warmth, or the wisdom, or the energy, or the kindness, or the deep and ever-present love? Here the comforting words of the psalmist—that one need not fear for any harm as God stands with us—helps the grieving mourners begin their new life journey. Life in the absence of life.

Rabbi Harold Kushner, of blessed memory, who also died last month, taught us that it is a person’s good works, a person’s kindnesses, that survive her death. That the good that we put into the world changes the world for the better—and that the impact of those changes lasts forever. I would humbly add that the most profound impact of a person’s goodness is on those who are closest to her. It is the closest family members and friends who have been most influenced and who will continue to carry on her legacy of good works and kindness—who know that all that was good about their loved one has transformed their very nature. And will keep on doing so, as long as they live.

The final line of this beautiful psalm reads: “Only goodness and kindness shall pursue me all the days of my life.” It is surely a prayer for God’s kindness (to David?) but, for us, I think, also a prayer that we always remain open to and aware of the massive transformative power of the goodness and kindness of our loved ones who are no longer physically here.

Last week, a recently bereaved mother, Sarah Wildman, who lost her beloved 14-year-old daughter, Orli, to cancer, wrote a heartbreaking article in The New York Times about the impossibility of processing the unfathomable tragedy. This is how she closes the piece:

Recently, several people quietly told me that [Orli] had helped them in some way, inspired them or helped them with their pain. If she could continue to engage, to be concerned beyond herself, they could, too. Her instinct was always to assist, to write to the kid on the other side of the country struggling with chemo-related hair loss, to find out if a friend’s sibling headed to the hospital needed advice on how to navigate hospital time, to see if a newly diagnosed child wanted tips on making life in cancer care more bearable, or even to encourage someone going through a divorce to dance. And so, even when I’m crushed with grief, Orli continues to teach me. Some of the lessons are basic but worth repeating: It matters to reach out, over and over, even in minor ways. It matters to visit. It matters to care.

Rabbi Sruli

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This Temple community has meant the world to me this past month. You've been pillars of support and so thoughtful and kind. I've heard so many great stories about how Neal affected your lives. They warm my heart, even as it breaks. You've embraced me as family and I'm forever grateful. Neal's memory will live on. Thank you. ❤️

With love,
Lesli Weiner
President

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, 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.*

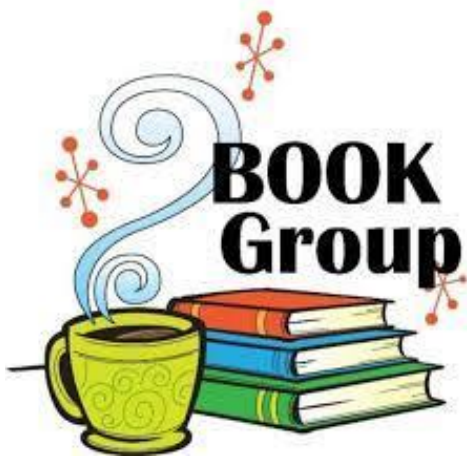


BOARD MEETING

Board of Director's Meeting
Monday, June 12, 2023
7:00 PM

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.

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



Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin is not like any other novel we've read in Book Group. So if you're looking for a book about Jews or a Jewish way of life, this is not it. Yes, the main characters are Jewish, or partly so. But gender is more of an issue than religion. Even so, we found this story fascinating. None of us are 'gamers', nor do we know how to 'code'. And if you don't know what these mean, then neither are you. It's the comparison of the computer gaming world to the real world that makes the story so relevant. Yes, it's a story about love, loss and life's tragedies, but we also learned a lot about high tech start-up companies, gaming and the people

in that world. Marsha Auster, Helene Perry, Karen Calloway, Mitch Ross and me, Lesli Weiner, highly recommend this novel.

Next we're reading *Here All Along: Finding Meaning, Spirituality, and a Deeper Connection To Life—In Judaism (After Finally Choosing To Look There)* by Sarah Hurwitz. Here's a description:

"After a decade as a political speechwriter—serving as head speechwriter for First Lady Michelle Obama, a senior speechwriter for President Barack Obama, and chief speechwriter for Hillary Clinton on her 2008 presidential campaign—Sarah Hurwitz decided to apply her skills as a communicator to writing a book . . . about Judaism. And no one is more surprised than she is.

Hurwitz was the quintessential lapsed Jew—until, at age thirty-six, after a tough breakup, she happened upon an advertisement for an introductory class on Judaism. She attended on a whim, but was blown away by what she found: beautiful rituals, helpful guidance on living an ethical life, conceptions of God beyond the judgy bearded man in the sky—none of which she had learned in Hebrew school or during the two synagogue services she grudgingly attended each year. That class led to a years-long journey during which Hurwitz visited the offices of rabbis, attended Jewish meditation retreats, sat at the Shabbat tables of Orthodox families, and read hundreds of books about Judaism—all in dogged pursuit of answers to her biggest questions. What she found transformed her life, and she wondered: How could there be such a gap between the richness of what Judaism offers and the way so many Jews like her understand and experience it?

Sarah Hurwitz is on a mission to close this gap by sharing the profound insights she discovered on everything from Jewish holidays, ethics, and prayer to Jewish conceptions of God, death, and social justice. In this entertaining and accessible book, she shows us why Judaism matters and how its message is more relevant than ever, and she inspires Jews to do the learning, questioning, and debating required to make this religion their own."

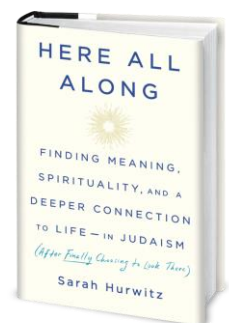
We also chose our next set of books:

July 10.....*Signal Fires* by Dani Shapiro

Aug 14.....*The Latecomer* by Jean Korelitz

Sep 11.....*Once We Were Home* by Jennifer Rosner

We'll be meeting on MONDAY, JUNE 12 at 4PM.....lesli



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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Telephone: 914-980-9509



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Margaret Meyer	June 1
Charlene Goodman	2
Kenneth Levinsky	6
Ellen Burke	7
Joel Packer	7
Melissa Burke	8
William Zidle	11
Arthur Silverman	13
Linda Isaacson	14
Molly Platz	14
Jonathan Greven	15
Matthew Zidle	15
Joseph Platz	16
Mark Carlson	18
Sruli Dresdner	19
Karen Calloway	24
Barbara Shapiro	26
Elizabeth Barter	29
Shelley Rau	30



YAHREZEITEN

Cecile Kates	June 2
Bernie Nussinow	3
Keith Seltzer	3
Lillian Cohen	6
May Tetenman	7
Milton Burke	9
Jack Maloff	9
Milton Krasner	9
Sara Feldman	10
Harry Shapiro	10
Evelyn Levine	11
Benjamin Barr	12
Alan Levenson	18
Brucha Fisher	21
A.H. Plavin	29
Philip Rosenthal	29
Jeannette Kaye	29
Willard Hertz	30



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Bonnie & Laurence Faiman	June 5
Darren McGinley & Gabrielle Wolfe	5
Margaret & Henry Meyer	6
Arthur & Donna Silverman	18
Andrew & Sharon Bodenheimer	21
Babs & Michael Shapiro	22

CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

Susan & Larry Weiner

In memory of Lillian Rosen

Harriet & Behzad Fakhery

In memory of Marianne Miller

Ethan & Susan Braunstein

In memory of Marianne Miller

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

In memory of Marianne Miller

In memory of Joel Salberg

Speedy recovery to Joy Zidle

Speedy recovery to Behzad Fakhery

Anne & David Allen

In memory of Joel Salberg

Michael Gagne

In memory of Joel Salberg

Joy & Lewis Zidle

In memory of Joseph S. Cohen

Bertha Bodenheimer

In memory of Susan Goldseder

In memory of May Tetenman

In memory of Brucha Fisher

Bonnie & Larry Faiman

In memory of Joel Salberg

Phyllis Bell

In memory of Morris Amsel

Karen Calloway

In memory of Jack Kaduson

In memory of Joel Salberg

Babs & Michael Shapiro

In memory of Harry Shapiro

Speedy recovery to Behzad Fakhery

Lesli Weiner

In memory of Joel Salberg

The following made donations

"In memory of Neal Weiner"

Joy & Lewis Zidle

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

Anne & David Allen

Babs & Michael Shapiro

Ellen & Aaron Burke

Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz

Michael Gagne

Marianne Wise

Bob & Susan Scott

Jerryanne LaPerriere

Sharon Day

Bonnie & Larry Faiman

Patricia Reef

Helene & Lewis Perry

Marion & Paul Rausch

Bob & Jackie Laskoff

Patricia Suzanne
Bruce Harris
Karen Calloway
Nancy & Ken Levinsky
Roz & Barry Kutzen
Jonathan & Vicky Cohen
Bertha Bodenheimer

ABROMSON FUND

Judy Abromson
In memory of Neal Weiner

LIBRARY FUND

Toby & Ernie Wallach
In memory of Neal Weiner

MARCUS MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND

Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz
In memory of Neal Weiner

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Sharon Day & Family
In memory of Aaron Krakower
Phyllis Graber Jensen
In memory of Neal Weiner
Joel Olstein
In memory of Joel Salberg
In memory of Neal Weiner
In appreciation for putting up his Mezuzah
Elcha Buckman
In memory of Neal Weiner
Happy birthday to Larry Faiman
Happy birthday to Mitch Ross
Shelley & Rick Rau
In memory of Neal Weiner
Lesli Weiner
In appreciation
RANDALL SILVER LIBRARY FUND
Malca Wilner
In memory of Marianne Miller
In memory of Neal Weiner
Speedy recovery to Joy Zidle

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BODENHEIMER PASSOVER FUND

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ENDOWMENT FUND

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FAMILY HEBREW SCHOOL FUND

KITCHEN/BREAKFAST FUND

MINYANAIRE FUND

MITZVAH FUND

NUSSINOW EDUCATION ENRICHMENT FUND

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SHIRLEY GOODMAN MEMORIAL FUND

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Refugee Resettlement Support

- Join the Moving Team!
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- Teach Financial Literacy
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- Serve as a Mentor

Other opportunities available, please inquire!



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- Manage Storage
- Assist with Inventory

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