



# MA CHADASH!

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

## מה חדש!

ק"ק היכל שלום

August 2023, Av/Elul 5783



**Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.**

*Traditional and Musical*

*Kabbalat Shabbat and Torah Service*

*In-Person in the Chapel at Temple Shalom (also on Zoom).*

*Please bring along your Siddur and Chumash.*

*The Service will be followed by an Oneg Shabbat.*

*Shabbat  
Services*



# FROM THE RABBI



Professor Yuval Noah Harari is one of contemporary Israel's brightest stars. He is a historian, philosopher, and the bestselling author of *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*. His books have sold 45 million copies in 65 languages, and he is considered one of the world's most influential public intellectuals today.

Born in Israel in 1976, Harari received his PhD from the University of Oxford in 2002 and is currently a lecturer at the Department of History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Yuval Noah Harari lectures around the world on the topics explored in his books and offers his

knowledge and time to various audiences on a voluntary basis. He writes articles for publications such as *The Guardian*, *The Financial Times*, *The New York Times*, *TIME*, and *The Economist*.

Professor Harari recently issued the following public statement about the proposed judicial reforms in Israel to the American (and American-Jewish) community asking us to stand with those in Israel fighting to protect Israel's democracy:

*As a proud citizen of Israel, I am deeply concerned that my government is trying to establish a dictatorship.*

*Many dictatorships in history were established not by tanks firing in the streets, but by signing papers behind closed doors. By the time people understood what was happening, it was too late to resist.*

*To understand what is happening in Israel, you need to ask just one question: What limits the power of the government?*

*In the U.S.A., there is an entire system of checks and balances. In Israel, we have no constitution, no Senate, no federal structure, and no other check on the power of the central government, except one: the Supreme Court.*

*Now the government is trying to gain control of the Supreme Court. If it succeeds, there will be no mechanism that limits its power. Coalition members have already proposed numerous laws and regulations that discriminate against Muslims, Christians, women, LGBTQ people and secular people. They are only waiting to take control of the Supreme Court, and then they could unleash this dictatorial flood.*

*Also, with the Supreme Court neutralized, the government could easily rig the elections – for example, by denying Arab citizens voting rights, or by closing down all independent media outlets. Israel will still hold elections, just as Russia holds elections, but it will become a dictatorship.*

*This should be a grave concern, not just to Americans who care about democracy or about the Jewish people. The U.S.A. might soon have to deal with a new militaristic dictatorship in the Middle East, armed not only with nuclear capabilities, but also with advanced cyber-weapons able to strike anywhere in the world.*

*The people of Israel are struggling to save our democracy. Please, stand with us.*

Rabbi Sruli

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Shouldn't summer be the time when you can lay back and smile at the sun? It's kind of hard to snooze in the hammock when there's so much going on in the news. Gun violence. Wildfires. Humane issues at our borders. Antisemitism on the rise. Crazy politics. Loss of personal freedoms. Climate change. Need I go on?? It's enough to leave one feeling helpless. And hopeless.

But anyone who knows me, knows I'm no Donna Downer. It helps to know there IS something we can do. First and foremost, we can do our part by voting. However, there are plenty of little things we can do in our daily lives. Be kind and welcoming to immigrants in our own state. Recycle everything you can, even shopping at second hand stores.

Or better yet, buy products with as little packaging as possible and compost your organic waste. Get permits for your campfires, and always have a bucket of water handy. Speak up when someone makes an off-color comment in your presence. A little education could do wonders to curb ignorance. Teach your children about diversity of every kind. Read a banned book, then pass it on. Well, you get the idea.

And then when you feel like you have a little power, you can take the time to enjoy this brief summer in our beautiful state of Maine. The sun glistening off the water. Flowers in full bloom. Tomatoes from your garden. Rainbows and late sunsets. Grilling and picnicking. Ice cream dripping down a cone and watermelon juice sluicing down your chin. Goopy marshmallows. Agricultural fairs. Art festivals and concerts in the park. Golfing, hiking, tennis, swimming, boating, corn hole and even pickle ball. Summer in Maine is community with family reunions and backyard BBQs. Some people choose to travel, but if you want to stay and enjoy life's simple treasures, you could just lay in your hammock and read a good book. Okay, or take a nap. Ahhhhhh. Maine. Isn't this the way life should be?

Lesli Weiner  
President

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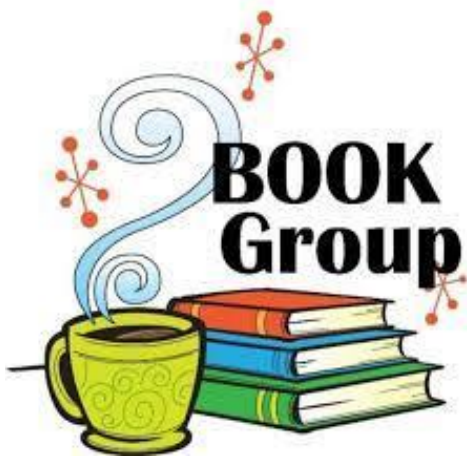
## SPEEDY RECOVERY

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



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

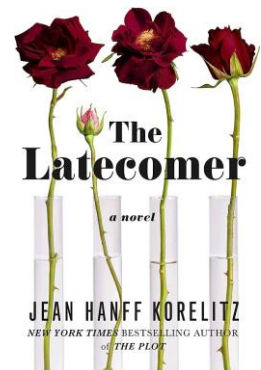


*Signal Fires* by Dani Shapiro brought out a big group on July 10: Bertha Bodenheimer, Mitch Ross, Helene Perry, Heather Berube, Judy Abromson, Margaret Meyer and me, Lesli Weiner. This was a thoughtful, well-written novel. The oscillating timeline was a great way to have the reader learn about the characters in a non-linear manner. The story left us thinking about the “what-ifs” of the life decisions made. But also about how those decisions shaped their futures. I’m not going to get more specific than that because we all encourage you to read this book, and anything else by Dani Shapiro.

Our next book was a *New Yorker* Best Book of 2022. Here’s what Amazon says about *The Latecomer*:

**From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Plot*, Jean Hanff Korelitz’s *The Latecomer* is a layered and immersive literary novel about three siblings, desperate to escape one another, and the upending of their family by the late arrival of a fourth.**

*The Latecomer* follows the story of the wealthy, New York City-based Oppenheimer family, from the first meeting of parents Salo and Johanna, under tragic circumstances, to their triplets born during the early days of IVF. As children, the three siblings – Harrison, Lewyn, and Sally – feel no strong familial bond and cannot wait to go their separate ways, even as their father becomes more distanced and their mother more desperate. When the triplets leave for college, Johanna, faced with being truly alone, makes the decision to have a fourth child. What role will the “latecomer” play in this fractured family?



A complex novel that builds slowly and deliberately, *The Latecomer* touches on the topics of grief and guilt, generational trauma, privilege and race, traditions and religion, and family dynamics. It is a profound and witty family story from an accomplished author, known for the depth of her character studies, expertly woven storylines, and plot twists.

I hope to see you on zoom for our discussion on MONDAY, AUGUST 14 at 4PM.....lesli

**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.**

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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#### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

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	Paula Marcus-Platz

## ***SAVE THE DATE!***



## ***END OF SUMMER BBQ***

## **Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**

***Beyond Burgers, Hot Dogs, Desserts***



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Jacob Allen	Aug. 12
Daniel Abromson	14
Stuart Isaacson	15
Seth Meyer	18
Danale Jensen	19
Joseph Jensen	19
Deena Weinstein	20
David Allen	22
Hali Isaacson	22
Sam Allen	23
David Gardner	26
Jerrold Cohen	30
Rocky Isaacson	30



## Yahrzeiten

Clara Marcus	Aug. 1
Fannye Roberts	5
Seymour Tetenman	8
Nathan Kutzen	10
Iris Laskoff	10
Lester Miller	15
Mitchell Eidel	15
Jay Graber	16
Martha Bodenheimer	21
Minette Lezberg	21
Joan Olsen	22
Charles Traister	27
Dorothy Miller	29
Ruth Shapiro Miller	29
Verrill Scott	29



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Harvey & Elaine Bell	Aug. 5
Lewis & Helene Perry	7
Robert Rovner & Ruth Frydman	7
Jerrold & Jennifer Cohen	11
Christopher & Mara King	23
Marsha & Mitchell Auster	24
Amy & Robert Jensen	31

# CONTRIBUTIONS

## GENERAL FUND

Steve Passerman & Haste Family Fund  
In appreciation  
Bertha Bodenheimer  
In honor of Babs Shapiro's special birthday  
In memory of Seymour Tetenman  
To Babs & Michael Shapiro in honor of the  
birth of great grandson, William Riley  
Merin  
Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz  
In appreciation of their membership  
In memory of Clara Marcus  
Michael Berlowitz  
In appreciation for Rabbi Sruli officiating  
our wedding  
Bonnie & Larry Faiman  
Speedy recovery to Scott Nussinow  
Mazel tov to Phyllis Graber & Hilmar  
Jensen on the marriage of their daughter  
Cassie  
Happy 85<sup>th</sup> birthday to Max Whiting  
Fredda Wolf  
In memory of Neal Weiner  
Babs & Michael Shapiro  
To Bertha Bodenheimer in honor of her  
special birthday  
Cathy & Stan Tetenman  
In memory of Seymour Tetenman  
To Babs & Michael Shapiro in honor of the  
birth of great grandson, William Riley  
Merin  
Elcha Buckman  
In honor of Joel Buckman's birthday  
Ralph & Sylvia Fletcher  
In memory of Marianne Miller  
**ABROMSON FUND**  
Judy Abromson  
Happy anniversary to Babs & Michael  
Shapiro  
In honor of Babs Shapiro's birthday  
**CEMETERY FUND**  
Philip Laine  
In appreciation  
**LIBRARY FUND**  
Karen Calloway  
In memory of Lynne Kaduson  
**MARCUS MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND**  
Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz  
In memory of Clara Marcus

## MINYANAIRE FUND

Margaret & Hank Meyer  
In memory of Neal Weiner

## MITZVAH FUND

Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz  
To Phyllis Graber Jensen in honor of  
Cassie's marriage  
In memory of Clara Marcus

## NUSSINOW EDUCATION ENRICHMENT FUND

Amy & Scott Nussinow  
In memory of Dorothy Krasner

## PRAYER BOOK/PULPIT FUND

Mitch Ross  
Happy birthday to Melissa Johnson,  
Olivia Casares, Bonnie Faiman, Lisa  
Mayer, Phyllis Graber Jensen  
In memory of Howard Kates  
In memory of Muriel Ross

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Jamie & Kris Isaacson  
In memory of Ezra Lape Isaacson  
Marion & Paul Rausch  
In memory of Goldie & Irving Goldberg  
Bob & Jackie Laskoff  
In memory of George Laskoff  
Karen Calloway  
In memory of John Calloway  
Phyllis Graber Jensen  
In appreciation for the use of a  
borrowed tallit  
Elcha Buckman  
In honor of Rebbetzin Lisa's 60<sup>th</sup>  
birthday

## RANDALL SILVER LIBRARY FUND

Elcha Buckman  
In honor of Melissa Johnson & Bonnie  
Faiman's birthdays  
In memory of Esther Shain

## BELL MEMORIAL CHAPEL FUND

## BODENHEIMER PASSOVER FUND

## COHEN/LEVOY GARDEN FUND

## ENDOWMENT FUND

## EVE & GEORGE SHAPIRO MEMORIAL FUND

## FAMILY HEBREW SCHOOL FUND

## KITCHEN/BREAKFAST FUND

## SHIRLEY GOODMAN MEMORIAL FUND

**Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center**

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**A New Prayer for the State of Israel Alan Eisner, Rockville Maryland**

*We pray for our beloved Israel, invoking these words from its Declaration of Independence:*

*“The State of Israel will be open for Jewish immigration and for the Ingathering of the Exiles; it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.”*

*Let us pray that these words will continue to guide Israel’s leaders and its people; that the Jewish state will be inclusive, promoting the unity and embracing the full, glorious diversity of the Jewish people. Let us never forget that our history teaches us to stand with the oppressed around the world. Strengthen the hands of those who defend Israel’s borders, its security and its democracy and uphold a government which enshrines the principles of equal justice and moral accountability. Let Israel foster the generosity of spirit to share the land in peace with others whose home it is. May Israel remain a place where the still, small voice is heard. Let its leaders resist the temptation to believe that might makes right. Rather, let us recall the lesson of Zechariah: “Not by might and not by power but by my Spirit, says the Lord of Hosts.”*