



MaCHADASH!

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

מה חדש!

ק"ק היכל שלום

September 2023, Elul/Tishrei 5783



Shabbat at the Lake

Saturday, September 2nd, 10:00 A.M.

End of Summer BBQ!

Friday, September 8th, 6:00 P.M.



Selichot!

Saturday, September 9th, 8:00 P.M.
at Temple Beth El, Portland

Erev Rosh Hashanah
Sacred Music Concert and Service
Friday, September 15th, 7 p.m.



FROM THE RABBI



It may surprise you to hear this but one of a Rabbi's most important jobs is to defend the Torah! I get it, there is a lot in the Torah that needs defending:) But the section of the Torah that I find myself defending the most is the story of the binding of Isaac—the Akeidah. And since this story is featured prominently in the liturgy of Rosh Hashanah, I end up having to defend it a lot.

Some time afterward, God put Abraham to the test, saying to him, "Abraham." He answered, "Here I am." "Take your son, your favored one, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the heights that I will point out to you." Genesis 22:1-2.

Why would God want a human sacrifice in the first place? Is this just a cruel game that God is playing? How could Isaac ever look at his father again? Or how could Abraham live with himself after what he almost did? These are just some of the heartfelt questions posed year after year.

As a result, I, like most Rabbis, have given this story a lot of thought. What I always come back to is how vitally important it is for us to have a story—very early on in our most basic text, the Torah—that emphatically and unequivocally teaches us that God does NOT want us to sacrifice our children! Even when we think, like Abraham did, that sacrificing our children IS the ultimate way to show our passion, commitment, and dedication to God.

And boy do we need this teaching, because (to paraphrase the Passover Haggadah) in every generation people will rise up to sacrifice their children to God. Sometimes it is in less obvious ways—like, preventing their children from getting a real substantive education. Sometimes, shockingly, by literally putting their children in harm's way, risking their very lives, in order to accomplish what they perceive to be an important religious goal. Such as settling every inch of the West Bank.

However you feel about Jews settling the West Bank—whether you feel that this is a terrible crime (as many in our community do) or that it is a religious obligation (as almost all Religious Zionists do), no one can argue that intentionally building a settlement on highly disputed territory is not dangerous. Or that raising children in such a place endangers their very lives.

One such provocative settlement is the settlement of Eli. From Wikipedia:

[Eli] is a large Israeli settlement in the West Bank organized as a community settlement. Located on Highway 60 north of Jerusalem and Ramallah, between the Palestinian villages of As-Sawiya and Qaryut, part of whose lands were expropriated for the establishment of Eli.

Eli is also the place of last month's murderous terror attack by a pair of Hamas gunmen from the village of Urif, some 20 kilometers up the road. Nachman Mordoff and Elisha Anteman, both 17, and 21-year-old Harel Masood were slain while eating at Hummus Eliyahu, and 64-year-old Ofer Fayerman was killed while pumping gas.

Listen carefully to the words of Aviad Gizbar, owner of the Hummus Eliyahu restaurant:

"I've never felt like I did when I opened up the footage of the attack. The saliva just dried up in my throat, I've never felt like that before in my life," he said, speaking outside his restaurant earlier this week. "But we mourn, we adjust ourselves, we lift our heads up, and at the end of the day we win. We win by being here," he declared. "There is no other option but to win."

When you live your life entirely for God, as Abraham surely did, the impulse to give everything to God, even your children, is understandable. But the vitally important foundational story of the Akeidah shocks us and shouts at us—year after year—that what is most important is our children's lives and futures. Even more important than God.

Rabbi Sruli

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The High Holidays are just a couple weeks away, but there is still time for contemplation and self-judgment. Elul is a transition month, a bridge between summer and autumn, between the past year and the year to come. The theme of restoration is magnified during the month of Elul. It is no easy feat to seek forgiveness from those we've hurt, nor to forgive those who've hurt us. This is truly living Judaism: reaching out to others, listening, and accepting, both their criticisms and their needs before we approach God to hear our prayers.

Many of us can say "This has been a tough year." I know I desperately needed the love and support of my family and this Jewish community. For those of you who need it, we're here for you to lean on. When things look their darkest, the possibility of rebirth and renewal is created once again, every Rosh Hashanah.

It would be lovely to see you and your families in person this holiday season. If you have been offered an honor for Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur, please accept this special opportunity. This is a great way to participate in "all things Jewish", or to learn a new ritual. Yes, your Temple Shalom community needs YOU if we are to remain vibrant for many years to come.

Shanah tovah umtukah!

May you have a good and sweet new year!

Lesli Weiner
President



SPEEDY RECOVERY

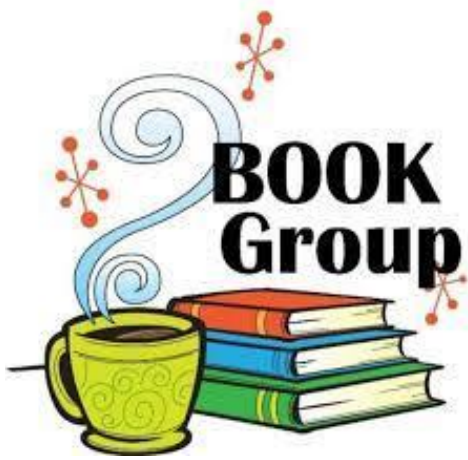
We pray for refuah sh'leimah – the full and speedy recovery of **Valci Braga, Eli Brenner, Rachel Corvi, Lee Jay Feldman, Andrea Finn, Helen Foster, Sara Graf, Robert Galumbeck, Isaak Gekhtin, Detlef Gerlach, Ariella Green, Sharon Hemond, Suzan Katzir, Michael Kendall, Linda Koskela, Henry Lefkowitz, 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.



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!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Amazon's spin:

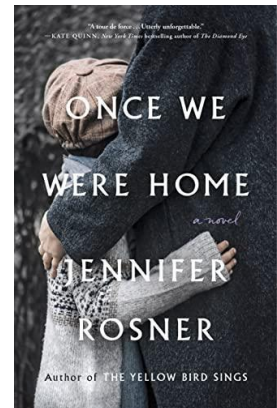
I was a little late on finishing *The Latecomer* by Jean Korelitz, but we met on August 14 to discuss it anyway. Present on zoom was Karen Calloway, Bertha Bodenheimer, Marsha Auster, Mitch Ross and me, Lesli Weiner. We all agreed it was a bit slow at first, which is probably why I only read 1/3rd. But also in agreement to stick with it as the rest of the book is worth every minute. And there's a big twist at the end. You won't be disappointed if you read this, and finish it!

Our next book is *Once We Were Home* by Jennifer Rosner, who also wrote *When the Yellow Bird Sings*. So, I'm sure we're in for a treat. Here's

"When your past is stolen, where do you belong?"

Ana will never forget her mother's face when she and her baby brother, Oskar, were sent out of their Polish ghetto and into the arms of a Christian friend. For Oskar, though, their new family is the only one he remembers. When a woman from a Jewish reclamation organization seizes them, believing she has their best interest at heart, Ana sees an opportunity to reconnect with her roots, while Oskar sees only the loss of the home he loves.

Roger grows up in a monastery in France, inventing stories and trading riddles with his best friend in a life of quiet concealment. When a relative seeks to retrieve him, the Church steals him across the Pyrenees before relinquishing him to family in Jerusalem.



Renata, a post-graduate student in archaeology, has spent her life unearthing secrets from the past--except for her own. After her mother's death, Renata's grief is entwined with all the questions her mother left unanswered, including why they fled Germany so quickly when Renata was a little girl.

Two decades later, they are each building lives for themselves, trying to move on from the trauma and loss that haunts them. But as their stories converge in Israel, in unexpected ways, they must each ask where and to whom they truly belong.

Beautifully evocative and tender, filled with both luminosity and anguish, *Once We Were Home* reveals a little-known history. Based on the true stories of children stolen during wartime, this heart-wrenching novel raises questions of complicity and responsibility, belonging and identity, good intentions and unforeseen consequences, as it confronts what it really means to find home."

Join us, via zoom, on MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 at 4PM to discuss this novel. Happy reading!.....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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Erev Rosh Hashanah
Rosh Hashanah 1st Day
Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day
Kol Nidrei
Yom Kippur

Friday, September 15
Saturday, September 16
Sunday, September 17
Sunday, September 24
Monday, September 25

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Sebastian Chervenak	Sept. 4
Daniel Rausch	6
Michael Laskoff	7
Cindy Tayman	10
Nicholas Scott	12
Stephanie Michaels	16
Chrissy Zidle	16
Elizabeth Baumhoff	17
Doretta Shapiro	19
Hilmar Jensen	20
Helene Perry	21
Adam Platz	23
Lewis Perry	25
Joel Olstein	28
Jessica Jensen	30
Rachel Jensen	30
Erica Schair	30



YAHREZEITEN

George Harris	Sept. 1
Ann Frankel	4
Arthur Salberg	4
Hyman Rubenstein	5
David Krasner	5
Hele'ne Krasner	9
Rebecca Cohen Schaffer	11
Yoram Fisher	13
David Feldman	14
Charles Schneidman	14
Alfred Pennamacoor	15
Saul Schneidman	16
Frieda Barr	17
Shirley Wickson	17
Leonard Bell	18
Winnie Plavnick	19
Paul Krasner	20
Enid Ehrlich	21
Ann Forin	24
Gary Buckman	26
Patricia Schnitzer	28
Jeffrey Bell	28
Samuel Nussinow	28
Natalie Abromson	30



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Carla Marcus & Lawrence Mohr	Sept. 1
Cathy & Stan Tetenman	3
Anne & David Allen	9
John & Linda Isaacson	13
Hilmar & Phyllis Graber Jensen	17
Carmen Comeau & Stuart Cohen	20

CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

Jonathan & Vicky Cohen
In memory of Neal Weiner
Harriet & Behzad Fakhery
In honor of Behzad's birthday
In memory of Jim Plavin
Bonnie & Larry Faiman
Happy special birthday to
Rebbetzin Lisa Mayer
Speedy recovery to Aharon Faiman
Bertha Bodenheimer
In memory of Jim Plavin
Cathy & Stan Tetenman
In memory of Faye Simensky
Joy & Lewis Zidle
To Babs & Michael Shapiro in honor
of the birth of William Riley Merlin
In memory of Minette Lezberg
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Remember to pick up a Clynk bag!
(on the table in the Lobby)
An easy way to support your Temple!



Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center

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SEPTEMBER, 2023

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HAVDALAH HAPPY HOUR AND XYLOPHONE CONCERT

Saturday, September 9, 2023

Havdalah Ceremony and Happy Hour: 5:30 – 6:30 PM

Concert: 7 – 8:00 PM

Join us at the Maine Jewish Museum for a collaborative community Havdalah Happy Hour



and Xylophone Concert in celebration of our shared immigrant roots! Special guest and concert performer [Roman Lankios](#), who immigrated to the USA from Ukraine in 1994, is a virtuoso xylophonist who is internationally renowned for his mastery of classical, pop, country, and folk music on the unique [four-row xylophone](#). Toast to the new week with a glass of wine, a craft beer, or a Kyiv Mule, enjoy pierogies from Bogushas Polish Restaurant and

Deli and knishes from [BenReuben's Knishery](#), and treat yourself to a singular musical experience by one of the greats! Co-Sponsored by Etz Chaim Synagogue, the [Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine](#), the [Portland Immigrant Welcome Center](#), and [Mayo Street Arts](#). Concert is free but registration is required. Please go to <https://mainejewishmuseum.org/programs-and-events/havdalah-happy-hour-and-xylophone-concert/> to register.