



MaCHADASH!

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

מה חדש!

ק"ק היכל שלום

October 2023, Tishrei/Cheshvan 5783



Simchat Torah 2023

Friday, October 6th

6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

**The Most Joyous Night of the Year
Come and Dance!**

A very special intergenerational Simchat Torah celebration!

Seven exciting and lively Simchat Torah Dances!

Pierogies, salad, garlic knots, dessert!

We will also bless the Lulav and Etrog in our Sukkah!

Please RSVP by October 4th - temple6359@aol.com

**Friday, October 27th
7:00 P.M.**

ChallahWeen! All Ages!

Light Shabbat Jake-o-Lanterns!

Sing Spooky Shabbat Songs-with creepy

Musical Saw accompaniment!

Listen to Spine-chilling Spooky Jewish Stories!

Play Challahween Games!

Sweets and Treats!

Spooky Magic!

Costumes Encouraged!



FROM THE REBBETZIN



My Dad had a PhD in Physics and Mathematics– so he decided to build our family a Sukkah. I say he got all the measurements and angles right. Green fiberglass panels, nice high roof with cross beams to hold the leafy *schakh*– the giant branches my mother preferred instead of bamboo rods– traditional *schakh* you could see through, up to the starry sky. And coolest of all– 2 doors. You never felt claustrophobic. My mother bought decorations that were definitely Christmas markdowns, but back then, that’s what there was.

One day after it was built, Mr. Dressler from across the street sent his carpenter over to copy it. Exactly. Now there were 2 green Sukkahs on the block. Then the Bravmans from next door built one– but with white fiberglass, which I liked better, because it didn’t cast that creepy Toulouse Lautrec glow. 3 Sukkahs!

All my friends were in orthodox day schools, so we had the holiday off, and we played in the sukkahs, running from one to the other with our Manischewitz cookies.

Right before Yom Tov, my Bubby and Pop Pop, my mother’s parents, would arrive from Philadelphia– my Bubby holding the honey cake on her lap for the entire 2-hour drive.

We couldn’t wait til dark. And the giant full moon of Sukkot. I thought it was the eye of God.

And then–we’d put on our new Bubby sweaters and our new Bubby slipper socks and go outside and then inside the Sukkah for real. We would sit at the red wood picnic table with the cloth with the fall foliage–my father had built the sukkah around that table! --and just sit and look around. The decorations were mostly sparkly and tinsel-y, but my mother had hung a large bunch of plastic harvest vegetables down one corner of the Sukkah, with this large white onion I can still see. My sister Dina’s and my construction paper chain was almost long enough to get across a wall. We thought it was the most beautiful Sukkah in the world. And we thought that my mother’s Parkas, the stuffed cabbage she made especially for Sukkot, was the best in the world. Because it was.

We would sit for a long time in that Sukkah. My Bubby would gaze at my mother, and kvell at us; Pop Pop sang songs from the liturgy with my father, and we’d beg for more weird family stories like the time my mother’s brother made his friends pay a nickel to see her when she was a baby.

A Sukkah is a magic place. Like a pop-up secret clubhouse. I always thought people became different when they go into a Sukkah; nicer and more approachable. Easier. Happier. Maybe because a Sukkah suspends time. Who can rush in a Sukkah?

And maybe it’s because we all sit under one symbolically impermanent roof, and it reminds us that we’re still all in this together. Maybe we like the coziness of being inside/outside, maybe we like closing the door – or the two doors– on the whole world, and just–belonging.

When you’re little, you think childhood goes on forever. But, like a Sukkah, the impermanence is part of its magic. The impermanence is what makes it so important, and so precious.

I would give anything, everything, to be in that Green Sukkah again.

Rabbetzin Lisa

P.S. On Sunday, October 8th at 10 a.m., Rabbi Sruli and Rebbetzin Lisa will play music for Beth Israel Congregation in Waterville for their Simchat Torah celebration. On Sunday, October 22nd at 3 p.m., Rabbi Sruli and Lisa will present several Synagogue melodies, along with other Maine Cantors and musicians, for the Maine Jewish Museum’s “A Song and a Prayer” concert in Portland. This event is open to the public. Tickets are \$18 and include a reception.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This is the Jewish “holiday season”. We’ve started our New Year 5784 and fasted on Yom Kippur to reflect on the past year and ask God’s forgiveness for our sins. Now we celebrate the harvest festival of Sukkot which got me to thinking.....

We all plant seeds of good intentions, and then we’re asked to tend to them through all the conditions of our lives. Sometimes we’re overwhelmed with a flood of challenging situations which try to circumvent our good intentions. Sometimes we hit dry spells that try to detract from nurturing our vision. But if we stay grounded in our

own wellness and connected to those we love, we let the harsh conditions pass by us, as we remain dedicated to our own growth. Eventually day by day, in every way, we have the opportunity to determine our own Harvest. Each of us is a spiritual farmer, planting, tending and growing our deepest desires.

May we all trust our journeys.

In gratitude may we count our Blessings daily.

And as they grow may we offer our Harvest to all our relations.

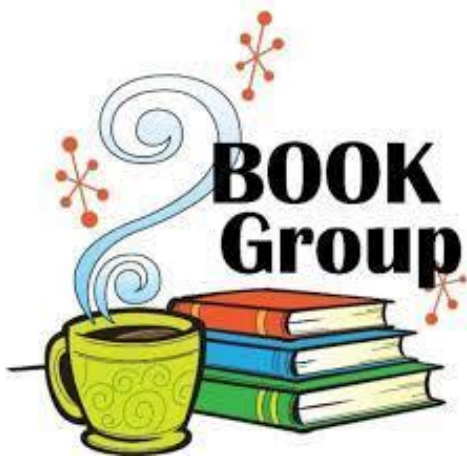
And may we all respect the circle of life that is so well symbolized on Simchat Torah, when we finish reading the 5 Books and start all over from the beginning.

Just thinking.....

Lesli Weiner
President



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



On September 11 we discussed *Once We Were Home* by Jennifer Rosner. Present were Marsha Auster, Lindsey Walker, Karen Calloway, Mitch Ross, Judy Abromson and me, Lesli Weiner. We talked a lot about the impact on the children when sent away by their parents and when they were reunited. Where do these children really belong? Did we think that the decision made by others was fair to the children, and how did things turn out for them? Rosner also revealed some secrets that added interesting twists. She even connected a character to her last novel *The Yellow Bird Sings*, which we read last year. Obviously, we like the way this author tells a story and so will you.

Kunstlers In Paradise by Cathleen Schine is our next book. It sounds good:

“There was a time when the family Künstler lived in the fairy-tale city of Vienna. Circumstances transformed that fairy tale into a nightmare, and in 1939 the Künstlers found their way out of Vienna and into a new fairy tale: Los Angeles, California, United States of America.



For years Mamie Künstler, ninety-three-years-old, as clever and glamorous as ever, has lived happily in her bungalow in Venice, California with her inscrutable housekeeper and her gigantic St. Bernard dog. Their tranquility is upended when Mamie's grandson, Julian, arrives from New York City. Like many a twenty-something, he has come to seek his fortune in Hollywood. But it is 2020, the global pandemic sweeps in, and Julian's short visit suddenly has no end in sight.

Mamie was only eleven when the Künstlers escaped Vienna in 1939. They made their way, stunned and overwhelmed, to sunny, surreal Los Angeles where they joined a colony of distinguished Jewish musicians, writers and intellectuals also escaping Hitler. Now, faced with months of lockdown and a willing listener, Mamie begins to tell Julian the buried stories of her early years in Los Angeles: her escapades with eminent émigrés like Arnold Schoenberg, Christopher Isherwood, Thomas Mann. Oh, and Greta Garbo. While the pandemic cuts Julian off from the life he knows, Mamie's tales open up a world of lives that came before him. They reveal to him just how much the past holds of the future."

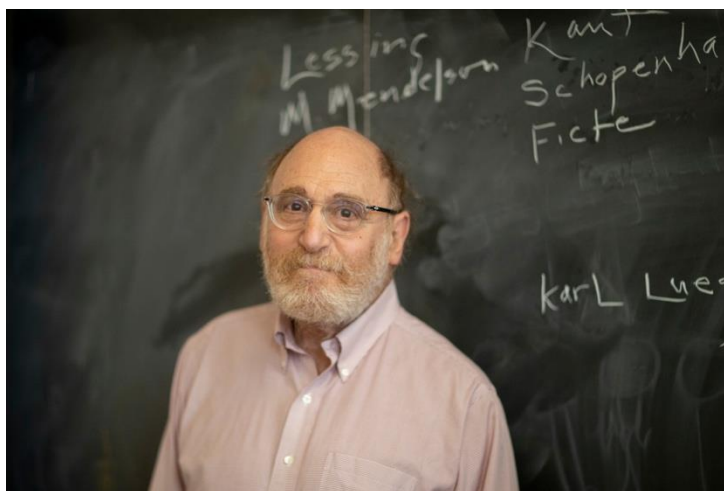
We will meet next on zoom on MONDAY, OCTOBER 16 at 4PM. A great way to start off the New Year.....lesli

Then our next 3 books are:

Nov 13.....*The Thread Collectors* by S. Edwards & A. Richman

Dec 11.....*The Devil In Jerusalem* by Naomi Ragen

Jan 8.....*The Assignment* by Liza Wiemer



Bates College Professor Sanford Freedman aligns diverse periods of Jewish history

BRUNCH AND PROGRAM, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15 AT 10 A.M.

Temple Shalom Synagogue-Center welcomes Bates College Professor Sanford Freedman for a talk titled: "Persuading a Sultan: Sabbatai Zvi and Theodore Herzl, Two Failed Attempts."

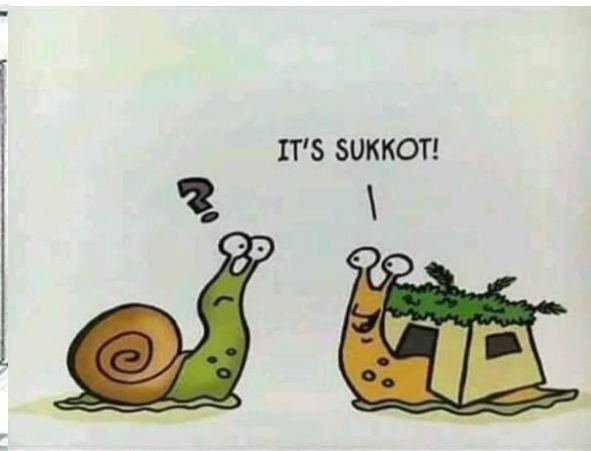
Please join us at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 15, for a delicious brunch catered by the men of Temple Shalom. The meal will be followed by Freedman's talk at 11 a.m.

Admission is \$10. Those planning to attend should RSVP by emailing the synagogue at Temple6359@aol.com no later than Monday, Oct. 9. The meal will be followed by Freedman's 11 a.m. talk.

Freedman previews his topic: "Ever since I was young, I have been fascinated by the life of Sabbatai Zvi, the self-proclaimed messiah of the Jews of Poland and Ukraine, and the complex, intriguing life of the Budapest-born Theodore Herzl, father of the Zionist movement. This talk purposely aligns diverse periods of Jewish history, the political and cultural conditions of the 1650s of Ukraine and Eastern Europe, marked by brutal pogroms, and the revolutionary conditions of Western Europe in the 1850-1900s, mixing Marx and Engel's socialist politics with the emerging nationalist, Zionist stirrings of Moses Hess, a Jewish thinker who influenced Herzl. The outcome of the talk compares the two historical moments--when Zvi and Herzl, for entirely different reasons, appear before two different Turkish sultans in their respective centuries, in their efforts to persuade the sultans of their beliefs."

We look forward to enjoying each other's company as we expand our knowledge of Jewish culture and history.

Sukkot is Here!



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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Contact Info:

Physical Address: 74 Bradman Street
Auburn, ME 04210

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 3315
Auburn, Me 04212-3315

Telephone: 207-786-4201

www.templeshalomauburn.org

E-mail address: temple6359@aol.com

Rabbi Sruli: djsruli@gmail.com

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SPEEDY RECOVERY

We pray for refuah sh'leimah – the full and speedy recovery of **Valci Braga, Rachel Corvi, Lee Jay Feldman, Andrea Finn, 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, Sharon Ash Tancredi, 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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Sophie Kaplan	Oct. 1
Melanie Rausch	4
Boden Mitchell	8
Judy Abromson	15
Amy Nussinow	16
Amy Jensen	17
Emma Platz	17
Ian Mason Rausch	20
Lewis Zidle	21
Matthew Cohen	22
Elcha Buckman	23
Timothy Zidle	23
John Isaacson	24
Chad Nussinow	24
Ian Bodenheimer	27
Scarlett Chervenak	29



YAHREZEITEN

Anita Graber	Oct. 3
Elaine Miller	3
Fanny Supovitz	5
Susan Warschauer	5
Harvey Baker	6
Mounes Elyeshmerni	6
Elaine Kaduson	6
Esther Krakower	7
Pal Roberts	8
Norman Izenstatt	10
George Shapiro	10
Louis Cohen	11
Louis Steinman	12
Marsha Plavnick	16
Marcy Plavin	17
Beverly Hurwitz	20
Lottie Ross	22
Ruth Burke	25
Adele Silverman	25
Richelle Cohen Levoy	28
Samuel Cohen	29
Marie Jaeger	29
Abraham Miller	30
Martin Burke	31



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Jocelyn & Nick Mitchell	Oct. 6
Shelley & Richard Rau	9
Kenneth & Charlene Goodman	28
Lewis & Joy Zidle	29

CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

Cathay & Stan Tetenman

In memory of Jim Plavin

In honor of the marriage of Sam
& Kaija Smith

Nancy & Ken Levinsky

To be used towards police presence
during the High Holidays in memory
of Morris Silverman

Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz

Donation of lots of delicious food
for the BBQ

Marcia & Manny Plavin

In memory of their son, Jim

In memory of Ann Forin

LIBRARY FUND

Phyllis Bell

In memory of Jeffrey Bell

In memory of Leonard Bell

MARCUS MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND

Carla Marcus

In memory of Brownie Marcus

In memory of Fannye Roberts

NUSSINOW EDUCATION ENRICHMENT FUND

Amy & Scott Nussinow

In memory of David Krasner

In memory of Hele`ne Krasner

In memory of Charles Schneidman

In memory of Saul Schneidman

In memory of Winnie Plavnick

In memory of Paul Krasner

In memory of Samuel Nussinow

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Diana Bell

In memory of Jim Plavin

Estelle Rubinstein

In memory of Hyman Rubenstein

In memory of Enid Ehrlich

Elisabeth Salberg

In memory of Arthur Salberg

Robert Rovner & Ruth Frydman

In honor of a peaceful holiday season
to the Rabbi and family

Harriet & Behzad Fakhery

In memory of David Feldman

Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz

To Rabbi Sruli, Lisa & Zach for the
joyous music on Rosh Hashanah

RANDALL SILVER LIBRARY FUND

Robert Scott

In memory of Shirley Wickson

ABROMSON FUND
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Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center

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L-A JEWISH FEDERATION

The Lewiston-Auburn Jewish Federation took a three-year sabbatical when Covid interrupted so many of our Temple Shalom activities. We hope the community will again reach out to the many Jewish causes that Federation helped to fund for many, many years.

The dollars that were donated by our members and friends were forwarded to about a dozen Jewish organizations including the Jewish National Fund, the Israeli medical responder's Mogan David Adom, the Anti-Defamation League, Birthright Israel, and national Hillel. The most recent allocation was made in March of 2022 to HIAS for their work with the Jewish communities of the Ukraine. A small portion was allocated to Temple Shalom and some was set aside for family assistance. A list of the recipients organizations is always published in Ma Chadash.

The 2023-24 campaign will kick off this autumn. Please respond to our letter rather than waiting for a call or visit from a Federation volunteer and friend.

