



MA CHADASH!

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

מה חדש!

ק"ק היכל שלום

November 2023, Cheshvan/Kislev 5784

WE STAND



WITH ISRAEL

Save the Date



Annual Mega-Chanukah Party!

Friday, December 8th, 6:00 pm

FROM THE RABBI



Martyrs. Again. So many. Brutally slain. Babies, seniors, and everything in between. Loving families. So reminiscent of so much of our tragic history.

Jewish tradition considers all Jewish martyrs to have died “*al Kiddush HaShem*”—for the Sanctification of [God’s] Name. Originally, this applied to Jews who were forced to choose between renouncing their Jewish faith and death—and who chose death. But over time this idea was extended to all Jewish martyrs—and the popular meaning of *al Kiddush HaShem* morphed into something like, martyred “for the ‘crime’ of being Jewish.”

This understanding of *al Kiddush HaShem* was already in place by the early Middle Ages when during The Crusades Jewish communities suffered from terrible, barbaric atrocities at the hands of marauding Christian armies—not unlike the atrocities suffered by so many Jewish communities in Israel this past October 7th at the hands of Hamas barbarians. It recognizes the reality that simply choosing to identify yourself as Jewish—and it is a choice—choosing to live a Jewish life, choosing a Jewish name, choosing to be connected to Jewish community, opens you up to potential harm. Historically, that would have typically included, at the very least, suffering discrimination, sometimes severe. Other times choosing to live Jewishly meant putting your very life—and the lives of your loved ones—in mortal danger. Even here in the United States in the 21st Century it can be dangerous to be identified as a Jew.

In 2022, the Anti-Defamation League tabulated 3,697 antisemitic incidents throughout the United States. This is a 36 percent increase from the 2,717 incidents tabulated in 2021 and the highest number on record since ADL began tracking antisemitic incidents in 1979. This is also the third time in the past five years that the year-end total has been the highest number ever recorded.

All this before the events of October 7th, which has already seen a rise in antisemitic incidents in the U.S. of almost 300 percent as compared to 2022—itself a record-breaking year. Just think, for example, of the courage of thousands of our young people who openly identify as Jewish on college campuses all across America despite being subjected to not infrequent bullying. In 2022 according to the ADL, college campuses in the United States saw a 41 percent increase in antisemitic incidents for a total of 219 reported incidents. I shudder to think what the 2023 total will be.

Among the casualties of October 7th is our faith in Israel as an absolute safe haven for worldwide Jewry. This has of course most affected Israelis themselves who keep reminding us that even when this terrible war will be over, and all the dust clears, their faith in being able to live securely in a powerful State of Israel has been irrevocably shattered. Israelis have now seen that even their strongest defenses can be breached by a determined enemy—and that constantly being on “high alert” is almost impossible to sustain. The tragic fact of the matter is that Israel, surrounded by enemies, is currently (although this could change in an instant) far less safe for Jews than many other places around the globe, especially Western countries.

So, I would like to clearly state how grateful to and proud I am of every single Jew living in Israel. For taking on the double risk of identifying as Jewish—and also living in Israel—every single day of their lives. So that we—who live in our relatively safe American homes—have a haven to run to should that ever become necessary. Israel is place that for the first time in two thousand years has a strong Jewish army ready to fight for Jewish lives to the death. These are the best of the Jewish people. These are the people who put their very lives on the line—every day—not for the “crime” of being Jewish but for the “pride” of being Jewish.

I would also like to humbly express my utmost love and respect to our most recent Jewish martyrs, young and old, who have just paid the ultimate sacrifice for simply living their Jewish lives in the land of Israel. Lives that have suddenly and monstrosly been taken away—*al Kiddush HaShem*.

Rabbi Sruli

P.S. On Tuesday, November 14th, at 2:50 p.m., Rabbi Sruli will host a group of Bates Arts & Spirituality students at Temple Shalom for a class about song and Sabbath. All may attend.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



In October I attended the HHRC annual meeting and dinner. This is their mission:

"The mission of the Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine is to promote universal respect for human rights through outreach and education. Using the lessons of the Holocaust and other events, past and present, we encourage individuals and communities to reflect and act upon their moral responsibilities to confront prejudice, intolerance and discrimination."

The evening was so inspiring. The emphasis was on how they are teaching anti-bias and human rights in the school system. And, halleluyah, that's where it should start. If a generation could just be free from prejudice, anti-semitism and hatred, there would be no need for the workshops and zoom seminars on "community-oriented policing." Wars like the one in Israel right now would be non-existent if there wasn't generational rage resulting in atrocities.

This year's Gerda Haas Award Recipient and Keynote Speaker is Corey Hinton. A citizen of the Passamaquoddy Tribe (Sipayik), he spoke of his childhood as an Indian-Jew (yes, his mother is Jewish), which led to his becoming a lawyer fighting for the rights of Indigenous people. He spoke of some of the nation's laws that keep Indigenous people trapped in never-ending poverty, illness and early death—a slow genocide. Yes, I am now thinking of the Palestinian people who also need a path to heal and prosper. Ending hatred and true peace has to start somewhere.

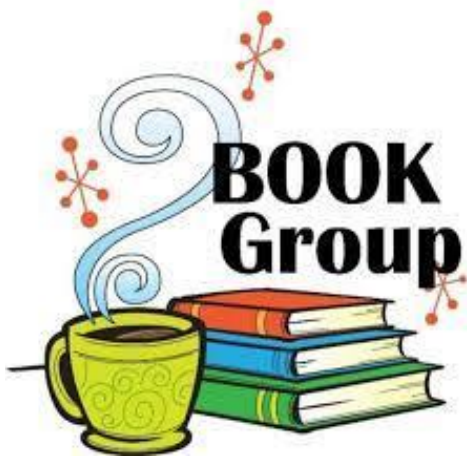
These are heartbreaking times with no easy solutions.

Stay safe,
Lesli Weiner
President



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



The Kunstlers in Paradise by Cathleen Schine was a very enjoyable novel. Just what we needed in this time of such strife. The characters are likable and totally fleshed out. The stories the grandmother tells her grandson of her past are interesting and captivating. Everyone in our group liked and recommended this book although only a small group showed up to discuss it. Present on October 16 were Bertha Bodenheimer, Bonnie Faiman, Marsha Auster and me, Lesli Weiner.

Our next book is *The Thread Collectors* by Shaunna Edwards and Alyson Richman. Here's Amazon's

description:

"1863: In a small Creole cottage in New Orleans, an ingenious young Black woman named Stella embroiders intricate maps on repurposed cloth to help enslaved men flee and join the Union Army. Bound to a man who would kill her if he knew of her clandestine activities, Stella has to hide not only her efforts but her love for William, a Black soldier and a brilliant musician.

Meanwhile, in New York City, a Jewish woman stitches a quilt for her husband, who is stationed in Louisiana with the Union Army. Between abolitionist meetings, Lily rolls bandages and crafts quilts with her sewing circle for other soldiers, too, hoping for their safe return home. But when months go by without word from her husband, Lily resolves to make the perilous journey South to search for him.

As these two women risk everything for love and freedom during the brutal Civil War, their paths converge in New Orleans, where an unexpected encounter leads them to discover that even the most delicate threads have the capacity to save us. Loosely inspired by the authors' family histories, this stunning novel will stay with readers for a long time."

Our next meeting, via zoom, will be MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13 at 4PM. See you then.....lesli

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, Cylus Johnson, 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.*



**RSVP FOR BRUNCH AND PROGRAM
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH
AT 10:00 A.M.**



Please join us for a 10 a.m. brunch followed by an 11 a.m. screening of the 2022 documentary film “Reckonings” on Nov. 12, 2023 at Temple Shalom Synagogue-Center, 74 Bradman Street, Auburn, Maine.

If you plan to attend the brunch, please R.S.V.P. by emailing the synagogue at temple6359@aol.com no later than Wednesday, Nov. 8. Suggested donation for the brunch is: \$10. The film, co-sponsored by Go2Films and the Maine Jewish Film Festival, is free of charge.

Synopsis: They met in secret to negotiate the unthinkable – compensation for the survivors of the largest mass genocide in history. Survivors were in urgent need of help, but how could reparations be determined for the unprecedented destruction and suffering of a people? “Reckonings” explores this untold true story set in the aftermath of the Holocaust. Directed by award-winning filmmaker Roberta Grossman, “Reckonings” recounts the tense negotiations between Jewish and German leaders. Under the constant threat of violence, they forged ahead, knowing it would never be enough but hoping it could at least be an acknowledgement and a step towards healing.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Shana Platz	Nov. 2
Rebecca Thomas	4
Jillian Penan	8
Michael Shapiro	10
Jeff Stern	10
Mitchell Auster	18
Philip Laine	18
Lauren Traister	19
Nancy Levinsky	20
Carolyn Traister	20
Pepper Robillard	21
Samuel Cohen	23
Anne Allen	24
Scott Nussinow	24
Michael Traister	24
Harriet Fakhery	26
Jocelyn Weiner Mitchell	27
Lillian Lockard	28
Aaron Burke	29
Allison Penan	29



Yahrzeiten

Edith Nussinow	Nov. 1
Hyman Rubinstein	1
Sadie Baker	5
Reva Finks Roth	6
Alfred Bodenheimer	7
Sina Amsel	8
Irving Bell	11
John H. Scott	12
Allen Bean	14
Abraham Krasner	17
Rose P. Marcus	20
Michael Abromson	22
Max Lezberg	22
Hilda Kleeger	23
Philip Rosen	23
Harvey Joel Shain	25
Leroy Bieringer	28
Sonny Isaacson	29
Renee Laine	30



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Amy & Scott Nussinow Nov. 28

CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

The following made donations

"In memory of Helene Perry"
Cathy & Stan Tetenman
Michael Gagne
Ellen & Aaron Burke
Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz
Bertha Bodenheimer
Marianne Wise
Babs & Michael Shapiro
Philip Laine
Marion & Paul Rausch
Vic & Lee Blumenthal
Bob & Jackie Laskoff
Charles & Sean Douglas
Gertrude Moshkovitz
Joel Olstein
Phyllis Wilner
Shelley & Rick Rau
Joanne Fagen & Ronald Alexander
Joy & Lewis Zidle
Sharon Day
Phyllis Deringis
Bonnie & Larry Faiman
Harriet & Behzad Fakhery
In memory of Mounes Elyeshmerni
Bonnie & Larry Faiman
Happy anniversary to Phyllis Graber
& Hilmar Jensen
Speedy recovery to Sharon Tancredi
Speedy recovery to Elliott Epstein
In honor of Rabbi Sruli, Rebbetzin Lisa &
all others who made our High Holiday
services so beautiful & meaningful
Bertha Bodenheimer
In honor of Shelley Rau for adding such
beauty to the services
In memory of Beniyahu Biton
In memory of Ben Schklair's grandfather
Karen Calloway
In appreciation for donations made in
memory of her sister, Lynne Kaduson
Edward & Laura Pearlman
In appreciation
Ellen Nesson
In appreciation
Steve Gruverman Family Foundation
In appreciation
Phyllis Bell
In honor of a safe & successful year
Cathy & Stan Tetenman
In memory of Beniyahu Biton
In memory of Ben Schklair's grandfather
Daniel & Dina Blackerby
In appreciation

ABROMSON FUND

Judy Abromson
In memory of Helene Perry

LIBRARY FUND

David Plavin
In memory of Marcy Plavin
In memory of James B. Plavin

MARCUS MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND

Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz
In memory of Helene Perry

MINYANAIRES FUND

Margaret & Hank Meyer
In memory of Helene Perry

MITZVAH FUND

Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz
In memory of Helene Perry

NUSSINOW EDUCATION ENRICHMENT FUND

Amy & Scott Nussinow
In memory of Marsha Plavnick

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Sharon Day
In memory of Esther (Ebby) Krakower
Joan Levenson
In memory of Harvey Baker
Estelle Rubinstein
In memory of Helene Perry
Karen & Jon Smith
In memory of Helene Perry
Ira & Paula Rubinstein
In memory of Helene Perry
Elcha Buckman
In memory of her son, Gary Buckman
Jennifer & Jerry Cohen
In memory of Louis Cohen
Juliet & Michael Barr
In memory of Frieda Barr
Neal & Georgina Keefe-Feldman
In memory of Helene Perry
Phyllis Graber Jensen
In memory of Anita Graber
In memory of Helene Perry
Nancy & Ken Levinsky
In memory of Adele Silverman
In memory of Helene Perry
Nancy Levenson & Joan Levenson
In memory of Alan Levenson
In memory of Patti Levenson
RANDALL SILVER LIBRARY FUND
Malca Wilner
In memory of Helene Perry
Elcha Buckman
In memory of Helene Perry

Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center

PO Box 3315
Auburn, ME 04212-3315

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SUPPORT ISRAEL

Don't forget to join our family and friends here in Maine in supporting our family and friends in Israel. The Federation Emergency Fund dollars will be transferred to national Federation for distribution to the many organizations in Israel that comfort and aid those most in need of our support.

WE STAND



WITH ISRAEL

Please make checks payable to L-A Jewish Federation and mail to PO Box 3315, Auburn, ME 04212-3315

For those who must make a Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA's, remember that a direct Federation contribution from your IRA has a tax advantage. Contact your financial adviser!