



MaCHADASH!

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

מה חדש!

ק"ק היכל שלום

February 2024, Shevat/Adar I 5784



Shabbat Together!

שבת ביחד!

Saturday, February 10th, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Great food and drink, bonding, playing, studying, hanging out.

Spend the day with your Temple family and fully experience the spirit of Shabbat.

Special Torah Study (at 11:30 a.m.)

Pidyon Shvuyim: A Deep Textual Exploration of "Freeing the Captive" with Rabbi Tamara Shifrin, Rabbi of the Achvat Israel community in Rishon LeZion, Israel.



Special Afternoon Presentation (at 2:15 p.m.)

Sgt. Richard Brewer, USMC, will talk to us about his experiences during the Civil War in Lebanon in the early 1980's where he was severely injured by a suicide truck bomb that destroyed the American Embassy in Beirut.

FROM THE RABBI



to make it easier to missionize to Jews who might otherwise be turned off by the name of Jesus) as a valid expression of Judaism.

A memory: One Thursday morning, not too long after my arrival at Temple Shalom, our Torah discussion turned to pluralism—the idea that we as a community are open to virtually all expressions of Judaism; all modes of practice or, even, non-practice—that pluralism is of supreme value to our community. As an exercise in pushing the limits of our tolerance, I asked whether our commitment to tolerance would extend even to “*Jews for Jesus*.” The consensus across the board (even from our most progressive members) was no. Even though we had a hard time articulating why, we all agreed that we could not consider *Jews for Jesus* (or *Messianic Judaism* as they now refer to themselves—frankly,

Jewish tradition has long exalted our ancestors who received the Torah at Sinai for their unity in accepting the sovereignty of God and God’s Torah. “We will do and we will learn,” they famously shouted together—as one—referring to the Torah they were about to receive. This despite the fact that throughout our history what it meant to “do Torah” had vastly different—even contradictory—interpretations. From Saducees, Essenes, Pharisees, and more, in Talmudic times, to Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, Hasidic, Humanistic, and more, in modern times. In other words, we as a people accepted God and Torah as one united people—but what that actually meant in practice has been debated and fought over from the very moment we accepted it until now.

Yet we continue to look to the model of unity exhibited at Sinai to underscore that despite our different ideas and practices, we are all Jews. The Talmud famously declared that there are 70 distinct faces to Torah—you can pick the face that appeals to you, someone else can pick the face that appeals to them—and all are considered to be legitimate expressions of Torah. But there are limits. *Jews for Jesus* is not one of these 70 faces. The Talmud makes clear that Israel, the Torah and God are a unity. There is a lot of latitude in what we can consider authentic Jewish practice so as long as it centers around Israel, Torah, and God.

There is a vast difference between unity and conformity. We can be unified and still disagree at the same time. So, what is unity then if it can encompass differences? For me, unity is grounded in loyalty. We can disagree, we can embrace divergent practices, but in the face of opposition, in the face of threat, we circle the wagons and have each other’s backs. Couples who disagree, who fight about the most basic things, can survive in unity, in love even, so long as to the outside world they present a united front—if they steadfastly maintain their loyalty to each other. But once that loyalty is broken, the relationship is likely to follow.

What I am going to say now is hard for me to write, and I expect many people reading this will not agree with me, but, personally, I wish our extended Jewish community would show more loyalty, especially in public, during these scary times. To be clear, I have no problem with anyone being uncomfortable or even outraged by the way Israel is conducting its war against Hamas. I have a lot to say about this also. But what discourages me is the growing multitude of public statements, rallies and calls for action directed against Israel and its government—by fellow Jews! Rabbis, groups of Rabbis, Jewish politicians, Jewish celebrities, Jewish academics, Jewish media personalities, anti-Zionist Hasidim, progressive Jews. Even now, when Israel and Jews worldwide are under severe attack, these prominent Jewish voices give ammunition to those who (in my opinion) seek to harm us. We have enough to deal with from the outside, can’t we just circle our wagons and present a unified front? Israel is a fact. It is home to half the Jews in the world, and it is the refuge for Jews worldwide. Israel is suffering a grave existential crisis—physically, politically and socially. This is not a time for us to be airing our dirty laundry in public.

Let’s continue to argue, disagree, even fight, but, please, let’s keep it amongst ourselves.

Rabbi Sruli

P.S. I am grateful to Estelle Rubinstein and Mitch Ross for the discussion that inspired this column.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



We just had our first big snowfall of the year. Even those of us who are hardened to Maine winters do tend to cocoon during these months. Unless we really have to go out, we choose to stay inside our warm homes when it's cold outside. I recently was reminded about an old Twilight Zone episode where a man was frantically wandering through a deserted town, getting increasingly agitated when he could not find even one person to talk to. It turned out to be a NASA experiment, with Rod Serling's message being that people have a basic human need for companionship.

Why do I bring these thoughts up? How many of our Temple members live alone with no family nearby? I bet they would appreciate a call from someone who just called to chat. We used to have volunteers who would go around and visit the 'homebound.' While that would be wonderful, in these busy times, a phone call would still be a welcome connection. Wouldn't this be a worthwhile resolution to make?! People 'from away' are always saying how neighborly Mainers are, so let's prove them right. Not only will you be adding some warm sunshine to someone else's day, but you just might be surprised at the smile this could put on your face too.

See you in March.....

Lesli Weiner
President

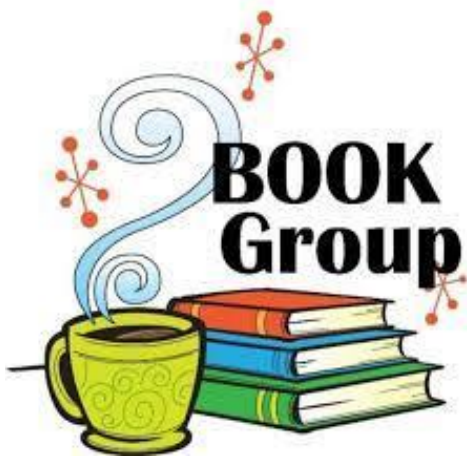
SPEEDY RECOVERY

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, Alison Jaeger, Cylus Johnson, Suzan Katzir, Michael Kendall, Linda Koskela, Henry Lefkowitz, Michelle Lemieux, Lee Leveille, Carolyn Marshal, Bruce Meyer, Alice Richman, 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!!



The Assignment by Liza Wiemer was inspired by a real-life event. And considering the rise of anti-semitism recently, it's not surprising that it was written just a few years ago. Discussing this on January 8 was Bertha Bodenheimer, Marsha Auster, Judy Abromson, (Karen Calloway) and me, Lesli Weiner. The setting was in a 12th grade history class that had no Jewish students in the school, so it wasn't a religious objection to defending a Nazi point-of-view, but a moral one. This also led to our discussing how the Holocaust is taught in schools. The novel is very compelling, and made us all think about the ramifications. Read it and think for yourself.

Our next book is *Stolen Beauty* by Laurie Lico Albanese about paintings by Gustav Klimt. Here's the write-up on Amazon:

"From the dawn of the twentieth century to the devastation of World War II, this exhilarating novel of love, war, art, and family gives voice to two extraordinary women and brings to life the true story behind the creation and near destruction of Gustav Klimt's most remarkable paintings.

In the dazzling glitter of 1903 Vienna, Adele Bloch-Bauer—young, beautiful, brilliant, and Jewish—meets painter Gustav Klimt. Wealthy in everything but freedom, Adele embraces Klimt's renegade genius as the two awaken to the erotic possibilities on the canvas and beyond. Though they enjoy a life where sex and art are just beginning to break through the façade of conventional society, the city is also troubled by a disturbing increase in anti-Semitism as political hatred simmers in the shadows of Adele's coffeehouse afternoons and cultural salons.

Nearly forty years later, Adele's niece Maria Altmann is a newlywed when the Nazis invade Austria—and overnight, her beloved Vienna becomes a war zone. When her husband is arrested and her family is forced out of their stately home, Maria must summon the courage and resilience that is her aunt's legacy if she is to survive and keep her loved ones—and their history—alive.

Will Maria and her family escape the grip of Nazi rule? And what will become of the paintings for which her aunt sacrificed nearly everything?

Impeccably researched and a "must-read for fans of Kristin Hannah's *The Nightingale* and Paula McLain's *Circling the Sun*" (Christina Baker Kline, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author), *Stolen Beauty* juxtaposes passion and discovery against hatred and despair, and shines a light on our ability to love, to destroy, and above all, to endure."

We also chose our next group of books:

Feb 12.....*Stolen Beauty* by Laurie Lico Albanese

Mar 11.....*The Little Liar* by Mitch Albom

Apr 8.....*Not Kosher for Passover* by **LISA MAYER**

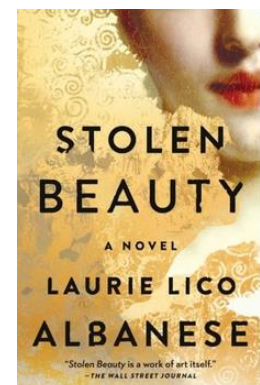
May 13.....*The Wolf Hunt* by Ayelet Gunder-Goshen

Jun 10.....*Hotel Cuba* by Aaron Hamburger

Jul 8.....*The Wind Knows My Name* by Isabel Allende

Aug 12.....*The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride

Pick up a good book and enjoy the New Year.....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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Lesli Weiner
Vice President	Laurence Faiman
Secretary	Scott Nussinow
Treasurer	Jonathan Greven
Board Members	Judy Abromson
	Bertha Bodenheimer
	Ihara Dutra
	Elliott Epstein
	Joel Goodman
	Darren McGinley
	Henry Meyer
	Lewis Zidle

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

Telephone: 914-980-9509

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Ritual	Larry Faiman
Membership/Outreach	Bertha Bodenheimer
Budget/Finance/Endowment	Stan Tetenman
Cemetery	Henry Meyer
Hebrew School/Education	Allyson Casares
Programming/Social Action	Phyllis Graber Jensen
	Paula Marcus-Platz

COMMUNITY NEWS

Please let us know if you hear news of births and deaths of members or former members of our Jewish Community, so that we may share with others. Email to Julie at temple6359@aol.com.



Lesli Weiner's mother-in-law, Ruth Weiner, passed away on December 27, 2023 at age 99.

Longtime Temple member Jackie Laskoff, wife of Robert 'Bob' Laskoff, passed away on January 8, 2024.

Condolences to the family of Beverly Appelbaum who recently passed away in Florida. Beverly lived in the L/A area many years ago.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Richard Abromson	Feb. 4
Gary Shapiro	5
Scott Kaplan	6
Corinne Weiner Mockler	9
Nicholas Mitchell	11
Gabrielle Wolfe	13
Gavriella King	14
Nancy Levenson	22
Andrew Casares	24
Lawrence Mohr	26
Cathy Tetenman	27
Joel Goodman	28



Yahrzeiten

Morris L. Cohen	Feb. 3
Michael Steinman	3
Elinor Goldbatt	4
Meyer Ross	4
Marion Goldstein	5
Jennie Rubinstein	5
Bashi Elyeshmerni	6
Jacques Renard	6
Helene Reeves	9
George Rosenberg	10
Philip Renard	11
Jean Brown	13
Estelle Pennamacoor	13
Saul Supovitz	16
Jacob Olstein	16
Hillel Passerman	18
Abe Tetenman	21
Milton Faiman	22
Hugo Schleicher	22
Rabbi David Berent	24
Carl Supovitz	24
Reba Koss	25
Shirley Goodman	27
Harold Shapiro	27
Mary Silverman	28



Board of Director's Meeting
Monday, February 14, 2024
7:00 PM

CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

The following made donations

"In memory of Jackie Laskoff"

Estelle Rubinstein

Ellen & Aaron Burke

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

Babs & Michael Shapiro

Marianne Wise

Bonnie & Larry Faiman

Bertha Bodenheimer

Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz

In memory of Barney Marcus

In memory of John A. Platz

John & Consuelo Isaacson

In appreciation

James & Candace Platz & the

Kagan Family Foundation

In appreciation

Juliet & Michael Barr

In memory of Lois Barr

The Bell Family

In memory of Marcia Bell

Jeanne & John Shapiro

In memory of Sherman Shapiro

Marcia Plavin

In memory of Helene Perry

Elcha Buckman

In memory of Michael Shain

Bertha Bodenheimer

In memory of Ruth Weiner

In memory of Beverly Appelbaum

Estelle Rubinstein

In memory of Beverly Appelbaum

Daniel & Dina Blackerby

In appreciation

Bonnie & Larry Faiman

In memory of Ruth Weiner

In memory of Elizabeth Levinsky

ABROMSON FUND

Judy Abromson

In memory of Ruth & Dr. Ernest

Williams

In memory of Jackie Laskoff

MARCUS MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND

Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz

In memory of Barney Marcus

MITZVAH FUND

Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz

In memory of Barney Marcus

NUSSINOW EDUCATION ENRICHMENT FUND

Amy & Scott Nussinow

In memory of Edith Nussinow

In memory of Abraham Krasner

In memory of Jennie Krasner

PULPIT/PRAYER BOOK FUND

Roz & Barry Kutzen

In memory of Sylvia Kutzen

In memory of Shirley Asher

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Jamie Isaacson Family

In memory of Shirley Isaacson

Phyllis Graber Jensen

In memory of Jackie Laskoff

RANDALL SILVER LIBRARY FUND

Malca Wilner & Jody Wilner

In memory of Beverly Applebaum

In memory of Jackie Laskoff

SHIRLEY GOODMAN MEMORIAL FUND

Joel Goodman

In memory of Jackie Laskoff

BELL MEMORIAL CHAPEL FUND

BODENHEIMER PASSOVER FUND

CEMETERY FUND

COHEN/LEVOY CARDEN FUND

ENDOWMENT FUND

FAMILY HEBREW SCHOOL

KITCHEN FUND

LIBRARY FUND

MINYANAIRES FUND

SHAPIRO MEMORIAL FUND

Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center

PO Box 3315
Auburn, ME 04212-3315

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL
FEBRUARY, 2024

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Auburn, ME
Permit #4

Community Passover Seder

Open only to Temple members and their families

Monday, April 22 at 5:00 p.m.

*Adults: Members - \$25

*Children 12 & under: \$15

*Children under 5: No Charge

We MUST receive your paid reservation by Monday, April 1st!

Mail to: Temple Shalom, PO Box 3315, Auburn, ME 04212-3315

