



MA CHADASHI! מה חדש!

What's New! The newsletter of Temple Shalom Synagogue Center, Auburn, Maine ק"ק היכל שלום

March 2024, Adar I/Adar II 5784



PURIM

**Friday, March 22nd, 6:00
P.M., at Temple Shalom**

Purim Pierogies, Wine and Hamantashen!

Mask Making for Children and Adults

Special Purim Song – Special Purim Dance

Interactive story of Purim told by Rebbetzin Lisa

Traditional readings from the Megillah Scroll by Rabbi Sruli

Purim Magic with Rabbi Sruli

**Please bring canned or other non-perishable items
to help feed the hungry (an important Purim Mitzvah!)
Mishloach Manot Swap**

Suggested donation: \$5 per person, \$10 per family

For All Ages!

Please RSVP by Tuesday, March 19th

FROM THE RABBI



I am writing this column while sitting next to Lisa on our living room couch—about five days after her surgery—talking quietly about how grateful we are that she was so well taken care of. While there are still lingering (scary) concerns, we are so very grateful to so many and for so many things. First and foremost, our Temple Shalom community who have been with us throughout. We are so grateful for your endless love, support, prayers and concern—there is no better feeling than knowing that we are valued members of a very large family!

To all of our family and many, many friends, locally and throughout the world, that have been with us as well—in

so many ways.

Maine Medical Center was also a great experience. Fabulous staff, competent and friendly. And free valet parking!

And, of course, Dr. Jeffrey Florman. Dr. Florman is a world-class neurosurgeon, loved and admired by colleagues, patients and staff. Dr. Florman was candid with us from the very beginning. He explained what he could do for Lisa, and what he could not do. He emphasized over and over again that he was not interested in being a *hero*. What he meant was, that in the process of removing Lisa's tumor (technically, a meningioma) that is partially entwined with the nerves of her brain stem, harm—serious permanent harm—could result. Rather than trying to remove the entire tumor, Dr. Florman explained that his plan was to proceed carefully and cautiously, removing as much of the tumor as he could while doing the least amount of harm. With most of the tumor gone, other—less potentially harmful—tools could be employed to deal with whatever may need to be dealt with in the future. Sure Dr. Florman could have *heroically* removed the entire tumor, but at what cost?

The Talmud teaches in the “Ethics of the Fathers” (which we study on Thursday mornings) that the truest *hero* is the person who exercises self-control—that the hallmark of heroic strength is not measured by the ability to conquer others but by the ability to conquer yourself. This particular Talmudic teaching is frequently cited and discussed and, I believe, has greatly influenced the Jewish psyche. Many Jews, past and present, hold greater admiration for discipline and self-control than for brute strength and conquest.

These days, I couldn't help but associate Lisa's tumor with Hamas—malign forces that threaten one's very existence and that need to be removed. But I think Israel—and we all—could benefit from reconnecting with our ancient wisdom and learn from the Ethics of the Fathers—and also Dr. Florman. Sometimes, the hallmark of heroism is not “total victory” or bravado, but self-control. Sometimes, trying to be a *hero*—by removing the entire malignancy at any cost—can do more harm than good—or at least more harm than is ultimately necessary. Sometimes, you need to content yourself with removing as much as can be removed without doing excessive harm, and waiting for another day to deal with whatever may have to be dealt with in the future—in ways that are less potentially harmful.

It was clear from the way Dr. Florman talked that it wasn't easy for him to leave the job partially undone—that he felt the noble call to be the *hero* who would remove every last bit of the tumor—the *hero* that would annihilate the entirety of the invasive growth. But, instead, he chose to be the Talmudic *hero*. The one who recognizes that true heroism lies in self-control—in considering the big picture—in weighing both the benefits and the risks. And that is what we are most grateful for.

Rabbi Sruli

FROM THE PRESIDENT



I just had a month filled with the birthdays of 4 close relatives. To a child, the joy of a special day starts with the anticipation, peaks at the celebration itself, and extends itself for days afterwards when you can sing Happy Birthday to yourself whenever you feel like it. Children, especially, map out their year by these auspicious occasions.

The Jewish calendar is filled with holidays and other important dates. And your Program Committee does its best to plan events to mark these occasions so we can celebrate as a community and families can create special memories each year. It saddens me when children don't get excited about dressing up as Queen Esther or King Ahasuerus, or when the rest of us don't turn out to kvell over their costumes. It truly dismays me when we need to cancel a program for lack of RSVPs. In a large community, a 10% turnout would still be a nice gathering. But in a small community such as ours, your absence is really noticed. **YOU ARE MISSED!!!** We enjoy spending time with you. Hearing about your family. Watching your children play in the social hall. Sharing a nice meal together. Engaging in Jewish study. Even praying side by side. Our synagogue is a beautiful building, but it is hollow without you in it. Can we do something extra to entice you in? Just let us know, because this is your Temple. And we all want it to still be here for the generations to come. But we also want it to be enjoyable for the generation that is here now. Let's make it happen. Together!

Lesli Weiner
President

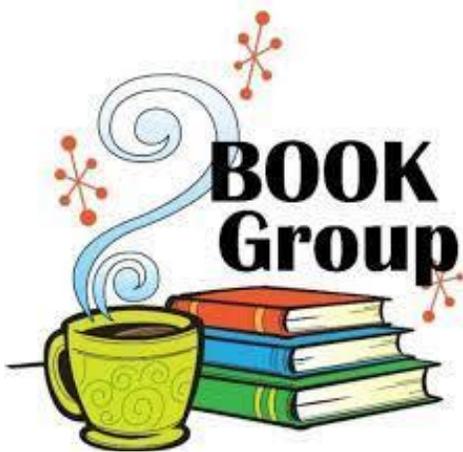
SPEEDY RECOVERY

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.*



*Wishing you a speedy
and complete recovery.*

!!BOOK GROUP NEWS!!



Have you seen the movie *Woman In Gold* starring Helen Mirren and Ryan Reynolds? Fantastic movie, now on Netflix! It's based on the book we read, *Stolen Beauty* by Laurie Lico Albanese. Present on zoom was Karen Calloway, Marsha Auster, Mitch Ross, Judy Abromson and me, Lesli Weiner. The artist of the painting was Gustav Klimt, which was stolen by the Nazis and claimed by the Austrian government as a national treasure at the end of the war. Can this golden painting be restored to its rightful owner? Read it and you'll have a great read finding out!

the book description:

Our next book is *The Little Liar* by Mitch Albom. Here's

“An instant *New York Times* Bestseller
Beloved bestselling author Mitch Albom returns with a powerful novel of hope and forgiveness that moves from a coastal Greek city during WWII to America in the golden age of Hollywood, as the intertwined lives of three young survivors are forever changed by the perils of deception and the grace of redemption.

Eleven-year-old Nico Krispis has never told a lie. His schoolmate, Fannie, loves him because of it. Nico's older brother Sebastian resents him for both these facts. When their young lives are torn apart during the war, it will take them decades to find each other again. Nico's innocence and goodness is used against his tightly knit community when a German officer barter's Nico's reputation for honesty into a promise to save his loved ones. When Nico realizes the consequences of the betrayal, he can never tell the truth again. He will spend the rest of this life changing names, changing locations and identities, desperate to find a way to forgiveness—for himself and from the people he loves most. Albom's extraordinary storytelling is at its powerful best in his first novel to confront the destruction that lying can wreak both on the world stage as well as on the individual lives that get caught up in it. As *The Stranger in the Lifeboat* spoke to belief, *The Little Liar* speaks to hope, in a breathless page-turner that will break your heart open and fill it with the power of the human spirit and the goodness that lies within us all.

Narrated by the voice of Truth itself, *The Little Liar* is a timeless story about the power of love to ultimately redeem us, no matter how deeply we blame ourselves for our mistakes.”
Please join us on zoom on MONDAY, MARCH 11 at 4PM.....lesli



Please join us at 10 a.m. on Sunday, March 3, for a brunch catered by the men of Temple Shalom, followed by an 11 a.m. talk and slideshow by synagogue member — and world traveler —Marianne Wise about her two-week tour, "The African Safari: Kenya and Tanzania."

Marianne began her tour in Nairobi, Kenya, and concluded her trip in Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. The safari included visits to six national parks, and 12 game drives to view the "Big Five" (elephants, lions, leopards, rhinos, and cape buffalos) and the "Great Migration" of more than three million animals. She toured two sanctuaries: the Giraffe Center, which is a nonprofit organization that raises Endangered Rothschild giraffes, and the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust that rehabilitates young or injured elephants. Marianne's tour also included spending time with the Masai, Hadzabe, and Datoga tribes.



Marianne's passion for travel allows her to see new sights, try new foods, meet new people, and learn about other cultures. She loves to share all her experiences with family and friends, and she often tells them: "Travel as much as you can and have fun doing it!"

She most recently toured Egypt and Jordan, and the Greek Isles in October. Other places she has visited include Great Britain, Germany, France, Italy, the Azores, Dubai, and Hawaii, to name a few.

Following her talk, Marianne will engage in a Q&A with the audience.

Donations for the brunch are \$10. Those planning to attend should RSVP by emailing the synagogue at Temple6359@aol.com no later than Wednesday, Feb. 28.



**IF WE KNEW YOU WERE COMING,
WE'D HAVE BAKED A CAKE!**

Please let us know with an RSVP that you will join us so
that we can purchase enough food and plan for
comfortable accommodations!

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

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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.



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

Ihara Dutra	Mar. 3
Helene Fakhery	6
Marsha Auster	7
Julia Isaacson	11
Adam Allen	14
Jack Weinstein	16
Joseph Zidle	18
Able Kaplan	19
Joy Zidle	23
Charlie Dresdner	27
Johnny Dresdner	27
Kenneth Goodman	28
Cassandra Jensen	28



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Deena & Jack Weinstein Mar. 8

Yahrzeiten

Marilyn I. Simonds	Mar. 1
Nathan Day	4
Leonard Nemeth	4
Betty N. Cohen	5
Annette Hertz	5
Rose Nussinow	5
Viola Kaufman	6
Poppy Traister	6
Irvin Tayman	8
Lillian Kutzen	9
Bert Bodenheimer	11
Jules Asher	25
Joseph Zidle	26
Benjamin Abromson	30



Board of Director's Meeting
Monday, March 11, 2024
7:00 PM

CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

Michael Gagne

In memory of Jackie Laskoff

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

In memory of Abe Tetenman

Speedy recovery to Lisa Mayer

Joy & Lewis Zidle

In memory of Jackie Laskoff

In memory of George Rosenberg

In memory of Elaine Misilo

Estelle Rubinstein

In memory of Jennie Rubinstein

Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz

In memory of Jackie Laskoff

Shelley & Rick Rau

In memory of Jackie Laskoff

Mitch Ross

In memory of Meyer Ross

Shirley & Herbert Koss

In memory of Jackie Laskoff

In memory of Helene Perry

In memory of Reba Koss

In memory of Mary Silverman

Maida & Glenn Fund

In memory of Elinor & Arnold Goldblatt

The Bell Family

In memory of Ida Finks, Reva Finks

Roth, Marcia & Irving Bell

Tom Reeves

In memory of Jackie Laskoff

In memory of Dr. Helene Reeves

Bertha Bodenheimer

In memory of Abe Tetenman

Babs & Michael Shapiro

Speedy recovery to Lisa Mayer

Harriet & Behzad Fakhery

Speedy recovery to Lisa Mayer

ABROMSON FUND

Judy Abromson

Speedy recovery to Lisa Mayer

NUSSINOW EDUCATION ENRICHMENT FUND

Amy & Scott Nussinow

In memory of Jacques Renard

In memory of Philip Renard

PULPIT/PRAYER BOOK FUND

Allen Miller

In memory of Martin Miller

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Dr. Karen & Lara Reeves

In memory of Dr. Helene Reeves

Jonathan Berent

In memory of Rabbi David Berent

SHIRLEY GOODMAN MEMORIAL FUND

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In memory of Jackie Laskoff

In memory of Shirley Goodman

JoAnne & Wayne Goodman

In memory of Shirley Goodman

In memory of Elsie Goodman

In memory of Ruth Finn

Ken & Charlene Goodman

In memory of Shirley Goodman

Steven Goodman

In memory of Shirley Goodman

BELL MEMORIAL CHAPEL FUND

BODENHEIMER PASSOVER FUND

CEMETERY FUND

COHEN/LEVOY GARDEN FUND

ENDOWMENT FUND

FAMILY HEBREW SCHOOL

KITCHEN FUND

LIBRARY FUND

MARCUS MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND

MITZVAH FUND

RANDALL SILVER LIBRARY FUND

SHAPIRO MEMORIAL FUND



Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center

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MARCH, 2024

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Community Passover Seder

Open only to Temple members and their families

Tuesday, April 23 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

