



MA CHADASH! מה חדש!

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

May, 2024, Nisan/Iyar 5784



Saturday, May 18th, 6:00 P.M., at Temple Shalom

**Reception at 6:00 p.m., Program begins at 7:00 p.m.
Wine and Cheese**

Great Music, plus Humor and Magic!

Cost is \$10.00 per person

Open to the Public.

**Please spread the word to all of your friends
(in-person and on your social media)!**



Lag B'Omer

Friday, May 24th, 7:00 P.M., at Temple Shalom

All Ages!

Bonfire, Music, Desserts, Marshmallows, Dancing!

FROM THE RABBI



Recently, on a long drive, I told my family about a Pro-Palestine rally in Dearborn Michigan (home to the largest Muslim population in the US) which took place on April 5th. At the rally, participants began chanting “Death to America.” One speaker even extolled the greatness of the virulently anti-American and anti-Israel leader of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, the Ayatollah Khomeini. Needless to say, the October 7th Hamas attacks were similarly extolled. While the hateful “Death to America” chant was not started from the podium and was only chanted a few times, no one

in charge of the rally attempted to stop the chanting. After the rally major Muslim-American organizations as well as the Muslim-American mayor of Dearborn were sharply critical of the chants. Still, it is hard not to feel that an important line was crossed.

What I would like to share with you, however, was Johnny’s response. Johnny half-jokingly and half-seriously (and very dryly) responded, “So how are they winning?” referring to the Pro-Palestine camp.

Johnny was incredulous how a movement of Americans that is so openly anti-American seems to have won over much of American public opinion.

I didn’t respond to Johnny—he didn’t expect a response as his question was largely rhetorical—but I could not get his comment out of my mind. “So how are they winning?” could be asked about so many movements, political leaders and ideologies these days that espouse views so radical that they would almost certainly have been marginalized even just a few years ago. In many ways, “So how are they winning?” encapsulates so much of what is dysfunctional about contemporary society.

When I expressed radical views as a teenager—as young people tend to do—I remember my father’s response that America is a devoutly centrist country and only a centrist politician could ever hope to win an election. How things have changed. We now live in a society where centrism, compromise, and even listening, are seen as the acts of a traitor to whatever social or political cause.

I think about people so far off the mainstream on both the right and the left who now occupy positions of power in the US, Israel and elsewhere—politicians who routinely say things that until very recently would have been regarded as crazy—as dangerous—and I find myself asking Johnny’s question: “So how are they winning?”

Rabbi Sruli

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.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



It seems like Spring has been trying to show up for months now. With no snow on the ground, with intermittent warm days, with the daffodils peeking up a month early, with ice-out at the beginning of March, with what seems like endless Spring rains pelting us causing flooding and storm damage, well, Spring has definitely sprung. The daffodils are in bloom, the forsythia is brightening up the landscape covered in yellow, the grass is greening, the trees are budding, the world is waking up.

I just wish the news wasn't so depressing. It's been a year now since my dear husband Neal died, the political climate is so very tense, the news from Israel is dire and the anti-semitism here in the good ol' USA is frightening. However, we're told that Passover is a joyous holiday and

Spring is supposed to be a time of new beginnings. And you know me - you can't keep me down for long! There's so much life to be lived and so many memories to be cherished. So I'll leave you with this poem of thanksgiving from Peaceweavers:

"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 prevent our care of 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."

Lesli Weiner

President

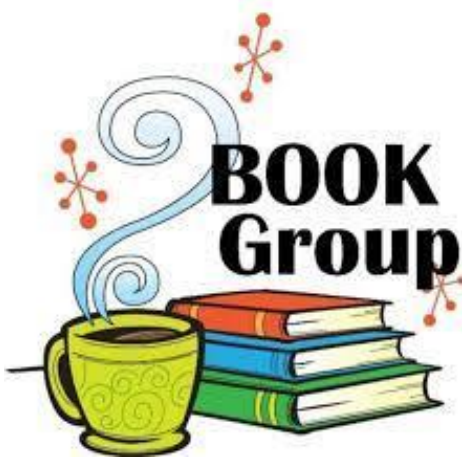
SPEEDY RECOVERY

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, Suzan Katzir, Michael Kendall, Linda Koskela, Henry Lefkowitz, 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!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



It's unanimous! *The Wolf Hunt* by Ayelet Gunder-Goshen is a compelling read, not to be put down. On April 8th that's what we said: Bertha Bodenheimer, Marsha Auster, Judy Abromson, Jodi Tucker, Mitch Ross, Babs Shapiro and me, Lesli Weiner. To what lengths would a mother go to for her child? How well do you know your children? How well do you truly know anyone? Have you ever experienced fitting in, only to suddenly become "the other?" Can you recognize who are the sheep and who is the wolf? Hmmmmmmm.....

Our next book is written by our very own Lisa Mayer!!! It's titled *Not Kosher for Passover*. If you've ever heard

Lisa tell one of her stories, you know she's a talented writer with a fantastic sense of humor. She has the gift of seeing the funny side of almost any situation. Her book is not officially published yet, so our Book Group may be her Beta Readers? So no Amazon synopsisyet. I wonder if we'll recognize ourselves in any of her characters?

Our next meeting is on MONDAY, MAY 13 at 4PM on zoom. If you're not on my Book Group list and you want the zoom link, please contact the Temple. We're so excited for you Lisa !.....lesli

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



An update of Safety and Security initiatives...

On **Monday, May 13th at 7:00 PM**, we'll be hosting a program, and all are encouraged to attend. "Entry Point" is a one-hour online session presented by a certified instructor. It focuses on the basics of security and expanding our collective abilities to recognize and report security or safety threats. Some of the topics covered in this session are:

- Security awareness
- Identifying security vulnerabilities
- Recognizing suspicious activity
- Reducing and responding to threats to our synagogue
- How to contribute to the safety of our community
- Understanding unconscious bias

This special programming is provided by CSS (Community Security Service). Please reserve the time and date - and look for an invitation shortly.

Scott

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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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

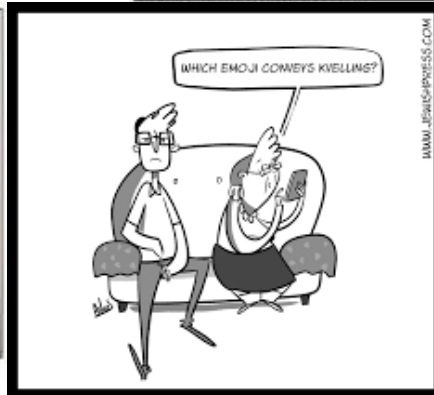
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 Budget/Finance/Endowment Stan Tetenman
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 Paula Marcus-Platz

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Reece Greven	May 1
Mazie King	2
Stuart Cohen	3
Miriam Sofia Cohen	5
Jennifer Cohen	9
Jenna Wise	9
Amelia Ross	16
Susan Shapiro	16
Lucas Rau	19
Alison Fakhery	21
Robert Scott	21
Shayna McGinley	24
Greg Levinsky	26
Jason Platz	31
Mitchell Ross	31



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!



Bubbies and technology

CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

Karen Calloway
In honor of Rebbetzin Lisa's speedy recovery
Philip Laine
In memory of Edward Laine
Ellen & Donald Bloch
In memory of Helene Perry
Lewis Perry
In memory of Ida Perry
In memory of Abraham Perry
Estelle Rubinstein
In memory of Murray Rubinstein
Tom Reeves
In memory of Dr. Edward Reeves
Cathy & Stan Tetenman
In memory of Edward Koss
In memory of Christiane Shems
Babs & Michael Shapiro
In memory of Edward Koss
Bertha Bodenheimer
In memory of Edward Koss
In memory of Christiane Shems
Bonnie & Larry Faiman
In memory of Milton Faiman
In memory of Sally Faiman
In memory of Joseph Margolin
In memory of June Margolin



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Daniel & Kristine Rausch May 15
Matthew & Janet Zidle 25

ABROMSON FUND

Judy Abromson
In memory of Ben Abromson
In memory of Edward Koss

NUSSINOW EDUCATION ENRICHMENT FUND

Amy & Scott Nussinow
In memory of Sheldon Nussinow
In memory of Murray Nussinow
In memory of David Woods

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Behzad & Harriet Fakhery
In memory of Bashi Elyeshmerni

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

SHIRLEY GOODMAN MEMORIAL FUND

YAHREZEITEN

Lillian Schneidman	May 1
Marianne Miller	6
Joel Salberg	6
Carl Cutler	7
Steve Bieringer	7
Mark Johnson	9
Louis Silverman	12
Sylvia Greenberg	15
Neal Weiner	15
Herman Kleeger	16
Wilfred Goodman	17

Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center

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MAY, 2024

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Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, June 9, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.
Brunch, meeting to follow

The meeting agenda will include annual reports, election of board members and presentation of the "Person of the Year."

