



MA CHADASH!

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

מה חדש!

ק"ק היכל שלום

June, 2024, Iyar/Sivan 5784



Shavuot!

Saturday, June 15th, 10:00 A.M., at Temple Shalom

Musical Holiday Service (including Yizkor),

followed by a luncheon featuring Bintzes!

Special Shavuot Teaching by Dr. Herb Levine!



Temple Shalom Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 9, 2024

Brunch (catered by the Amazing Nura Hummus and Falafel Bar) at 10:00 A.M.

(cost for brunch, \$12.00 per person, please RSVP)

Meeting at 11:00 A.M.

(In Person and on Zoom)

**THE MAINE
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FROM THE RABBI



As many of you know, between Passover and Shavuot we Count the Omer. Counting the Omer has its origins in the Torah and was originally related to the agricultural cycle. Following the first-century exile of the Jewish people from the land of Israel, our Rabbinic tradition associated Counting the Omer with spiritual development—an opportunity to be better prepared for reliving the receiving of the Torah on Shavuot—itsself repurposed by our Rabbinic tradition from its biblical roots as an agricultural holiday.

But the period of the Counting of the Omer has an additional meaning—traditionally, it is also a time of sadness and mourning. In the year 132, approximately 60

years after the Romans destroyed the Temple and exiled many of the Jews, a self-proclaimed “Messiah” known as Bar Kochba amassed a Jewish army to chase the Romans out of Jerusalem and reestablish the Jewish Temple. Many Jews rallied around Bar Kochba believing him to be the Messiah. While the majority of Rabbinic and Jewish political leadership of the time counseled against Bar Kochba’s revolt, the famous Talmudic sage, Rabbi Akiva, stood behind Bar Kochba, even declaring him to be the Messiah. Although the exact details are fuzzy, it seems that Rabbi Akiva encouraged thousands of yeshiva students to join Bar Kochba’s army. Bar Kochba was initially successful in driving out the Romans, but, after a couple of years, the Romans retaliated with a vengeance massacring his armies as well as the local Jewish communities. According to tradition, all but a handful of Rabbi Akiva’s yeshiva students were killed during this time—which was also the time of Counting the Omer. Counting the Omer has been associated with tragedy ever since.

From Jewish Wikipedia:

The Romans responded with characteristic brutality, marshaling reinforcements from throughout the empire to crush the Jewish revolt.

The war ensuing was massive, even by the Roman scale of doing things: the Romans wielded 12 legions, probably close to 100,000 men, against the rebellious Jews.

Though not as well equipped or trained as the Romans, the Jews of Judea (there is some question whether Jews in the Galilee also participated) had a fighting force more than twice that size. The grueling war would last four brutal years, with massive casualties on both sides.

Eventually the Roman war machine ground down the Jewish resistance, systematically destroying the Jewish towns.

In 136 CE, the beleaguered rebels pulled back to a stronghold southwest of Jerusalem, called Betar. That is where the revolt, and its leader Simon Bar Kochba, would meet their end.

After a siege, the Roman forces seized the stronghold and slaughtered all they found inside. According to rabbinic sources, the Roman war horses were nostril-deep in rebel blood.

Judea was completely devastated. Hundreds of thousands of Jews were put to the sword, and many more died of famine. Hundreds of towns were destroyed, never to arise anew. Those who survived were sold on the Roman slave market: they numbered so many that the price of a Jewish slave dropped to the price of a horse.

In fact, few Jews remained in Judea at all, and the Roman province was reconstituted into the new province "Syria Palaestina."

Bar Kochba's defeat would have a profound effect on the Jewish people.

Judea found itself practically depopulated of Jews, crushing any hope of Jewish independence for nearly 2,000 years. In fact, Jews in the Diaspora did not exactly celebrate Bar Kochba’s heroism: he was instead viewed as a progenitor of the calamity that caused all Jews to be displaced persons for millennia.

Continued next page

FROM THE RABBI CONTINUED:

Recently, the Israeli political leader and former IDF Chief of Staff, Benny Gantz publicly warned:

The State of Israel, is "heading for the rocks," war cabinet minister Benny Gantz told the nation on Saturday. A small minority of "zealots" has taken the helm, Gantz warned.

Times of Israel, May 19, 2024.

As we see from tragic events in our history, zealous, Messianic dreams of reclaiming the land and the Temple don't necessarily end well. I hope and pray along with Benny Gantz and many, many other Israelis and Israeli leaders that cooler, more mature, and responsible leadership will prevail.

Rabbi Sruli

P.S. On June 7th at 5:30 P.M., Rabbi Sruli and Lisa will perform at a portrait unveiling of Lewiston High School graduate and Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Dr. Bernard Lown. This event is open to the public and will be held at the Bates Atrium, 35 Canal Street, Lewiston.

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

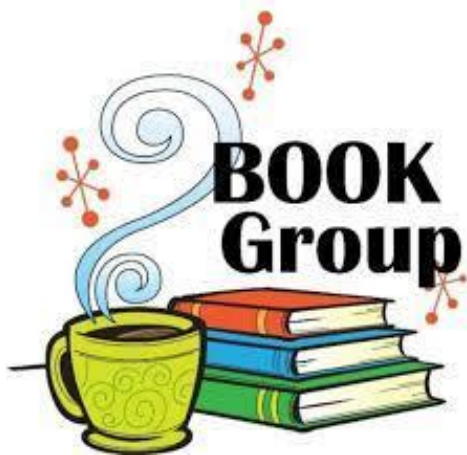


The Temple Annual Meeting is on SUNDAY, JUNE 9 at 10AM. I hope you will all make it your business to attend. There will be a delicious Israeli catered brunch, so maybe that will entice you! But the real reason you should be there is because this is YOUR Temple. YOU have a stake in everything we do. YOU pay dues to ensure the continuity of our Jewish community since Jews are few and far between in this neck of the woods. YOU are one of the clan, a big fish in a small pond. YOU count. Please come!

I was reading the latest Hadassah Magazine and one of the articles was about the psychological impact of the rise of antisemitism. A therapist from Berkeley stated "Research shows that the more you involve yourself in a Jewish community, the less likely you are to experience these negative impacts of anxiety and depression." In this day and age being with like-minded people is a "protective factor." Even if our politics are different, we support each other as Jews. I know I feel safe, and loved, among my Jewish friends. Come, let us put our arms around each other, hold on tight and feel the connection. 🤗 It's there, waiting for you.....

Lesli Weiner
President

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



We had a very exciting Book Group as we were discussing our very own Lisa Mayer's first murder mystery called *Not Kosher for Passover*. Not only was the author there, in person, but it was extremely well-attended: Melissa Johnson, Estelle Rubenstein, Malca Wilner, Elcha Buckman, Margaret Meyer, Bertha Bodenheimer, Shelah Horvitz, Bonnie Faiman and me, Lesli Weiner. Plus, joining us on zoom was Judy Abromson, Karen Calloway, Marsha Auster and Linda Griswold. Lisa told us about her writing process and how she came up with her ideas. Apparently, she has a curious mind and remembers every single story and incident throughout her life! We'd better watch out..... we may be in her next book! She was thrilled to have so

much interest in her book and that we actually read it. We all had her sign our copies. We also gave her some feedback and suggestions, and we talked about how hard it is to get published. But most of all, we encouraged her to keep on writing. Contact Lisa if you'd like to read her novel. Go ahead.....make her day!

Our next book is *Hotel Cuba* by Aaron Hamburger. Here is Amazon's synopsis:

"From the award-winning author of *The View from Stalin's Head*, a stunning novel about two sheltered Russian Jewish sisters, desperate to get to America to make a new life, who find themselves trapped in the sultry, hedonistic world of 1920s Havana.

Fleeing the chaos of World War I and the terror of the Soviet Revolution, practical, sensible Pearl Kahn and her lovestruck, impulsive younger sibling Frieda sail for America to join their sister in New York. But discriminatory new immigration laws bar their entry, and the young women are turned back at Ellis Island. With few options, Pearl and Frieda head for Havana, Cuba, convinced they will find a way to overcome this setback.

At first, life in big-city Prohibition-era Havana is overwhelming, like nothing Pearl and Frieda have ever experienced—or could have ever imagined in the rural shtetl where they grew up. As the sisters begin to adjust, their plans for going to America together become complicated. Frieda falls for the not-so-dreamy man of her dreams while Pearl's life opens up unexpectedly, offering her a taste of freedom and heady romance, and an opportunity to build a future on her own terms. Though to do so, she must confront her past and the shame she has long carried. A heartbreaking, epic family story, *Hotel Cuba* explores the profound courage of two women displaced from their home who strive to create a new future in an enticing and dangerous world far different from anything they have ever known."

Please join us on MONDAY, JUNE 10th at 4PM. We will meet on zoom, only, since I have my grandsons visiting for 12 days.....lesli

BOOK DISCUSSION
GROUP



RESULTS OF THIS YEAR'S PASSOVER SEDER!

The families of Temple Shalom gathered together on the second night of Passover for our annual community Seder. We had about 80 adults and children attend.

Mike Gagne, our adopted congregational family member, and his wonderful crew set the tables and prepared and served the meal. We are grateful to have him as part of our community.

Because of the generosity of some of our members and people who grew up in our community, we were able to keep the price very affordable. We thank the following for their kind donations:

Steve Plavin in memory of Leonard and Marcy Plavin

John and Linda Isaacson in memory of Philip and Deborah Isaacson

Steve Passerman in memory of Harriet Passerman

John and Consuelo Isaacson in memory of Irving and Jutka Isaacson

David Plavin in memory of Leonard, Marcy and Manny Plavin

Larry and Bonnie Faiman in memory of June and Joe Margolin
and Sally and Milton Faiman

Tom and Paula Platz in appreciation of Stan and Cathy Tetenman
for their ongoing efforts to ensure our annual Seder



In addition to our normal costs of food and Michael and his crew, we also have the added cost of having a security guard. It is a sad commentary on our time that we must worry about our security when we gather to celebrate our holidays and pray.

Please feel free to let us know your comments about the Seder. You may leave your comments with Julie or you can contact me at stettnman@gmail.com or call me at 998-2767.

We need both your participation and financial support to continue our Jewish heritage in central Maine.

Thank you, Stan Tetenman

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

There are many photographs showcasing the history of the Lewiston-Auburn Jewish Communities that are stored at the Temple. We would like to keep a record of these and be able to access them in future years. We are looking for someone who could scan them. Harris Glickman from Documenting Maine Jewry has indicated that the person would be paid \$20/hr.

1. The person would be paid \$20/hr by Documenting Maine Jewry
2. Each photo would be scanned.
3. The photos, along with their information would need to be entered into a spreadsheet.
4. Information, if available, would include the names of the people in the pictures, the occasion and/or place of the picture and approximate date.

If you are interested, please contact the Temple office at temple6359@aol.com.

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.*



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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Rabbi Sruli: djsruli@gmail.com

Telephone: 914-980-9509

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Margaret Meyer	June 1
Charlene Goodman	2
Kenneth Levinsky	6
Ellen Burke	7
Joel Packer	7
Melissa Burke	8
William Zidle	11
Arthur Silverman	13
Linda Isaacson	14
Molly Platz	14
Jonathan Greven	15
Matthew Zidle	15
Joseph Platz	16
Mark Carlson	18
Sruli Dresdner	19
Karen Calloway	24
Barbara Shapiro	26
Elizabeth Barter	29
Shelley Rau	30



Yahrzeiten

Isadore Bondorowsky	June 1
Beatrice Garber	4
Sara Supovitz	5
Ernest Hyman	6
Lillian Rosen	9
Susan Goldseder	10
Aaron M. Krakower	10
Robert Allen	11
Jack Kaduson	11
Lynne Kaduson	11
Miriam Passerman	17
Ruth Schleicher	17
Barry Traister	17
Cecile Kates	19
Bernie Nussinow	20
Lillian Cohen	23
May Tetenman	24
Milton Burke	26
Jack Maloff	26
Milton Krasner	26
Sara Feldman	27
Harry Shapiro	27
Evelyn Levine	28
Benjamin Barr	29
Willard Hertz	30

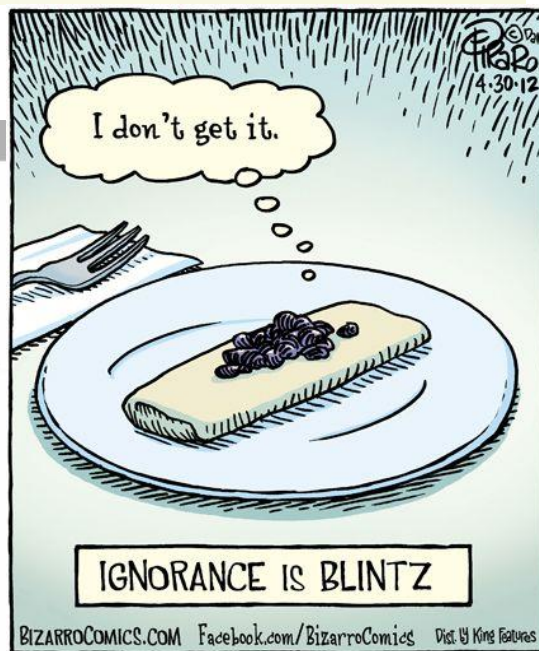


HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Bonnie & Laurence Faiman	June 5
Darren McGinley & Gabrielle Wolfe	5
Margaret & Henry Meyer	6
Marlene Groman & Elliott Levy	9
Arthur & Donna Silverman	18
Andrew & Sharon Bodenheimer	21
Babs & Michael Shapiro	22



The CARTOON KRONICLES



CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

Bertha Bodenheimer

In memory of Sylvia Greenberg

To Babs & Michael Shapiro in honor of
their granddaughter's marriage

Babs & Michael Shapiro

In memory of Wilfred Goodman

Philip Laine

In memory of Edward Koss

In memory of Christiane Shems

Elisabeth Salberg

In memory of Pearl Salberg

In memory of Joel Salberg

Evelyn Miller

In memory of Marianne Miller

Phyllis Bell

In memory of Morris Amsel

Judith Berman

In honor of Rabbi Sruli for including her
in counting the Omer

Gregory Cutler

In memory of Carl Cutler

Lewis Perry

In memory of Edward Koss

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

In memory of May Tetenman

Bonnie & Larry Faiman

Full & speedy recovery to Scott
Nussinow

MINYANAIRE'S FUND

Hank & Margaret Meyer

In memory of Robert Meyer

NUSSINOW EDUCATION ENRICHMENT FUND

Amy & Scott Nussinow

In memory of Lillian Schneidman

In memory of Jean Renard

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Robert Laskoff

In memory of Edward Koss

Jennifer Cohen

In honor of Rabbi Sruli for singing
happy birthday to her

SHIRLEY GOODMAN MEMORIAL FUND

Joel Goodman

In memory of Shirley Goodman

ABROMSON FUND

BELL MEMORIAL CHAPEL FUND

BODENHEIMER PASSOVER FUND

CEMETERY FUND

COHEN/LEVOY CARDEN FUND

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CAFÉ SHALOM A SUCCESS!



Let me tell you what you missed if you didn't go to Cafe Shalom! The music was great, including some songs from the sixties era, a few tunes with accompaniment on a tool (a saw, directly from the tool box), piano pieces that were sing along from the past, a few magic tricks, HOW DID HE DO THAT!, and a coral group, superb. There was wine and cheese, yummy yummys, and fruit. There were people who clapped for the singers and players, and standing ovations! Come next year! It is a treat for the eyes and ears!