



Ma CHADASH!

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

מה חדש!

ק"ק היכל שלום

May 2025, Iyar/Sivan 5785



Saturday, May 3rd
Reception at 6:00 p.m.,
Program begins at 7:00 p.m.
Wine, Cheese, Desserts

Lag BaOmer!
In-person and Outdoors!
Friday, May 16th, 7:00 P.M., All Ages!
Bonfire, Music, Desserts, Marshmallows, Dancing!



NURA

• HUMMUS AND FALAFEL BAR •

Temple Shalom Annual Meeting
Sunday, May 18th, 2024, 10 A.M.
Brunch (catered by the Amazing Nura Hummus and Falafel Bar) at 10:00 A.M. (cost for brunch, \$15.00 per person, please RSVP). Meeting at 11:00 A.M.

Shavuot!
Saturday, May 31st, 10:00 A.M.,
at Temple Shalom
Musical Holiday Service (including Yizkor),
followed by a luncheon featuring Bintzes!



FROM THE RABBI



I am writing this in the afterglow of our amazingly beautiful and meaningful Temple Passover seder—so grateful to the sponsors who make this possible every year and to our very special loving community.

In the Passover Haggadah we read: *In every generation each of us must imagine that we ourselves (not just our ancestors) were rescued from a lifetime of slavery in Egypt.* At our community seder this year we included the following account written by the larger-than-life Golda Meir about 1,100 European Jews who had only just survived the Holocaust—and which references this very passage from the Haggadah.

On April 8, 1946 I received a telegram from Italy in which it was written:

“We are 1100 Jewish refugees. We boarded the Dov Hoz boat at La Spezia Port in order to depart for Palestine which is our last hope. [British] Police arrested us on board. We are declaring that we shall not leave the boat. We demand permission to continue to Eretz Yisrael [the land of Israel]. We declare: we will sink with the boat in the sea if we shall not be able to continue to Palestine, as we have already reached the last stage of despair.”

The next day the refugees started a hunger strike. The National Committee in Israel asked them to stop fasting due to the harsh conditions on the boat but we decided that we, the representatives of the National Committee, would fast for them, and we started a hunger strike in Israel until the boat would receive permission to sail to Palestine.

On the second day of the hunger strike there was a general fast of all the Jews in Palestine from the age of 13 and upwards. We suddenly felt that we were a single, united people.

On the third day of the fast it was the eve of Passover, and thousands of people came up to Jerusalem to express their empathy and carrying flowers. The Chief Rabbis [Herzog and Uziel], who fasted together with us and who conducted the special Seder, decided that everyone would eat just a small piece of matza the size of an olive.... We read from the Haggadah: “In each and every generation one must consider himself as if he has left Egypt... the Holy One, Blessed be He, did not only redeem our forefathers but rather we were also redeemed together with them.” Every year on Seder night we say those words, but this time we understood them in a new way.

I will never forget my children joining me at the Jewish Agency for the Seder, which may have been their most important lesson in the suffering of the Jews, the love of Judaism, and the resilience of the Jewish people.

The day after the Seder, we were notified that the refugees had been allowed to enter Palestine. So, on the first day of Passover, the 101-hour fast ended.

Three observations: First, how deeply rooted and embedded Israel’s founding leaders and citizens were in traditional Jewish rituals and texts. I am frequently astonished by the central role that biblical words, verses, and Rabbinic teachings had in shaping their vision for an Israel grounded in Jewish values. Second, it was so gratifying to see the way in which Judaism was seamlessly integrated with unified national policy. This could only happen because of the priorities of the Chief Rabbis at that time—how they showed the flexibility to compromise on our Halachic traditions (in this case, the requirements of the traditional Passover seder) in order to meet the needs of the day. How that year’s Passover seder became the most meaningful part of the national hunger strike which successfully inspired the international community (freshly sickened by the magnitude of the Holocaust) to pressure the British government to allow these weakened Jewish survivors to enter what was then Palestine.

(Continued next page)

(From the Rabbi continued)

But what most moved me was the way Golda describes the Jewish impact of this experience on her children—how powerfully this unique seder connected her children to the Jewish people, how much it contributed to their love of Judaism and the extraordinary lesson it taught them about Jewish survival—even in the worst of times.

The Passover seder is more than anything about transmitting our heritage and values to our children. Each year we, as parents, work very hard to arrange a seder that inspires our children so that when they ask the Ma Nishtana—why is this night different from all other nights? —it comes from a deep recognition that something truly important is happening at our seders. But for Golda's children that year the even more powerful question was—why is this seder different from all other seders?

Rabbi Sruli

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Our community is growing. We have new members.....of the smallest kind. Yes, two babies were born last month! And did you notice how many children were running around at Purim? Okay, so the young don't outnumber the old yet, but we're showing new life. That's the pitter-patter of Hope and Promise that we hear. It's been said that every new baby is a vote of confidence in our future. This is true, but at Temple Shalom, I like to think that each new baby is also a reminder of why we do what we do.

This is why we pay our dues so we can keep our synagogue looking beautiful, and keep it safe for all who enter. This is why we support a first-class rabbi who makes Judaism accessible and musical. This is why we train our children to become a b'nai mitzvah. This is why we have a Passover seder every year, to tell the story of our people.

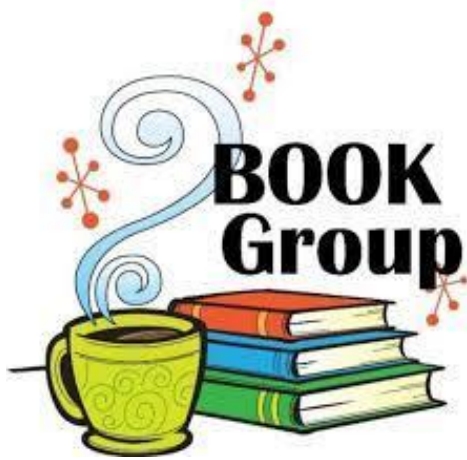
But this is also why we aren't afraid to wear a Jewish star around our neck. And why we won't let anti-semitism go unanswered. This is so those little babies will be proud of being Jewish, and will do what we do for their little babies. In these dire times, it's really nice to have something that brings us Hope and Promise.

Lesli Weiner
President

***Temple Shalom Annual Meeting
Sunday, May 18th, 2024, 10 A.M.***

Brunch (catered by the Amazing Nura Hummus and Falafel Bar) at 10:00 A.M. (cost for brunch, \$15.00 per person, please RSVP). Meeting at 11:00 A.M.

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



"By Any Other Name" by Jodi Picoult is an excellent novel based on a whole lot of research. The two timelines intertwine effortlessly, sometimes even mirroring each other. Is it any coincidence that the names of the two protagonists, Emilia and Melina, are almost anagrams of one another? Present were Karen Calloway, Deb Katz, Judy Abromason, Marsha Auster, Bertha Bodenheimer, Estelle Rubenstein and me, Lesli Weiner. I don't know about the others, but I'm definitely convinced Emillia Bassano is the true author of "Shakespeare's" plays. I wonder what you think after reading this?

Our next book is "The Hyena Murders" by our very own Ellen Frankel. Here's the synopsis:

"A murder plot seeded in the wild mountains of Ethiopia bears its poison fruit years later in modern Jerusalem as a serial killer targets a prominent Beta Israel family. Confronting racial politics, police corruption, and human trafficking, Israeli intelligence agent Maya Rimon tries to stop the killer before his double-edged blade finishes off the entire family."

A refugee's discovery of a buried diary in a UN camp holds the key to solving a series of vicious murders in Jerusalem.

Israeli intelligence agent Maya Rimon teams up with Ethiopian activist lawyer, Dani Solomon, to track down the serial killer, who has targeted the prominent Ethiopian Jewish family of Moshe Aklilu, a member of the Israeli Knesset. The murderer leaves cryptic clues on the victims' bodies: slash wounds made by a double-edged ceremonial knife, images of hyenas, and vengeful spirit animals associated with Jews back in Ethiopia.

Because Aklilu is a member of the Knesset, Maya Rimon, an agent of the Service, Israel's elite Intelligence agency, takes on the case. So does her chief rival, Sarit Levine, Chief Inspector of the Jerusalem Police. Already biased against black Jews, Sarit suspects that the murder is a gang hit, payback for a failed drug deal. Maya suspects something far more sinister.

Spiced with Ethiopian folklore and superstition, including Evil Eye curses, spirit possession, witch's brews and spells, The Hyena Murders explores the timely theme of racism: among the various tribes of Israeli Jews, among politicians and bureaucrats, and within Maya's own family. In the course of the novel, as she grows closer to Dani, these social tensions take on an increasingly personal meaning for Maya."

We also chose our next set of books. Happy reading!

June 9.....Woman on Fire by Lisa Barr

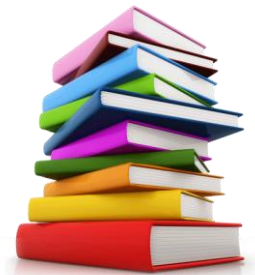
July 14.....We Would Never by Tova Mirvis

Aug 11.....The Midwife's Advice by Gay Courter

Sep 15.....Judas by Amos Oz

Oct 20.....The Singer Sisters by Sarah Seltzer

Nov 10.....The Book of Two Ways by Jodi Picoult



See you on MONDAY, MAY 12 at 4PM.....hopefully, IN PERSON (and on zoom).....lesli

SUNDAY, MAY 4th

10 AM

CATERED BRUNCH AND SPEAKER

RSVP NOW!!

(Even if you did it for the original date,

DO IT AGAIN!)

\$15

International Law, the International Court of Justice, and the War in Gaza
with Professor Ken Rodman.

Two phrases we have heard since October 7 are the “right to resist” and the “right to self defense.” If we take international humanitarian law seriously, neither right is unlimited. What can international law tell us about the ongoing war in Gaza, and can it contribute to the possibility of a way out?

KEN RODMAN

Ken Rodman is the William R. Cotter Distinguished Teaching Professor at Colby College, where he has taught since 1989. Ken was the first director of Colby’s interdisciplinary International (now Global) Studies Program and the Oak Institute for the Study of International Human Rights.



He is the author of two books: *Sanctity versus Sovereignty: The United States and the Nationalization of Natural Resources in the Third World* and *Sanctions Beyond Borders: Multinational Corporations and Economic Statecraft*.

A note from Lesli Weiner: I took Ken’s workshop at last summer’s Maine Conference for Jewish Life. I found the professor to be engaging, knowledgeable, insightful and open to questions and discussion. I’m so excited that he has agreed to speak to our community, and I hope you all will come and join in the dialogue. And enjoy the brunch too!

ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, MAY 18

10AM

ISRAELI LUNCH

CATERED BY NURA

VOTE FOR BOARD MEMBERS

HEAR COMMITTEE REPORTS

LISTEN TO THE "STATE OF THE TEMPLE" ADDRESS

SCHMOOZE WITH YOUR JEWISH COMMUNITY

AND FIND OUT WHO WILL BE THE

"PERSON OF THE YEAR"

RSVP BY MAY 13

IF YOU ARE COMING IN PERSON

(ALTHO' THIS WILL ALSO BE ON ZOOM,

YOU WOULD MISS OUT ON THE DELICIOUS FOOD!)

Linking Generations: Jewish Genealogy Tips

By Labish Kurtz (Richard Kurtz)

#6. Paper Trails and Jewish Tales: The Power of Ancestral Letters"

"When you write a letter, you are writing a part of yourself." Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Kotzk

After my aunt Jeanette passed away, I discovered a collection of old letters in her home. For two decades, they remained tucked away in a drawer, untouched. It wasn't until I began my genealogical journey that I revisited these forgotten treasures. At first, I could only decipher the sending and return addresses on the envelopes. These clues led me to uncover relatives who had lived on Rivington Street in New York's Lower East Side and the location of my great-grandfather's first home in Toronto. The letter, dated November 12, 1952, was written in Polish—a language I couldn't understand. Yet, one translated sentence stayed with me: *"I am upset because those little suits I bought for the kids are utterly oversize, tell that gentleman that I am not happy."* This simple, relatable sentiment brought one of my relatives to life. It was a deeply human statement that bridged the gap between past and present.

Similarly, my mother-in-law possessed a remarkable trove of correspondence from her family in Vishtinets, Lithuania, sent to her father in Brooklyn between 1935 and 1940. These letters are both heartbreaking and historically significant. They vividly describe the precarious situation for Jews in Lithuania during the rise of Nazism and the ceding of the Lithuanian port of Memel to Germany on March 21, 1939. Many letters contained desperate pleas for financial assistance intertwined with accounts of the deteriorating conditions—a chilling prelude to the Holocaust.

These letters represent the last words from my mother-in-law's European family. Tragically, most did not survive the war. Their correspondence is priceless—a vital piece of our family legacy. To preserve their significance, we enlisted a scholar in Europe who translated them from their original Yiddish into English. The translations were accompanied by historical notes that provided context for the events described.

These translated letters underscored an essential truth: preserving old letters is crucial for safeguarding family history. Whether handwritten letters from decades ago or digital messages exchanged today, these pieces of correspondence offer intimate glimpses into our ancestors' and current family lives and struggles. Scanning and archiving them ensures future generations can access and appreciate this legacy.

Genealogy is more than tracing names and dates; it's about connecting with the humanity of those who came before us. Through these letters, I've come to understand not only my family's history but also their resilience and spirit in facing unimaginable challenges.

(continued next page)

(Linking Generations continued)

Practical Resources

If you would like the name of an excellent Yiddish translator who I used, email me:
asklabish@gmail.com

Y. Zalenzonas, Vistytis, Vilkaviškis County, Lithuania



Mr. Max Salenson, 67 S 4th Str, Brooklyn NY, US America

A photograph of a piece of lined paper with handwritten Yiddish text. The text is written in a cursive script and includes a circled number '1' at the beginning. The handwriting is somewhat slanted and fills most of the page.

(Linking Generations continued)

Vishtinets, April 2, 1939

From the Brother of Max Salenson

Otherwise, my beloved and dear Max, you already know full well that times are troubled here. We have lost Memel,¹ our port city. We do not know what tomorrow may bring. The worst is for us, Jews. A few weeks ago many Memel Jews were rich, with factories and large businesses, and today they can be seen in numerous Lithuanian shtetls, wandering around, broken, sickly, and lonely. Oh, nerves have to be made of steel and iron to be able to witness and endure the troubles we, Jews, suffer here in Europe. If it goes on like this, then we, Jews, are facing the danger of perishing entirely as a nation within years. However, if we look at our history, then we see that already many, many times for Jews [END OF PAGE 4] there were bad times and the harassed and persecuted Jewish people survived every time, and even emerged stronger, prouder as a martyred people. Let us hope and believe and not lose courage that the Eternal People will also make it through this difficult period.



Letter Written from Toronto to New York, Nov. 1952

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1939_German_ultimatum_to_Lithuania#Acceptance

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	Ihara Dutra
Treasurer	Jonathan Greven

Board Members	Judy Abromson
	Bertha Bodenheimer
	Elliott Epstein
	Donald Isaacson
	Darren McGinley
	Henry Meyer
	Scott Nussinow
	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
House Committee	Darren McGinley
Kitchen Committee	Melissa Johnson
Programming/Social Action	Phyllis Graber Jensen
	Paula Marcus-Platz
Safety & Security Committee	Scott Nussinow

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, Ariella Green, Sharon Hemond, Alison Jaeger, Suzan Katzir, Michael Kendall, Linda Koskela, Henry Lefkowitz, Lee Leveille, Carolyn Marshal, Bruce Meyer, Alice Richman, Sandy Traister**, 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.

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
Evelyn Miller	17
Lucas Rau	19
Alison Fakhery	21
Robert Scott	21
Shayna McGinley	24
Greg Levinsky	26
Jason Platz	31
Mitchell Ross	31

YAHREZEITEN

Louis Silverman	May 2
Neal Weiner	2
Sylvia Greenberg	5
Steve Bieringer	7
Wilfred Goodman	7
Stephen Steinman	9
Pauline Bondorowsky	11
Morris Amsel	11
William Goldstein	12
Eve Shapiro	15
Jean Renard	19
Isadore Bondorowsky	22
Beatrice Garber	24
Sara Supovitz	25
Ernest Hyman	27
Lillian Rosen	30
Susan Goldseder	31



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Daniel & Kristine Rausch	May 15
Matthew & Janet Zidle	25

CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

Tom Reeves

In memory of Edward Reeves M.D.

Philip Laine

In memory of Edward Laine

In memory of Gladys Koss

Bertha Bodenheimer

In memory of Gladys Koss

In memory of Arthur Silverman

Estelle Rubinstein

In memory of Murray Rubinstein

In memory of Gladys Koss

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

In honor of the birth of Noah Platz Hebert

In honor of the birth of Arthur Isaac Paige

In memory of Allen Miller

Babs & Michael Shapiro

In memory of Allen Miller

Nancy & Bernie Cohen

In memory of Gladys Koss

Beth & Richard Diamonstein

In memory of Gladys Koss

Lewis Perry

In memory of Gladys Koss

In memory of Ida & Abraham Perry

Harriet & Behzad Fakhery

In memory of Gladys Koss

Judy Abromson

In honor of the birth of Arthur Isaac Paige

Lesli Weiner in loving memory of her husband,

Neal

Linda Emmons

In appreciation

Michael Gagne

In memory of Allen Miller

ABROMSON FUND

Judy Abromson

In memory of Gladys Koss

In memory of Allen Miller

KITCHEN FUND

Melissa Johnson

In memory of Neal Weiner

In memory of Mark Johnson

MITZVAH FUND

Cheryl White & David Wohlgemuth

In memory of Gladys Koss

NUSSINOW EDUCATION FUND

Amy & Scott Nussinow

In memory of Sheldon Nussinow

In memory of Murray Nussinow

In memory of David Woods

In memory of Philip Renard

In memory of Rose Nussinow

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Steinberg Family

In memory of Carly Friedman

Gregory Cutler

In memory of Carl Cutler

Richard & Melissa Kurtz

In memory of Harold Pearlman

In memory of Esther Binstock

Elisabeth Salberg

In memory of Joel Salberg

In memory of Pearl Salberg

Dr. Karen & Lara Reeves

In memory of Dr. Edward Reeves

BELL MEMORIAL CHAPEL FUND

BODENHEIMER PASSOVER FUND

CEMETERY FUND

COHEN/LEVOY GARDEN FUND

ENDOWMENT FUND

FAMILY HEBREW SCHOOL

LIBRARY FUND

MARCUS GARDEN FUND

MINYANAIRE'S FUND

PULPIT/PRAYER BOOK FUND

RANDALL SILVER LIBRARY FUND

SHAPIRO MEMORIAL FUND

SHIRLEY GOODMAN MEMORIAL FUND

Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center

PO Box 3315

Auburn, ME 04212-3315

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

MAY, 2025

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