



MA CHADASH! מה חדש!

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

October 2025, Tishrei/Cheshvan 5786



Simchat Torah 2025!
Friday, October 10th, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
The Most Joyous Night of the Year
Come and Dance!



Friday, October 24th, 7:00 P.M.
Challahween! All Ages!

FROM THE REBBETZIN



Me me me MEEEE me me me...Mmmm Ahhhhhh,
Oooooowwaaaaaaa.

This is what I would hear every year, starting in August.

Cantors warming up for Rosh Hashanah.

One of them was my father. He would sit at our piano piled high with cantorial books—the Greats—Koussevitsky, Rosenblatt—and play and sing scales. He was a tenor in the same range as the great Italian tenor, Luciano Pavarotti.

Soon the doorbell would ring—my father's older brother, my uncle, David Weintraub. Uncle David was a *basso profundo*—he had the deepest voice I ever heard. It was magical, and he owned the look too—in shul, he wore an impressively large black robe, and a huge black cantor's hat, a foot high. When he sang, the rumble shook the floorboards. He was a Cantor's cantor. Honored by the Jewish Theological Seminary. He taught the new cantors, the modern Greats.

It was hilarious when the two brothers sang the same melodies—three octaves apart.

My father and Uncle David would go through the old sheet music, discuss harmonies, the best choruses for the congregation—and most importantly, the *nusach*—the intricately detailed note patterns that most synagogue goers don't even notice. But a well-trained, traditional cantor sings a different *nusach*— a special melody—for morning and evening, and Shabbat and Holiday prayers.

My favorite special melody is the one Sruli and I sing for you on the first night of Rosh Hashanah and Kol Nidre. It's the only time of the year we sing that melody. And I love that rabbis and cantors and congregations are singing that same melody all over the world.

My father and Uncle David always got High Holiday cantorial positions. I remember Vermont, Pennsylvania, New Jersey—and I know that while the money was nice, they did it because they loved and respected the music. The same music they had sung with their father, my grandfather, Rabbi Mordechai Weintraub, a survivor. I think they didn't want the music to also die with the Holocaust. I remember how proud my father was when I told him I would be joining Sruli on the *bima*, that first year we came to Temple Shalom. “That *kaddish* with the major and minor is so magnificent, Daddy,” I said, as if I hadn't heard it my whole life.

I also remember how proud Sruli's father was when I learned a Lewandowsky cantorial piece. He was extremely knowledgeable about cantors—he went to concerts all the time—and when I sang it for him, he sang along with me—perfectly.

Of course, it must have been a little weird for both of our fathers to talk cantorial stuff with a woman. Not traditional. But not so weird anymore.

Sruli's father is gone, and my Dad hasn't been able to be a High Holiday cantor for years, but this time of year we think of them with so much love and reverence for keeping our musical traditions going. Our people's soundtrack.

I might not make it before Rosh Hashanah, but soon I'm going to visit my Dad at the New Jewish Home in Manhattan. I'm going to bring along a *machzor* (High Holiday prayer book).

And I'm going to sit and sing his Rosh Hashanah melodies—for him.

L'dor Vador.
xxxRebbetzin Lisa

FROM THE PRESIDENT



For those of you who missed my Kol Nidre Appeal at services on Yom Kippur, here it is:

Welcome everyone. Shana tova to you and your families and may you all be inscribed for a healthy, happy and prosperous year. This has been another heartbreaking year, knowing some hostages are still being held for more than 700 days. The number of deaths keeps mounting on both sides, and I fear there is no good end to this war. As Jews, we all feel the burden of world opinion and the sharp rise in antisemitism here in America. This has been a time when it's hard to be a Jew, but a time when we must stand up as Jews. Luckily for us, we have our Jewish community, our synagogue and our Rabbi to keep us centered. We've invested in many safety features so you'll feel comfortable coming here. And we want you to come and

participate in our services and our wonderful programs. You are our people. Come together as community. Come together in strength.

You all know that this is when the violins are playing and I tell you how Temple dues don't cover our expenses, how utility bills have increased, how we run on a deficit and how we all need to make donations to the Temple a priority in our own budgets. But this year I thought I'd add a little levity to my appeal.

Yosl Kurland, a Yiddish scholar, filled in for Rabbi Sruli on a recent Shabbat. He sang us a Yiddish song I knew right away that I had to include it today. Now, you'll be glad to hear that I will not be singing it, and that I will read it in English. It's called 'Reb Yidl Gib Gelt' which means Reb Yidl give money. Here goes:

What kind of Jews do we have in this town?

Reb Yidl gib gelt. Reb Yidl gib gelt.

Will they build up their Temple or watch it fall down?

Reb Yidl gib gelt, Reb Yidl gib gelt.

Do you want a shul where to daven on Shabbos?

A non-sexist prayer book, a fresh clean pressed tallis?

A lulav and esrog to shake Succos day,

And a Succah to sit in, please Reb Yidl pay.

In the words of the Torah, the law we've been dealt,

Empty your pockets and tighten your belt,

Reb Yidl, Reb Yidl gib gelt.

Should every child learn to be a good Jew?

A Hebrew school teacher must pay the rent too.

For stories and sermons we all like to hear,

The rabbi works hard for us all through the year.

Do you want a Khazn to chant Kol Nidre?

It costs, my dear friends, so please Reb Yidl pay.

In the words of the Torah, the law we've been dealt,

It's good for your spirit and good for your heart',

Reb Yidl, Reb Yidl gib gelt.

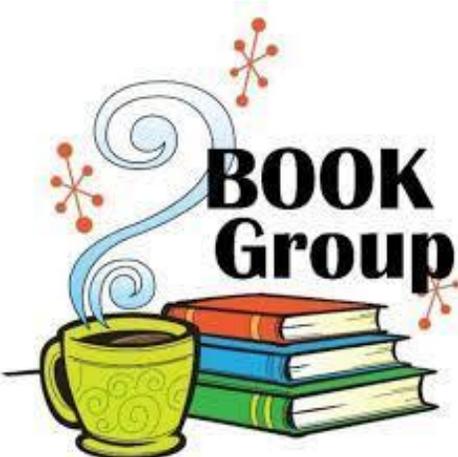
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(From the President continued)

I hope you enjoyed that. So this year make your Kol Nidre pledge large and meaningful. And as it says in Leviticus and as I say every year, "Just because you give gifts on holidays doesn't mean you shouldn't give gifts all year long!"

My hope for the coming year is that our numbers continue to grow and that you all will come to shul with joy in your hearts for all the amazing events offered within these walls. And I appeal to you to back up those feelings with hearty donations. After all, this is the first day in the future life of Temple Shalom. L'chaim!

!!BOOK GROUP NEWS!!



Even though Gay Courter zoomed in with us on September 15, less people showed up than last month when she was originally scheduled to talk to us about her book "The Midwife's Advice." We were particularly interested in how she did her research. Apparently, she had been regaled by her grandmother who had been a midwife back in Russia. It's always a bonus to be able to hear from an author. It was worth the wait.

Present were Deb Katz, Bertha Bodenheimer, Marsha Auster, Mitch Ross, Judy Abromson and me, Lesli Weiner. Before Gay joined us, we discussed the novel "Judas" by Amos Oz. Oz, who died fairly recently, was a very famous author in Israel. For anybody who has read an Oz book, one knows he uses a fictional format to disclose his political feelings. For example, setting the book in 1950 at the beginning of Israel as we know it, he wrote that not everyone was in favor of a Jewish state, and some of them were Jews. One doesn't read his works for the plot, but for the way he puts forth his ideas.

Our next book is "The Singer Sisters" by Sarah Seltzer. It got 4.1 stars on Amazon, and here's the write-up:

"Two generations of a folk-rock dynasty collide over art, love, longing, and family secrets in this captivating and poignant debut

It's 1996, and alt-rocker Emma Cantor is on tour, with her sights trained on a record deal. Emma's got no lack of inspiration for her music — chiefly her mother Judie, a 1960s folk legend whose confessional songs made her an icon before her mysterious withdrawal from the public eye. Emma is baffled by Judie's coldness, and is deeply shaken when she learns a long-kept secret about their family. When Emma uncovers more about her mother's past, she is vaulted to new heights as a performer. But the knowledge she gains also propels her toward a musical betrayal that further fractures her relationship with Judie. Increasingly famous, but fragile and isolated, Emma grapples with her mother's legacy and what it means for her own future.

With the richness of a beloved folk song, The Singer Sisters moves between '60s folk clubs and '90s music festivals, chronicling the ups and downs of stardom while asking what women artists must sacrifice for success."

So join us on zoom at 4PM on October 20th. Hope you're enjoying the Jewish holiday season with much health and happiness.....lesli

Linking Generations: Jewish Genealogy Tips

By Labish Kurtz (Richard Kurtz, asklabish@gmail.com)

“Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations.” — Deuteronomy 32:7.

#10. Extra! Extra! Read All About Your Bubbe and Zaddie and our History
Old newspapers are one of my favorite genealogical resources. They give us a glimpse into the everyday lives of our ancestors, speaking to us in plain language across the generations.

I often use *OldNews.com* to search papers worldwide, though many local libraries and subscriptions to regional papers are also excellent resources. Recently, quite by chance, I came across an article from October 4, 1934, in the *Border Cities Star* of Windsor, Ontario. To my surprise, it featured my great-grandfather, Duvid Danziger, a taxi driver.

The story was astonishing. Duvid had unknowingly picked up a man who, just the day before, had murdered his own mother with a hatchet. My great-grandfather drove this passenger all over southern Ontario, from hotel to hotel, through the night into the morning—never realizing he had a killer in his cab. I had never heard this story before. If only I had known, I would have loved to ask my Great Zaida Duvid about it.

This experience reminded me of how revealing newspapers can be, especially in smaller communities like Lewiston and Auburn, Maine. Local papers recorded the minutiae of daily life—birthday parties, synagogue events, public meetings, court cases, and community gatherings. These small notices often hold priceless genealogical clues.

In my own searches, I’ve uncovered fascinating details about the Jews of Auburn, Lewiston, Maine and their role in shaping the community. For example, I found mention of a Hadassah formal in Lewiston in 1935, and references to I. B. Isaacson, president of the synagogue at 70 Second Street in Auburn (1899). Isaacson went on to become the first Jew elected to the Maine State Legislature and even ran for sheriff of Lewiston in 1912.

I’m certain many of our congregants have ancestors who appear in these columns. Wonderful genealogical treasures lie hidden in old newspapers just waiting to be rediscovered.

Practical Resources

Websites to Find old Newspapers

<https://www.oldnews.com/en> - Old newspapers

<https://newspaperarchive.com/> - Newspaper Archives

Many genealogical sites have their own newspaper searching applications

Go directly to the website of the newspaper of interest or show up at the newspaper building to see archivist

(continued next page)

(Linking Generations continued)

October 4, 1934, in the *Border Cities Star* of Windsor – Labish’s great grandfather Duvid was the cab driver

**Vermilyea's
Trail Is Lost**

Suspect in Belleville
Slaying Vanishes In
Hamilton

Moved by Taxi

Hatchet-Murder Victim Is
Hunted Man's
Mother

Hadassah Formal in Lewiston, Maine

THE LEWISTON DAILY SUN, MONDAY MORNING, MAY 6, 1935

HADASSAH FORMAL MAY 15

The date for the annual spring formal of the Junior Hadassah, originally scheduled for Saturday night, has been set for May 15 and will take place at the DeWitt hotel. A committee meeting was held Sunday afternoon at the home of Helen Shapiro and plans for the dance were made. Other committee members present were Molly Finesteln, Beatrice Baker, Jeanette Gottesfeld, Mrs. Natalie Abramson, Ida Scolnik, Selma Shapiro. An-

nette Shapiro and Dorothy Halper in.

References to Lewiston/Auburn, Maine resident Isaac Isaacson

BIDDEFORD DAILY JOURNAL, WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 18, 1893.

Isaac B Isaacson, as his name indicates, is a Jew. He hails from Lewiston, and is the first of his race ever elected to a seat in a Maine legislature. The only out about Isaac is that he persists in voting the Democratic ticket

Tuesday, June 11, 1912.

LEWISTON EVENING JOURNAL.

**Democrats, Vote For
I. B. ISAACSON**

Lewiston's Candidate for Sheriff

I. B. ISAACSON, if elected will serve the people best. He is honest, fearless and a sound business man. His long successful business career is a credit to any man.

Lewiston, notwithstanding its large Democratic majority, has never had a Democratic Sheriff. All fair-minded Democrats agree that Lewiston is entitled to this office.

On June 17th Vote For
I. B. ISAACSON
FOR SHERIFF

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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SPEEDY RECOVERY

We pray for refuah sh'leimah – the full and speedy recovery of **Valci Braga, Rachel Corvi, Lee Jay Feldman, Sara Graf, Robert Galumbeck, 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

Sophie Kaplan	Oct	1
Melanie Rausch		4
Boden Mitchell		8
Judy Abromson		15
Maia Blumenthal		15
Amy Nussinow		16
Amy Jensen		17
Emma Platz		17
Ian Mason Rausch		20
Lewis Zidle		21
Matthew Cohen		22
Elcha Buckman		23
Timothy Zidle		23
John Isaacson		24
Chad Nussinow		24
Ian Bodenheimer		27
Scarlett Chervenak		29



Yahrzeiten

Ann Forin	Oct.	1
Gary Buckman		3
Patricia Schnitzner		5
Jeffrey Bell		5
Samuel A. Nussinow		5
Natalie Abromson		7
Anita Graber		10
Elaine M. Miller		10
Fanny Supovitz		12
Susan Warschauer		12
Harvey Baker		13
Mounes Elyeshmerni		13
Elaine Kaduson		13
Esther Krakower		14
Paul Roberts		15
Norman Izenstatt		17
George Shapiro		17
Louis Cohen		18
Louis Steinman		19
Marsha Plavnick		23
Marcy Plavin		24
Beverly Hurwitz		27
Lottie Ross		29



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Jocelyn & Nick Mitchell	Oct.	6
Shelley & Richard Rau		9
Kenneth & Charlene Goodman		28
Lewis & Joy Zidle		29



CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

Harriet & Behzad Fakhery

In memory of David Feldman

Cindy Tayman

In memory of Mitchell Eidel

Bonnie & Larry Faiman

In memory of Margaret Meyer's sister

Babara Legate

In memory of Dorothy Miller

Lewis Perry

In memory of Helene Perry

Estelle Rubinstein

In memory of Hyman Rubenstein

In memory of Enid Ehrlich

Marianne Wise

To Deborah Katz & Jeff Stern in honor
of their marriage

Margaret & Hank Meyer

In memory of Sybil Rahilly

In memory of Helene Perry

Joseph Kurland & Peggy Davis

In appreciation for Temple Shalom,
Rabbi Sruli & Lisa

Linda Emmons

In honor of the marriage of Adam & Nicole
Allen

In honor of Josh & Clara Allen's birthdays

ABROMSON FUND

Judy Abromson

In memory of Natalie Abromson

BODENHEIMER PASSOVER FUND

Bertha Bodenheimer

In honor of Dr. Mikhael Zlatin's birthday

CEMETERY FUND

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In memory of Shirley Koss

Peter Koss

In appreciation

LIBRARY FUND

Phyllis Bell

In memory of Leonard Bell

NUSSINOW EDUCATION FUND

Amy & Scott Nussinow

In memory of David Krasner,

In memory of Hele'ne Krasner

In memory of Saul Schneidman

In memory of Charles Schneidman

In memory of Winnie Plavnick

In memory of Paul Krasner

MITZVAH FUND

The Pross Family

In appreciation

Phyllis Graber Jensen

In memory of Jay Graber

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In memory of Nathan Kutzen

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To Deborah Katz & Jeff Stern in honor
of their marriage

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In memory of Verrill Scott, Shirley Wickson

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