



Ma CHADASHI! מה חדש!

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

September 2025, Elul/Tishrei 5785-86



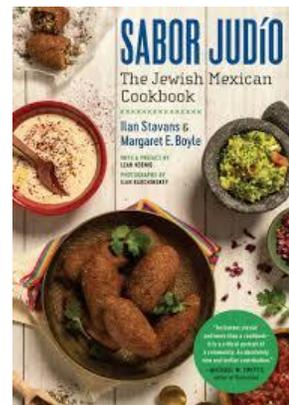
**Temple Shalom is celebrating
the end of Summer with an**

End of Summer BBQ!

Friday, September 5th, 6:00 P.M.

**Bowdoin professor and cookbook author Margaret
Boyle discusses Mexican Jewish Cooking**

**BRUNCH AND PROGRAM,
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th,
AT 10:00 A.M.**



**Erev Rosh Hashanah Sacred
Music Concert and Service**



Monday, September 22nd, 7:00 P.M.

FROM THE RABBI



From Sarah Tuttle-Singer author of *Jerusalem Drawn and Quartered* and the New Media Editor at *Times of Israel*. Sarah was raised in Venice Beach, California on Yiddish lullabies and Civil Rights anthems, and she now lives in Jerusalem with her three kids. Sarah also speaks before audiences left, right, and center through the Jewish Speakers Bureau, asking them to wrestle with important questions while celebrating their willingness to do so.

Not gonna lie:

In this post-truth, apocalyptic swirl of fake news, AI manipulation, deepfakes, and agenda, truth feels slippery, almost liquid.

The only two things I know for certain are these:

- 1. I don't trust Hamas.*
- 2. I don't trust Netanyahu and his coalition.*

And before you start screeching – no, this isn't a comparison. It's simply how I feel: I don't trust either. But here's who I DO trust:

I trust the bus driver who slammed on the brakes and opened the doors when he saw me sprinting down the street, sweat-soaked and late.

I trust the taxi driver who remembers the night my father had a heart attack in the backseat of his cab, and who still asks about him, swearing he prays for him every day.

I trust the Old City merchant who told me not to buy floaty dresses from his stall, but to go instead to the wholesaler he uses, where they cost a third of the price.

I trust the greengrocer who explains why the mangoes are perfect this summer, and why the avocados are disappointing.

I trust my neighbor, who once helped me extinguish a fire when terrorists across the valley hurled Molotov cocktails at our building.

I trust Keren from Discount Bank, who calls me personally when money arrives from overseas, asking whether I want it converted to shekels or left in dollars.

*I trust my colleagues at *The Times of Israel* – who span the political spectrum, yet all insist on the stubborn, necessary practice of telling the truth as best we can.*

I trust the protesters, especially the ones who have lost their children in this war, or who know their children are still trapped in terror tunnels. I trust the grief-stricken to hold the mirror to our faces, to remind us of the human cost beneath the slogans.

I trust the healers – the doctors and nurses and therapists.

I trust the artists and miscreants, the philosophers and poets, the film makers and stubborn dreamers at the pub – and the bartender, who somehow always knows the song the night needs.

(From *The Rabbi* continued next page)

(From the Rabbi Continued)

*I trust my friends who walk across the hills in the blistering heat, even on Shabbat, just to sit a while.
I trust the friends who arrive with soup, muffins, and scones when I'm sick.*

I trust the ones I call for logic and sound reasoning.

I trust the ones I call for advice on crystals and aromatherapy.

I trust the ones with open minds who explore with me and ask lots of questions.

I trust the ones I call to daven for me at the Western Wall when things get really tough.

I trust the one who lay under the desert sky with me, tracing the universe's expansion and contraction while we swat mosquitoes and count falling stars.

And I trust my children. Not because they are perfect, but because they are growing. Because they are learning to choose kindness, to discern, to stumble and get up again. Because they carry tomorrow inside them – and they're stubbornly refusing to let go of the hope that can come with it.

So no, I don't trust politicians, warlords, or the men who claim to hold the keys to peace while they profit from endless war. I don't trust the speeches, the photo ops, or the promises wrapped in barbed wire.

But I do trust the people who keep showing up. I trust the grief that refuses to be silenced. I trust the ordinary mercies that keep breaking through the cracks. I trust the dark humor and the light as well.

And if peace ever comes, it will not be signed into existence at a podium. It will come from the broken-hearted who demand justice, from bus drivers and mango sellers, from friends who bring soup, from children who grow up choosing kindness.

It will come from us.

Or it will not come at all.

Alongside all of our complicated, heart-wrenching concerns about everything—and everything Israel—it is important to remind ourselves that Israel is a very special country filled with the most special people.

Rabbi Sruli



FROM THE PRESIDENT



As we approach another New Year, my mind wanders over the past year. Here at the Temple we worry about the older age of a majority of our congregants. I have seen some new younger faces come to events, some with children, some pregnant and some just starting out. We need the younger blood for the continuity of our Jewish community. But I want to emphasize the fact that the baby boomers, and up, contribute a lot to the functioning of our Temple and to the vision of its future. Don't write us off. We need to appreciate everyone for everything they bring to the table.

This is why I'm so concerned about what our federal government is doing that affects our elderly directly. The cuts to Medicaid and Medicare, could affect everyone, but statistically, the older you get, the more you use, and need, the health care system. And with rural hospitals closing, how will the elderly who can't drive anymore get there? Nursing homes will close, and then who will take care of those who can't take care of themselves anymore? And the threats to Social Security after working so hard for so many years are just not fair. And are they really going to make the elderly wait in long lines on election day rather than letting them vote by mail?

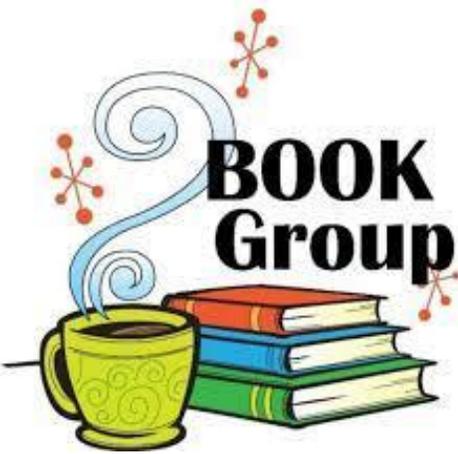
I apologize for my ranting, but I could go on. And on. It feels like our contributions to society are being forgotten and thrown away. There's a time in one's life that we need more care and attention. And yes, we deserve it! I truly believe that all is not lost, and that we can fight back. Yet with the New Year approaching, it's hard to not look at the future as getting a whole lot worse before we can make it better. Yes, it's a depressing road that our country is traveling on right now.

I am an optimist after all, so this is what I really want my message to be: Let's not let this happen in our Jewish community. Let's lift each other up and help where we can. Let's not let anyone fall through the cracks. We should acknowledge each other for who we are and for what we do. Each and every one of us brings something to our community. And our aging congregants are still bringing it on!!

Lesli Weiner, age 72
President



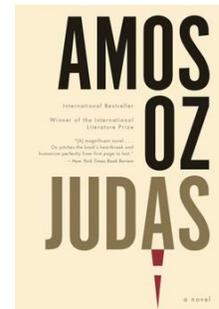
!!BOOK GROUP NEWS!!



Well, emergencies do happen. On August 11th we had a great turnout to hear the author of “The Midwife’s Advice”, Gay Courter. But at the last minute, she had a medical emergency and was headed to the ER. So we held our discussion anyways. Present were Bertha Bodenheimer, Karen Calloway, Babs Shapiro, Deb Katz, Linda Griswold, Judy Abromson, Marsha Auster, Sheri Olstein and me, Lesli Weiner. The general consensus was that the book could have been shorter than its 600 pages. Most of us never finished it. But, we also agreed that we liked her writing style and that her subjects are always interesting and bring you right into the time period, (early 1900’s). That’s why I contacted Gay to briefly attend our

next meeting as we are amazed at how thorough her research is. So we will first discuss our next book and then she will zoom in at 4:30. So PLEASE attend again as we always learn something new from listening to an author speak!

Our next book is “Judas” by Amos Oz. Here’s the blurb from Amazon:
“INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER and winner of the International Literature Prize. At once an exquisite love story and a coming-of-age novel, an allegory for the state of Israel and for the biblical tale from which it draws its title, Judas is one of Amos Oz’s most powerful novels.



Jerusalem, 1959. Shmuel Ash, a biblical scholar, is adrift in his young life when he finds work as a caregiver for a brilliant but cantankerous old man named Gershom Wald. There is, however, a third, mysterious presence in his new home. Atalia Abravanel, the daughter of a deceased Zionist leader, a beautiful woman in her forties, entrances young Shmuel even as she keeps him at a distance. Piece by piece, the old Jerusalem stone house, haunted by tragic history and now home to the three misfits and their intricate relationship, reveals its secrets.”

The next meeting on zoom is MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 at 4PM. If you’re not on my Book Group list and want the zoom link, please email me at lesli.wei@gmail.com
 L’shanah Tova.....A Good New Year to all.....lesli

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Carla Marcus & Lawrence Mohr | Sept. 1 |
| Cathy & Stan Tetenman | 3 |
| Anne & David Allen | 9 |
| John & Linda Isaacson | 13 |
| Hilmar & Phyllis Graber Jensen | 17 |
| Carmen Comeau & Stuart Cohen | 20 |



Bowdoin professor and cookbook author Margaret Boyle discusses Mexican Jewish Cooking

BRUNCH AND PROGRAM, SUNDAY, SEPT. 14 AT 10 A.M.

Temple Shalom Synagogue-Center welcomes cookbook author and Bowdoin College Professor Margaret E. Boyle for a talk on how cooking and eating connect Jewish-Mexicans across places and generations.

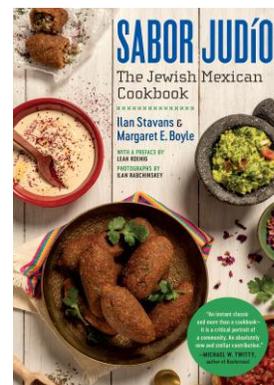
Please join us at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 14, for a delicious brunch featuring a few of the book's recipes prepared by our very own Mike Gagne. Those planning to attend should RSVP by emailing the synagogue at Temple6359@aol.com no later than Monday, Sept. 8.

The meal will be followed by Boyle's talk at 11 a.m. Brunch Admission is \$15. You may attend the talk at no cost without partaking of the meal.

Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures and Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies at Bowdoin College, Boyle co-authored with scholar Illan Stavans, the book *Sabor Judío: the Jewish Mexican Cookbook*, published to critical acclaim in 2024 by the University of North Carolina Press.

Sabor Judío is a sumptuous cookbook that, for the first time, highlights the connections, flavors, dishes, neighborhoods, and trends between Jewish and Mexican cultures across the centuries. Michael W. Twitty, author of *Koshersoul*, called the book "...an instant classic and more than a cookbook — it is a critical portrait of a community. An absolutely new and stellar contribution."

Written with joy and verve, Boyle and Stavans' lavishly illustrated cookbook features one hundred deeply personal recipes enjoyed by Mexican Jews around the world. The book is organized by meal — *desayuno* (breakfast), *almuerzo* (lunch), and *cena* (dinner) —and also includes dishes made for Shabbat, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Passover, Hanukkah, Shavuot, and other holidays. This cookbook is the product of two award-winning, internationally known Jewish Mexican writers and foodies who spent a decade gathering recipes and personal narratives from Jewish Mexican households. The result is a dynamic and delicious array of recipes and experiences, infusing important cultural heritage into this essential culinary record.



We look forward to enjoying each other's company as we expand our knowledge of Mexican Jewish culture and history.

Please RSVP for the Brunch – temple6359@aol.com

Linking Generations: Jewish Genealogy Tips

By Labish Kurtz (Richard Kurtz)

#9. Making Sense of Census Data

"When you take a census of the Israelites to count them..." (Exodus 30:12)

I often compare genealogical research to detective work, or the challenge of cracking a complex puzzle. The more you dig, the deeper you get into a labyrinth of connections and stories, never quite sure where the clues will lead you. One of the most essential "detective tools" at our disposal are census records.

Census records are an invaluable resource for tracing family history. Most general genealogy websites, as well as the US National Archives, offer access to census data, and most provide scans of the original documents. Many other countries have also digitized their own census records as well.

In the United States, the census has been conducted every ten years since 1790. All records are available online except for the 1890 records, which were lost in a fire in 1921. The information collected in a census is made public according to the "72-Year Rule," meaning each census becomes available 72 years after it was taken. For instance, the 1950 census was released to the public in April 2022, and the next release will be the 1960 census available in April 2032.

Each census year offers different types of information, but all are rich sources of data presented in a remarkably legible and logical format. From these records, you can, depending on the census year, uncover family relationships, ages and birth years, marital status, immigration and naturalization details, places of birth, addresses, and occupations.

For example, I recently looked up the 1950 census entry for Robert Zimmerman—better known as Bob Dylan. The record reveals that, in 1950, Bob was an eight-year-old living in Hibbing, Minnesota. His brother David was four, their mother Beatrice was 38, and their father Abe was a 34-year-old bookkeeper at a retail electrical store. By tracing the Zimmerman family through earlier censuses, like those from 1930 and 1940, it's possible to construct a multi-generational portrait.

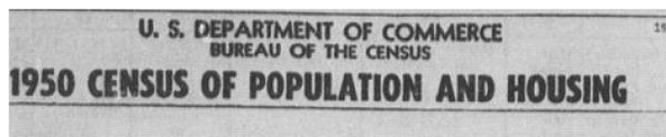
To me, there's nothing quite like entering a family name into a census search. For example, I recently entered my great grandfather's name into the 1950 Canadian Census. To my surprise I learned that there were 8 of my relatives living with my Zaida Duvid in a 3-room apartment behind his auto store. Uncovering new information, and even more tantalizing clues through the census adds to the endlessly fascinating journey of genealogical discovery.

Practical Resources

Websites to Find and Explore Specific Towns or Areas

https://www.archives.gov/research/census?_ga=2.257239755.1388213624.1753831981-28032412.1753831981 - United States National Archives (1790 to 1950)

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/62308/> - 1950 Census Information Lookup



| Name | Relationship | Sex | Age | Marital Status | Place of Birth | Year of Immigration | Year of Naturalization | Year of Arrival | Year of Departure | Occupation |
|-------------------|--------------|-----|-----|----------------|----------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---|
| Zimmerman, Abe H. | Head | W | M | 38 | Man | Minn. | | | | 48 Bookkeeper Retail Electrical Store Cl. |
| Beatrice R. | wife | W | F | 34 | Wife | Minn. | | | | |
| Robert D. | Son | W | M | 8 | Boy | Minn. | | | | |
| David | Son | W | M | 4 | Boy | Minn. | | | | |

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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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, Ariella Green, Sharon Hemond, Alison Jaeger, Suzan Katzir, Michael Kendall, Linda Koskela, Henry Lefkowitz, Lee Leveille, Clayton Lizotte, 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.*



Wishing you a speedy and complete recovery.

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

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Sebastian Chervenak | Sept. 4 |
| Daniel Rausch | 6 |
| Michael Laskoff | 7 |
| Cindy Tayman | 10 |
| Nicholas Scott | 12 |
| Chrissy Zidle | 16 |
| Elizabeth Baumhoff | 17 |
| Doretta Shapiro | 19 |
| Hilmar Jensen | 20 |
| Adam Platz | 23 |
| Lewis Perry | 25 |
| Joel Olstein | 28 |
| Jessica Jensen | 30 |
| Rachel Jensen | 30 |
| Erica Schair | 30 |

Yahrzeiten

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Charles Traister | Sept. 3 |
| Dorothy Miller | 5 |
| Ruth Shapiro Miller | 5 |
| Verrill Scott | 5 |
| George Harris | 8 |
| Ann Frankel | 11 |
| Arthur Salberg | 11 |
| Hyman Rubenstein | 12 |
| David Krasner | 12 |
| Hele'ne Beth Krasner | 16 |
| Rebecca Cohen Schaffer | 18 |
| Yoram Fisher | 20 |
| Enid Ehrlich | 21 |
| David Feldman | 21 |
| Charles Schneidman | 21 |
| Alfred Pennamacoor | 22 |
| Saul Schneidman | 23 |
| Frieda Barr | 24 |
| Shirley Wickson | 24 |
| Lenard Bell | 25 |
| Winnie Plavnick | 26 |
| Paul Krasner | 27 |
| Helene Perry | 29 |
| Francis Horvitz | 30 |

CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

Philip Laine

In memory of Shirley Koss

Smith/Fickett Families

In honor of the naming of Edwin
& Willianor

Cathy & Sten Tetenman

In memory of Seymour Tetenman

Lewis Perry

In memory of Shirley Koss

Bertha Bodenheimer

In memory of Seymour Tetenman

In memory of Margaret Meyer's sister

Babs & Michael Shapiro

In memory of Ruth Miller

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In memory of Michael Graff

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