



**MA CHADASH!** **מה חדש!**

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

July 2019/Sivan/Tammuz 5779



**5<sup>th</sup> Annual**

**MAINE-LY JEWISH  
STORYTELLING  
FESTIVAL**

**Featuring**

**Maine's Poet Laureate, Stewart Kestenbaum**

**plus**

**Ellen Frankel, Anna Wrobel, Herb Levine, Lisa Mayer,  
Claire Guyton, Phyllis Graber Jensen, Bonnie Faiman**

**Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 P.M.**

**Wine and Homemade Sweets! Suggested Donation, \$5**

## FROM THE RABBI



A story from the Talmud:

The famous Rabbi Akiva was once travelling. One evening he arrived at a distant town and asked for lodging from the townspeople. No one would take him in for the night so Rabbi Akiva set up camp in a field at the edge of the town. Rather than feeling sorry for himself, Rabbi Akiva declared: *gam zu l'tovah*—even this is for the good. He had with him a candle, a rooster and a donkey. Rabbi Akiva lit the candle which a wind

soon blew out. Again, Rabbi Akiva declared *gam zu l'tovah*, and acclimated to the dark. Then a cat came and ate his rooster. Soon thereafter, a lion ate his donkey. In each case Rabbi Akiva declared *gam zu l'tovah*—even this is for the good. When he returned to the town the next morning, he was told that a foreign army came in the middle of the night and took all the men captive. Had the candle burned, the rooster crowed, or the donkey brayed, Rabbi Akiva would have been discovered and taken captive as well.

The Talmud tells us that Rabbi Akiva learned *gam zu l'tovah* from one of his teachers, Rabbi Nachum. Rabbi Nachum was afflicted with a number of terrible sicknesses and diseases. Rabbi Nachum, the Talmud relates, happily accepted his suffering as a fitting punishment because he once hesitated before helping someone in dire need—and in the short amount of time that he delayed his assistance, the one who needed his help died. Rabbi Nachum welcomed his punishment with *gam zu l'tovah*—better to suffer in this world than in the afterlife.

I personally am not crazy about either of these stories, but I think the concept of *gam zu l'tovah* can really help us get through difficult times. *Gam zu l'tovah* challenges us to find—and focus—on the good in every bad situation. Because every bad situation—even death—has something positive about it.

“Nice to see you,” I say.

“Better to be seen and not viewed,” he replies.

I get this response about once a month from a minyan regular. You might too—if you are also a minyan regular. While funny, it always reminds me of *gam zu l'tovah* (which is ironic, since “viewing” is not, in fact, a traditional Jewish practice). Underlying this quip, is the realization that aging can be very challenging, to put it mildly. Aging frequently causes all sorts of physical and mental breakdowns—not to mention the constant reminder that our lives may soon be coming to an end. Not a very pleasant thing to consider. But *gam zu l'tovah*—at least we are alive.

May we all merit good mental and physical health, as well as long life.

Rabbi Srueli

P.S. Rabbi Srueli will be teaching a workshop on Hasidic music in Weimar, Germany, from July 29<sup>th</sup> to August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



“When God created the first human beings, God led them around the garden of Eden and said: ‘Look at my works! See how beautiful they are — how excellent! For your sake I created them all. ***See to it that you do not spoil and destroy My world; for if you do, there will be no one else to repair it***” (Midrash Kohelet Rabbah, 1 on Ecclesiastes 7:13).

We need to protect our planet. Above, G-d commands that we protect it and makes us responsible for protecting it. When G-d says “...there will be no one else to repair it.”, He is saying that we should not expect a miracle to clean our air and rivers and repair our environment, but that Man must do this. Man must take care and not harm and destroy this gift, Planet Earth, that G-d gave us.

Each of us is responsible for ensuring that we do not waste resources, be it food, energy and Earth's other resources. We need to consume wisely. We need to protect the environment. Sometimes, many of us like a solution, maybe wind power, but don't want a windmill 'in our backyard'. All of us need to step beyond the, 'not in my backyard' sentiment and realize that each of us has to sacrifice to ensure that G-d's gift of this planet to Man, comes with responsibilities. A responsibility to care for the planet as if it was the house we live in, for it is our only home...our only planet.

Take a few minutes, now, today, and think of ways that you can help the environment. Can you make one less trip to the grocery store and save gas and reduce emissions? Can your next vehicle be all electric, even if it costs a few more dollars? Can you convert to solar power at your home? Don't forget to shut off lights. Eat less beef? (Cows are a large source of methane, a greenhouse gas.) Be comfortable in your home, but would fresh air be better than air conditioning...open a few windows. Remember, each little bit helps and DOES make a difference.

We want this planet here and healthy for eons to come. We need to be aware of how our actions, today, impact the health of our environment and planet now and in the future. We can no longer wait for the next generation to figure out how to keep Planet Earth healthy.

God said: “See to it that you do not spoil and destroy My world; for if you do, there will be no one else to repair it.”

David Allen

As a reminder, all Temple members are welcome at all Board meetings. If you have a specific issue to discuss, please let us know ahead of time, so that we can put it on the agenda. If you have an interest in serving on the Board, please let a Board member know. If you want to serve on a committee, please let David Allen ([David@AllenMfgUSA.com](mailto:David@AllenMfgUSA.com)) know. The next Board meeting is at the Temple on July 22nd at 7pm.



# Shabbat at the Lake

(hosted by the Olsteins)

Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>

*Service at 10:00 a.m. followed by a potluck lunch.*

*Please RSVP with intended potluck contribution.*

**Address: 48 Waterview Drive, Auburn**

**(Phone if lost - 241-7848 or 576-7927)**

**Directions - From Hotel Road take East Shore Road. Take the first right which is Waterview Drive. White house w/ green trim.**

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## Yahrzeiten

If you are observing a yahrzeit and are planning to come to Thursday morning minyan to say Kaddish, we urge you to contact **Bob Laskoff** ([ral@laskofflaw.com](mailto:ral@laskofflaw.com)) and let him know so that he can include that information in his weekly reminder email. It is your responsibility to call friends and neighbors to make sure there are enough people for the minyan.



## REMINDER:

The first Thursday of the month, the service will begin at 8:00 A.M. All other Thursday morning services will continue to begin at 7:00. All services will continue to have a service, discussion and breakfast. **Please note – no minyan on July 4<sup>th</sup>, join us at 8:00 am on Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup> this month!**



# !!BOOK GROUP NEWS!!



We all lead busy lives. Just Margaret Meyer, Bonnie Faiman, Larry Faiman and me, Lesli Weiner attended on June 10. But you don't need a big crowd to have a good discussion! Our author, Heather Morris, interviewed Lale Sokolov who told her his compelling story of his time in Auschwitz. She originally wrote it as a screenplay before reshaping it into her debut novel *The*

*Tattooist of Auschwitz*. It's being adapted into a television drama miniseries slated for next January. And with all the glowing reviews, you'd have thought we would have loved it. However we questioned the authenticity of some of the storylines, and Larry pointed out that there is much truth about what the Nazis did and what the camps were like that would normally be unbelievable. Of course, this narrative was gleaned from Mr. Sokolov's own memories, possibly repainted after all these years. However, with a little fictionalization, this could make a good movie. We'll see.

Our next book is a memoir: *1185 Park Avenue* by Anne Roiphe. Here's the description from the back cover:

"From National Book Award nominee Anne Roiphe comes this moving memoir of growing up in a wealthy Jewish home with a family who had money, status, culture -- everything but happiness.

While the nation was at war abroad, Roiphe, who was coming of age in 1940s New York City, saw her parents at war in their living room. Roiphe's evocative writing puts readers right in Apartment 8C, where a constant tension plays out between a disappointed and ineffectual mother, a philandering father who uses his wife's money to entertain other women, and a difficult brother. Behind the leisure culture of wealthy Jewish society -- the mahjong games, the cocktail parties, the summer houses -- lurks a brutality that strikes a chord with a daughter who longs to heal the wounds of her troubled family.

Writing with a novelist's sensibility, Roiphe reveals the poignant story of a family that has finally claimed its material wealth in a prosperous America but has yet to claim its spiritual due."

Summer is a great time to sit by the lake and read. So join us on MONDAY, JULY 15 at 4 PM for a nostalgic, if somewhat disturbing, look back.....lesli

**Rabbi Sruli is always happy to speak with and meet with members of 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.**



SHE'S BACK!!!!

FRIDAY, JULY 26

6:30 PM

DR. JOCELYN (WEINER)  
MITCHELL

### **“Car Decals and Civic Nationalism in Qatar”**

What can a car decal tell us about changing conceptions of nationalism and belonging in Qatar? Qatar is largely seen as an “ethnocracy,” where nationalism and citizenship are based on strict rules of patriarchal ethnicity. Thus, although Qatari citizens only make up about ten percent of the population of the country, the country’s citizenship laws make it nearly impossible for foreign residents (expatriates) to naturalize. Yet nationalism in Qatar took on new importance on June 5, 2017, when regional neighbors Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain, along with Egypt, broke diplomatic relations with Qatar and closed their land, sea, and air borders (a crisis that is still ongoing today). Within days, patriotic car decals began appearing on the Qatari streets as a public show of support—by both citizens and expatriates. This research analyzes these car decals, through visual evidence and interviews, to consider the impact of participation in this phenomenon on the narratives of who belongs to the Qatari community.

#### **Bio**

Dr. Mitchell is an Assistant Professor in Residence at Northwestern University in Qatar, and an affiliated faculty member of Northwestern University’s Middle East and North African Studies Program in the Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences. She holds a BA in political science and Middle Eastern studies from Brown University (2003) and an MA (2008) and a PhD (2013) in government from Georgetown University. She and her husband Nick have lived and worked in Doha, Qatar, since August 2008. But most importantly, Jocelyn is the oldest daughter of Neal and Lesli Weiner and the mother of their grandsons Graham and Boden.

6:30 PM: Kabbalat Shabbat (musical service)

7:15 PM: Oneg of home baked delicacies

7:30 PM: Dr. Jocelyn Mitchell, Guest Speaker

RSVP for this FREE event: 786-4201

There will be no Shabbat service on Saturday, July 27th

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO**

David Teich	July 1
Sharon Chandler Bodenheimer	2
Roz Kutzen	3
Melissa Johnson	5
James Nesbitt	5
Olivia Casares	7
Naomi Nesbitt	7
Rose Wollman	7
Jeffrey Brown	8
Bonnie Faiman	8
Jessica Isaacson	11
Paul Rausch	11
Marion Rausch	12
Phyllis Graber Jensen	14
Lisa Mayer	17
Jonathan Cohen	18
Asher Isaacson	18
Donald Isaacson	19
Marianne Wise	22
Anita Miles	25
Richard Rau	27
Melissa Brown	28

## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO**

Jeffrey & Susan Brown	July 1
Allyson & Peter Casares	3
Karen & John Calloway	7
Behzad & Harriet Fakhery	7
Joe & Chrissy Zidle	8
Victoria & Jonathan Cohen	31

## **Yahrzeiten**

Alan Levenson	July 2
A.H. Plavin	7
Jeannette Kaye	13
Philip Rosenthal	13
Philip Isaacson	15
Jessie Pributsky	15
Pearl Maloff	20
Elaine Cohen	23
Goldie Goldberg	23
Howard Kates	26
Sarah Shapiro	26
Esther Shain	29
Irving Goldberg	30

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

Programming/Social Action Phyllis Graber Jensen  
Paula Marcus-Platz  
Preschool Allyson Casares

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Temple Shalom office hours:  
9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday

Telephone: 207-786-4201  
[www.templeshalomauburn.org](http://www.templeshalomauburn.org)  
E-mail address: [temple6359@aol.com](mailto:temple6359@aol.com)

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## SPEEDY RECOVERY

We pray for refuah sh'leimah – the full and speedy recovery of **Georgette Belanger, Phil Bray, Gary Buckman, John Calloway, June Wilner Chason, Sara Graf, Robert Galumbeck, Isaak Gekhtin, Anne Geller, Detlef Gerlach, Elinor Goldblatt, Ariella Green, Sharon Hemond, Elizabeth Johnson, Suzan Katzir, Bill Lancet, Henry Lefkowitz, Susan Lifter, Bruce Meyer, Sandy Miller, Maude Olsen, Joel Salberg, Bert Silverstein, Sara Tedlow, Sandy Traister, Neal Weiner**, and all others who are not well at this time.



*Wishing you a speedy  
and complete recovery.*

*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.*



# CONTRIBUTIONS

## GENERAL FUND

Steven Gruverman & Family

In appreciation

Scott Eicher

In appreciation

Susan Weiner

In memory of Lillian Rosen

Bonnie Shulman

In appreciation

Bertha Bodenheimer

In memory of Sasha Talis

To Marianne Wise in memory of her mother

Jackie Wilner

In memory of Burton Wilner

Andrew & Sharon Bodenheimer

In memory of Ruth Schleicher

In memory of May Tetenman

Bonnie & Larry Faiman

In honor of Melissa Johnson's bat mitzvah

Thank you to Michael Gagne

Harriet & Behzad Fakhery

In honor of Melissa Johnson's bat mitzvah

John & Karen Calloway

In memory of Jack Kaduson

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

In honor of Melissa Johnson's bat mitzvah

To Marianne Wise in memory of her mother

Anonymous Donor

In appreciation

Lesli & Neal Weiner

To Melissa Johnson mazel tov on her bat mitzvah

To Marianne Wise in memory of her mother

Phyllis Bell

In memory of Evelyn Levine

Ellen & Aaron Burke

In honor of Melissa Johnson's bat mitzvah

## YOM HOO-LEDET SA-ME-AKH, CHAI

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

In honor of grandson Jeremy's birthday

In honor of granddaughter Betsy's birthday

Bonnie & Larry Faiman

In honor of Bonnie's birthday

Bertha Bodenheimer

In honor of Rabbi Sruli's birthday

## ABROMSON MEMORIAL FUND

Judy Abromson

In honor of Melissa Johnson's bat mitzvah

To Marianne Wise in memory of her mother

**KITCHEN/BREAKFAST FUND**

The following made donations in  
honor of Melissa Johnson's bat mitzvah

Estelle Rubinstein

Marianne Wise

Sandy Traister

Fredda Wolf

Scott Eicher

Bertha Bodenheimer

**NUSSINOW PRESCHOOL FUND**

Amy & Scott Nussinow

In memory of Milton Krasner

In memory of Bernie Nussinow

**RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Babs & Michael Shapiro

In memory of Harry Shapiro

Sharon Day

In memory of Aaron M. Krakower

Jerrold & Jennifer Cohen

In memory of Lillian Cohen

Sam Allen

In memory of Bob Allen

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

In memory of May Tetenman

In memory of Bob Allen

David Mazur

In memory of Brian Magur

Joan Levenson

In honor of Melissa Johnson's bat mitzvah

Jeff Stern

In honor of Melissa Johnson's bat mitzvah

Marianne Wise, Carole Jean & David Jean

In memory of their mother, Miriam Jean

**RANDALL SILVER LIBRARY FUND**

Jerryanne LaPerriere

In honor of Melissa Johnson's bat mitzvah

To Marianne Wise in memory of her mother

**SHIRLEY GOODMAN MEMORIAL FUND**

In honor of Melissa Johnson's bat mitzvah

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## JULY AT TEMPLE SHALOM

Monday, 7/1	12:30 pm	Mahjong
Thursday, 7/4		Office Closed for Independence Day No Minyan
Saturday, 7/6	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Monday, 7/8	12:30 pm	Mahjong
Thursday, 7/11	8:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast (Please note later time)
	7:00 pm	Maine-ly Jewish Storytelling
Saturday, 7/13	10:00 am	Shabbat at the Lake – RSVP!
Monday, 7/15	12:30 pm	Mahjong
	4:00 pm	Book Group Meets
Thursday, 7/18	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Saturday, 7/20	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Monday, 7/22	12:30 pm	Mahjong
	7:00 pm	Temple Board Meeting
Thursday, 7/25	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Friday, 7/26	6:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Service followed guest speaker Jocelyn (Weiner) Mitchell – RSVP!
Saturday, 7/27		NO Shabbat Service
Monday, 7/29	12:30 pm	Mahjong

