



**MA CHADASH!** **מה חדש!**

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

May 2019/Nisan/Iyar 5779



## Lag B'omer

**Friday Evening, MAY 17th**

**Dinner from 5:30 TO 6:30  
Program from 6:30 to 7:30**

**BONFIRE!**

**HOT DOGS-VEGGIE BURGERS-MARSHMALLOW ROAST**

**Sing and Dance around the Fire**

**FOR ALL AGES!**

**Suggested donation: \$5.00 for adults, kids are free**

**MEET AT THE TEMPLE SHALOM FIRE PIT (NEAR THE MEGA-MENORAH)**

**RSVP'S ENCOURAGED**

## FROM THE RABBI



I would like to tell you about Rabbi Shimmy Green. Shimmy exudes warmth, love, enthusiasm, energy, passion, learning, poetry and music. When I knew him, and only through a few relatively brief encounters, he lived and taught in the “Rova”—the Jewish Quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem. Shimmy, by the way, is a common Yiddish nickname for Shimon/Simeon, much like Sruli is a Yiddish nickname for Yisrael/Israel.

One time, I found myself walking alone with Shimmy alongside the massive outer walls of the Old City. It was a Friday night and the walls were lit with a soft orange glow. I was overwhelmed by the grandeur and beauty of the scene, and I shared my excitement with Shimmy. His response: “I hate these walls. I wish they would just tear them down.” Even after 20 years, I can still taste the shock.

I trusted Shimmy enough to thoughtfully consider his words. Okay, the walls are not Jewish—they were not built by or for Jews. Still, there had to be more. Shimmy apparently felt that the walls were a distraction—that Jerusalem was not about its walls, towers, lights, or even history, but simply a place to feel God’s presence most acutely. That Shimmy acutely felt God’s presence was beyond question, and his enthusiasm for God was infectious.

Shimmy’s Jerusalem was not one of light shows and fancy restaurants. Shimmy lived in a tiny apartment with his wife and six kids that was simply furnished. They ate simple food and wore simple clothes. The yeshiva (Talmudic Academy for young adult men) that he founded and taught at, consisted of one large simple room. Yet I can still feel the intensity—the explosion of Yiddishkeit—in his home and yeshiva. I am grateful to Shimmy not only for sharing his love of God and Torah with me but also for teaching me to look beyond the physical, to even ignore it, in order to make as much room as possible, in our overcrowded hearts and minds, for the spiritual.

While I have since diverged from Shimmy’s (and my former) fundamentalist understanding of Judaism (for many reasons, not least because of its exclusion of women and rejection of gay people), I still frequently recall his warning to not let the physical overwhelm the spiritual. And, more importantly, to always practice Judaism with warmth, love, enthusiasm, energy, passion, learning, poetry and music!

Rabbi Sruli

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.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Due to the generosity of our members, we have had two consecutive years where our dues and donations supported all of the Temple expenses. Prior to the last two years, it had been over 25 years since we had even one year that we did not have to dip into our investments to cover Temple expenses.

This year, however, it looks like we will have to dip into our investments in order to pay all of our expenses. The primary reason for this is that donations are way down, as compared to the last two years. Our expenses are about the same as they have been for a few years.

The Temple and our financial well being needs each of you to seriously consider making an added donation this year. The less we withdraw from our investments, the better and more secure our financial future.

With the need for added funds in mind, it is time for Dollar-A-Day. If every member committed just one more dollar per day to the Temple, we would raise over \$30,000 and close most of our deficit. Can you commit just one dollar a day? If you skip a couple of take out coffees per week, this will cover a Dollar-A-Day commitment. If you eat out one less time per month, this will cover a Dollar-A-Day commitment. If you just save the change that is generated through your day and week, this too, could cover your Dollar-A-Day commitment.

No matter how you come up with the extra dollar per day, whether it is through cutting back or not, can you help the Temple when it is needed? Can you look yourself in mirror and really say that you cannot afford an extra dollar a day? Can you walk into the Temple and enjoy one of our events or holidays and really say, 'it's nice to come here, but it is not worth an extra dollar'?

We need your help and your commitment to support all that we do to ensure such a vibrant presence in central Maine. You, along with all of our members, can step forward and ensure Temple Shalom has a sound financial future.

Just call or email Julie ([Temple6359@aol.com](mailto:Temple6359@aol.com)) and let her know that you are joining Dollar-A-Day to help secure our future. You can send a monthly or annual check. Julie can bill you or remind you via email. She can even charge your credit card.

Thank you for your help and support. It is appreciated by all of your friends at Temple Shalom.

Call or email Julie today.  
David Allen

# TEMPLE SHALOM'S ANNUAL MEETING

## SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2019

Please join us for Temple Shalom's Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 5, that will commence at 10 a.m. with a splendid Israeli brunch catered by the inimitable Portland-based chef Haggai Bernstein (you haven't eaten shakshuka until you've tasted his).

Before our 11 a.m. meeting begins, we will be treated to a spoken word poetry performance by the gifted Lewiston High School senior Joao Victor, who recently won the State of Maine Poetry Out Loud Competition and will have just returned from competing at Nationals in Washington D.C.

And, of course, you won't want to miss our yearly meeting that includes annual committee reports, election of board members, and the presentation of the 2019 "Person of the Year."

Please RSVP by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 786-4201 or [temple6359@aol.com](mailto:temple6359@aol.com)

\$10.00 suggested donation for brunch



## 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.

## New Project - Yom Hoo-ledet Sa-me-akh, Chai!

Happy birthday to me.  
Happy birthday to Larry.  
Happy birthday to my children.  
And happy birthday to their children.

Wow, that's eight birthdays!  
Mazel Tov to me!!!

Please join me, Bonnie Faiman, in this new project called Yom Hoo-ledet Sa-me-akh, Chai! And donate \$18.00 to celebrate each birthday of your loved ones.

## Temple Shalom Preschool



Now accepting applications for the Fall!

Call the Temple office, 786-4201 or  
[www.templeshalompreschool.com](http://www.templeshalompreschool.com)

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



Well, I am in Qatar for 5 weeks and Book Group was snowed out. Not here in Doha, but in Maine, in April!! I hope Spring arrives by the time I come home for Passover. Anyways, Helene Perry had graciously agreed to lead the group while I was gone, but alas, no discussion of *Disobedience* occurred.

Our next book is a long one, so start reading *The Weight of Ink* by Rachel Kadish. Here is the write-up from amazon:

**A *USA Today* Bestseller**

**Winner of a National Jewish Book Award**

**Winner of the Association of Jewish Libraries Jewish Fiction Award**

**An Amazon Best Book of the Year**

**One of *Ms. Magazine's* "Bookmark" Titles**

**One of *The Jewish Exponent's* "2017's Top Reads"**

**"A gifted writer, astonishingly adept at nuance, narration, and the politics of passion."—Toni Morrison**

Set in London of the 1660s and of the early twenty-first century, *The Weight of Ink* is the interwoven tale of two women of remarkable intellect: Ester Velasquez, an emigrant from Amsterdam who is permitted to scribe for a blind rabbi, just before the plague hits the city; and Helen Watt, an ailing historian with a love of Jewish history.

When Helen is summoned by a former student to view a cache of newly discovered seventeenth-century Jewish documents, she enlists the help of Aaron Levy, an American graduate student as impatient as he is charming, and embarks on one last project: to determine the identity of the documents' scribe, the elusive "Aleph."

Electrifying and ambitious, *The Weight of Ink* is about women separated by centuries—and the choices and sacrifices they must make in order to reconcile the life of the heart and mind.

Rachel Kadish will also be speaking at the JCA in Portland on May 21 at 7PM (\$10 donation suggested). I heard her talk last year in Newburyport at the Literary Festival and it made me want to read the book even though it has 592 pages! So read this readily available, 4.5 star book, come to Book Group on MONDAY, MAY 13 at 4 PM to discuss it, and then go hear Rachel Kadish give you all the inside scoop. Let me know if you plan on going down to Portland.....lesli



**This month's traditional and musical**

## **Kabbalat Shabbat Service**

**will be held on Friday, May 31st at 7 p.m.**

**This Service will feature and honor the adults and children who have been diligently learning to read Hebrew at our Hebrew Reading Classes!**

**The Service will be followed by a Special Oneg Shabbat.**

**There will be Shabbat Services on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>.  
There will be no Shabbat Services on Saturday, May 18th.**

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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, 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.*

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO**

Laurence Faiman	May	1
Reece Greven		1
Jessica Teich		1
Mazie King		2
Stuart Cohen		3
Miriam Sofia Cohen		5
John Calloway		9
Jennifer Cohen		9
Jenna Wise		9
Amelia Ross		16
Susan Shapiro		16
Lucas Rau		19
Alison Fakhery		21
Mark Johnson		25
Greg Levinsky		26
Mitchell Ross		31
Bert Silverstein		31
Lindsey Walker		31

## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO**

James & Susan Lifter	May	10
Daniel & Kristine Rausch		15
Matthew & Janet Zidle		25

## **YAHREZEITEN**

Burton Wilner	May	5
Steve Bieringer		7
Louis Silverman		9
Herman Kleeger		13
Wilfred Goodman		14
Stephen Steinman		16
Richard Wilner		16
Morris Amsel		18
Eve Shapiro		22
William Leavitt		26
Jean Renard		26
Beatrice Garber		31



## PASSOVER SEDER A HUGE SUCCESS!

The families of Temple Shalom gathered together on the second night of Passover for our annual community Seder. We had 120 adults and children attend.

This year was another year of the Musical Seder! Rabbi Sruli, Rebbetzin Lisa, and their sons, Aaron and Zach, led the families in a combination of a traditional Seder with music, song, and dancing. It was a pleasure having Hadith Abdullah join them on percussion.



Aaron and Ellen Burke were again kind enough to pick up and deliver the wine to the Temple and make a contribution towards its purchase.

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: Fredda and Ken Wolf, John & Linda Isaacson, Stephen & Lisa Plavin, John & Consuelo Isaacson and Paula and Tom Platz.

We also extend our thanks to Joe Moscinski and Julie for all their help in handling many of the details of the Seder and setting up and taking down the tables.

Norma, Krissy and their crew did a wonderful job preparing and serving our fantastic Seder meal. We appreciate all they do to help with our celebrations. Mike Gagne, our adopted congregational family member, set the tables and helped Norma and her crew. We are grateful to have him as part of our community.

During the service, the Rabbi showed a moving line from the poem “Home” by Warsan Shire. She was born in Kenya to Somali parents and now lives in London. That part of the poem is

“you have to understand,  
that no one puts their children in a boat  
unless the water is safer than the land “.

This is an important concept to keep in mind during any discussion of immigration. I think most of our parents and grandparents who came to this country did so because of the persecution in their home countries. I urge you to look up the poem to read it in its entirety. Or contact me and I can send you the link.

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 [stetnman@gmail.com](mailto:stetnman@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

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

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

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Rabbi Sruli: [djsruli@gmail.com](mailto:djsruli@gmail.com)  
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#### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

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# CONTRIBUTIONS

## GENERAL FUND

Helene & Lewis Perry

In memory of Ida & Abraham Perry

Tom Reeves

In memory of Dr. Edward Reeves

Scott & Deb Eicher

In appreciation

Mayumi Hisako Huntington

In memory of Marilyn Simonds

Bonnie & Larry Faiman

In memory of Sally Fairman

In memory of June Margolin

In memory of Joseph Margolin

To Lesli & Neal Weiner in appreciation  
and thanks

## LIBRARY FUND

Sandra & Allen Miller

In memory of Paulyn Rosenthal

## NUSSINOW PRESCHOOL FUND

Amy & Scott Nussinow

In memory of Sheldon Nussinow

In memory of Murray Nussinow

In memory of Lillian Schneidman

In memory of Jean Renard

Nancy & Ken Levinsky & Adele Silverman

In memory of Marilyn Simonds

Estelle Rubinstein

In memory of Murray Rubinstein

## PRAYER BOOK/PULPIT FUND

Hank & Margaret Meyer

In memory of Robert Meyer

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Lindsey Walker

In memory of Chris Feinstein

Jonathan Berent

In memory of Gertrude Berent

James & Susan Lifter

In memory of Helen & Leslie Rosenthal

Joy & Lewis Zidle

In memory of Joseph & Lillian Zidle

Scott & Deb Eicher

In appreciation

## RANDALL SILVER LIBRARY FUND

Joel & Sheri Olstein

In appreciation



**ABROMSON MEMORIAL FUND  
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## Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center

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DATED MATERIAL  
MAY 2019

## MAY AT TEMPLE SHALOM

Thursday, 5/2	8:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast (please note time)
Saturday, 5/4	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Sunday, 5/5	10:00 am	Israeli Brunch followed by poetry reading by Joao Victor and Temple Annual Meeting – RSVP!
Monday, 5/6	12:30 pm	Mahjong
Thursday, 5/9	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Saturday, 5/11	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Monday, 5/13	12:30 pm	Mahjong
	4:00 pm	Book Group Meets
	5:15 pm	Program Committee Meeting
Thursday, 5/16	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Friday, 5/17	5:30 pm	Lag B'Omer – RSVP!
Saturday, 5/18		NO Shabbat Service
Monday, 5/20	12:30 pm	Mahjong
Thursday, 5/23	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Saturday, 5/25	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Monday, 5/27		Office Closed for Memorial Day
Thursday, 5/30	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Friday, 5/31	9:30 am	Hebrew Class Kabbalat Shabbat
Saturday, 6/1	9:30 am	Shabbat Service

