



October 2018/ Tishrei/Cheshvan 5779



Shabbat in the Woods

Saturday, October 13th, 10 a.m.

Thorncrag Nature Sanctuary, Lewiston

**Nature. Contemplation. Reflection. Song.
Community. Shabbat.**

Please wear sturdy shoes and bring water.

FROM THE RABBI



Evolution of Holiness

I would like to share with you some insights from a recent scientific study conducted by Ashley Thomas at the University of California, as heard on NPR's, *All Things Considered* (August 2018):

Thomas and some colleagues had children ages 21 months to 31 months watch a series of puppet shows. First, one googly-eyed puppet crossed the stage repeatedly, from right to left. Then, another puppet crossed the stage from left to right. After that came a conflict: The two puppets bumped in the middle, blocking each other's way. "One of two things happened," Thomas explains. "Either one of the puppets kind of bows down and moves out of the way, allowing the puppet to pass, or one of the puppets pushes the other away and passes in front of him." After the show, she offered the two puppets to the toddlers and asked which one they liked. Toddlers vastly preferred the puppet that "won" because the other yielded the way and bowed down. "The toddlers liked the winner. They liked the guy who reaches his goal..." But they didn't like it if the "winner" had pushed the other puppet out of the way. In that case, the toddlers switched their preference and reached for the loser.

Wow. Toddlers are innately wired to like a winner—no surprise there—but they, we, are also hard-wired to reject a bully and to emotionally connect with his victim. The article points out that this is not the case with one of our close primate relatives, the bonobo, who always prefer a winner—even when that dominance comes from beating others up. *"They prefer dominant individuals, no matter how they achieve their dominance," ...Whereas human babies, in this case, are preferring only those who are dominant and not mean."*

I tend to think of the path to holiness as one of overcoming our natural born inclinations towards selfishness, violence, jealousy, etc. That we are naturally unholy, and we require a lifetime of hard work to even approach Godliness. That unholy acts are simply the result of our base, and unworked on, human nature. *"For the inclination of man's heart is evil from his youth."* Genesis, 8:21.

But the opposite is implied by this study. Apparently, throughout the course of our lives we can also make ourselves worse. Adults who approve of violent bullying behavior must also have worked on themselves—negatively—in order to overcome their natural born tendency towards kindness and empathy. Wow.

Our High Holiday liturgy frequently poses the question: Is human nature any more holy than the nature of animals? According to this study, the answer is yes, but. May we always strive to build upon and hone our natural-born inclinations to disdain the bully and to empathize with the oppressed. Holiness demands nothing less.

Rabbi Sruli



Rabbi Sruli is always happy to speak with and meet with members or our Temple. Please call or text Rabbi Sruli on 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



Some of you were not able to make it to Kol Nidre and I want to share what I had to say with everyone....so...

Hello Everyone and welcome!

I'd like to extend a special warm welcome to those who are new members or first time attendees. It really is a pleasure having you with us – Shana Tova.

Due to a back injury, I was sorry to miss last week's Rosh Hashanah services. I heard they were truly wonderful. Thank you, as always, to Rabbi Sruli, Lisa and their amazingly talented family for making services so heartfelt and meaningful.

I am so grateful to be able to be here (standing even) with you all today. And I appreciate the

opportunity to once again, deliver the annual Kol Nidre address. Please, don't check out yet, stay with me, I promise it won't be a long rambling plea for your financial support, although we of course, can use your help. Just give me a few minutes of your attention and I will try and make this a quick one. Both for your comfort and mine.

First and foremost, Shana Tova. May your New year be a Healthy and Sweet one. May you all have many occasions to spend time with your families and friends doing the things that you enjoy.

So why are we here today? Traditionally, it's a big day for us Jews, right? We come together to pray and meditate. We come for redemption, to seek forgiveness for the past years transgressions, to hopefully be inscribed into the book of Life for the coming New Year.

Hopeful for a fresh clean slate and a new beginning to move forward, heal and grow. Some of us are here because it is how we were raised. Out of obligation or guilt, perhaps. Maybe because you made a promise to Mom or Dad that you would continue to observe the holidays for them, for always and those promises to our parents and the generations before us are important. Or maybe you are here in support of someone you love.

Well, guess what? Because we are here, we are all supporting one another. Whatever our personal understanding of God is, however much we struggle with our relationship with God, for whatever reasons we may have...We are here. Together, on our most sacred of nights, we are sharing this beautiful, warm space as a tribe, as a community of Jews, as a family. Human beings gather together for many reasons, seeking comfort or perhaps some insight or meaning to this crazy thing called "Life".

Whatever your reason for being here, I thank you. It is my sincere hope that you keep coming. And not on just the High Holy Days. Although our congregation is small in numbers, we are huge in spirit. We have many wonderful events throughout the year and everyone is always welcome. And, we are truly blessed to have this beautiful building. Wouldn't you agree?

I am grateful and want to thank every board member and person who sits on a committee, for giving of their time and energy to help ensure our building, our spiritual home, continues to be the warm place where we can come together to celebrate life and death and all the times in-between. And thank you to those who are not on the Board or a committee and do all that you do and thank you to all of you who come and participate.

Continued next page

President's Message continued:

But as you know, it takes money... and here it comes, the plea...

I am asking you to please, every single person here, to make a Kol Nidre Pledge, in any amount you can afford, to ensure the continuation of all that we do. We need your financial support to ensure we have a rabbi here for your life cycle events. We need your financial support to maintain our building. We need your financial support to continue to have all of the programming we have throughout the year. Please look in your hearts and give generously. Take the pledge cards given out earlier and fold over the tab with your contribution. Remember, look into your hearts and give generously. I'll take the cards after the service. Your Temple...Your community...needs your help tonight.

Forty-five years ago today, at least Hebrew calendar today, a bird flew into the Beth Abraham sanctuary. Did this bird signify that peace would soon be at hand? Just hours before, war had started. Jews again, were fighting and dieing for their homes, for their neighbors, for their families, for our biblical homeland. Would our foes drive us into the sea this time? Would Israel survive? That Yom Kippur, I think we all prayed harder than we ever had, at least I know I did. We so wanted peace for our People. After three bloody weeks, the war ended and then a few short years later, we had peace with one of our neighbors.

May this coming year bring a little more peace to the world and to our world. May our prayers be answered. Shana Tova – may you all have a sweet and healthy year filled with happy times.

David Allen

Welcome New Members!

Sheri Blumenthal of Lewiston
Ellen Frankel & Herb Levine of PA, summers in New Gloucester
James & Kristen Isaacson of Portland
Joshua & Samantha Kahn of Naples
Evelyn Lane of Auburn and daughters, Carol & Roberta
Lindsey Walker of Lewiston

To all who have a subscription to the SunJournal newspaper – the Temple can received a \$100 credit to be used for advertising from each person who calls!

Call now and ask for Will at 784-5411 and ask that it be credited to Temple Shalom!

This month's Ma Chadash is sponsored by

The Laskoff Family
In memory of George Laskoff

Call Julie to see how you can sponsor an issue of the Ma Chadash.

!!BOOK GROUP NEWS!!



Why did we have such a small group on September 17, consisting of Sandy Traister, Helene Perry, Judy Abromson and me, Lesli Weiner? Possibly because the book, *Dinner at the Center of the Earth* by Nathan Englander, was so difficult to read. The book reflects Englander's heartbreak over the Israeli-Palestine peace process falling apart. He saw both sides always avenging the other and their

inability to see the other side. He introduces characters in two time periods twenty years apart, and you're halfway through the book before you realize they are the same person. So the structure was hard. In Englander's words: "It's a literary novel inside a spy thriller that's inside a love story --- a love story that's tucked inside an allegory. Unless it's the other way around." This author is best known for his short stories, and perhaps these tales would have been better told separately.

Hopefully we'll fare better with our next novel *The Two-Family House* by Lynda Cohen Loigman. One review promises that it's a novel you won't be able to put down. Another gushes that it's "an emotional but dreamy novel that.....will transport you far, far away from your dreary Monday morning. You may do a lot of sobbing, but don't worry, you'll be smiling by the end." Here is Amazon's book description:

"Brooklyn, 1947: In the midst of a blizzard, in a two-family brownstone, two babies are born, minutes apart. The mothers are sisters by marriage: dutiful, quiet Rose, who wants nothing more than to please her difficult husband; and warm, generous Helen, the exhausted mother of four rambunctious boys who seem to need her less and less each day. Raising their families side by side, supporting one another, Rose and Helen share an impenetrable bond forged before and during that dramatic winter night.

When the storm passes, life seems to return to normal; but as the years progress, small cracks start to appear and the once deep friendship between the two women begins to unravel. No one knows why, and no one can stop it. One misguided choice; one moment of tragedy. Heartbreak wars with happiness and almost, but not quite, wins. Moving and evocative, Lynda Cohen Loigman's debut novel *The Two-Family House* is a heart-wrenching, gripping multigenerational story, woven around the deepest of secrets."

So join us on MONDAY, OCTOBER 15 at 4 PM. This 4.5 star novel is readily available through your local library or on kindle. Get out the tissues.....lesli

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) 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.



We all enjoy our Thursday morning Minyans and breakfast schmoozes. **HELP!** We need volunteers to shop and setup. A sign-up sheet is in the kitchen.

Join us at 7 p.m. on October 19 for another installment of Temple Shalom's "Storytelling Night" as Phyllis Graber Jensen follows a brief Friday evening service and dessert with an oral and visual presentation.



Phyllis will use the *PechaKucha* format in which 20 images are explained for 20 seconds each to explore a compelling topic. In this case, she will investigate: "What makes me me?" Phyllis may take the liberty of including more images and lengthier commentary. If this doesn't keep you away, nothing will.

The *PechaKuch* presentation format was devised by Astrid Klein and Mark Dytham of [Klein Dytham architecture](#), and the first PechaKucha Night was held in Tokyo in their gallery/lounge/bar/club/creative kitchen, [SuperDeluxe](#), in February, 2003. Klein Dytham architecture still organizes and supports the global PechaKucha Night network and organizes PechaKucha Night Tokyo.

There will be no Shabbat Services on Saturday, October 20th.

SPEEDY RECOVERY

We pray for refuah sh'leimah – the full and speedy recovery of **Georgette Belancher, Phil Bray, Gary Buckman, John Calloway, June Wilner Chason, Lloyd W. Cohen, Cheryl Dufour, Louise Forgues, Isaak Gekhtin, Anne Geller, Ariella Green, Sharon Hemond, Elizabeth Johnson, Suzan Katzir, Susan Lifter, Bruce Meyer, Sandy Miller, Maude Olsen, Marsha Plavnick, Sybil Rohilly, Joel Salberg, Bert Silverstein, Sara Tedlow, Sandy Traister, Neal Weiner**, 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.



Fall Shabbaton

featuring Joey Weisenberg and the Torah of Music

Friday, Oct. 26 and Saturday, Oct. 27, 2018

Colby College

Singing. Hiking. Learning. Celebrating.



CENTER FOR
SMALL TOWN
JEWISH LIFE

For a full schedule, go to
colby.edu/Jewishlife/fall-shabbaton

JewishLife@colby.edu


 [/MaineJewishLife](https://www.facebook.com/MaineJewishLife)

Photo Credit: Emil Cohen

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Sophie Kaplan	Oct	1
Melanie Rausch		4
Joseph Worthy		6
Willard Hertz		10
Judy Abromson		15
Amy Nussinow		16
Amy Jensen		17
Lisa Belanger		18
Ian Mason Rausch		20
Lewis Zidle		21
Matthew Cohen		22
Elcha Buckman		23
Timothy Zidle		23
John Isaacson		24
Jerryanne LaPerriere		25
Jennifer Worthy		25
Ian Bodenheimer		27



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Joel & Elisabeth Salberg	Oct	6
Shelley & Richard Rau		9
Kenneth & Charlene Goodman		28
Lewis & Joy Zidle		29



Yahrzeiten

Esther Krakower	Oct.	1
Paul Roberts		2
Norman Izenstatt		4
George Shapiro		4
Louis Cohen		5
Louis Steinman		6
Marcy Plavin		11
Ruth Burke		19
Richelle Cohen Levoy		22
Samual Cohen		23
Marie Jaeger		23
Abraham Miller		24
Martin Burke		25
Harris Isaacson		25
Avis Schwartz		25
EC Nussinow		26
Hyman Rubinstein		26
Sadie Baker		30
Reva Finks Roth		31



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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Hold the Date!



Kristallnacht

Led by Anna Wrobel
Sunday, November 4th
Brunch at 11:00 a.m.

2018 Kol Nidrei Pledge Donors

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Thanks!
for your
Support!!

CONTRIBUTIONS

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Harriet & Behzad Fakhery

To Helene Kohn for a speedy recovery

Mitch Ross

In honor of receiving an honor on Rosh Hashanah

Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz

In memory of Helene Beth Krasner

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

In memory of Helene Beth Krasner

In honor of Helene Perry's 80th birthday

In memory of Enid Ehrlich

Daniel Strauss

In appreciation

Babs & Michael Shapiro

In memory of Helene Beth Krasner

Joel & Sheri Olstein

In memory of Helene Beth Krasner

Lesli & Neal Weiner

In memory of Enid Ehrlich

Sandra Traister & Family

In memory of Enid Ehrlich

Bertha Bodenheimer

In memory of Enid Ehrlich

Bonnie & Larry Faiman

In memory of Helene Beth Krasner

Happy anniversary to Cathy & Stan Tetenman

Happy birthday to Helene Perry

Speedy & full recovery to David Allen

Thank you to Rabbi Sruli & Lisa for the
inspirational & meaningful High Holiday
services

Thank you to Julie Waite for her assistance
in High Holiday preparation

Happy anniversary to Phyllis Graber Jensen
& Hilmar Jensen

In memory of Enid Ehrlich

Thank you to Scott Eicher for his help in
building the Sukkah

ABROMSON MEMORIAL FUND

Judy Abromson & Family

In memory of Natalie Abromson

In memory of Helene Beth Krasner

BODENHEIMER PASSOVER FUND

Joan Levenson

In memory of Harvey Baker

To Bertha Bodenheimer & Cathy & Stan
Tetenman in appreciation

In memory of Sadie Baker

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Phyllis Bell

In memory of Leonard Bell

In memory of Jeffrey Bell

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Estelle Rubinstein

In memory of George Laskoff

In memory of Helene Beth Krasner

To Doris Oberstein in honor of her 90th
birthday

Amy & Scott Nussinow

In memory of Paul Krasner

In memory of Charles Schneidman

In memory of Samuel Nussinow

In memory of Saul Schneidman

In memory of Helene Beth Krasner

In appreciation of Rabbi Sruli Dresdner

Susan & David Teich

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Helene & Lewis Perry

In memory of Enid Ehrlich

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In appreciation

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DATED MATERIAL
OCTOBER 2018

OCTOBER AT TEMPLE SHALOM

Monday, 10/1	12:30 pm	Mahjong
Thursday, 10/4	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Saturday, 10/6	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Monday, 10/8	12:30 pm	Mahjong
Thursday, 10/11	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Saturday, 10/13	10:00 am	Shabbat in the Woods, Thorncrag, Lewiston
Monday, 10/15	12:30 pm	Mahjong
	4:00 pm	Book Group
	5:15 pm	Program Committee Meeting
	7:00 pm	Temple Board Meeting
Thursday, 10/18	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Friday, 10/19	7:00 pm	Service, followed by dessert and Storytelling with Phyllis Graber Jensen
		NO Shabbat Service
Saturday, 10/20		
Monday, 10/22	12:30 pm	Mahjong
Thursday, 10/25	7:00 am	Weekday morning minyan & breakfast
Friday, 10/26 & 27		Fall Shabbaton, Colby College
Saturday, 10/27	9:30 am	Shabbat Service
Monday, 10/29	12:30 pm	Mahjong

