



MA CHADASH! מה חדש!

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

August 2020, Av/Elul 5780

Temple Shalom Still Strong!



FROM THE RABBI



From a review of Disneyland in the Yiddish Daily Forward, 1957:

I don't know if a Garden of Eden awaits adults in the hereafter. I do know, though, that there is a Garden of Eden for children here in this life. I know because I, myself, visited this paradise. I have just returned from there, just passed through its gates, just left the magical kingdom known as Disneyland. And as I bid that kingdom farewell, I understood for the first time the true meaning of the French saying, 'to leave is to die a

little.' [reported and translated by Menachem Butler for Tablet Magazine, June 2016].

The author of this review was none other than the noted Jewish author, professor, humanitarian, Nobel Peace Prize recipient and Holocaust survivor, Elie Wiesel. It is almost incomprehensible to me that just 12 years after being subjected to theretofore unimaginable cruelty and evil perpetrated by the hands of fellow human beings—after enduring ghettos, Auschwitz (where his mother and younger sister were murdered on arrival), a forced march, and Buchenwald (where he watched his father being beaten to death by a German soldier)—Dr. Wiesel still had the capacity to recognize and appreciate magic—even, man-made magic.

Menachem Butler writes:

Wiesel concludes his description of visiting Disneyland with a story from four years earlier, when he was a journalist covering the Cannes Film Festival. Elie Wiesel approached Walt Disney and asked: "The whole world loves you; your children's films have brought you honor, renown, and anything one could wish for. I want to ask you: What is your goal? What do you want—what would you want—to achieve with your film work?" Disney thought for a bit, fixing his large eyes on a far off, invisible point in space, and answered: "Childhood. The goal of my work has always been to awaken a sense of youth in men, in adults. Because—the best part of man's life is his childhood." Wiesel's ending places the Holocaust survivor next to Mickey Mouse, in a way that feels at once jarring and profound: "Difficult as it is to admit, I did not understand his words at the time. I do understand them better now, however, having been to Disneyland. Today, I visited not only Disneyland, but also—and especially—my childhood."

As we attempt to cope with the heretofore unimaginable events of the past several months—the overwhelming number of deaths, the seemingly endless interruption of our daily lives, the fear, the unprecedented political divisiveness, as well as the ongoing struggles and uncertainties impacting the world and especially our beloved United States—it is the large and small magical moments that help to keep our hopes alive and allow us to revel in life itself. Let's resolve to fight the urge to give in to cynicism and despair and, instead, open our hearts to seek out and savor all the beauty and love that still surround us. If Elie Wiesel could, so can we.

Rabbi Sruli

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is a beautiful day, as I sit on the porch looking at the water, watching a little boy – maybe eight years old – water ski...life seems normal, if but for a moment.

Yesterday, Anne and I met our best friends, Skip and Sue, at a park in Portsmouth. They are from Massachusetts and this is the first time we have seen them since late February. Skip wore a t-shirt that sums it all up – (excuse the language) “2020 Sucks”. What more must be said?

The Board decided that the safest thing to do is have the High Holidays via Zoom. We are looking into having someone be our 'technical assistant', so that everyone who wants to join us for the holidays, can. We are also working on a solution for the few people without computers or internet. It is important that we all stay connected...to each other...to the Temple...to life.

Even if you have not joined us for any Zoom events, please join us for the High Holidays. You can come in and out of the Zoom event at any time, without disturbing people. Maybe try a Zoom Friday night...you can stay for five minutes or the entire hour...whatever you are comfortable with. Don't let COVID prevent you from enjoying your community and Temple. Don't let COVID prevent you from attending High Holiday services.

Unfortunately, we have decided to suspend our pre-school program for 20-21 school year. Karen, the head teacher, took a job with one of the school departments. Lena, the assistant teacher, moved back to Eastern Europe. Both were great and we wish them only the very best. With the difficulties of finding new teachers, in this environment AND trying to keep our facility clean and healthy, the way we would want it, if our children were in pre-school, we felt it was best to suspend the program. Scott Nussinow and I are two of the 'graduates' from our pre-school program and we all were very sad to have to make this decision.

Even though our building is closed, for the foreseeable future, expenses go on. The heating ventilation system is still being replaced, as we made this commitment last fall. Electricity, Julie and the rabbi's salaries and other expenses are needed and ongoing. We have taken a fair amount of money out of our reserves this year and will have to continue to do that to meet our obligations.

I know times are difficult and uncertain. We don't know what tomorrow's (or even later today's) news will bring, but please remember your Temple. Remember that we need your financial support to ensure that we are here for many years to come. If you can, please make a donation today to help defray some of the ongoing costs. Your financial support is needed, now.

Look for silver linings. Enjoy the beautiful days of this Maine summer. Keep in touch with friends, via Zoom or phone or maybe write one of those old-fashioned letters. Remember how we all used to love getting real mail? Maybe now is the time to pull out some stationary and write to a friend whom you have lost touch with or just have not communicated with in a while. It will make you feel good and I am sure will brighten up their day as well.

We are in uncharted territory. So, if you need anything from me, Rabbi Sruli, the Board or any one at the Temple, please reach out. If these times are getting to you and you just need to talk, know that you can pick up the phone, drop an email (or a letter) and we will be there to help in any way we can. We are a community and a family and we support one another, especially in times of need.

Anne and I wish all of you the best of health...be safe...wear a mask...social distance...as I tell my children, make smart decisions.



!!!!WOMEN!!!!

SAVE THE DATE

AUGUST 20

7 PM

ROSH CHODESH

ELUL

VIA ZOOM, STATE-WIDE

**“MOVING TOWARDS THE LIGHT OF
RENEWAL”**

Alas, no pot luck dinner this year on Bertha's porch,
But STILL led by TEMPLE SHALOM
With some contributions from
Other synagogues across our state!

There will be songs, learning, meditation, a story
And much more!!

Stay tuned for an email from
The Center for Small Town Jewish Life
Where you can register for this free event.

Rosh Chodesh



ראש חודש

Celebrating Renewal Every Month

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



A little mix-up on the dates resulted in a smaller attendance on July 6th. Helen Perry, Judy Abromson, Lindsey Walker, Joel Olstein, Bertha Bodenheimer and I, Lesli Weiner, were on zoom to discuss Matti Friedman's *Spies of No country: Secret Lives at the Birth of Israel*. The book is non-fiction, a look at the lives of 4 Jewish men who were born and raised in Arab countries and who could pass as Arabs and went undercover in Beirut in 1948. While this was an

interesting look at the formation of the state of Israel through espionage by this ragtag unit called The Arab Section, it was certainly not a thriller. Except for a few completed missions, it just didn't seem like the unit accomplished that much. Not exactly a page-turner.

Our next book is actually advertised as a thriller so I have high hopes. It's called *Second Violin* and is Book 6 in John Lawton's Inspector Troy series. Here's Amazon's description: **"As London braces for WWII, a string of murdered rabbis draws Inspector Troy into a mystery that "sets pulses racing and the jaded responses tingling" (*The Irish Times*).**

One of today's top historical espionage writers, considered "as good as Le Carré" (*Chicago Tribune*) and "a master," John Lawton adds another spellbinding thriller to his Inspector Troy series with *Second Violin* (*Rocky Mountain News*).

The sixth installment in the series, Lawton's new novel opens in 1938 with Europe on the brink of war. In London, Frederick Troy, newly promoted to the prestigious murder squad at Scotland Yard, is put in charge of rounding up a list of German and Italian "enemy aliens" that also includes his brother, Rod, who learns upon receiving an internment letter that he was born in Austria despite having grown up in England. Hundreds of men are herded by train to a neglected camp on the Isle of Man. And as the bombs start falling on London, a murdered rabbi is found, then another, and another . . .

Amid great war, murder is what matters. Moving from the Nazi-infested alleys of prewar Vienna to the bombed-out streets of 1940 London, and featuring an extraordinary cast of characters, Lawton's thriller is a suspenseful and intelligent novel, as good a spy story as it is an historical narrative."

We'll be meeting, via zoom, on MONDAY, AUGUST 10 at 4PM.

At this month's meeting we also chose our next 9 books. This time we weren't relying on the library to have them. But they're all available on Kindle or for sale on Amazon.

- Sept 14.....*Cry of the Peacock* by Gina Nahai
- Oct 12.....*Inheritance* by Dani Shapiro
- Nov 9.....*The Dutch Wife* by Ellen Keith
- Dec 14.....*Apeirogon* by Colum McCann
- Jan 11.....*Five Quarters of the Orange* by Joanne Harris
- Feb 8.....*The First Mrs. Rothschild* by Sara Aharoni
- Mar 8.....*Final Stop Algiers* by Mishka Ben-David
- Apr 12.....*Where the Desert Meets the Sea* by Werner Sonne
- May 10.....*My Grandfather Would Have Shot Me* by Jennifer Teege

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN BY STAN TETENMAN FOR THE MARCH EDITION OF MA CHADASH, DUE TO COVID-19 THE BUILDING WAS CLOSED AND MA CHADASH WAS NOT PRINTED.

Last month David asked if I could write an article for February. I declined because I had trouble trying to write something apolitical. He and Anne were on vacation for a couple of weeks this month, so I thought I give him a break and try again.

I am about half way through a book, *Here All Along*, by Sarah Hurwitz. Sarah was a speech writer for both Barack and Michelle Obama. After her Bat Mitzvah she lost contact with Judaism. She did celebrate the major holidays and rarely went to services. The book is about how she came back to actively participating in Judaism. I highly recommend it.

It is not a book about suddenly finding G-d. It is more about spirituality and how Judaism relates to how we live our lives. I think it is about how the tenets of our religion being the basis of how we can be good people.

She poses the following about how to measure if someone is an observant Jew. She wonders if “a Jew who would never dream of eating non-kosher food or working on Shabbat and who dutifully prays three times a day – but frequently gossips, lies, and cuts corners in business dealings – is considered “observant”. Whereas a Jew who has no ritual practice – but scrupulously follows the ethical mitzvot, taking great care to speak kindly and truthfully and behaving with impeccable personal integrity – is considered “nonobservant”.”

She also talks about gossip. She wrote some Rabbis and Jewish commentators refer to gossip as “lashon hara”, meaning “evil tongue”. She relates a classic Jewish story to illustrate why.

“In a small town, a man who disliked the rabbi went about spreading malicious reports about him...At a certain point the man realized that what he had said was unfair and had immensely damaged the rabbi's reputation. Full of remorse, he confessed to the rabbi what he had done, and begged for forgiveness. The rabbi, shocked at what the man had said, told him, “Go home and take a feather pillow, then go outside, cut it open, and scatter its feathers to the winds. After you have done that, come back to me.” The man thought the request bizarre, but, relieved that this act would gain the rabbi's forgiveness, followed the instructions precisely. When he returned, he asked the rabbi, “Am I now forgiven?” “One more thing,” the rabbi replied. “Now go and gather up all the feathers.”

I recently finished another book, *Never Coming Back*, by Alison McGhee. It is about a daughter and her relationship with her mother who has developed Alzheimer's disease. In it she writes about how words were spoken in rage. I was taken with her description: “Once words have been raged at someone, they can't be taken back. They enter into the body and heart of their victim, and they change the victim forever. What is not as commonly acknowledged is that they do the same to the one who screamed them out.”

It would be interesting to have a couple of discussions about what makes someone an observant Jew or what ethical standards make us a good person. I really can't let this go without asking if those whom we elect to lead our country, from either party, meet what we consider ethical standards for being a good person.

SPEEDY RECOVERY

We pray for refuah sh'leimah – the full and speedy recovery of **Georgette Belanger, Gary Buckman, June Wilner Chason, Dougie Fleck, Sara Graf, Robert Galumbeck, Isaak Gekhtin, Detlef Gerlach, Ariella Green, Sharon Hemond, Meryl Jaffe, Michael Jeser, Elizabeth Johnson, Suzan Katzir, Lynn Kaduson, Henry Lefkowitz, Lee Leveille, Susan Lifter, Bruce Meyer, Sandy Miller, Joel Salberg, Bob Scott, Sandy Traister, Neal Weiner, William White** 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.*



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Neal & Lesli Weiner	Aug	3
Harvey & Elaine Bell		5
Emily & Annette Macaluso		5
Lewis & Helene Perry		7
Jerrold & Jennifer Cohen		11
Christopher & Mara King		23
Amy & Robert Jensen		31



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Jacob Allen	Aug	12
Daniel Abromson		14
Stuart Isaacson		15
Jacob Teich		15
David Mazur		18
Seth Meyer		18
Danale Jensen		19
Joseph Jensen		19
Jed Kutzen		19
Deena Weinstein		20
David Allen		22
Hali Isaacson		22
Sam Allen		23
David Gardner		26
Jerrold Cohen		30
Rocky Isaacson		30



Yahrzeiten

Charles Pributsky	Aug.	1
Muriel Ross		1
Bernice Harris		3
Clara (Brownie) Marcus		4
Fannye Roberts		8
Seymour Tetenman		11
Nathan Kutzen		13
Iris Laskoff		13
Lester Miller		18
Jay Graber		19
Martha Bodenheimer		24
Minette Lezberg		24
Joan "Maude" Olsten		25
Irving Kraunz		26
Pearl Brody		28
Charles Traister		30



As you know by now, due to the corona virus we do not have our regular services/programs at Temple Shalom.

Please join in our interactive online services/programs on ZOOM from the safety and comfort of your home! You can access with a computer, tablet or smartphone.

If you would like to be notified of programs/services via Zoom, please email Julie at temple6359@aol.com and she will add you to the list for weekly updates.



Instructions on how to join our Temple Shalom Zoom Meetings:

Join a Meeting on a Desktop or Laptop

- Zoom will start up automatically when you click on a meeting link.
- Enter the meeting password if prompted to do so.

Join a Meeting from a Phone or Tablet

- Start the ZOOM app.
- Click the blue "Join" button with the "+" on it.
- Enter the Meeting ID using the numeric keypad.
- Enter the meeting password if prompted to do so.
- Click "Join Meeting"

Your Meeting ID and Password

The meeting leader will send you the meeting ID and Password.

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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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.

CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

Lesli & Neal Weiner

To David Allen in honor of making PPE

Harriet & Behzad Fakhery

In memory of Sara Feldman

In memory of Harry Shapiro

Andrew & Sharon Bodenheimer

In honor of David Allen

Michael Gagne

In memory of Elinor Goldblatt

In memory of Ben Barr

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In memory of Philip Rosenthal

Marion & Paul Rausch

In memory of Goldie & Irving Goldberg

James & Kristen Isaacson

In memory of Ezra Lape Isaacson

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In memory of Ben Barr

Bonnie & Larry Faiman

In honor of the birthdays of: Bonnie Faiman,

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Speedy recovery to Estelle Rubinstein and

Elcha Buckman

Welcome back to Maine to Margaret & Hank

Meyer & Tucker

Sharon Day

In memory of Ben Barr

In honor of granddaughter, Natalie James

Grandahl on her achievements as Valedictorian &

Class president, National Honor Society & numerous

other awards at Monmouth Academy class of 2020

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

In memory of May Tetenman

In memory of Ben Barr

In memory of John Calloway

Bertha Bodenheimer

In honor of Rabbi's Sruli's birthday

To Lesli Weiner in appreciation

In memory of John Calloway

Anne & David Allen

In memory of Bob Allen

In honor of Rabbi's Sruli's birthday

In memory of Ben Barr

In memory of John Calloway

Estelle Rubinstein

In honor of Rabbi Sruli's birthday

In memory of John Calloway

Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz

In memory of Clara Marcus

Susan & Robert Scott

In memory of Arthur F. Lawrence

thank
you
for your
support!

CONTRIBUTIONS (continued)

CEMETERY FUND

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In memory of A.H. Plavin

In memory of Ben Barr

LIBRARY FUND

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In memory of Howard & Cecile Kates

MARCUS MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND

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Joy & Lewis Zidle

In memory of Laurel "Lolly" Allen

Joel Olstein

In appreciation of Rabbi Sruli

In memory of John Calloway

RANDALL SILVER LIBRARY FUND

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In memory of John Calloway

Malca Wilner

In honor of the birthdays of: Melissa Johnson,

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In memory of John Calloway

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