



# MA CHADASH!

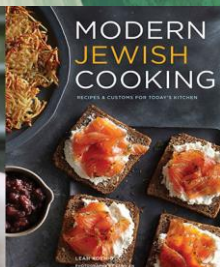
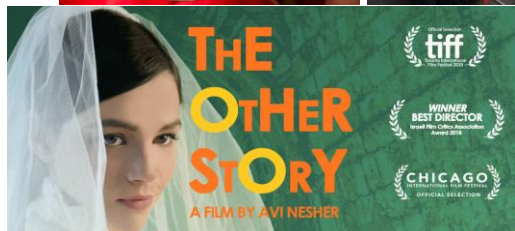
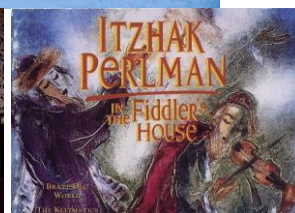
# מה חדש!

What's New! The newsletter of Temple Shalom Synagogue Center, Auburn, Maine

ק"ק היכל שלום

January 2021, Tevet/Shevat 5781

## Temple Shalom (Like Humpty Dumpty) had a Great Fall!



## FROM THE RABBI



The Hebrew word for “hope,” *Tikvah*, just so happens to rhyme with the Hebrew word *Mikvah*. This is not a coincidence. Both words actually share the same root. Most of you know that the word *Mikvah* describes a pool of water, typically for ritual use. You might also be familiar with the word *Tikvah* from the title of Israel’s National Anthem--*HaTikvah*--which means “the Hope,” and refers to the idea (explicitly expressed in the anthem) that the modern State of Israel represents the realization of a hope that the Jewish people have carried for two thousand years.

So what do “hope” and *Mikvah* have in common? Their shared root “KVA” means to collect. A *Mikvah* is a “collection” (or pool) of water. Simple enough. But the connection between hope and “collect?”

This January brings much hope. Hope that we can finally see past the world of COVID-19. Hope that at least some time in the next year, our lives can return to normal. Hope that we can stay healthy until the vaccine grants us a measure of security. But for a hope, even the most fervently wished for hope, to come to fruition, a *Mikvah* is required—not a ritual cleansing, but a “collection.” Our beloved Hebrew language understands that for a “hope” to become a reality we must collect and collect and collect—collect our inner resources, collect like-minded individuals (often across many generations), collect friends and supporters. As the creator of the world-changing polio vaccine, Dr. Jonas Salk, so Jewishly put it, “*There is hope in dreams, imagination, and in the courage of those who wish to make those dreams a reality.*”

As COVID-19 was ravaging the world, an unprecedented, massive collection of people—political leaders, entrepreneurs, “guinea pigs” volunteers, transportation and factory workers, and, most importantly, scientists and more scientists, worked themselves to the bone—and worked together—in order to bring us miraculous vaccines in record-shattering time. Vaccines that as recently as a month ago were still only wished for hopes have now become a reality.

We have all learned many, many things in the past year—from new ways to connect (which will undoubtedly shape our future, post-COVID-19 interactions), to how to turn your video on and off during a Zoom meeting. But perhaps the most important lesson (and one that I hope makes a deep impression on my children), is the lesson of possibility—that when people really care about something and have the courage “to make those dreams a reality,” then we can truly make the impossible possible.

As we cautiously allow hope to seep back into our souls, I am filled with deep gratitude to all those who dedicated their entire lives to developing the myriad necessary skills, and then worked so hard over this past year, in order to turn not just their dreams, but all of our dreams, into a reality.

*(Reprinted from last month’s Ma Chadash, in case you missed it!).* On the subject of gratitude, I can’t begin to find the words to express to all of you the deep and bottomless feelings of gratitude and blessing that flood my soul for the extraordinary honor that you bestowed on me at the Annual Meeting. To know that one’s hard work is appreciated, admired, and not taken for granted is a very special gift. I only hope that I can continue to be worthy of this great honor. If I am an “Astounding Rabbi” it is only because you are an astounding community.

Rabbi Sruli

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Finally, 2020 is over. A sad year that saw far too many die. A year that saw divisiveness on the rise. A year for the history books and hopefully, never to be repeated.

Somehow, I came across the following. It came from Rabbi David Ashear. I have made some small edits, but these are mostly his words.

### **A Smile and a few Kind Words.**

A smile costs nothing. Kind words cost the same. Each enriches those who receive, without making poorer those who give.

Each takes but a moment, but the memory lasts forever.

None is so rich or mighty that he can get along without smiles and kind words and none is so poor that he can't be made rich by receiving.

A smile or a few Kind Words create happiness in the home, fosters goodwill in business and are the signs of friendship.

They bring cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad and they are nature's best antidote for troubles.

Yet, neither can be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen, for they are things that have no value to anyone until given away AND then have limitless value to both the giver and receiver.

Some people are too tired to give a smile or to share a few kind words. Give them some of yours as no one needs smiles and kind words as he who has no more to give.

When disagreeing with another, be it in politics, at the Temple, at home or in the work place, keep in mind that both parties have the same goal. In politics, we all want what is best for everyone. We just have different ideas on how to get there. At the Temple, we all want to see the Temple and the L/A Jewish community thrive. We just have different ways to accomplish that. At home, we all want what is best for the family. However, we may want to take different paths to get there. At work, we all want to see the business succeed and the employees do well (As each is dependent upon the other), we just have different ways of accomplishing that goal. So remember, arguments are two sides of the same coin. The goals are the same. The paths may be different.

I expect and am hopeful that we will all be able to get together, in our beautiful Temple Shalom home by mid-year. Maybe still with masks, but certainly with big smiles.

May 2021 bring joy and happiness, rebirth and rejuvenation to each of us, to our Temple and our Nation.

David Allen

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### **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO**

Jonathan & Jennipher Greven	Jan	19
Ellen & Aaron Burke		21
Robert & Jackie Laskoff		29



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



We had Book Group on December 14. Zooming in were Lindsey Walker, Judy Abromson, Bertha Bodenheimer, Mitch Ross, Marsha Auster and me, Lesli Weiner.

An apeirogon is defined as a shape with an infinite number of sides, approaching but not reaching a circle. The book by that name, written by Colum McCann, goes round and around in circles, going back and forth in time, sometimes telling the same story, but maybe with more detail. The writing style was hard to get used to at first, but as you got more involved in the stories, it became quite lyrical, almost poetic. *Apeirogon* makes you think. There's much symbolism and metaphor, and the 1001 chapters is meant to recall the stories of the Arabian Nights. And even though the story is about 2 men, one Palestinian, the other Israeli, who both have daughters who were murdered by the other side, the book is ultimately uplifting. Somehow the men are able to each find forgiveness for the other side. They form a friendship and spend their lives helping people find the ability to forgive, to empathize, and to move forward. Don't give up on this unusual novel, which is based on true events.

We will start the New Year off with *Five Quarters of the Orange* by Joanne Harris, best known for *Chocolat*.

“When Framboise Simon returns to a small village on the banks of the Loire, the locals do not recognize her as the daughter of the infamous woman they hold responsible for a tragedy during the German occupation years ago. But the past and present are inextricably entwined, particularly in a scrapbook of recipes and memories that Framboise has inherited from her mother. And soon Framboise will realize that the journal also contains the key to the tragedy that indelibly marked that summer of her ninth year. . . .”

Sounds intriguing and quite mysterious. Join us when Book Group meets on MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021 at 4PM via zoom. If you're not on my list, let Julie know you want to attend so I can send you an invitation. It's now officially winter, the perfect time to hunker down and read a good book.....lesli.



**BOARD MEETING**

Temple Board of Directors' Meeting

Monday, January 11, 2021

7:00 pm (via Zoom)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Sarah Olstein	Jan.	1
Henry Meyer		3
Becca Platz		9
Cynthia Hart		10
Jennifer Ann Cohen		10
Susan Lifter		10
Neal Weiner		12
Elyse Bodenheimer		14
Rachel Fakhery		16
Adrienne Rau		17
Jennifer Greven		18
Victoria Cohen		20
Gillian Schair		20
Susan Teich		22
Bertha Bodenheimer		23
Rosa Cohen		23
Kristine Rausch		23
Behzad Fakhery		25
Sandra Traister		25
Graham Mitchell		26
Jackie Laskoff		29



## Yahrzeiten

Peter Olejer	Jan	2
Pauline Cohen		2
Michael Shain		4
Walter Jaeger		5
Sylvia Kutzen		6
Ruth S. Williams		6
Jayne Wilner		7
Elsie Goodman		8
Ida Finks		14
Augusta Olstein		14
Ellen Bodenheimer		15
Bernard Weiner		17
Bernard Marcus		18
Reevan Levine		19
Janet Wilner Kornreich		20
Maynard Schwartz		20
Ernest B. Williams		20
Marie Rau Stein		21
Martin Miller		22
John A. Platz		23
Jennie Krasner		25
Maxwell Passerman		25
Arthur Fishman		26
Shirley Asher		30
Anne Leavitt		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

Office Manager Julie Waite

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

## SPEEDY RECOVERY

We pray for refuah sh'leimah – the full and speedy recovery of **Georgette Belanger, June Wilner Chason, Dougie Fleck, Sara Graf, Robert Galumbeck, Isaak Gekhtin, Detlef Gerlach, Ariella Green, Sharon Hemond, Michael Jeser, Elizabeth Johnson, Suzan Katzir, Lynn Kaduson, Linda Koskela, Henry Lefkowitz, Lee Leveille, Jim Lifter, Bruce Meyer, Sandy Miller, Hershel ben Moshe, Shana Richman, Joel Salberg, Bob Scott, Shmuel Yosef ben Avraham V'Sarah, Sandy Traister, Neal Weiner, Jack Weinstein, 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.*



**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

The following donated in memory  
of Adele Silverman

Alison Mann

Frederick Levine

Judith Brody

Merrick & Shari Turner

Norman & Connie Novick

Sarah & Nathan Szanton

Catherine Collins

Peter & Paula Lunder

Carol Bodenheimer Alberts

Toni Passerman

Bonnie & Larry Faiman

Marianne Miller

Nathan Bergeron

Jacqueline & Rejean Pare

Bonnie & Larry Faiman

Mazel tov to Shelley & Rick Rau on the birth  
of a new grandson

Sincere thanks & appreciation to David & Anne  
Allen for cleaning up the Temple grounds

Mazel tov to David Allen on receiving the Person  
of the Year award

Mazel tov to Rebbetzin Lisa & Rabbi Sruli on their  
son, Zach's engagement

Phyllis Bell

Donation given to help cover the cost of the new  
HVAC upgrade

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

To Chip & Jane Morrison in honor of their daughter,  
Beth, receiving the Artist of the Year award from  
Musical America

To Joel Salberg in honor of a speedy recovery

In memory of Ronald Jean

In memory of Keyla Fuks

Speedy recovery to Ira Rubinstein

Michael Gagne

In memory of Ronald Jean

Sharon & Andrew Bodenheimer

In honor of Estelle Rubinstein's birthday

Speedy recovery to Hershel ben Moshe

Anne & David Allen

In honor of Estelle Rubinstein's birthday

In honor of Zach & Eliana's engagement

The Bell Family

In memory of Marcia Bell

Philip Laine

In memory of Renee Laine

Deborah & Andrew Cohen

In memory of Dorothy Fishman

Marianne Wise

In memory of her father, Ronald Jean



Donnie Isaacson

In memory of Sonny Isaacson & Jack Simons

Bertha Bodenheimer

In memory of Keyla Fuks

**ABROMSON MEMORIAL FUND**

Judy Abromson

In memory of Ronald Jean

**CEMETERY FUND**

Elaine Katz

In memory of Harriet & Sidney Katz

**NUSSINOW PRESCHOOL FUND**

Estelle Rubinstein

In memory of Ronald Jean

**RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Helene & Lewis Perry

To Shelley & Rick Rau in appreciation

To Margaret & Hank Meyer in appreciation

To Rabbi Sruli in recognition of receiving the  
Rabbi of the Year award

To David Allen in recognition of receiving the  
Person of the Year award

In memory of Mazie Schwartz

To Anne Allen in appreciation

James Isaacson & Kris Lape

In memory of Sonny Isaacson & Jack Simons

Margaret & Hank Meyer

In memory of Marie Jaeger

In memory of Adele Silverman

Nancy & Ken Levinsky

In memory of Morris & Adele Silverman

In appreciation of Rabbi Sruli

Arthur Silverman

In memory of Morris Silverman

In memory of Frances Silverman

**RANDALL SILVER LIBRARY FUND**

Jerryanne LaPerriere

In memory of Ronald Jean

**EVE & GEORGE SHAPIRO MEMORIAL FUND**

Robert Royer

In appreciation

**BELL MEMORIAL CHAPEL FUND**

**BODENHEIMER PASSOVER FUND**

**COHEN/LEVOY GARDEN FUND**

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**KITCHEN/BREAKFAST FUND**

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**PRAYER BOOK/PULPIT FUND**

**SHIRLEY GOODMAN MEMORIAL FUND**





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