



# MA CHADASH! מה חדש!

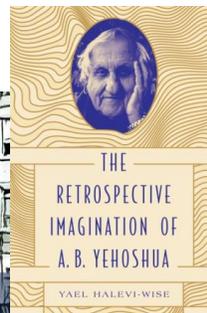
What's New! The newsletter of Temple Shalom Synagogue Center, Auburn, Maine ק"ק היכל שלום

September 2020, Elul/Tishrei 5781

## Tuesdays at Temple Shalom!



Yiddish Theatre with Shane Baker



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### Erev Rosh Hashanah Sacred Music Concert and Service Friday, September 18th, 7 p.m. on Zoom

We usher in the High Holiday season with a concert of Sacred Music to set the mood for the beautiful Erev Rosh Hashanah service. Following the service, we will wish each other a sweet New Year with the traditional apple and honey dipping and eating! Please try to bring an apple and honey to the Service so that we can recite the traditional (short) prayer together.

## FROM THE RABBI



An amazing speech was delivered on August 11th on the floor of the Knesset [Israel's Parliament] by a little-known lawmaker named Tehila Friedman. The soft-spoken Friedman stood at the lectern for just 11 minutes, twice choked up with tears, and sent shivers through the collective national spine. In just two days the video of her speech was viewed at least 1.5 million times on Facebook—a sizable chunk of the world's Hebrew-speaking population. Excerpts were carried in primetime by Israel's major television news channels. Her message directed at Israel's fractured politics yet equally relevant to us here in the USA. Let's listen to

some of her prophetic words:

*I'm a Jew, a religious person, religious-Zionist, nationalist, feminist, Jerusalemite. I was raised with a certain language and tradition that has its truth and beauty and good. But I know that in other communities and worlds there is truth and beauty and good and I can learn from them. I have things to learn from Mizrahi [Sephardic] traditionalism, from the Jews of the Soviet Union, from the Jews of Ethiopia, from the descendants of the pioneers and the labor settlement, from the individualist liberals, from the Haredim [Ultra-Orthodox]. I have things to learn from the Arabs, I have things to learn from the Druze, from the Bedouin. I have things to learn from the Jews of the Diaspora.*

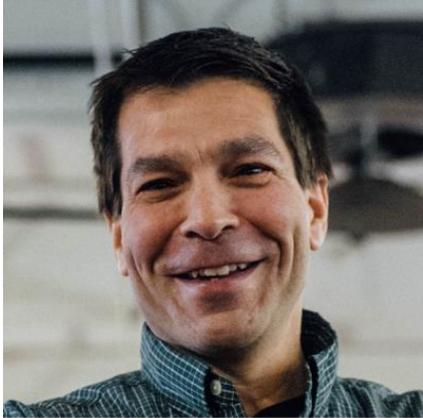
*True, some of these groups and communities have principles, values and behaviors that I oppose with a passion. Some of them actually threaten me—as a woman or a Jew or a Zionist or a religious person. But I recognize and know that in every one of those groups, truly in every one, there are, of course, those who see themselves as the only correct path, whose justice everyone will soon recognize, want to emulate, and that they shall lead and rule. But there are also those who understand that our differences are not temporary—that we are fated to live together and that this is the challenge of our lives. It is with them that I wish to seal an alliance of moderates—with all those who understand this challenge of living together, to restore the power from the fringes that drive us crazy, to create a shared center.*

*I speak softly, I know, and you might make the mistake of thinking my message comes from a soft and accommodating center. But it's the opposite. My center is a preexisting center, a fervent center that is unwilling to compromise on its centrism, on its responsibility for all the residents of the country, on the room it has for all who truly want to live together, that puts limits on extremism and selfishness. A center able to sacrifice its own life on the altar of moderation, of democracy, of a Judaism that makes room. A center that defends bodily the rules of the game that enable us to have an argument without falling to pieces. In the six weeks I've been in this house, I've heard endless mockery and hatred toward entire groups in Israeli society. I've heard the hope that 'they' disappear so 'we' can rule without limits. I want to tell you something. They won't disappear. Call as many elections as you like, no one is going to disappear. If we keep trying to defeat each other, we will only defeat our children's future. It is our mutual solidarity that will be routed, our inner resilience, our ability to continue to uphold this miracle called the State of Israel."*

Adapted from The Times of Israel, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Rabbi Sruli

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



...and life continues on. Not much has changed since last month. We are closer to an election and one that may be like no other in our American Experiment.

Life is difficult now. We, as Americans, have become used to so much of everything and having all of this 'so much' instantly, that maybe we have forgotten how we got here. I recently received the following email and thought I would share it with you. I don't want to say that this puts 2020 in perspective, but it is something to think about.

I TALKED TO A MAN TODAY . . . He was a American citizen, loved and supported our country rather than, praising a Political Party, because after all, any and all men are only a President for 4 to 8 years, OUR COUNTRY has existed for hundreds of years and, will brightly for hundreds of years into the future, providing each and every citizen votes for the good of our country, not for a political party! Hear ye; Hear ye.

I talked with a man today, an 80+ year old man. I asked him if there was anything I can get him while this Corona virus scare was gripping America.

He simply smiled, looked away and said: "Let me tell you what I need! I need to believe, at some point, this country, my generation fought for, I need to believe this nation we handed safely to our children and their children, I need to know this generation will quit being a bunch of sissies, that they respect what they've been given, that they've earned what others sacrificed for."

I wasn't sure where the conversation was going or if it was going anywhere at all. So, I sat there, quietly listening.

"You know, I was a little boy during WWII. Those were scary days. We didn't know if we were going to be speaking English, German or Japanese at the end of the war. There was no certainty, no guarantees like Americans enjoy today. And no home went without sacrifice or loss. Every house, up and down every street, had someone in harm's way. Maybe their Daddy was a soldier, maybe their son was a sailor, maybe it was an uncle. Sometimes it was the whole damn family, fathers, sons, uncles. Having someone, you love, sent off to war, it wasn't less frightening than it is today. It was scary as Hell. If anything, it was more frightening. We didn't have battlefront news. We didn't have email or cellphones. You sent them away and you hoped & you prayed. You may not hear from them for months, if ever. Sometimes a mother was getting her son's letters the same day Dad was comforting her over their child's death. And we sacrificed. You couldn't buy things. Everything was rationed. You were only allowed so much milk per month, only so much bread, toilet paper. EVERYTHING was restricted for the war effort. And what you weren't using, what you didn't need, things you threw away, they were saved and sorted for the war effort. My generation was the original recycling movement in America.

(continued next page)

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued)**

And we had viruses back then, serious viruses. Things like polio, measles, and such. It was nothing to walk to school and pass a house or two that was quarantined. We didn't shut down our schools. We didn't shut down our cities. We carried on, without masks, without hand sanitizer. And do you know what? We persevered. We overcame. We didn't attack our President, our Presidents didn't attack us, nor defend our adversaries. We came together. We rallied around the flag for the war. Thick or thin, we were in it to win. And we would lose more boys in an hour of combat than we lose in entire wars today."

He slowly looked away again. Maybe I saw a small tear in the corner of his eye. Then he continued:

"Today's kids don't know sacrifice. They think sacrifice is not having coverage on their phone while they freely drive across the country. Today's kids are selfish and spoiled. In my generation, we looked out for our elders. We helped out with single moms whose husbands were either at war or dead from war. Today's kids rush to the store, buying everything they can with no concern for anyone but themselves. It's shameful the way Americans behave these days. None of them deserve the sacrifices their granddads & Great granddads made.

So, no I don't need anything. I appreciate your offer but, I know I've been through worse things than this virus. But maybe I should be asking you, what can I do to help you? Do you have enough soda pop to get through this, enough steak? Will you be able to survive with 113 channels on your TV?"

I smiled, fighting back a tear of my own, now humbled by a man in his 80's. All I could do was thank him for the history lesson, & leave with my ego firmly tucked in my rear.

I talked to a man today. A real man. An American man from an era long gone and forgotten.

We will never understand their sacrifices. But we should work harder to learn about them, & learn from them, & surely to respect them.

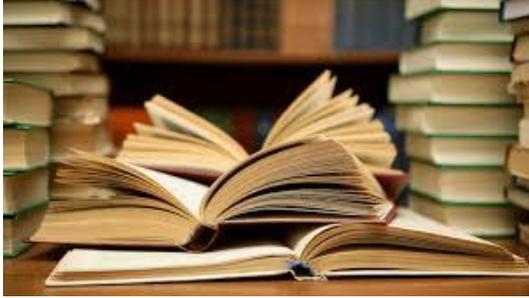
The American Experiment has been successful and will continue to be successful. We, as a country are larger and stronger than this pandemic, as we were larger and stronger than 1918. We, as a country are larger and stronger than any one party or president. America will beat 2020, and everything thrown at us this year, and continue to be the country people want to come to.

As we close out 5780 and begin 5781, may we all find healthy and happiness. May the pandemic soon fade from daily life and start to become a memory. May our election be one that gives us the right leader for our times. With the new year, may our lives begin anew.

Anne and I wish you and your families a happy and healthy 5781. Shana Tova!

David Allen

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



*Second Violin* by John Lawton was the novel we read for August. Present on zoom was Judy Abromson, Margaret Meyer, Linda Griswold, Bertha Bodenheimer, Bonnie Faiman and me, Lesli Weiner. Judy and Margaret liked the book, Bonnie and I did NOT, Bertha couldn't get past the first 100 pages, and Linda hadn't read it (and now doesn't want to!) So this will be a mixed review. Margaret and Judy lauded Lawton on his

historical details, as WWII England is his specialty. He did a good job showing British anti-Semitism, portraying the class system and the politics of the times, peppering the story with real historical figures. But Bonnie and I just slogged through this never-ending book (433 pages). We felt he should have decided which story he wanted to tell – a war story or a murder thriller. The book jacket touts it as an Inspector Troy murder mystery investigating who was killing the Rabbis of London. Just don't expect answers. Look, I could go on, but let's just leave it at it doesn't get my recommendation.

Our next (shorter) book is *Cry of the Peacock* by Gina Nahai, a Persian historical novel. Here's a description of this 4.3 star book:

"Nahai begins her vivid, intriguing historical chronicle in the 1780s in Persia and concludes 200 years later in contemporary Iran. Following a family of Jews through seven generations, from Juyy Bar, the Jewish ghetto of Esfahan, to America, she begins with Esther the Soothsayer. Versed in magic and witchcraft Esther can foretell the future. She appears in the dreams and visions of her progeny, including her granddaughter, Peacock, born in the late 1860s, whose life spans well over a century. Nahai weaves together the brutal history of Muslims, Jews, the shahs and colonial forces that played a part in transforming Persia into Iran, using fables and legends to give much of the novel an exotic, fairy-tale effect. But as the story reaches the 20th century, readers will encounter the exiled Pahlavi shah, Mossadeq and Khomeini, and recognize recent events. Nahai succeeds in personalizing history, opening a window onto the baffling political history of Iran and its neighbors."

We will meet, via zoom, on MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 at 4 PM. If you have not been to Book Group before and want to join in, you must let Julie know so you will get the zoom link. See you then.....lesli



## 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.*



*Wishing you a speedy and complete recovery.*

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Carla Marcus & Lawrence Mohr	Sept.	1
Cathy & Stan Tetenman		3
Anne & David Allen		9
John & Linda Isaacson		13
Hilmar & Phyllis Graber Jensen		17
Susan & David Teich		19
Carmen Comeau & Stuart Cohen		20
Scott & Jennifer Kaplan		27



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Sebastian Chervenak	Sept.	4
Daniel Rausch		6
Michael Laskoff		7
Chrissy Zidle		16
Elizabeth Baumhoff		17
Doretta Shapiro		19
Hilmar Jensen		20
Helene Perry		21
Adam Platz		23
Sarah Kutzen		24
Lewis Perry		25
Jackie Wilner		25
Joel Olstein		28
Jessica Jensen		30
Rachel Jensen		30
Erica Schair		30

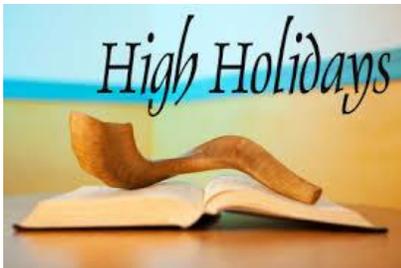


## High Holiday services for Temple Shalom will be on Zoom this year!

Many of you have joined us for programs and services already on Zoom, but for those of you who have not yet or need additional help in connecting or navigating Zoom, please let us know and we will make every effort to assist you.



High Holiday Prayer books will be available (for Temple members) for distribution at the Temple on Wednesday, September 9, from 3:00 to 6:00 and on Thursday, September 10, from 10:00 to Noon. If you are unable to come to the Temple during those times, please let us know and we will deliver them to you.



We want to make your High Holiday experience a meaningful one, so please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any concerns.

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### Yahrzeiten

Dorothy Miller	Sept.	1
George Harris		4
Verrill Scott		4
Matilda Kraunz		5
Ann Frankel		7
Arthur Salberg		7
Hyman Rubenstein		8
David Krasner		8
Hele'ne Beth Krasner		12
Rebecca Cohen Schaffer		14
David Feldman		17
Charles Schneidman		17
Alfred Pennamacoor		18
Saul Schneidman		19
Leonard Bell		21
Winnie Plavnick		22
Paul Krasner		23
Ann Forin		27



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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**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**

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

In memory of Seymour Tetenman

Sharon & Andrew Bodenheimer

In memory of Martha Bodenheimer

Steven Passerman

In appreciation

Babs & Michael Shapiro

In memory of Sara Shapiro

Marianne Miller

In memory of Lester Miller, DMD

Bonnie & Larry Faiman

In memory of John Calloway

Happy anniversary to Lesli & Neal Weiner

Happy anniversary to Helene & Lewis Perry

Happy birthday to David Allen

Karen Calloway

In gratitude to the congregation for their support

Michael Gagne

In memory of John Calloway

Lindsey Walker

In memory of Adele Brown

In memory of Mario Nigro

Tom Reeves

In memory of Elinor Goldblatt

Sharon Day

In memory of John Calloway

## **MITZVAH FUND**

Phyllis Graber Jensen

In memory of John Calloway

In memory of Jay Graber

## **NUSSINOW PRESCHOOL FUND**

Amy & Scott Nussinow

In memory of David Krasner

In memory of Hele'ne Krasner

In memory of Charles Schneidman

In memory of Saul Schneidman

In memory of Winnie Plavnick

In memory of Paul Krasner

## **RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Bob & Jackie Laskoff

In memory of Iris Laskoff

David Mazur

In memory of Brian Magur

Mitch Ross

In memory of Muriel Ross

Gladys Koss

In memory of Jessie Pributsky

Karen Calloway

In honor of Rabbi Sruli, Rebbbetzin Lisa,

Charlie & Johnny for their kindness

Elcha Buckman

In memory of Esther Shain

**ABROMSON MEMORIAL FUND**

Judy Abromson

In honor of Bonnie Faiman's birthday

In memory of Benjamin Barr

**LIBRARY FUND**

Karen Calloway

In loving memory of her husband, John Calloway

**PRAYER BOOK/PULPIT FUND**

Gladys Koss

In memory of Charles Pributsky

**BELL MEMORIAL CHAPEL FUND**

**BODENHEIMER PASSOVER FUND**

**CEMETERY FUND**

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**EVE & GEORGE SHAPIRO MEMORIAL FUND**

**FAMILY HEBREW SCHOOL FUND**

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SEPTEMBER 2020



**ALL SERVICES WILL BE ON ZOOM!**

Friday, 9/18	7:00 pm	Erev Rosh Hashana Sacred Music Concert & Service
Saturday, 9/19	9:00 am	Rosh Hashana 1 <sup>st</sup> Day Service
	1:00 pm	Virtual Tashlich
Sunday, 9/20	9:00 am	Rosh Hashana 2 <sup>nd</sup> Day Service
Sunday, 9/27	6:00 pm	Kol Nidrei Service
Monday, 9/28	9:00 am	Yom Kippur Service
	4:00 pm	Mincha
	5:00 pm	Discussion
	6:00 pm	Yizkor
	6:30 pm	Ne'ilah