



# MA CHADASHI! מה חדש!

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

September 2021, Elul/Tishrei 5781-82



**Simchat Torah (and Sukkot)  
Friday, September 24th, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

**The Most Joyous Night of the Year!  
Child Friendly!**

***A very special inter-generational  
Simchat Torah celebration!***

**The world-renowned Jewish dance leader, Steve Weintraub,  
will once again expertly guide us through (the traditional)  
seven exciting and lively Simchat Torah Zoom Dances!**

**We will also bless the Lulav and Etrog and Rabbi Sruli  
might even perform a magic trick!**

## FROM THE RABBI



*This is all I ask of you...run after justice and mercy...and walk together humbly with Me. These inspiring words written by Rebbetzin Lisa and based on Micah 6:8, have become a regular (and I hope beautiful and meaningful) part of our Shabbat morning together.*

You may be familiar with the Jewish legend of the 36 *tzadikim* (righteous people).

*In Jewish mysticism there's a concept called the Lamed Vavnik. According to Jewish Kabbalistic teaching, 36 righteous people exist in the world at all times who are responsible for the fate of humanity. For the sake of these*

*36 holy saints, God preserves the world even if the rest of society has degenerated to utter barbarism. Every time a Lamed Vavnik dies, a new one appears to take his place. If just one Lamed Vavnik were to turn to sin, God would destroy the world. Nobody knows who the Lamed Vavniks are, including themselves. They may appear as fools, bums or lost souls. They embody humility and experience the "divine presence." In Yiddish folklore, Lamed Vavniks are bestowed with mystical powers and emerge from the shadows whenever disaster threatens the Jewish people. Once the threat is averted, they return to anonymity. They are scattered throughout the globe and they have no acquaintance with one another. Loren Kantor at: <http://woodcuttingfool.blogspot.com>.*

The first written mention of this idea of 36 hidden *tzadikim* (wholly righteous people who sustain the world) is found in the Talmud in the volume dealing with the holiday of *Sukkot* (page 45b)—this happens to be the volume currently being studied by many thousands of Jews who commit to studying one page of the Talmud each day—a practice that takes over seven years to complete:

*Abaye says: The world has no fewer than thirty-six righteous people in each generation who greet the Divine Presence every day, as it is stated: "Happy are all they that wait for Him [lo]" (Isaiah 30:18). The numerological value of "lo," spelled lamed vav, is thirty-six, alluding to the fact that there are at least thirty-six full-fledged righteous individuals in each generation.*

This Talmudic passage, however, makes no mention of the idea that these 36 *tzadikim* are supposed to be hidden. So how do we get to the popular notion found much later in Kabbalistic texts as well as Yiddish literature that insists that these 36 *tzadikim* are not only hidden but present themselves as characters that are easily overlooked and ignored?

While our tradition undoubtedly relies on the Talmud for the basic notion of the 36 *tzadikim*, the Talmud left it up to later generations to more particularly define what a *tzadik* is. And, it turns out, that humility is central to our idea of a *tzadik*. Like Micah says, a *tzadik* is one who walks with God—but humbly! This is fascinating. Every Jewish generation is surrounded by people who present themselves as righteous—rabbis, teachers, Hasidic leaders (who actually refer to themselves as *tzadikim*!). But we always knew in our hearts that the true *tzadik* doesn't announce him or herself as a *tzadik*. On the contrary, the truly righteous person hides behind a mask of ordinariness—even to herself!

As we gather together (alas on Zoom, yet again) to observe and celebrate our most solemn holidays, let us look around and remember that those among us who attract the least attention are likely the most righteous—perhaps even one of the 36?

Wishing everyone a happy and, especially, healthy New Year.  
Rabbi Sruli

P.S. Rabbi Sruli and Lisa will perform an outdoor concert at the Gazebo of the Turner Public Library on Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, at 6:00 p.m.

# FROM THE PRESIDENT



## An Open Letter to Olivia

Dear Olivia,

There are a few occasions in life when people will give you words of wisdom: Wedding, birth of your first child, and of course, your Bat Mitzvah. So, as president of your Temple, I want to share a few 'words of wisdom with you'.

First off, you made your parents, grandparents, brother, family and entire Jewish Community proud at your Bat Mitzvah. You did such a wonderful job. I hope the day was as special for you as it was for your parents.

Throughout the morning, I kept looking at them and they had huge proud smiles on their faces. You did that!

So, I know the morning of your Bat Mitzvah, you woke up, not nervous, not worried, not anxious, but wondering what are David Allen's three favorite t-shirts? Well, shockingly enough, I do have three favorite t-shirts.

My number three favorite t-shirt is a Thing One t-shirt. I love to read and I, like so many, learned by reading Dr. Seuss. This t-shirt reminds me to read. Always take time to read something for fun and enjoyment. Even if it is just a run of the mill novel, you will learn and grow from reading.

My number two favorite t-shirt is a Captain Crunch t-shirt. You know Captain Crunch, of cereal fame. First, I love Captain Crunch cereal. I could eat it three meals a day and not get tired of it. There really is nothing like it. But, the real reason I love this t-shirt is to remind me to always be a kid; always have fun; always smile. Always remember, no matter what you do, remember the kid inside of you, remember to have fun and remember to smile. A smile can take you far in life.

And, drum roll please, my number one favorite t-shirt is black with simple (but powerful) white writing on it. It says "Be a Nice Human." Since you are the nicest girl in your class, you have a great start on this one. People like nice people. Being nice does not cost anything. Being nice makes oneself feel happy, satisfied and content. 'Be a Nice Human' is another version of the Golden Rule. In life, always, always, always (I really, really hate when people repeat a word for emphasis) Be a Nice Human.

Since the morning of your Bat Mitzvah, I hope you have not been stressing too much about my favorite t-shirts, but now you know them and know why they are my favorites.

The second bit of advice is something Lesli touched on when she presented you with a gift from your Temple community. In life, (and in this letter), many people will give you advice. Always listen with an open mind, after all, you could be wrong and their advice could be right (even when you think there is no chance you are wrong). You can rely on your family, friends and your Temple Shalom community to help and advise you whenever you need it. Just ask. However, always look to your parents for most honest and heart felt advice. Know that they, above everyone else, will ALWAYS have your best interests at heart. They will advise you from a position of love and experience and on top of that, they are great, smart, caring, giving people. You may not always like your parents' advice but always give it a bit of extra thought and weight as they will always guide you in a good direction.

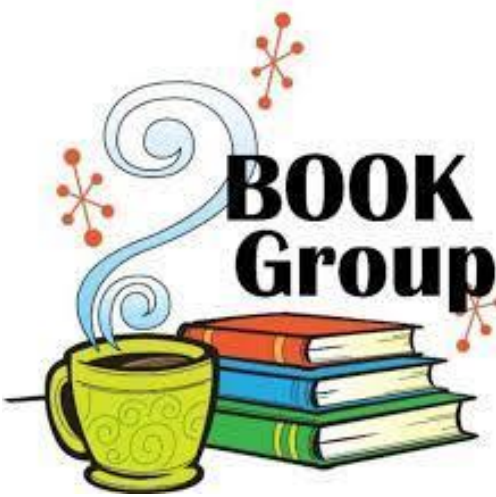
Lastly, continue to embrace your Judaism. You don't always need to come to Temple, but it is nice when you do, but always hold your Jewishness in your heart. Always feel your Jewishness. Always be proud of being a Jew.

Life is a journey. You will hit speed bumps, but if you handle life the way you handled your Bat Mitzvah, you will do great.

Remember, Be a Nice Human!

All my best,  
David Allen

# !!BOOK GROUP NEWS!!



imagination run free!

On August 9 we had a small group for a big book. Those present were Judy Abromson, Bonnie Faiman, Helene Perry, Mitch Ross and me, Lesli Weiner. And the book was *Paper Bullets* by Jeffrey Jackson. Aside from the fact that the book could have been a bit shorter, we were enthralled with this WWII story on the island of Jersey that we knew nothing about. It was a fascinating way for artists to express themselves in political resistance and to see what a big impact it made on the Nazi occupiers. The author stayed true to his factual research, but the book read like a novel. Yes, read it.

Our next selection is *The Lost Shtetl* by Max Gross. I've read this book and will encourage you all to let your

**“A remarkable debut novel—written with the fearless imagination of Michael Chabon and the piercing humor of Gary Shteyngart—about a small Jewish village in the Polish forest that is so secluded no one knows it exists . . . until now.**

What if there was a town that history missed?

For decades, the tiny Jewish shtetl of Kreskol existed in happy isolation, virtually untouched and unchanged. Spared by the Holocaust and the Cold War, its residents enjoyed remarkable peace. It missed out on cars, and electricity, and the internet, and indoor plumbing. But when a marriage dispute spins out of control, the whole town comes crashing into the twenty-first century.



Pesha Lindauer, who has just suffered an ugly, acrimonious divorce, suddenly disappears. A day later, her husband goes after her, setting off a panic among the town elders. They send a woefully unprepared outcast named Yankel Lewinkopf out into the wider world to alert the Polish authorities.

Venturing beyond the remote safety of Kreskol, Yankel is confronted by the beauty and the ravages of the modern-day outside world – and his reception is met with a confusing mix of disbelief, condescension, and unexpected kindness. When the truth eventually surfaces, his story and the existence of Kreskol make headlines nationwide.

Returning Yankel to Kreskol, the Polish government plans to reintegrate the town that time forgot. Yet in doing so, the devious origins of its disappearance come to the light. And what has become of the mystery of Pesha and her former husband? Divided between those embracing change and those clinging to its old world ways, the people of Kreskol will have to find a way to come together . . . or risk their village disappearing for good.”

Join us on MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 at 4PM to revisit Kreskol.

L'shana tova.....lesli



## To My Temple Shalom Congregation,

As my children have now both passed their milestones it feels as if I am closing a chapter in my life. I'm not sad that it is over, I am happy that it all happened. Especially in times like these. I feel pride, contentment, and joy. All of these feelings have so much to do with all of you. Both of my children have reached their milestones of becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah. There will of course be more milestones to celebrate in the future, but there won't be another Bar/Bat Mitzvah to plan.

I came to Auburn in search of a loving Jewish community for myself, but more importantly for my children. When I looked around the room at Andrew's Bar Mitzvah and Olivia's Bat Mitzvah, I was filled with joy. I saw everyone coming together to celebrate, to support and to show Andrew and Olivia what community is really about. I saw loving eyes, felt warm hugs and listened to the supportive words by David and Lesli on behalf of the congregation. I was wrapped in all the things I had been hoping my children would feel in a small Jewish community.

I remember when Anne made the sign for Andrew's Bar Mitzvah at the entrance to the Temple without me even asking, when Malca baked the delicious challahs, and when Melissa asked me if I needed any help with anything. I remember when Bezhad called to tell me how excited he was to be able to attend in person. I remember when Elcha called me to find out about Andrew and Olivia's interests, so she could go shopping for them. I remember when Bertha helped Andrew with his project and David's words of wisdom. I remember when Vicky chanted Torah next to Andrew and Olivia. I remember when Lesli and David made sure the challah and kiddush cup were ready for the blessing. I remember Mike going above and beyond catering the kiddush. I remember when Gabrielle offered her own yad to Olivia when she reads Torah. I remember Scott and David showing up early to make sure everyone was safely entering the synagogue. I remember Julie helping with anything I needed. I remember Phyllis capturing so many moments on camera. I remember how many people made generous donations in honor of my children's milestones. I remember when so many members came up to me at the kiddush to give hugs and mazel tovs. I remember how the love was palpable in the sanctuary and the social hall.

A community like ours only becomes born with the spiritual and loving leadership of Sruli and Lisa. My children have been taught the traditions, the history and the proper way to chant Torah in the most supportive and encouraging ways. Lisa brought smiles (and snacks!) to every Hebrew School and was so happy to see us each time we walked into synagogue. These things make a difference for children. You would feel her musical passions and the compassions of her heart all at the same time. She was always all in. And doing it for all of us.

Whether it was in person or on zoom, my children learned about their Jewishness with a helping hand, guiding voice and a Rabbi who constantly told them how proud he was with their efforts. They each worked hard to prepare for the Bar/Bat Mitzvahs and Sruli adjusted each child's lessons to their own strengths. It was beautiful for me to watch. They were lucky enough to be exposed to his brilliant knowledge base, his musical prowess and his gentle and kind heart.

It is the childhood years that seem to impact our lives the most and I thank you for continuing to give my children a beautiful Jewish upbringing that they can call their own. They will continue to walk into future services or future programs with a wonderful foundation and a sense of belonging. And if they don't attend every program or every service, you can rest assured they will circle back because they have such positive feels about their Jewish community. I am beyond grateful for every single one of you.

I wish you all good health in the New Year.

Much Love,  
Ally

**GOOD NEWS/BAD NEWS** - Please let us know if you hear news of births and deaths of members or former members of our Jewish Community, so that we may share with others.

- Mazel tov to Melissa Johnson on the birth of granddaughter Penn Frederick Leinenweber. Born on August 1, 2021, to her daughter Meredith and her wife Kayla.
- Condolences to Dr. Behzad Fakhery on the recent passing of his brother, Asher Elyeshmerni. May the family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.
- Condolences to Faye & Paul Jeser on the recent passing of their son, Michael Jeser, May the family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.



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**NUSSINOW PRESCHOOL FUND WILL NOW BE KNOWN AS THE NUSSINOW EDUCATION AND ENRICHMENT FUND.**

At the request of the Nussinow family and after receiving approval from the Board of Directors, the Nussinow Preschool fund will now be known as the Nussinow Education and Enrichment fund.

In 1960, Edith 'Ecie' Nussinow saw a need, crafted a vision, and immersed herself in making it a reality - with her usual sense of tenacity and dedication. Her vision, the JCC Nursery School (subsequently the Temple Shalom Preschool), opened its doors during the 1960 – 1961 school year and graduated many from our community (Jews and non-Jews alike), during its sixty years of successful operation.

Since recently aligning with the YWCA, the preschool no longer requires our financial support. To continue honoring the legacy of Ecie and her vision to provide an enriching environment for pre-schoolers, the successor fund will provide financial resources for both adolescent and adult Jewish educational and enrichment programs.



Board of Directors' Meeting  
Monday, September 13, 2021

7:00 pm

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

Sebastian Chervenak	Sept.	4
Daniel Rausch		6
Michael Laskoff		7
Cindy Tayman		10
Chrissy Zidle		16
Elizabeth Baumhoff		17
Doretta Shapiro		19
Hilmar Jensen		20
Helene Perry		21
Adam Platz		23
Lewis Perry		25
Joel Olstein		28
Jessica Jensen		30
Rachel Jensen		30
Erica Schair		30



## 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



## Yahrzeiten

Rebecca Cohen Schaffer	Sept	2
David Feldman		5
Charles Schneidman		5
Alfred Pennamacoor		6
Saul Schneidman		7
Frieda Barr		8
Leonard Bell		9
Winnie Plavnick		10
Paul Krasner		11
Ann Forin		15
Gary Buckman		17
Jeffrey Bell		19
Samuel A. Nussinow		19
Patricia Schnitzer		19
Natalie Abromson		21
Enid Ehrlich		21
Edyta Bialuski		22
Anita Graber		24
Elaine M. Miller		24
Fanny Supovitz		26
Harvey Baker		27
Mounes Elyeshmerni		27
Elaine Kaduson		27
Esther Krakower		28
Paul Roberts		29



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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#### Contact Info:

Physical Address: 74 Bradman Street  
Auburn, ME 04210

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 3315  
Auburn, Me 04212-3315

Telephone: 207-786-4201

[www.templeshalomauburn.org](http://www.templeshalomauburn.org)

E-mail address: [temple6359@aol.com](mailto:temple6359@aol.com)

Rabbi Sruli: [djsruli@gmail.com](mailto:djsruli@gmail.com)

Telephone: 914-980-9509

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Membership/Outreach	Bertha Bodenheimer
Budget/Finance/Endowment	Stan Tetenman
Cemetery	Henry Meyer
Hebrew School/Education	Allyson Casares
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 **Valci Braga, Rachel Corvi, Lee Jay Feldman, Andrea Finn, Dougie Fleck, Sara Graf, Robert Galumbeck, Isaak Gekhtin, Detlef Gerlach, Ariella Green, Sharon Hemond, Michael Jeser, Suzan Katzir, Michael Kendall, Lynn Kaduson, Linda Koskela, Henry Lefkowitz, Lee Leveille, Bruce Meyer, Sandy Miller, Alice Richman, Joel Salberg, Bob Scott, 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.*



*Wishing you a speedy  
and complete recovery.*

**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

Joy & Lewis Zidle

In memory of Minette Lezberg

In memory of Robert Vivian

In memory of Michael Jeser

In memory of Shirley Lezberg

Marianne Miller

In memory of Dr. Lester Miller

Estelle Rubinstein

In memory of Hyman Rubenstein

Bertha Bodenheimer

To Helene & Lewis Perry in honor of  
grandson, Jonah Perry's graduation  
from college

In memory of Asher Elyeshmerni

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

In memory of Michael Jeser

In memory of Asher Elyeshmerni

Joel Salberg

In memory of Arthur Salberg

Florence & Sid Etkin

In memory of Stanley Wilner

Babs & Michael Shapiro

In memory of Sara Shapiro

In memory of Stanley Wilner

In memory of Jacqueline Wilner

In memory of Asher Elyeshmerni

Kenneth & Charlotte Bell

In memory of Jacqueline Wilner

Bonnie & Larry Faiman

Speedy recovery to Wayne Goodman

Sincere thanks to the Levinsky family for  
their donation to cover the cost of cleaning  
our Temple building

To Margaret & Hank Meyer in honor of the  
birth of Hana Estelle Meyer

To Sheri Blumenthal in honor of the birth of  
a son

To Jonathan & Jennipher Greven in  
memory of Jennipher's sister

Anne & David Allen

In memory of Asher Elyeshmerni

Helene, Alison & Rachel Fakhery & Families

In memory of Asher Elyeshmerni

Elcha Buckman

Given with love & appreciation for her  
friends

Michael Gagne

In honor of Oliva Casares' bat mitzvah

Tom Reeves

In memory of Jacqueline Wilner

Miriam & Harold Millman

In memory of Stanley Wilner

Joanne Miller

In memory of Stanley Wilner

Helene & Lewis Perry

In memory of Stanley Wilner

In honor of Marianne Wise's retirement

In memory of Asher Elyeshmereni

In honor of grandson Jonah Perry's  
graduation from IE University in Spain

Susan Wilson-Rich

In memory of Stanley Wilner

Jim & Helene Humber

In memory of Stanley Wilner

Faye Simensky

In memory of Stanley Wilner

Andrew & Sharon Bodenheimer

Complete recovery to Valci Braga

Complete recovery to Michael Kendall

Joseph & Marlene Cohen

In memory of Stanley Wilner

## LIBRARY FUND

Elcha Buckman

In memory of Esther Shain

Roz & Barry Kutzen

In memory of Nathan Kutzen

## NUSSINOW EDUCATION ENRICHMENT

**FUND** (formerly Nussinow Preschool Fund)

Amy & Scott Nussinow

In memory of David Krasner

In memory of Hele'ne Krasner

## PRAYER BOOK/PULPIT FUND

Allen & Sandra Miller

In memory of Dorothy Miller

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Phyllis Graber Jensen

In memory of Jay Graber

Elcha Buckman

In honor of Lisa Mayer's birthday

Bob & Jackie Laskoff

In memory of Iris Laskoff

Jamie & Kris Isaacson

In memory of Ezra Lape Isaacson

**ABROMSON MEMORIAL FUND**

**BELL MEMORIAL CHAPEL FUND**

**BODENHEIMER PASSOVER FUND**

**CEMETERY FUND**

**COHEN/LEVOY GARDEN FUND**

**ENDOWMENT FUND**

**EVE & GEORGE SHAPIRO MEMORIAL FUND**

**FAMILY HEBREW SCHOOL FUND**

**KITCHEN/BREAKFAST FUND**

**MARCUS MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND**

**MINYANAIRES FUND**

**MITZVAH FUND**

**RANDALL SILVER LIBRARY FUND**

**SHIRLEY GOODMAN MEMORIAL FUND**

**Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center**

PO Box 3315  
Auburn, ME 04212-3315

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DATED MATERIAL  
September 2021



Summertime, and lower Covid numbers, was made for playing Mahjong outside, on the deck, at the lake. It was so nice to play in person, to feel the tiles in our hands, to hear the click clack of the tiles being shuffled, to share a nosh or two with Temple friends. Crack! Dot! Bam!