



MA CHADASH! מה חדש!

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

March 2019/Adar I/Adar II 5779



Friday, March 22nd at 5:30 PM

Mask Making with Artist Karen Brooks!

Mishloach Manot Swap

Special Purim Dance

Traditional readings from the Megillah Scroll by Rabbi Sruli

Dinner featuring

Purim Perogies

Wine and Hamantashen

*Please bring canned or other non-perishable items
to help feed the hungry (an important Purim Mitzvah!)*

Suggested donation: \$5 per person, \$10 per family

Please RSVP by Tuesday, March 19th

FROM THE RABBI



Please feel free to ask me any questions—if I know the answer, I will happily give it to you; if I don't know the answer, I will make something up and hope you believe it!

This was one of the many jokes told by Rebecca, a wonderful, experienced, knowledgeable, droll, and generous naturalist who led our fascinating boat tour of the flora and fauna of the St. Johns River, Florida, last month.

As she told this particular joke, what flashed across my mind was that this was exactly the type of joke that I used to find funny. Nowadays, not so much.

The Torah teaches: *“Midvar Sheker Tirchak—keep a great distance away from that which is an untruth.”* The Torah typically gives us instructions in the form of specific laws—this is prohibited, don't do this, you must do this, etc. But not here. When it comes to speaking truth, we are not simply told: “thou shalt not tell a lie,” but, rather, to run far away from lies and liars.

This piece of loving advice is given in Exodus, Chapter 23, alongside other helpful rules for building a just and kind society, such as being helpful to everyone, including those you dislike, not taking advantage of immigrants, and treating both rich and poor equally under the law. For a society to properly function, let alone to aspire towards holiness, all, especially its leaders, need to have a profound and deep respect for truthful speech.

That leadership is held to an even higher standard of truth is emphasized in the Talmud's Ethics of the Fathers, Chapter 4: Rabbi Judah used to say: *“Be careful in teaching, for an unintentional error in teaching amounts to deliberate sin.”* This teaching is always in the back of my mind. And I get it. If you hold yourself out to be a teacher, or a leader, you have a professional responsibility to get it right. “It was simply a mistake,” is not an acceptable excuse.

So, in this time when our leadership has murdered the very idea of truth, when “making something up and hoping you believe it” is the go-to option, let us, in our communities, in our families, in our business dealings and in our friendships, redouble our commitment to absolute truth—to teach it, preach it and live it.

Rabbi Sruli

Rabbi Sruli is always happy to speak with and meet with members of 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.

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Shalom! While David's on vacation, I have the opportunity to write this month's column. I'm a little out of practice, but I'll share something I've been thinking about.....



It was just a little over a year ago that I was in Israel on the Temple trip. I've done some traveling to foreign lands over the years, but being in Israel was somehow more familiar. Even though I can't converse in Hebrew, the language sounded natural to my ears. And just knowing that the majority of the people we came in contact with were fellow Jews was quite a comforting feeling. That these people were store clerks, bank tellers, waiters, police, hotel personnel, mothers in the park, tour guides, etc. just brought the comfort level up even higher. Just regular people, being Jewish, like me. There's a human connection. An ancestral connection. Making me feel at home.

So, at home, in Maine, where the majority is not Jewish, is it possible to feel this way? I say yes. The people who frequent our Temple create this kind of family for me. Even though we come from different backgrounds, and all have our own story, it is Judaism that brings us together and provides that link. Even those who are not 'religious' or not even Jewish, are brought to Temple by a Jewish thread. There's that interior feeling of belonging, of kinship, that I don't feel when I'm in Walmart or at the library, for example. I could be here for a Kabbalat Shabbat service, a brunch and lecture on Happiness, book group, a Passover Seder, to play Mahjong, or to watch a movie. It doesn't really matter the reason. It's the people. I know I am blessed to have such a warm, welcoming Jewish community. And I hope you know that it is there for you too. That common thread, that sense of home, that ancestral call.....we are family.

Lesli Weiner
Vice-President

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.



REMINDER:

The first Thursday of the month, the service will begin at 8:00 A.M. All other Thursday morning services will continue to begin at 7:00. All services will continue to have a service, discussion and breakfast.

Religious studies scholar discusses the Jewish New Testament



Please join us at 11 a.m. on Sunday, March 31, for a brunch followed by noontime lecture titled "The Jewish New Testament" presented by biblical studies scholar Sarah Emanuel, who will examine how seemingly anti-Jewish texts, when viewed in the context of the ancient world, may — or may not — be anti-Semitic.

Sarah Emanuel (she/her/hers) is Faculty Fellow of Biblical Studies at Colby College. She earned her Ph.D. from Drew University's Graduate Division of Religion in 2017, with a certificate in Women's and Gender Studies, and research foci in Hebrew Bible, New Testament, ancient Jewish-Christian Encounters, and contemporary critical theory. In addition to a number of published articles, her first book, *Humor, Resistance, and Jewish Cultural*

Persistence in the Book of Revelation: Roasting Rome, is forthcoming with Cambridge University Press. When Sarah isn't researching or teaching in the classroom, she can be found running around Waterville with her pup and best friend, Gus.

If you plan to attend the brunch, please R.S.V.P. by emailing the synagogue at temple6359@aol.com or calling 207-786-4201. Admission to the brunch and lecture is \$10 and can be paid at the door.

Community Passover Seder Saturday, April 20 at 5:00 pm



***Adults: Members - \$25**
***Children 12 & under - \$15**

***Adults-Non-Members - \$30**
***Children under 5 No Charge**

Paid reservations must be made by April 1st

No one turned away for inability to pay, but we must have the reservation.

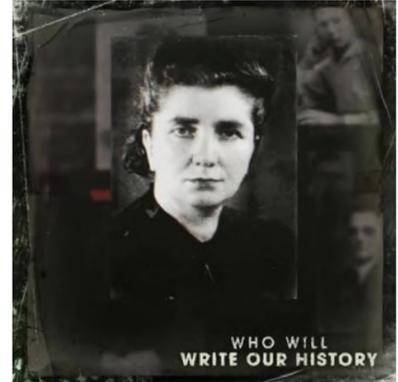
The Maine Jewish Film Festival comes to Lewiston

The Maine Jewish Film Festival partners with Bates College to present excellent films based on the global Jewish experience at Bates College on March 10 and March 14, 2019 at the Olin Arts Center, 75 Russell Street, Lewiston. There will be a reception in the Olin Arts Center in between the two films on March 10. Tickets for the films on March 10 are \$10 or \$8 for students and seniors and are available on-line at www.mjff.org or at the door. The film on March 14 is sponsored by the Bates Department of Rhetoric, Film, and Screen Studies and is free and open to the public.

March 10

12 Noon *Who Will Write Our History*

Using newsreels, voice-overs and re-enactments, the documentary *Who Will Write Our History* focuses on a secret band of journalists, scholars and community leaders who fought the Nazis with pen and paper rather than guns. *The film will be followed by a discussion with Jakub Kazecki of the Bates German and Russian Studies Department.*



2 PM Reception

3 PM *Public and Private Conversations: A Collection of Short Films about Women*

In this carefully curated collection of films about women, both humorous and dramatic, we see both the inner and outer worlds that women deal with on a daily basis. This is the first year that MJFF has created a shorts program about women, and we hope that it becomes a tradition.

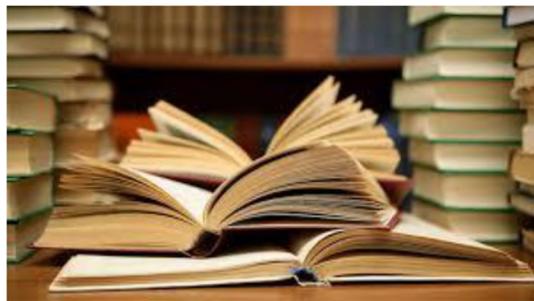
March 14

7:30 PM *Eldorado*

The Swiss foreign-language entry for the 2019 Academy Awards, this film draws connections between refugees in Europe during WWII and the present. *Eldorado* makes the global phenomenon of thousands of people fleeing to Europe real and tangible through graphic footage of refugee rescues and gripping interviews with asylum seekers. Now in its 22nd year, the Maine Jewish Film Festival will also show films in Portland and other locations from March 9 through March 17. More information is available at www.mjff.org.



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



On February 11, it was a small group for a big discussion, as just Helene Perry, Lindsey Walker, Babs Shapiro and me, Lesli Weiner, were present. Anouk Markovits' novel *I Am Forbidden* captivated our readers, including those unable to attend our meeting. Usually novels about women leaving their ultra-Orthodox community are focused on the reasons they could no longer remain while this story had much more empathy for those who stayed. It left us with a deeper

understanding of the Satmar ways including the belief in a biblical command that descendants be held liable for the sins of their ancestors. There was also insight into their strict protocols regarding sex and pregnancy and the conflict between modern medicine and ancient texts. While there was a character who left the community and was shunned by her family, the story line mostly focused on both the beauty and the constraints within the Satmar world. But one of the most discussed parts of the book was the Rebbe of Satmar's escape from the Nazis in Transylvania. I will not elaborate further, as I urge you to read this book for yourself.

Our next novel is a spy thriller by Alan Furst, *Mission to Paris*. Here is the description of this New York Times bestseller:

"Late summer, 1938. Hollywood film star Fredric Stahl is on his way to Paris to make a movie. The Nazis know he's coming—a secret bureau within the Reich has been waging political warfare against France, and for their purposes, Fredric Stahl is a perfect agent of influence. What they don't know is that Stahl, horrified by the Nazi war on Jews and intellectuals, has become part of an informal spy service run out of the American embassy. *Mission to Paris* is filled with heart-stopping tension, beautifully drawn scenes of romance, and extraordinarily alive characters: foreign assassins; a glamorous Russian actress-turned-spy; and the women in Stahl's life. At the center of the novel is the city of Paris—its bistros, hotels grand and anonymous, and the Parisians, living every night as though it were their last. Alan Furst brings to life both a dark time in history and the passion of the human hearts that fought to survive it."

This book is widely available in the library, on kindle and on audio. Pick up your copy and join us on MONDAY, **MARCH 11 at 4 PM.....lesli**

SPEEDY RECOVERY

We pray for refuah sh'leimah – the full and speedy recovery of **Georgette Belanger, Phil Bray, Gary Buckman, John Calloway, June Wilner Chason, Cheryl Dufour, Robert Galumbeck, Isaak Gekhtin, Anne Geller, Ariella Green, Sharon Hemond, Elizabeth Johnson, Suzan Katzir, Henry Lefkowitz, Susan Lifter, Bruce Meyer, Sandy Miller, Maude Olsen, Joel Salberg, 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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

| | | |
|------------------|-------|----|
| Emily Macaluso | March | 3 |
| Helene Fakhery | | 6 |
| Julia Isaacson | | 11 |
| Patti Levenson | | 13 |
| Adam Allen | | 14 |
| James Lifter | | 14 |
| Jack Weinstein | | 16 |
| Joseph Zidle | | 18 |
| Raymond Belanger | | 19 |
| Able Kaplan | | 19 |
| Joy Zidle | | 23 |
| Elinor Goldblatt | | 25 |
| Charlie Dresdner | | 27 |
| Johnny Dresdner | | 27 |
| Kenneth Goodman | | 28 |
| Cassandra Jensen | | 28 |
| Sheri Olstein | | 29 |

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

| | | |
|------------------------|-----|----|
| Deena & Jack Weinstein | Mar | 8 |
| Barry & Roz Kutzen | | 31 |

Yahrzeiten

| | | |
|------------------------|-----|----|
| Nathan Day | Mar | 1 |
| Leonard Nemeth | | 1 |
| Rose Nussinow | | 2 |
| Poppy Traister | | 3 |
| Natalie Woolf | | 3 |
| Annette Hertz | | 5 |
| Marjorie Kraunz Basser | | 6 |
| Lillian Kutzen | | 6 |
| Bert Bodenheimer | | 8 |
| Jules Asher | | 22 |
| Judge Morton Brody | | 23 |
| Joseph Zidle | | 23 |
| Benjamin Abromson | | 27 |



MOISHE HOUSE PEER-LED
RETREATS FOR YOUNG ADULTS
PRESENTS:

Judaism Through Dance, Meditation, and Music

March 29-30 Portland, Maine

Space is limited!

To register: bit.ly/judaismdance by March 15!

Educator Rishe Groner of The Genesis (<http://thegene-sis.com>) will lead us through an embodied Shabbat prayer experience, meditation, Ecstatic Shacharit (dance as prayer), ritual creation, and a musical and dance-filled Havdallah!

There will be overnight accommodations (options for one or two nights) and food provided!

Questions? Contact Andrea Levinsky at
andrealevinsky1@gmail.com

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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In memory of Bert Bodenheimer

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

In memory of Abe Tetenman

In memory of Lloyd Cohen

To Rich Rau full healing of his hand

Bonnie & Larry Faiman

In memory of Lloyd Cohen

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DATED MATERIAL
MARCH 2019

MARCH AT TEMPLE SHALOM

| | | |
|----------------|----------|---|
| Saturday, 3/2 | 9:30 am | Shabbat Service |
| Monday, 3/4 | 12:30 pm | Mahjong |
| Thursday, 3/7 | 8:00 am | Weekday morning minyan & breakfast (please note time) |
| Saturday, 3/9 | 9:30 am | Shabbat Service |
| Monday, 3/11 | 12:30 pm | Mahjong |
| | 4:00 pm | Book Group Meets |
| | 5:15 pm | Program Committee Meeting |
| | 7:00 pm | Temple Board Meeting |
| Thursday, 3/14 | 7:00 am | Weekday morning minyan & breakfast |
| Saturday, 3/16 | 9:30 am | Shabbat Service |
| Monday, 3/18 | 12:30 pm | Mahjong |
| Thursday, 3/21 | 7:00 am | Weekday morning minyan & breakfast |
| Friday, 3/22 | 5:30 pm | Purim Party – RSVP! |
| Saturday, 3/23 | | NO Shabbat Service |
| Monday, 3/25 | 12:30 pm | Mahjong |
| Thursday, 3/28 | 7:00 am | Weekday morning minyan & breakfast |
| Saturday, 3/30 | 9:30 am | Shabbat Service |
| Sunday, 3/31 | 11:00 am | Brunch with guest Sarah Emanuel – RSVP! |

