



# MA CHADASH!

# מה חדש!

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

ק"ק היכל שלום

August, 2024, Tammuz/Av 5784



**Kiddush Levana**  
**Saturday, August 3rd, 7:00 P.M., at Temple Shalom**

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## **TEEN** **SHABBAT**

**Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M., at Temple Shalom**

**Please join us as we celebrate our post-Bar/Bat Mitzvah teens  
and support their ongoing Jewish Journeys.**

**Our Teens will help lead a discussion on the challenges they face  
navigating an increasingly complex time to be a public Jew.**

**Musical Shabbat Candle Lighting and Songs.**

**Ice Cream Oneg to follow.**

**All ages are encouraged to attend.**

## FROM THE RABBI



*The following is my transcription of a recent speech delivered in Israel by Israeli Prof. Yuval Noah Harari, a historian, philosopher, and the bestselling author of *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*. His books have sold over 45 million copies in 65 languages, and he is considered one of the world's most influential public intellectuals today.*

Once upon a time there were neither a Jewish people nor a Palestinian people. A hundred million years ago, this land was home to dinosaurs. A hundred thousand years ago, Neanderthals lived here. Ten thousand years ago, people like us, Homo Sapiens, already reached this land. But none of the groups that matter so much to us now

existed back then. There were neither French nor Germans, Jews nor Palestinians.

We can argue about when exactly the Jewish people and the Palestinian people emerged. But what is most important is that right now, both are here. Unfortunately, too many of us refuse to acknowledge this simple fact: that there are both a Jewish people and a Palestinian people living in this land and that both peoples have a deep historical and spiritual connection to this place. And that both have a right to live here.

The bitter truth about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is that each side fears that the other is trying to annihilate it. Both sides are correct. Our fear that the Palestinians want to make us disappear is entirely correct. And the fear of the Palestinians that we want to make them disappear is also entirely correct. This isn't paranoia—it is a fact. In its Document of Principles and Policies, Hamas declares that the Land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea belongs only to the Palestinian people and it does not recognize any connection or right the Jews have to this land. Similarly, the current Israeli government declares in its own list of key principles that the Jewish people have an exclusive and inalienable right to all parts of the Land of Israel. Each side believes that the Land belongs to it alone. “What connection do Jews have to Jerusalem?” ask the Palestinians with complete sincerity. “There is no such thing as Palestinians,” argue many Israelis, also with complete sincerity. How can we account for such a level of denial?

Reality is complex and vast; our minds however, are typically narrow and small. It is hard to squeeze a huge reality into our little minds. So, what do our small minds do? They try to make what they cannot comprehend, disappear. They attempt to make entire slices of reality disappear—even entire nations. This is what fuels the cycle of blood and fear which grows worse and worse with each passing year. As small minds try to eliminate what they cannot absorb they close down and shrink until they are exclusively focused on “me, me, me.”

But the truth is that the world is also vast. Even this narrow strip of land between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River is big enough for two peoples. Objectively, there is no shortage of territory here. There is enough space to build houses, roads, factories, schools and hospitals for everyone. We suffer not from the smallness of our land but from the smallness of our minds.

But it is also true that each of us can work to expand our minds; all of our minds have the ability to be vast. A single mind is capable of absorbing the entire world. Each side can and must recognize the existence of the other. Each side must let go of the fantasy that “they don't exist” or “one day we will succeed in making them disappear.” Peace will only come when both Palestinians and Israelis can honestly say that even if one day we will have the power to make the other disappear, this is not what we want to do. No matter how right we are, no matter what they have done to us in the past, they are still part of our reality and they have a right to live with security and dignity in the country of their birth—simply because they are human, just like we are.

(continued next page)

### **FROM THE RABBI (continued)**

**Between human beings there are certainly many ideological disputes. Nevertheless, we all share the same feelings and basic needs. All humans, whether in Gaza or Tel Aviv, Hebron or Acre, are thirsty for water, for harmony, for truth and for love. Is there any person who doesn't need water, who doesn't want peace of mind, who doesn't want to know the truth about life or who doesn't want to love and be loved?**

**The problem is slaking this thirst is not always easy. Too many of us look for peace of mind through struggle; try to find truth by spreading lies. Too many of us think that it's possible to buy the love of God—or the love of humanity—with hatred and violence.**

**But it is never too late to change direction. War is not a law of nature; it is a human choice. At any moment we can choose to start to make peace. It's true that we have tried to make peace in the past and we were not very good at it. So what? We also have not been very good at making war but that doesn't stop us from waging one war after another. And every new war leads us further and further into the abyss. The time has come to once again try to make peace!**

**Remember, war is the attempt by small minds to deny the complexity of reality. Peace, on the other hand, is the biggest thing there is.**

**Rabbi Sruli**



### **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

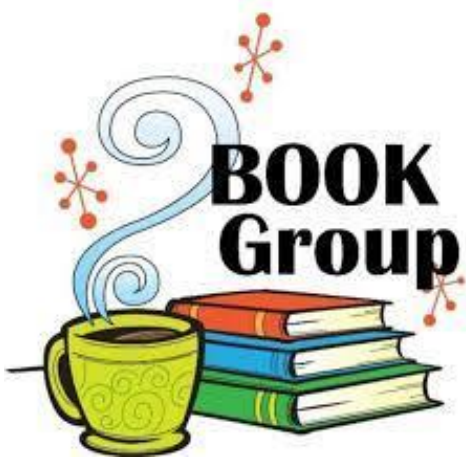


Do you ever feel like you're running on autopilot? We seem to arrange our lives in repeating calendar blocks. Wake, work, home, TV, read, sleep. Even retired folks can have set routines. We tend to take the same routes home. I was taking my daughter to the airport last week when she had to remind me to get in the other lane to take the turnpike south, instead of north to Auburn (to Temple, where else?) Predictability can tame a world that feels chaotic, and at times, overwhelming.

Break out of that routine for a hot minute, during this hot summer. Try new things and have new experiences. Mind, you don't have to upend your practicality to tap your innate adventurousness. Just bring something different to the BBQ. Or call an old friend you haven't spoken to in years. Or take a mini vacation (someplace you can drive to.) Join a plein air painting class. Or even rearrange your furniture. Just do something adventurous to celebrate being alive.

**Lesli Weiner**  
**President**

!!BOOK GROUP NEWS!!



*The Wind Knows My Name* by Isabel Allende was discussed by Heather Berube, Judy Abromson, Karen Calloway, Mitch Ross and me, Lesli Weiner on July 8th. This book compared children being separated from their parents on the Kindertransport in WWII with the present day children being separated from their parents on the Mexican border. We all agreed the two events didn't truly reflect each other, and actually, the present day story would have been just fine on its own. (Although then it would not have had any Jewish content.) Allende also threw in the El Mozote massacre in El Salvador, which was interesting to learn about (I'd never heard of it), but also didn't fit in so well with the main story. Sometimes an author just tries to do too much.

Our next book is *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. Here is a quick synopsis from Amazon:

"In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows. Chicken Hill was where Moshe and Chona Ludlow lived when Moshe integrated his theater and where Chona ran the Heaven & Earth Grocery Store. When the state came looking for a deaf boy to institutionalize him, it was Chona and Nate Timblin, the Black janitor at Moshe's theater and the unofficial leader of the Black community on Chicken Hill, who worked together to keep the boy safe.

As these characters' stories overlap and deepen, it becomes clear how much the people who live on the margins of white, Christian America struggle and what they must do to survive. When the truth is finally revealed about what happened on Chicken Hill and the part the town's white establishment played in it, McBride shows us that even in dark times, it is love and community—heaven and earth—that sustain us."

We will meet on MONDAY, AUGUST 12 via zoom (or possibly hybrid.) Since this is a bestseller, this book should be easy enough to find.

However, since the inter-library loan system is still down, we chose only 3 new books, all a bit older so you should be able to get them. The one for September is by our Temple member, Ellen Frankel, and she will be at our meeting to discuss it with us!!.....lesli

September 9.....*The Deadly Scrolls* by Ellen Frankel  
October 21.....*The Yid* by Paul Goldberg  
November 18.....*Eternal* by Lisa Scottoline



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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#### 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

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## SPEEDY RECOVERY

We pray for refuah sh'leimah – the full and speedy recovery of **Valci Braga, Rachel Corvi, Lee Jay Feldman, Andrea Finn, Sara Graf, Robert Galumbeck, Isaak Gekhtin, Detlef Gerlach, Ariella Green, Sharon Hemond, Alison Jaeger, Suzan Katzir, Michael Kendall, Linda Koskela, Henry Lefkowitz, Lee Leveille, Carolyn Marshal, Bruce Meyer, Alice Richman, Sandy Traister, 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.**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

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



## Yahrzeiten

Esther Shain	August 1
Irving Goldberg	2
Ezra Lape Isaacson	7
Stanley Wilner	8
Jennifer Lee Levine	10
Randall Silver	10
Dorothy Krasner	12
George Laskoff	13
Charles Pributsky	15
Muriel Ross	15
Bernice Harris	17
Clara Marcus	18
Fannye Roberts	22
Seymour Tetenman	25
Nathan Kutzen	27
Iris Laskoff	27
Lester Miller	31



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO

Harvey & Elaine Bell	Aug 5
Robert Rovner & Ruth Frydman	7
Jerrold & Jennifer Cohen	11
Christopher & Mara King	23
Marsha & Mitchell Auster	24



## **CONTRIBUTIONS**

### **GENERAL FUND**

Babs & Michael Shapiro

In memory of Sarah Shapiro

Stephen & Susan Scolnik

In memory of Samuel Scolnik

In memory of Mary Abromson Scolnik

Steve Passerman/Haste Family Fund

In appreciation

Bertha Bodenheimer

To Karen Smith in honor of her  
birthday

In memory of Brucha Fisher

In memory of Seymour Tetenman

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

In memory of Seymour Tetenman

### **MARCUS MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND**

Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz

In memory of Clara Marcus

### **MINYANAIRE'S FUND**

Margaret & Hank Meyer

In honor of Hank being chosen

Person of the Year

### **MITZVAH FUND**

Tom & Paula Marcus-Platz

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### **RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Marion & Paul Rausch

In memory of Irving & Goldie Goldberg

Nancy & Joan Levenson

In memory of David Alan Levenson

Karen Calloway

In memory of John Calloway



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PO Box 3315  
Auburn, ME 04212-3315

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**SAVE THE DATE!**



**End of Summer BBQ,  
Friday, September 6th, 6:00 P.M.**