



MA CHADASH!

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

מה חדש!

ק"ק היכל שלום

September, 2024, Av/Elul 5784



**Temple Shalom is celebrating
the end of Summer with an**

End of Summer BBQ!

**Friday, September 6th, 6:00 P.M.
(Only in person)**



Brunch and Presentation

Sunday, September 15th, 10:00 A.M.

**Brunch catered by the men of Temple
Shalom**

**followed by a talk and slideshow by
Marianne Wise**

**About her two-week tour in Egypt
and Jordan**

FROM THE RABBI



Last week Lisa and I visited her very Orthodox Israeli cousin Judy who was staying at Lisa's parents in New York. Judy was very interested in my views as a liberal Rabbi. At one point she asked me if I perform interfaith marriages. I answered that I do, explaining that I am there to support anyone who wants to bring Judaism into their lives any way they choose—and I am okay doing it on their terms. I also pointed out that if I refused, the couple would simply find another Rabbi or just decide to have a secular wedding. Either way, they would walk away feeling alienated and rejected.

That was last week. This week we studied a very early Rabbinic teaching after minyan on Thursday. The great sage Hillel is recorded as saying:

Be of the disciples of Aaron, loving peace and pursuing peace, loving mankind and drawing them close to the Torah. Be of the disciples of Aaron, loving peace and pursuing peace, loving mankind and drawing them close to the Torah (repeated so it really sinks in).

This teaching is incontrovertibly beautiful but on what basis does Hillel invoke the biblical Aaron? Where do we find in the Torah that Aaron was particularly peace loving? Our Talmudic tradition famously resolves this issue by creating a fictional peace lover and pretending that this was Aaron. But what was Hillel really referring to?

I believe that Hillel was focusing on Aaron's behavior in the infamous episode of the Golden Calf as described in the Book of Exodus. The Israelites, just recently rescued from bondage, were feeling unsettled. They had just experienced the revelation at Sinai when Moses immediately left the community in order to bring back the Tablets of the Law. Forty days passed. The Israelites, alone in an unforgiving wilderness, were frightened and turned to what they had been used to all of their lives—when faced with a crisis they would fashion an idol in the hope that it would bring them blessing. The Israelites approached Aaron, the *de facto* leader in Moses' absence, and demanded that he assist them in fashioning a Golden Calf. Aaron tries (a little) to dissuade them—idolatry was the very first thing prohibited by the Ten Commandments, the commandments that they had just heard at Sinai! But ultimately Aaron relents and helps them fashion the idol.

Contrast Aaron's response to Moses' response. Moses shows up the next day, sees the Israelites worshipping an idol and famously smashes the Tablets of the Covenant to the ground and, among other things, orders the mass killing of those who worshipped the Golden Calf.

Hillel, I think, is cryptically telling us that he prefers the loving, empathetic approach of Aaron to the harsh discipline and rigidity of Moses. Cryptically, because idolatry is one of the reddest lines that a Jew can cross! Yet Hillel goes there, albeit cryptically. Perhaps Hillel drew support from the fact that Aaron is never criticized in the Torah for his role in this fateful story.

(Continued next page)

FROM THE RABBI (continued)

One of the most well-known Talmudic stories contrasts the gentle, loving Hillel with his stricter and more unforgiving counterpart, Shammai. The story is told that a potential convert approaches Shammai demanding that Shammai teach him how to be a Jew in just a few minutes (“while standing on one foot”). Shammai soundly rejects him. The potential convert then approaches Hillel who immediately accepts him into the fold (unsurprisingly teaching him that the essence of Torah is to treat others as you want others to treat you).

It is often said in Yeshivas (contemporary Rabbinical schools) that our tradition celebrates Hillel over Shammai. This is true insofar as Halacha (Talmudic Law) is concerned. However, it seems to me that in attitude many generations of Rabbis, other Jewish leaders, and Jews in general, have adopted Shammai’s strict attitude over Hillel’s patient and approach.

My hope is for all of us follow Hillel’s advice and instead choose the gentle and loving Aaron as our role model—even where we might be reluctant to cross the reddest of Judaism’s red lines—and in the process, also become disciples of the loving and forgiving Hillel.

Rabbi Sruli

FROM THE PRESIDENT



I’m writing this in great anticipation of my oldest Grandson’s Bar Mitzvah at the end of this month. I’m looking at it as a perfect example of L’dor V’dor, from generation to generation. As most of you know, L’dor V’dor is the song I sing at every service I attend. I took it as my own, the message I wanted to belt out to the congregation. Passing down our heritage, our Jewish traditions, our biblical stories and the prayers chanted throughout the Jewish world, is the most important thing one individual can do for the perpetuation of Judaism. Jews have been doing this for 5784 years, and it’s almost another Rosh Hashanah. Neal and I did our best to instill the love of Judaism into our two daughters. We brought them to Hebrew School (and sometimes taught their classes), we sent them to Jewish sleep away camp, we paid for their trip to Israel (this was before Birthright), and we celebrated all Jewish holidays together as a family. And now, my daughter Jocelyn is continuing in this tradition. I thought it was hard to bring my kids up in

Mechanic Falls where they were the lone Jews in the K-8th grade school there. But Jocelyn and Nick brought up their two boys in Qatar, where they sought out the few Jews in the whole country! They celebrated all the holidays, introducing their non-Jewish friends and colleagues to our customs and foods. And this is why the boys identify as Jews. When they moved back to the States 2 years ago, Nick got a job teaching Science at The Rashi School in Needham, MA, so that is where Boden and Graham have gone, now surrounded by Jews and learning Hebrew, etc. So forgive me for kvelling about my fantastic 13 year old Grandson, Graham, but I wasn’t sure if the day would come when he would want to be a Bar Mitzvah. But he has chosen to follow our traditions, and I couldn’t be prouder of him. And to celebrate him at our Temple, is the icing on the cake (or the schmear on the bagel?) My heart is bursting. L’dor V’dor, indeed!

Lesli Weiner
President

PLEASE RSVP FOR THE BRUNCH AND PROGRAM SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 AT 10:00 AM



Please join us on Sunday, Sept. 15, for a 10 a.m. brunch catered by the men of Temple Shalom, followed by an 11 a.m. talk and slideshow by synagogue member — and world traveler — Marianne Wise about her two-week tour in Egypt that concluded in Jordan.

Donations for the lunch are \$12. Please try to bring exact change. Those planning to attend should RSVP by emailing the synagogue at Temple6359@aol.com no later than Wednesday, Sept. 11.

Marianne began her journey a day early to watch vessels travel

through the Suez Canal. Her tour began with an exploration of the 4,500 year-old Pyramids of Giza, a wonder of the world, and the Sphinx which guards them. A three-day trip down the Nile River to visit the many temples and the Valley of the Kings followed, including visits to Abu Simbel, Kom Ombo, Philae, and Edfu, where the Pharaohs believed their spiritual bodies would continue to exist in the afterlife.

After exploring Egypt, Marianne flew into Amman, Jordan, where she visited the Treasury, another world wonder located in Petra. Marianne continued with a full day in the Wadi Rum valley, famous for its landscape, and as a filming location. She spent the final days of her trip swimming in the Dead Sea and further exploring the country.

Marianne's passion for traveling is all about the experience. "It inspires me to see, taste, and try new things. I love to explore new surroundings and culture, engage with new people and embrace new adventures," says Marianne, who loves to share all her adventures with family and friends.

Marianne will travel to Europe in a few months to visit Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia. In April, she will visit the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and Belgium. Other places she has visited are East and South Africa, Great Britain, France, Italy, the Greek Isles, the Azores, and Dubai and Israel.

Following her talk, Marianne will engage in a Q &A with the audience.

Donations for the lunch are \$12. Please try to bring exact change. Those planning to attend should RSVP by emailing the synagogue at Temple6359@aol.com no later than Wednesday, Sept. 11.

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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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
E-mail address: temple6359@aol.com

Rabbi Sruli: djsruli@gmail.com
Telephone: 914-980-9509

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Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, September 9, 2024
7:00 PM

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

Sebastian Chervenak	Sept.	4
Daniel Rausch		6
Michael Laskoff		7
Cindy Tayman		10
Nicholas Scott		12
Stephanie Michaels		16
Chrissy Zidle		16
Elizabeth Baumhoff		17
Doretta Shapiro		19
Hilmar Jensen		20
Adam Platz		23
Lewis Perry		25
Joel Olstein		28
Jessica Jensen		30
Rachel Jensen		30
Erica Schair		30

Yahrzeiten

Mitchell Eidel	Sept.	1
Jay Graber		2
Martha Bodenheimer		7
Minette Lezberg		7
Joan "Maude" Olsen		8
Charles Traister		13
Dorothy Miller		15
Ruth Shapiro Miller		15
Verrill Scott		15
George Harris		18
Ann Frankel		21
Arthur Salberg		21
Hyman Rubenstein		22
David Krasner		22
Hele'ne Beth Krasner		26
Rebecca Cohen Schaffer		28
Yoram Fisher		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
Carmen Comeau & Stuart Cohen		20

CONTRIBUTIONS

GENERAL FUND

Cathy & Stan Tetenman

In honor of Ian Rausch's bar mitzvah

Mitch Ross

In memory of Muriel Ross

Babs & Michael Shapiro

In memory of Ruth Shapiro Miller

In memory of Harold Anten

Judy Abromson, Daniel Blackerby, Bertha

Bodenheimer, Elcha Buckman, Melissa

Johnson, Lesli Weiner, Malca Wilner

A leaf was added to the Tree of Life in
honor of Ian Rausch's bar mitzvah

MARCUS MEMORIAL GARDEN FUND

Carla Marcus

In memory of Clara Marcus

In memory of Fannye Roberts

NUSSINOW EDUCATION ENRICHMENT FUND

Amy & Scott Nussinow

In memory of Dorothy Krasner

In memory of Milton Krasner

In memory of Bernie Nussinow

PULPIT/PRAYER BOOK FUND

Roz & Barry Kutzen

In memory of Nathan Kutzen

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Bob Laskoff

In memory of George & Iris Laskoff

James & Kristen Isaacson

In memory of Ezra Lape Isaacson

Evelyn Miller

In memory of Lester Miller

Dan & Kris Rausch

In recognition of rabbi & rebbetzin's
time & effort in guiding Ian through his
bar mitzvah

ABROMSON FUND

BELL MEMORIAL CHAPEL FUND

BODENHEIMER PASSOVER FUND

CEMETERY FUND

COHEN/LEVOY GARDEN FUND

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Temple Shalom, Synagogue-Center

PO Box 3315
Auburn, ME 04212-3315

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SEPTEMBER, 2024

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ROSH CHODESH ELUL
(Women Only)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
5:30PM

POTLUCK DINNER

At Lesli Weiner's Deck
On Forest Lake in Gray
(32 Shore Rd.)

Our Theme this year is: "Beyond The Personal"

Come celebrate the new moon and bring something delicious to eat!

RSVP by September 6

temple6359@aol.com or 786-4201