
CONGREGATION SHA'ARAI SHOMAYIM
SPRINGHILL AVENUE TEMPLE

FOUNDED 1844

THE TEMPLE BULLETIN

www.springhillavenuetemple.com

We are coming together as a caring, inclusive community united in a common commitment to Judaism and to furthering our spiritual growth. We desire to do this recognizing that worship of God, study of Torah, caring for the Jewish people and our community, are central to our being as a Reform Jewish congregation. With these principles as our foundation and guided by an historic past, we anticipate our future, one of continual lifelong self-renewal.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Friday, July 5	6:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service Dr. Nate Ginsberg will be conducting services
Friday, July 12	6:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service Cantor is with us Anniversary Blessing for Bettina & Steve Prager
Saturday, July 13	9:30 a.m.	Shabbat Breakfast Guest Speaker: Mayor Sam Jones
	10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Morning Service Cantor is with us
Friday, July 19	6:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service
Friday, July 26	6:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service Cantor is with us
Friday, August 2	6:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service Birthday Blessing for Reita Franco

ALL SHABBAT SERVICES ARE CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES.
PLEASE JOIN US IN WORSHIP



TORAH SELECTION:

Numbers 30:2 – 36:13
Haftarah – Jeremiah 2:4–28; 3:4, 4:1-2

FROM THE PRESIDENT

First of all, thanks goes to “Outgoing President” Nate Ginsberg, he has set a great example of a leader that truly cares about the Temple and its congregation. Nate did an awesome job leading us for the last two years, and to quote him “it was a piece of cake, well except for the little storm.” Watching Nate and Iris here and involved in virtually every function that goes on really warms the heart. Thanks Nate, for your dedication.

To the Board, Nominating Committee, Rabbi, and congregation, thank you for your vote of confidence, and I am honored to have the opportunity to lead the oldest congregation in the State of Alabama.

Sha’ari Shomayim is not just our property at 1769 Springhill Avenue, although it has gotten a lot of attention recently from the Weather Channel, it is our people, our Rabbi and congregation. I am proud of the legacy we have been endowed with, and I am confident about facing the challenges ahead of us.

I am compelled to present three values that I think are important for us to consider for the next two years. I am going to keep it simple to stay focused.

Stewardship - Are we taking care of everything that makes up Sha’arai Shomayim,

our people, our building, and our fiscal responsibilities?

Sustainability - Are we doing the things that will keep us going, in good times and in badversity without yielding?

Engagement - Are we supporting an environment that nurtures congregants wanting to be involved?

We have a challenging future ahead of us, but at the same time it is an exciting one. We have an excellent Religious School program with lots of kids eager to learn about Judaism. Our building is about to undergo some construction which will lead to some refreshing touches and the smell of fresh paint. We have an excellent Board that brings strong leadership qualities. Our wiser members of age have the chance to pass on help with things that keep us connected to our Judaism. We have young families navigating careers that should be able to step back and find respite here.

We all are needed in one way or another and I am up to the challenge. I hope you all are willing to help because the outcome can be better than we had ever expected.

Alan Goldberg, President

AT TEMPLE

Torah Study – The Wednesday evening Torah Study with Rabbi Kunstadt will resume starting **July 17th at 6:00 p.m.** in the Temple Library.

The Anniversary Blessing for Bettina and Steve Prager will be on **Friday, July 12th** recognizing their 25 years of marriage.

Mayor Sam Jones will be our Guest Speaker on Saturday, July 13th at 9:30 a.m., during the Shabbat Breakfast before service.

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Sunday, July 14 at 6:00 p.m. at the World War II Museum’s Victory Theater – A special presentation of “**We Remember**” documentary. This is the documentary that was produced last year by our SHAFTY and features Victoria Hirsch and Corey Garfunkel as interviewers. (*More information and to RSVP can be found on page 4.*)

In Rabbi's absence, what follows is an article from the Winter 2011 issue of Reform Judaism Online

THE DALAI LAMA AND THE CHIEF RABBI

Two renowned religious leaders reflect on finding happiness in the face of tragedy, loss, and injustice.

Krista Tippett (host of Krista Tippett on Being, produced by American Public Media): Your Holiness, you radiate happiness. And yet, you are familiar with suffering. How does your understanding of happiness encompass the hardness of life?

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama (head of state and spiritual leader of Tibet): Of course, my life is not easy. When I see some problem, some tragedy, I always look at it from different angles to see if that same event may also have something positive. When I look more holistically, then that event is not 100% negative; there are also positive parts. We lost our own country, but I tell people that a sad event can bring new opportunities. And, if faced with something that looks unbearable from a close view, then look at it from a distance. Another thing — if the situation can be overcome eventually, then there is no need to worry.

Rabbi Sacks, how might a Jewish approach to sadness differ from that of the Dalai Lama?

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks (chief rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth): It is true that if you read Jewish literature and history, happiness is not the first word that comes to mind. We offer degrees in misery, post-graduate angst, and advanced guilt, and yet, in the end we get together and celebrate. His Holiness has lived a story I resonate with — a story of suffering and exile — and he has come through it still smiling. That is how I, too, have always defined my faith as a Jew. The definition of a Jew — Israel, as it says in Genesis 34 — is

one who struggles, who wrestles with God and with humanity and prevails. And, Jacob says something very profound to the angel: “I will not let you go until you bless me.” That is how I feel about suffering. When something bad happens, I will not let go of that bad thing until I have discovered the blessing that lies within it.

Do you believe that the pursuit of happiness is a fundamental right?

The Dalai Lama: I believe that happiness is the very purpose of our existence. As mentioned in your Constitution, happiness is also a right. It is also ultimately a responsibility of the individual. You see, happiness does not come from the sky; we must make a happy life. The government cannot provide happiness. We must create happiness within ourselves and our family.

Rabbi Sacks: I'd like to reflect on the word “pursuit.” Finding happiness doesn't necessarily follow from pursuing it. Sometimes the deepest happiness comes when you're least expecting it. There is a wonderful story about an 18th-century rabbi, Levi Yitzchak of Berdichev, who is watching people running frenetically to and fro in the town square. He stops one and says, “Why are you running?” The man answers, “I'm running to make a living,” to which the rabbi says: “How come you're so sure that the living is in front of you and you have to run to catch up to it? Maybe it's behind you and you've got to stop to let it catch up with you.” When in contemporary culture do we stop and let our blessings catch up with us? On the Sabbath, when we celebrate the things that are important, but not urgent. Once I took an atheist who's the premier child care specialist

(continued on page 4)

THE DALAI LAMA AND THE CHIEF RABBI (continued from page 2)

in Britain to visit a Jewish primary school on a Friday. The children were playing at preparing for the Sabbath; she saw a little five-year-old mother and a five-year-old father blessing their five-year-old children and welcoming their five-year-old guests. Fascinated, she asked one five-year-old boy, “What do you like least about the Sabbath?” Being an Orthodox child, he said, “You can’t watch television. It’s terrible.” Then she asked, “What do you like most about the Sabbath?” and he said, “It’s the only time Daddy doesn’t have to rush away.” Sometimes we don’t need to pursue happiness. We just need to pause and let it catch up with us.

Where does the human body fit in to happiness?

Rabbi Sacks: One of the most striking sentences in Judaism is that in the world to come, a person will have to give an account of every legitimate pleasure he/she deprived themselves of in this life (Jerusalem Talmud). Because God gave us this world to enjoy.

One aspect of Judaism I find beautiful beyond measure is the tradition of hospitality — giving physical pleasure to those who have too little. One very great Hasidic teacher once said, “Somebody else’s material needs are my spiritual duties.” That is how we join in sharing our pleasures with others.

Your Holiness, what do you think about the body and happiness?

The Dalai Lama: There are two different kinds of satisfaction: physical and mental. Having comfortable shelter, sufficient food, and also sufficient sleep provides a certain degree of happiness. If the body is tired, mental function is more difficult. So a certain degree of happiness is related to satisfying your physical needs. But of the two states, the mental state

is more important. You can be mentally happy even when you experience physical hardship, so long as you see some purpose to your difficulty. Voluntarily taking on physical hardship gives you mental satisfaction. Mental satisfaction can subdue physical difficulties, but physical comfort cannot subdue mental pain.

How does compassion toward your enemies inform your understanding of living a happy life?

The Dalai Lama: We need to learn the practice of patience. The answer to violence is nonviolence; the response to physical action is mental action. When one tries to stop wrongdoing through violent action, ultimately all will suffer.

Rabbi Sacks: In Deuteronomy 23, Moses is talking about the Israelites’ experience in Egypt. It’s a time of oppression, of slavery, of attempted genocide. Eventually the Israelites escape. They go through the desert, and as they’re about to cross the Jordan, Moses says: “Do not hate an Egyptian, for you are a stranger in his land.” Now, that language is very odd. “You are a stranger in his land” sounds as if the Egyptians gave the Israelites hospitality, the equivalent of putting them in the Cairo Hilton. It wasn’t like that. So what is Moses saying? He is telling the Israelites: You have left the physical Egypt. Now you must leave the mental experience of Egypt. You have to let go of hate, because otherwise you will never be free. Had the Israelites continued to hate their enemies, Moses would have taken the Israelites out of Egypt, but he would not have taken Egypt out of the Israelites. They would be slaves to their past, slaves to their feelings of pain, injustice, and grievance. This is what we have to repeat, day after day, in this difficult, dangerous 21st century. You have to let go of hate if you want to be free.

The new Membership Directory is now in progress. If you have not yet provided the Temple with your current information, please take a moment now to call the office at 478-0415 or email secretary@springhillavenuetemple.com



Your current address and telephone number(s) (home or cell) are needed to be included in the directory. Please identify which is which and the name of the spouse it belongs to. If you do not want cell phones or emails included in the directory, either do not include that information or state specifically what information you would like to be shared.

This new directory will not be published. Once the directory is completed, a notification will go out to the congregation that a copy of the directory is now available to **members only**. Upon the member's request, the finished product will then be sent in your choice of either Word or pdf format.

This will not be a quick process, but it is a start. Thank you to everyone who has already responded to the first round of emails.

Susie Broos, Secretary

MAZEL TOV!

To **Amelia (Amy) Holberg** and Major Gregory Postal, M.D. on the birth of their daughter, Elana May Postal, born May 28, 2013 at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, MD. The proud grandparents are **Bob and Elaine Holberg** and great grandmother, **Amelia (Mimi) Holberg**.

To **Dr. Gary and Patty Fishbein** on the marriage of their son, **Benjamin Fishbein**, to Amy Wood. His brother, **Cass Fishbein**, was best man. The wedding took place on Sunday, June 16, 2013 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Both Benjamin and Amy attended St. John's College in Santa Fe and are currently living in Boulder Colorado. Ben will pursue a "Wilderness Psychology" program in the fall at Naropa College in Boulder.

To **Victoria Hirsch, Cory Garfunkel**, and **SHAFTY** for the special presentation of their documentary "**We Remember**" being shown at the World War II Museum in New Orleans on Sunday, July 14th at 6:00 p.m. More details are on page 4.

DATES FOR HIGH HOLY DAYS

Erev Rosh Hashanah – Wednesday, September 4th

Rosh Hashanah – Thursday, September 5th

Kol Nidre – Friday, September 13th

Yom Kippur – Saturday, September 14th

The Temple Gift Shop has gifts for all occasions.
Please shop for baby, weddings, birthdays,
Bar/Bat Mitzvahs!



Shop your Gift Shop first!

Our prices are competitive and your purchases allow us to contribute to many Sisterhood projects. Special orders are always welcomed.



**Film Screening - "We Remember: A Documentary"
at the Solomon Victory Theater**

Date: Sunday, July 14, 2013
Time: 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

For this special event, students turned filmmakers will introduce their own documentary film. The compelling stories they were able to capture include: a young woman who survived incarceration in Auschwitz, an astonished soldier who liberated Dachau, a teenage girl's parents who sent their daughter to a farm to escape danger in her own country and a young hospital assistant overwhelmed with the thousands of wounded sent back from war. Victoria Hirsch and Cory Garfunkel, teenagers themselves from Mobile, Alabama, interviewed these individuals to understand and learn from their personal experiences during the horrific period of Hitler's reign. For more information, call 504-528-1944 x 229.

If you'd like to attend this event you can RSVP online at
<http://nw2m.convio.net/site/Calendar/135637955?view=Detail&id=111801>

"It's not how much or how little you have that makes you great or small, but how much or how little you are with what you have."

**Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch
(Horeb, vol. 1, pg 46)**

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

By Susan Thomas, Archivist

Recently the Archives was contacted by a descendant of Dr. Aaron Lopez, a physician who practiced in Mobile in the 1840s-1860s. Dr. Lopez was known to be Jewish, but his name was not included in the original rolls of Temple members. His descendant wanted to know if our archives had any information about Dr. Lopez.

Not much material was found to be available about Dr. Lopez. He is mentioned in Bertram Korn's book, *The Jews of Mobile, Alabama, 1763-1841*, in which he is described as "one of the leading men of his profession in Mobile." Korn states that Lopez had an office at the corner of Royal and Conti Streets in 1841. During that same year, he helped organize the Medical Association of Mobile County and, in 1847, he helped organize the Alabama Medical Association. He served as president of both groups and also represented Alabama in an organizational meeting of the American Medical Association in Baltimore in 1848. Lopez wrote several scholarly articles on medical ethics and education.

Korn also indicated that Lopez and his wife had ten children who survived to adulthood and that Dr. and Mrs. Lopez moved in with a son, Joseph, in Memphis in the late 1860s after Dr. Lopez suffered a stroke. He also noted that Lopez was an active member and served as corresponding secretary of the Mobile Temperance Society, which Korn said that it was an "unusual, but by no means unique, interest for a Jew."

The descendant of Dr. Lopez has recently provided the Archives with other documents related to the Lopez family. From these materials we have learned that Dr. Lopez was born March 3, 1800, in Charleston, South Carolina. He received his medical degree in 1822 from Columbia University in New York. He married his first cousin, Eleanor Cohen, and at the time of their marriage she owned 13 slaves. Both Dr. Lopez and his wife signed a marriage settlement indicating that Dr. Lopez had no interest in the slaves.

Dr. Lopez died of a stroke in Memphis on August 18, 1873, at age 74. He was described in the local paper as a "distinguished member of the medical profession." He is buried in Memphis.

Among the papers donated to the Archives by Dr. Lopez's descendant are proceedings of the American Medical Association in 1848, mentioning resolutions presented by Dr. Lopez; minutes of the Alabama Medical Association in 1850; and a lengthy oration delivered by Dr. Lopez in the early 1850s to the Alabama association. In that speech, he laments the problems brought on by disease: "Ill-health, with ruined and unsound constitutions, beget inability to labor, destitution, desperation. Upon these follow insanity, temptation, crime against the State, death by self-immolation, and consequently, impoverishment and debility. . ."

The Archives is most appreciative of the donation of these documents on Dr. Lopez.

"People often avoid making decisions out of fear of making a mistake. Actually, the failure to make decisions is one of life's biggest mistakes."

- Rabbi Noah Weinberg, 48 Ways To Wisdom, Way #4



July Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday To ...

1 Marissa Friduss	15 Dena Paper
1 Peter Susman	16 Katlin Bergman
2 Stacy Kessler	16 Allen Wolfsheimer
3 Charlie Brown	17 Rachel Borak
3 Betsy Dittman	17 Jay Ross
3 Lisa Lansky	17 Steve Weinstein
5 Syde Kretzer	18 Anne Lowenburg
7 Wendy Conrad	19 Maury Friedlander
7 Irwin Misrok	20 Maud Patterson
8 Linda Blassingame	20 David Shulman
8 David Holberg	21 Robin Ayers
8 Murray Levine	21 Robin Gottlieb
8 David Zimmerman	22 Joshua Danner Foster
8 Stanley Zimmerman	22 Eli Franco
10 Patricia Altmayer	22 Sandra Liederman
10 Ellen Laden Zivitz	23 Ed Blassingame
11 Bryan Hill	23 Michael Passero
11 Ashton Silverstein	25 Bryan Franco
12 Katie Webster	25 Harriet Simon
13 Carolyn Dravis	26 Asher Charles Altman
13 Sarah Sternberg	27 Ariel Denson
14 Elliot Cherniak	29 Leslie Miller
14 Todd Mishkin	29 Ada Small
14 Glen Mutchnick	30 Carol Ann Fry
15 Anne Gagstatter	30 Patti Kunstadt
15 Victoria Hirsch	

Happy Anniversary To ...

- 1 Margaret & Milton Brown
- 4 Cindy & Phil Magnes
- 6 Maure & Michael Sternberg
- 7 Diane & Richard Frank
- 9 Wendy & Aaron Solomon
- 19 Harriet & William Kahn
- 24 Gary & Patrice Fishbein
- 25 Ceresa & Paul Frenkel
- 29 Marjorie & Jay Altmayer





August Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday To ...

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Joseph Handmacher | 16 Grace Michaelis |
| 1 Joseph Kogon | 17 Rebecca Denson |
| 1 Robbie Nadas | 17 Marsha Ann Dittman |
| 2 Margaret Brown | 17 Deborah Sack |
| 2 Andrew Frenkel | 19 Ashley Bergman |
| 2 George Kidd | 19 Pauline Brown |
| 3 Jennifer Altmayer | 19 Eileen Susman |
| 3 Michelle Dobbins | 20 David Fishbein |
| 3 Reita Franco | 21 Cole Appelman |
| 4 Terry Barkin | 21 Jean Fry |
| 4 Milton Brown | 21 Susan Koffler |
| 4 Stacey Silverman Shostak | 21 Jakob Sokol |
| 4 Carol Zimmerman | 22 Carrie Friduss |
| 5 Pamela Thompson | 23 David Ennis |
| 7 Geoffrey Barkin | 23 Jeffrey Miller |
| 8 Anna Brown | 23 Audra Sack |
| 8 Miriam Fry | 23 Arthur Zimmerman |
| 8 Joyce Toubiana | 24 Jeremy Borak |
| 9 Jeanne Denson | 26 Michael Aronson |
| 9 Alicia Pereira | 26 Miles Denson |
| 10 Megan Dobbins | 28 Richard Pearl |
| 11 Lindsey Gottlieb | 28 Susan Rosenbaum |
| 11 Phillip Magnes | 29 Tamara Fulford |
| 11 Ethan Joseph Michaelis | 29 Manuel Arthur Gardberg |
| 12 William Handmacher | 30 David Conrad |
| 12 Katherine Pearl | 30 Jeffrey Kahn |
| 14 Brooks Fishbein | 30 Abe Nathan Solomon |
| 14 Emaline Solomon | 30 Joseph Walter Solomon |
| 15 Marian Berkin | 31 Joshua Altmayer |
| 15 Frederick Miller | 31 Leah Danielle Brown |
| 16 David Gardberg | 31 David Harris |
| 16 Eric Gottlieb | |

Happy Anniversary To ...

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 Judy & Nathan Aronson | 23 Anne & John Zelnicke |
| 2 Cece & James Spain | 25 Judi & Paul Bergman |
| 7 Marian & Mark Berkin | 25 Elaine & Ron Berman |
| 11 Barbara & Seth Cherniak | 27 Jean & Roland Fry |
| 15 Dale & Alan Foster | 28 Amy & Jack Frielander |
| 17 Ellen & Bill Shulman | 28 Joyce & Gerard Toubiana |
| 22 Kim & David Zimmerman | 30 Iris & Nate Ginsberg |



YAHARZEIT

It is a true Mitzvah to honor those whose memory we hold dear by attending services on the Shabbat Yahrzeit (year's time) and in joining with your congregation in reciting Kaddish and the giving of charity in their memory.

July 5

Fannie Hirsch, Raymond Hirsch, Cassius Fishbein,
Max Keller, Jean Marx, Anna L. Gup, Shana Amy Glass, Claire Pollock

July 12

Sonia Tolpin, Miriam Zelnicker, Sol Kretzer

July 19

Louis Kahn, Mae Dalton, Benjamin Gold, Jean Barken, James Sidie,
Paul M. Brown, Lillis May Gould, Jacob Reiss, Jr., Lazarus Schwarz, Ruby Stern

July 26

Stacey Fox Cannon, Solomon E. Cherniak, Sidney Rosner,
Emil Tolpin, Laurie Bond, Morris Kogon, Leah Raider, Jay Max Maisel

August 2

Anna Berkower, Edwin A. Zelnicker, Jr.,
Emma Raider, Raymond Frankel, Herman Patterson, Anne Heart Bergman



THE SPRINGHILL AVENUE TEMPLE YOUTH GROUP NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Regrettably, Kim Zimmerman will no longer be the Youth Advisor for SHAFTY. Consequently, another advisor is needed for the upcoming year. The SHAFTY advisor must be at least 21 years of age and would assist our SHAFTY members by coordinating and aiding our youth in the various fund raisers, events, and leadership conferences held throughout the year. The first event is a leadership conference at Jacobs Camp coming up in August.

If you are interested in this very rewarding volunteer opportunity, please contact the Temple at 478-0415 or email secretary@springhillavenuetemple.com

“There's a lovely Hasidic story of a rabbi who always told his people that if they studied the Torah, it would put Scripture on their hearts. One of them asked, "Why on our hearts, and not in them?" The rabbi answered, "Only God can put Scripture inside. But reading sacred text can put it on your heart, and then when your hearts break, the holy words will fall inside.”

Anne Lamott, Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith

CONTRIBUTIONS

Springhill Avenue Tornado Fund – Emily & Harold Fink

In honor of Ryan Kunstadt's graduation from USA Medical School – Priscilla Gold-Darby

In honor of the birth of Bill & Ellen Shulman's new granddaughter – Priscilla Gold-Darby

In honor of Sam Small's "Teacher of the Year" award – Priscilla Gold-Darby

In honor of Joe Solomon's generosity – Miss Susan

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund – LeNae & Bill Denson

Temple General Fund – Leonard Wells

A speedy recovery for Nick Aronson – Priscilla Gold-Darby

In memory of Shirley Tolpin – Julie & Neil Robinson, Rose & Joe Schultz,
Mary Ann & Maury Friedlander, Betty Brown

In memory of Milton Klein – Jane & Tom Frith

In memory of Betty Grief Zivitz – Harriet & G. B. Kahn

In memory of Jane Schear Richards – Nancy & Richard Hill

In memory of Aunt Elaine – Judi & Paul Bergman

In memory of Scott Lehrer – Susan & Mike Rosenbaum



**First day of Religious School is
Sunday, August 18th!**

**A Teacher's Workshop (teachers only)
is scheduled for Sunday, August 11th**

**Hebrew School
First Day and Registration is
Wednesday, August 21st!**

If you know of any family (member or non-member) with children Pre-K through 10th grade who you believe might be interested in our Religious School Program, please give them Sam Small's contact information (251-753-1705 or samsmall@att.net).



JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES **A COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY**

Jewish Family Services is a local organization here to help those in need in our community. JFS can assist with needs such as medical care, transportation, and housing. For more information, or for assistance, please call 251-219-8699 or email dhandmacher@comcast.net

Donald M. Kunstadt, Rabbi
Alan N. Goldberg, President
Alan V. Hirsch, First Vice-President

J. Michael Pereira, Second Vice President
Aaron Solomon, Treasurer
Liz Fry, Secretary

Springhill Avenue Temple
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CALENDAR

Wednesdays – 4:00 p.m. Hebrew School - August 21st – Registration and first day

Wednesdays – 6:00 p.m. Torah Study - July 17, 24, and 31

**Sundays – 9:45 a.m. Religious School - Teacher In-Service - August 11
First day of class - August 18**



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