

CONGREGATION SHA'ARAI SHOMAYIM
SPRINGHILL
AVENUE
TEMPLE
www.springhillavenuetemple.com

FOUNDED 1844

THE TEMPLE BULLETIN

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, April 1 | 6:00 p.m. | Shabbat Service. Shliach Onn Halfon to speak on the current situation in the Middle East. |
| Friday, April 8 | 6:00 p.m. | Shabbat Service. SHAFTY Shabbat Service. Cantor Mark Opatow will be with us. |
| Saturday, April 9 | 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. | Shabbat Breakfast. Shabbat Morning Service. Cantor Mark will be with us. |
| Friday, April 15 | 6:00 p.m. | Shabbat Service with our Volunteer Choir Anna Brown will be participating in the service. |
| Saturday April 16 | 10:30 a.m. | Shabbat Morning Service. Bat Mitzvah of Anna Brown |
| Monday, April 18 | 6:00 p.m. | Congregational Passover Seder |
| Friday, April 22 | 6:00 p.m. | Passover Shabbat Service. |
| Monday, April 25 | 10:30 a.m. | Passover Yizkor Memorial Service. |
| Friday, April 29 | 6:00 p.m. | Shabbat Service with our Volunteer Choir. Sermon: "Real Holiness" |

(Our Administrative Offices will be closed Tuesday, April 19 and Monday, April 25 in observance of the first and last day of Passover, however doors will open at 9:30 a.m. for the Yizkor Memorial Service at 10:30 a.m.)*

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



TORAH SELECTION:
Leviticus 12:1-13:59; Exodus 12:1 -20
Haftarah - Ezekiel 45:16-46:18

From the Rabbi

One of the greatest challenges is how we measure ultimate meaning in our lives. Society in general has often done this through gross domestic product, a measure of society's output. You might have recently read about the Prime Minister of Great Britain, David Cameron, deciding to create a new index, a national happiness index.

It is a fascinating idea: that there are both qualitative and quantitative ways to measure the happiness of society. In a recent article by Roger Cohen, he suggests that there are indeed ways to measure happiness. These are the values he suggested: love and friendship, family relations, employment level, monetary wealth, material fulfillment, clean air, release from stress and pressure, and many other such values. The fascinating thing about Cohen's article is that it says nothing whatsoever about religion and ultimate values. It all made me think where has religion gone wrong? If there is anything that addresses ultimate values shouldn't it be religion? Apparently the short answer for some is that religion has nothing to do with it.

I would beg to differ. To my mind nothing is more important to finding a fulfilled and meaningful life than turning to religion. After all, religion seeks to answer the unanswerable questions of life. After meeting basic human needs like food, shelter, and sex, where do we seek meaning? Clearly there are many varied religious answers to finding meaning and fulfillment, however the important thing is that there are many answers.

Might I suggest that we consider the question when have we been the happiest? What have truly been the ultimate moments of your life? Was it perhaps the birth of a child, or a lifecycle event much anticipated such as marriage? Perhaps it was a warm spring afternoon when you were blessed to be able to walk barefoot in our shimmering sand. The feel of the Gulf of Mexico's kindly waters and the reassuring rays of sun warming our weary bodies can bring an ultimate sense of calmness and serenity. When one opens one's eyes to God's eternal blessings, at that moment everything seems possible, and the gross domestic product seems about as irrelevant to our happiness as any government statistic ever created. Open your eyes to God's blessings, and observe carefully. Just perhaps it might affect your personal happiness index more than any other value.

Rabbi Donald Kunstadt



**Jewish Alumni/Parents Weekend April 8-10, 2011
A Weekend of Celebration & Dedication
At the University of Alabama**

Make your reservation now to be a part of the first Jewish Alumni/Parent Weekend celebrating the opening of the new Bloom Hillel Center. There is no cost for any of the activities except for the dinners Friday and Saturday night. Guests have the choice of paying \$75 per person for both evenings or \$40 per person if you can only attend one. Alumni from the classes of 2000-2010 have a special rate of \$50 for the weekend. For a description of the full weekend program and for more information visit www.bamahillel.org.



Springhill Avenue Temple
Invites You and Your Family, Friends and Guests
to join us for a beautiful
Passover Seder
Monday, April 18, 2011
6:00 p.m.

By RESERVATION ONLY. This will be a catered, sit-down dinner,
 with all the delicious, traditional Passover dishes featured.

The deadline for reservations is Wednesday, April 13th

\$35.00 for Temple Members, \$40.00 for guests, \$20.00 for children under 13.

***** cut here ***** cut here *****

Name: _____

#Reservations: ____ Adult (\$35) ____ Guests (\$40) ____ Children (\$20)

____ I am paying by check: _____ amount enclosed:

Send check to: Springhill Avenue Temple, 1769 Springhill Ave., Mobile, AL 36607

____ I will pay by credit card: Card type: _____ Card# _____

exp. date: _____

You can also phone in your reservations and pay by credit card (Temple Office at 478-0415)



Monday, April 25th at 10:30 a.m.
At Temple
Passover Yizkor Memorial Service



Hello Spring Hill Avenue Temple!

SHAFTY had a blast with the Purim Carnival this year! It was so much fun seeing the Religious School play the carnival games! We also enjoyed the Sisterhood Dinner after services and the Megilla Reading! And we loved the Hamentashens! Thanks Ms. Celia Mutchnick!

We went to Birmingham, AL for the NFTY-So Spring Conclave! It's always fun to see our regional Jewish friends! The theme was: **NFTY IN WONDERLAND: Israel Through the Looking Glass and Regional Elections!**

On April 8th we will be conducting our **SHAFTY SHABBAT** Service! Please make sure you attend! We are planning a tribute to Debbie Friedman with music from Cantor Mark Opatow and Richard Zimmerman!

We are in the middle of editing our Documentary "**When Worlds Collide**" and we hope to have the premiere in the first part of May, around Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Memorial Day. Watch the Chai Notes for details!

Thank you to all who bought Passover candy; it should be arriving shortly.

Maring Eberlein and Victoria Hirsch, SHAFTY Presidents



Our dear friends in the Jewish community of Mobile, Alabama! We would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the warm hospitality that we received from everyone.

We were very touched to see how you and your community have wrapped our son Onn with love and enabled him to bring a piece of Israel to your life.

On a personal note we would like to express our thanks to you for opening your hearts and your houses to us on our visit with Onn. Everyone of you gave us the feeling of being at home. Everyone of you gave our son Onn a feeling of being at home everywhere.

Please feel free to call us for any reason that may come up. You all have an open invitation to our house when you visit Israel .

Love you all,

Esti and Amos Halfon

estihalfon@gmail.com

171a Sea Road

Haifa 34748

Israel

Esti -054-2132166 Home - 04-8370107 Amos - 054-2132160

From Your Archives...

In the midst of Mobile's historic Church Street Graveyard, beneath massive live oaks and magnolia trees is a bronze marker indicating the location of the oldest Jewish graves in Alabama. Erected many years ago by the Mobile Section, National Council of Jewish Women, the marker adjoins the burial plots of ten Jewish individuals who died and were buried in the cemetery years before Congregation Sha'arai Shomayim was incorporated.

Six of the graves belong to members of the Davis family. George Davis, Jr., who died in 1853, is buried next to his first wife, Amelia, and four of their children: Isaac, who died on his first birthday in April 1829; Rosella, who lived for one month in 1830; a second Rosella, who lived two months in 1831; and Elizabeth Virginia who died in 1832 at three months of age. Isaac's grave is considered the oldest known Jewish grave in Alabama. George Davis, Jr., was the son of the "Original George Davis," a well-known Jewish merchant in Mobile in the early 1800s. Whether or not George Jr. was active in practicing his faith is not known. Records indicate he married two more times and that none of his wives appear to have been Jewish.

Also in this Jewish area of Church Street Graveyard are the burial sites of Anna Jane Jones, wife of founding congregant Solomon I. Jones, and their daughter, Sarah Amanda Jones. Anna died in 1857; her daughter died in 1834 at age twelve.

Curiously, next to these graves is the tomb of Arthur S. Keene, who died in 1837 at age 56. His marker notes he was a native of Ireland. His involvement in the Jewish community is not known.

By May 1836 Church Street Graveyard was rapidly reaching capacity due in part to the large number of deaths from several Yellow Fever epidemics that periodically swept the city. The City then opened Magnolia Cemetery to provide more burial space. For the next forty years Jewish Mobilians were typically interred in the Hebrew Rest section of Magnolia. In 1876 the Temple consecrated its own cemetery a block away from Magnolia.

Time has taken a toll on the Church Street gravesites, with many of the markers crumbling and the inscriptions all but undecipherable. The burial plot represents one of the oldest, but least known, legacies of the Jewish community in Mobile.

Susan Thomas, Archivist



***Mobile Chamber Music
Presents the
Alma and Anthony Fisher Memorial Concert
Manahem Pressler, piano
Sunday, April 17, 2011 - 3:00 p.m.
Laidlaw Performing Arts Center***

Members of the Temple for many years, Alma and Anthony Fisher were among the original founders of Mobile Chamber Music and Alma was a holocaust survivor. This concert is in honor of them. Manahem Pressler fled from Nazi Germany, emigrated to Israel and is among the world's most distinguished musicians.

Tickets \$20; student tickets \$10; ticket information 476-8794

From Our Shliach, Onn Halfon

Dear friends,

This has been an amazing month for my family and me. We are so appreciative of the warm reception given to my parents. We were all quite moved. You afforded them a true sense of belonging and community, and for that I am grateful.

This new month which we enter marks the departure “from slavery to freedom” and is celebrated by the ritual of Passover seder. In recent months, we have all been witness to a dramatic "exit to freedom" of the Middle Eastern people of many Arab nations. In many cases, these people have lived for decades under the oppression of dictating rulers and kings. These people have, once again, shown that freedom and democracy will find a way through the darkness. We can only hope for a new era of self-governing communities within the Arab world which may nurture free thought and eventual peace.

Unfortunately, Israel still stands alone as an island among often-hostile Arab nations. She needs the continued assistance of the United States government and American citizens more than ever. I want to take this opportunity to tell you about an incident which took place last month at the Fairhope Library. This event, hosted by the Lamonts, demonstrated to a crowd of approximately 25 their view of truth regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They portrayed the Palestinians as a people who want nothing but peace and justice. They attempted to convince the audience that the Palestinians feel completely helpless, justifying their actions as “martyrs.” These twisted stories of hatred are designed to hide the truth regarding this ongoing conflict.

As a Jewish community, we can never tolerate these sorts of actions. Whether occurring thousands of miles away or in our own backyards, we must make a stand. It is again time for us to take action and demonstrate the reality of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It is again time for us to speak, both as individuals and as a people, about the realities of this coveted region. We must shine light on the atrocities committed against the Jewish people by the Palestinians in our own God-given homeland.

During this time of middle eastern unrest, we must take a stand. Let us remind the world that the state of Israel consistently puts human rights over political advancement. We will not allow twisted stories of hatred to become disseminated without a fight.

Let the upcoming celebration of Passover motivate us to take action. We must continue to support our beloved homeland in the darkest of nights. Together, we have the ability to illuminate the truth. Please join me.

Yours truly,
Onn



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

**Elliott and Nell Maisel
(Rebecca, Evan and Louis)
3378 Moffett
Mobile, AL 36607
251-476-9600**



"Love, Labor, Loss"

Every woman has a right to a safe delivery

Raising awareness about a Childbearing injury called obstetric fistula

Join us for an afternoon dessert party

Admission is \$10.00 minimum

All proceeds will go to the Campaign to End Fistula



Saturday, April 30, 2011 at Temple

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

For more details contact Victoria Hirsh 654-5430

For more information about what the United Nations has called "one of the top ten most underreported stories the world should know about" go to www.lovelaborloss.com

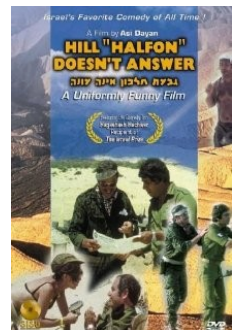


Israeli Movie Nite

Thursday, April 28 – 7:00 p.m. at Temple

"Halfon Hill Doesn't Answer"

(1976 Comedy) Sergio Konstanza, a Swindler, owes money to Mr. Hasson. He escapes to the desert where he joins a wacky army reserve unit whose Seargent is engaged to one of Mr. Hasson's Daughters.



RWANDA – One Man's Story of Genocide

Wednesday, April 6, 2011 – USA Library Auditorium

7:00 to 8:30 p.m. – Open to the Public



As a humanitarian aid worker, Carl Wilkens found himself in Rwanda when the genocide was launched in April 1994. Carl refused to leave even when urged to do so by close friends, his church and the United States government.

Carl uses a storytelling format to talk about the genocide and the treacherous thinking that says we can solve a problem by excluding someone.

**Sponsors: The Quest for Social Justice
and the Gulf Coast Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education**

Hebrew School News



Our students participated in the Shabbat Service on February 25th. They did an outstanding job and we were all very proud of them. A special thanks to my dedicated teachers – Patti Kunstadt, Rachel Borak, Rabbi Kunstadt and Onn Halfon.

There WILL NOT be Hebrew School on April 6th, 20th and 27th due to Pesach and Spring break. We WILL have class on April 13th.

Shalom,
Helen Small

UPKEEP RETREAT

For Men Only

Friday, April 8 – Sunday, April 10, 2011

Male Adult members of the Jacobs Camp Family are invited to help get ready for the summer!

STAY THE WHOLE WEEKEND
OR
JUST COME FOR THE DAY ON
SATURDAY!

From general repairs to special building projects – inside and out. Tools are provided; wear clothes you don't mind getting sweaty and dirty.

Don't forget to bring your work gloves!!!

If interested, visit www.jacobs.urjcamp.org for applications and additional information

Phone: 601-885-6042
Email: jacobscamp@urj.org



At its most recent meeting, the Board of Trustees has changed the minimum contribution amount to \$18 per donation and Tree of Life plaques are \$250 each.

We appreciate all contributions to the Temple and encourage you to remember the Temple for memorials, births, weddings, birthdays, honors and other celebrations.



JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES - A COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY



Jewish Family Services (JFS) is a United Way Agency, funded to help our Jewish community members when in need.

JFS can provide someone in need with financial assistance, counseling, transportation and much more.

For more information about the services provided by JFS, or to make a referral, please contact Dana Handmacher at 251-457-3557 or dhandmacher@comcast.net.

The Mobile Area Jewish Federation
Presents
"Crisis in the Middle East"
A review of the situation and the impact on Israel.
A multimedia presentation by
Dr. Jonathan Adelman
Sunday, April 3rd at 7:00 p.m.



West Regional Branch of the Mobile Public Library

Dr. Jonathan Adelman, a full professor at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver, has written and edited 12 books. His recent book, **The Rise of Israel: A History of a Revolutionary State**, has been well received. He has taught at both Hebrew University and the University of Haifa.

Professor Adelman has lectured at universities ranging from Harvard, Columbia and Cambridge to the Air War College and Chinese National Defense University (Beijing).

This presentation is free and open to the public.

The Book of Judges



Rabbi Kunstadt's Torah Study is now studying the Book of Judges. The Book of Judges describes the activities of various Judges who had authority in Israel from the time of Samuel. Exceptional among the Judges was the woman prophet Deborah. Join us Wednesday for the study of this most interesting book.

Every Wednesday Evening at 6:00 p.m.
Torah Study in the Temple Library
with Rabbi Kunstadt



The Temple Extension of the Alabama Gulf Coast Holocaust Library has been shelved in our Library. We now have 49 books and 3 DVDs added to our Library's Holocaust collection. All are ready to be checked out.



**Unveiling for
Ryan Small
Sunday, April 10, 2011
2:00 p.m.
at Springhill Avenue Temple Cemetery**

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday To ...

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Jennifer Aronson | 15 Sharon Sokol |
| 1 David Schjott | 16 Lois Kretzer |
| 3 David Stein | 16 Venetia Prince |
| 4 Rose Brunson | 16 Lysa Van Beuren |
| 4 Carlie Gotlieb | 16 Jan Yellin |
| 4 Jordan Holberg | 18 Katherine Barkin |
| 4 Tara Holberg | 18 Bradley Kayser |
| 4 Cece Spain | 18 Melanie Lubitz |
| 4 Jennifer Sundberg | 18 Sarah Lubitz |
| 5 Thomas Kessler | 19 Gary Rich |
| 5 Sherry Mutchnick | 20 Bettina Prager |
| 6 Robert Holberg | 20 Daniel Tolpin |
| 7 Rose Brunson | 20 Elizabeth Zimmerman |
| 7 Warren Koffler | 24 Shari Green |
| 7 Ben Zinder | 25 Jack Friedlander |
| 8 Cory Garfunkel | 25 Robin Mishkin |
| 8 Phil Laden | 25 Odette Sternberg |
| 9 Paul Frenkl | 26 Arthur Prince |
| 9 David Gardberg | 27 Jim Denson |
| 10 Cindy Mayer | 27 JoAnne Fusco |
| 10 Melville Sternberg | 27 Marc Miller |
| 11 Eileen Abrams | 28 Alexis Goldberg |
| 11 Barry Silverman | 28 Missi Shumer |
| 12 Kirsten Holbrook | 28 Shirley Silverman |
| 13 Donna Carr | 29 Michael Friedlander |
| 13 Meryl Harris | 29 Brian Mishkin |
| 13 Steven Zimmerman | 29 Stanley Small |
| 15 Jamie Dupree | 30 Frank Anderson |
| 15 Susan Friedman | |
| 15 Pavel Lichtenstein | |
| 15 Michael Rosenbaum | |

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday To ...

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Susan Denson | 16 Todd Lewis |
| 1 Donald Friedlander | 17 Ira Frederic Cherniak |
| 1 Ralph Holberg III | 19 Michael Pereira |
| 1 Paula Strauss | 20 Michelle Klein |
| 1 Robert Zimmerman | 20 Richard Tolpin |
| 2 Jerry Schjott | 21 Kenneth Altman |
| 2 Carrie Waldrop | 21 Lucas Michaelis |
| 2 Kimberly Zelnicker | 21 John Webster |
| 3 Alain Gamble | 22 Mark Brown |
| 3 Jonah Klein | 22 Debbie Clolinger |
| 4 Becky Hoffman | 22 Laura Golovin-Greer |
| 4 Cheryl Holbrook | 22 Ethan Kunstadt |
| 4 Kameron Holbrook | 23 Jule Kayser |
| 4 Tim Prince | 24 Frank Friedman |
| 4 Ann Yonge | 24 Donald Kunstadt |
| 6 Ron Berman | 24 Genna Yonge |
| 7 Randall Kogon | 25 Julie Kogon |
| 8 Arik Sokol | 25 Alan Lewis |
| 10 Nicole Appelman | 27 Maure Sternberg |
| 10 Dana Handmacher | 28 Lisa Hirsch |
| 10 Adian Lobel | 28 Irving Koffler |
| 10 Elsa Simon | 29 Aaron Denson |
| 11 Evelina Shmukler | 29 Abbe Fass |
| 12 Lauren Friedlander | 29 Richard Zimmerman |
| 12 Lori Michaelis | 30 Shirley Boyd |
| 12 David Rose | 30 Gladys Cherniak |
| 12 Richard Rose | 30 Eli Foster |
| 13 Carolyn Metzger | 30 Sloane Maisel |
| 14 Stephen Conrad | 31 Corey Passman |
| 14 Joseph Fetterman | 31 Elizabeth Prager |
| 15 Heidi Kinsella | |



Happy Anniversary To ...

16 Adrian and Jeffrey Dyer-Smith
16 Jean and Phillip Laden
17 Ellie and Cole Appelman
20 Ellen and Maury Zivitz
22 Claris and Sam Feibelman
22 Leslie and Alan Goldberg
23 Tonia and Jerry Silverstein
29 Pauline and Michael Brown

Happy Anniversary To ...

15 Ada and Sam Small
18 Jeanne and Gary Garfunkel
20 Patti and Donald Kunstadt
22 Sandra and Eric Liederman
24 Yaffa and Mark Brown
24 Tammy and David Rubenstein

Donald M. Kunstadt, Rabbi
Michael R. Holberg, President
Nate Ginsberg, First Vice-President

Alan Goldberg, Second Vice-President
Alan V. Hirsch, Treasurer
Jonathan Gardberg, Secretary

Springhill Avenue Temple
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THE TEMPLE BULLETIN
(USPS-966-900) is published monthly by
Springhill Avenue Temple, 1769 Springhill Ave.,
Mobile, AL 36607. "Periodicals Postage Paid at
Mobile, Alabama."
POSTMASTER:
Send address change to:
1769 Springhill Ave.
Mobile, AL 36607

CALENDAR

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|------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Sunday, April 3 | 7:00 p.m. | "Crisis in the Middle East" presented by Dr. John Adelman at West Regional Branch of the Mobile Public Library <i>(details on page 9)</i> |
| Wednesdays, April 6, 13, 20, 27 | 6:00 p.m. | Torah Study with Rabbi Kunstadt in Temple Library |
| Wednesday, April 6 | 7:00 p.m. | "Rwanda – One Man's Story of Genocide" USA Library Auditorium; Open to the Public |
| April 8-10, 2011 | | Jewish Alumni Weekend at the University of Alabama celebrating the new Bloom Hillel Center <i>(details page 2)</i> |
| April 8-10, 2011 | | Jacobs Camp "Upkeep Retreat" For Men Only <i>(details on page 8)</i> |
| Friday, April 8 | 6:00 p.m. | SHAFTY Shabbat Services. Cantor Mark Opatow will be with us |
| Sunday, April 10 | 9:45 a.m. | Religious School <i>(No Religious School April 3rd or 24th)</i> |
| Sunday, April 10 | 2:00 p.m. | Unveiling for Ryan Small at Springhill Avenue Temple Cemetery |
| Wednesday, April 13 | 4:00 p.m. | Hebrew School <i>(No Hebrew School for April 6th, 20th or 27th)</i> |
| Sunday April 17 | 9:45 a.m. | Religious School - Focus on Passover, Passover Model Sedar & \ Lunch |
| Sunday, April 17 | 3:00 p.m. | Mobile Chamber Music Alma and Anthony Fisher Memorial Concert presents Manahem Pressler, piano, Laidlaw Performing Arts Center <i>(details page 5)</i> |
| Monday, April 18 | 6:00 p.m. | Congregational Passover Seder. |
| Monday, April 25 | 10:30 a.m. | Passover Yizkor Memorial Service |
| Thursday, April 28 | 7:00 p.m. | Israeli Movie Night at Springhill Avenue Temple featuring "Halfon Hill Doesn't Answer" |
| Saturday, April 30 | 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. | "Love, Labor, Loss" Fund Raiser at Springhill Avenue Temple <i>(details on page 7)</i> |