
**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, June 1	6:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service Sermon: "The Narcissist's Struggle" Birthday Blessing for Pinkie Cherniak Cantor Mark will be with us
Friday, June 8	6:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service Sermon: "Beyond Stereotypes"
Saturday, June 9	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Breakfast Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi
Friday, June 15	6:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service Sermon: "Travel Without Being A Tourist"
Friday, June 22	6:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service Dr. Nate Ginsberg will conduct the service
Friday, June 29	6:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service Dr. Murry Mutchnick will conduct the service

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



TORAH SELECTION:
Numbers 4:21 –7:89
Haftarah – Judges 13:2-25

FROM THE RABBI

Technology is both a blessing and a curse. Have you ever been at a party or dinner table where several people instead of sharing the moment and enjoying the wonderful company and cuisine, were busy texting under the table? Have you ever been to an event where people seemed more focused on their iPhones than what was happening at the moment? Do you know people who will answer their text messages, but refuse to answer their phone?

There is no going backwards with technology. For years I fought getting a cell phone but finally I gave in. Judaism has always taught the middle way in life. The great Rabbi and sage Maimonides taught, "If a man finds that his nature tends or is disposed to extremes..., he should turn back and improve, so as to walk in the way of good people, which is the right way. The right way is the mean in each group of dispositions common to humanity; namely, that disposition which is equally distant from the two extremes in its class, not being nearer to the one than to the other." He was teaching in good company with ancient Greek thought, that there is a middle path in all courses.

I must admit I've given in in many ways to the wonderful benefits of technology. In fact I am writing this article using voice recognition software. It does save time!

Have we however turned away from some of our humanity? When people fail to talk to one another, but sit across from each other texting, we have moved far from the Golden mean. Sometimes technology becomes popular simply because the media convinces us of its benefit. Great marketers can make you want almost anything. At times there really is a useful time-saving product, and, yes, I will embrace it.

What we need is more humanity and less marketing. We need more personal contact, we need more personal dialogue, and we need to be coming closer to each other, not more distant as technology progresses. Surely many would argue with me that technology has brought us closer through Facebook, twitter and other new media. While it has accomplished that it has also made true relationship and real intimacy more difficult.

Just as an experiment, maybe only for today, try to limit your texting and begin talking. There is a good middle way with all things. Even with technology.

Rabbi Donald M. Kunstadt

"Have you ever been to an event where people seem more focused on their iPhones than what was happening at the moment?"



Join Springhill Avenue Temple's Group on Facebook! – Keep up to date on Temple and community events. Go to www.facebook.com and search for Springhill Avenue Temple (our group currently has 72 members). Or click on the Facebook icon shown above. Once there, do a "friend request" and we can get you added. Don't delay! Do it today!

Also, check out Rabbi's new blog at rabbikunstadt.com.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is hard to believe that almost a year has passed since I took the office of President. Time goes by fast when you are having a good time. It really has been a very pleasant year with very few problems.

There are so many people to thank. First I would like to thank Rabbi Kunstadt for his input, understanding and great ideas. Cantor Opatow is such a great addition to our congregation.

Our Sunday school is outstanding thanks to Sam Small and his group of teachers and assistants. If you have not heard our children at their Bar or Bat Mitzvah or our younger ones come before the pulpit and read Hebrew, you have missed something special. This is due to Helen Small and her very competent teachers.

The Board of Trustees has been an absolute pleasure to be with. They are a tremendous group of individuals who care about our Temple.

A special thanks to all our Committee chairpersons and all their members for their hard work. A special kudo to Howard Silverman, chairman of the House Committee whose hard work has been a blessing to our Temple.

We have had some innovative projects this year starting with our Yom Kippur Memorial Book. Our Membership Appreciation night was a tremendous success. The debut of our Temple Band was very special and moving. We hope that they will perform more often.

We had our Temple survey that let you the congregation make some decisions. Majority voted to have evening services for the High Holy Days at 7:00P.M. The congregation also voted to have the names read at Yizkor service.

I would like to tell everyone that our finances are well balanced; however, once again, we are at a deficit. The board has done its best to cut expenses but in this economy the income side has taken a hit. In the future, we will be looking at innovative ways to get back on track.

It has been a privilege to be your President and I hope to continue to instill confidence in my leadership and the leadership of the Board of Trustees.

Nate Ginsberg, President

"It has been a very pleasant year with very few problems."

Mazel Tov!

To **Ellie and Cole Appelman** on the graduation of their daughter, **Danielle**, from Elon Law School in North Carolina and also on **Danielle's** recent engagement to Tom Green from High Point, NC.

and to

Dr. Pavel and Hazel Lichtenstein on the birth of their grandson, Samuel, born to Dr. Erin and Michael Lichtenstein on May 21, 2012.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

By Susan Thomas, Archivist

On September 15, 2000, the Ben May Chapel addition to Springhill Avenue Temple was dedicated. A sizeable portion of the funds needed for building the chapel was provided by the Ben May Charitable Trust. Funds from the Trust were also used to help fund renovations to the downtown library, now called the Ben May Main Library. Other local beneficiaries of the Trust include Mobile Infirmary, the Community Foundation of South Alabama, Boys and Girls Clubs, and the Mobile Opera.

Ben May, a successful Mobile businessman and member of the Temple, established the Trust in 1971, a year before he died. Throughout his life he contributed to many scientific, humanitarian, and philanthropic endeavors. In 1951 he provided funds to help establish the Ben May Laboratory for Cancer Research at the University of Chicago; he also contributed to the cancer research programs at Southern Research Institute in Birmingham, Alabama.

Ben May was born in 1889 to Jewish immigrants from Alsace-Lorraine, France. He began work at an early age at a saw mill in rural Alabama; he later began to acquire timberlands and eventually amassed a small fortune from shipping lumber to Europe during World War I. In 1940 he founded Gulf Lumber Company in Mobile.

A quiet, almost reclusive individual, Ben May shunned publicity and did much of his charitable giving with little fanfare. When he was inducted posthumously into the Alabama Business Hall of Fame, the program for the

occasion stated, "May's real success in life came from his intense desire to use his wealth to assist others. He had a deep concern for others and their problems and could not turn anyone away who came to him for help."

Ben May was married to a distant cousin from France, Yvonne Picard May, and they had one son, Ben May, Jr. Ben May died of a heart attack on November 22, 1972. Yvonne died in 1993 and Ben, Jr., in 1997. Ben May's contributions to his community live on. As summarized in the Hall of Fame program, "He will be known forever as a benefactor of mankind, an influence for good who left a far-reaching legacy of long importance to his fellowman."



CONTRIBUTIONS

In honor of Barry Silverman's 70th birthday – Iris & Albert Klein

A speedy recovery for Leon Mishkin – Iris & Nate Ginsberg

In memory of Warren Leon Garfunkel – Phyllis Feibelman

In memory of Hank Becker – Claire & Marc Becker

In memory of Fran Brown – Pauline & Michael Brown, Suzanne Brown

In memory of Pearline Ginsberg – Ellen & William Shulman, Nancy & Charlie Brown, Jean & Roland Fry, Stacy Levine, Frances & Max Mutchnick, Nell & Calvin Ennis, Judy & Nick Aronson, Cindy & Phil Magnes

In loving memory of Harris Friedlander – Mary Ann, Maury, Beth and Michael Friedlander

In loving memory of our father, Dr. Joe Miller – Joan & Gordon McCracken, Paige & Alain Becquet, Bruce Miller and Carol Miller

In loving memory of our grandfather, Dr. Joe Miller – Michael Hoffman, Denny Beth (Punkin) and Jaclyn Becquet

In memory of my mother, Minnie P. Schwarz – Mimi Holberg

In memory of my husband, Ralph G. Holberg, Jr. – Mimi Holberg

In memory of Bernard Lubitz – Jonathan Lubitz

In memory of Molly Zivitz – Charlotte Martin

In loving memory of mother, Mrs. Sylvia Z. Cohn – Marsha & Burt Friedberg

Rabbi's Appreciation Fund – Cyndee Halper, Mel Sternberg

*Unveiling for Dr. Joseph B. Miller
will be June 24, 2012
at 10:30 a.m.
Springhill Avenue Temple Cemetery*

ATTENTION MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE TEMPLE! BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL SHABBAT

Springhill Avenue Temple is in the very early planning stages of a Birthright Israel Shabbat service for, perhaps, sometime in the fall or early in the new year. Toward that effort, we need help in identifying which members in the congregation have made a Birthright Israel trip. Please take a minute to call the Temple office and let us know if you have ever been on a Birthright trip and, if so, when. If it is more convenient to email this information, please send an email to secretary@springhillavenuetemple.com.

**Rockin' Shabbat
and
Annual Teacher Appreciation Service
May 4, 2012**



FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

By Deborah Sack, Committee Chair

Dear Members,

I can't remember another time when our Temple has had so many wonderful events going on.

If you missed our Rockin' Shabbat with the Congregant Band and Cantor Mark, you missed some special evening.

The Membership Committee is going to be putting together a special service for Birthright Israel and would love to have

the names of Jewish young adults in college, ages 20 to 30 that might be interested.

Donna Goldstone just returned from New York where she met with her dear friend who is also the Development Associate for the Birthright Israel Foundation. She has some wonderful information on opportunities for anyone that would like to be part of the Birthright Israel program.

We love that our congregants are staying so involved.

Have a wonderful Summer,

Shalom

Yahrzeit

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

June 1

Helen Koffler, Aaron Landesman, Kenneth Morrow

June 8

Elaine Heart, Patricia E. Fusco, Col. Norman H. Schwartz, Joseph Zulofsky,
Jane Shear Richards, Blanche Pollock, Leah Bernstein Sugarman

June 15

Rose Prince Winer, Helen Wagner, Saul Berkin, Richard L Frank, Sr.
Harris Friedlander, Scott Lehrer, Phillip Dreifuss, Marion S. Frank, Mickey Levy,
Moshe Chernobrov, Lewis Simon

June 22

Naomi Asnes, Emma Kamil, Max Krantman, Abe Silverman, Louis Fleisher
Annette Friedman Gerson, Ira Saks

June 29

Elizabeth Strauss Eber, Robert C. Schwarz, Redonia Fishbein, Matilda Franco,
David Raider. :Leon Stern, Herbert P. (Petey) Feibelman, III, Herbert Feibelman, Jr.
Rebecca Kogon, Harold Renaud

The Book of Isaiah



Rabbi Kunstadt's Torah Study is now studying the Book of Isaiah, often called "The Book of Salvation." The name *Isaiah* means "the salvation of the Lord" or "the Lord is salvation." While little is known of the personal life of the prophet, he is considered to be one of the greatest of them all.

Join us every Wednesday evening in the Temple Library at 6:00 p.m. for the study of this most interesting book.

*Join Us Every Wednesday Evening
at 6:00 p.m.
for Torah Study in the Temple Library*

Please Note Correction - In the May issue of The Temple Bulletin, the submission "From Our Library Committee" should have read that the DVD, *Inside Hana's Suitcase*, was donated by the **Mobile Jewish Federation**. We apologize for this error and any confusion it may have caused.

FROM OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

By Sam Small, M.Ed.

The Religious School is incredibly excited to announce its **First Annual ALL-DAY Field Trip New Orleans**. This trip, which includes Jewish worship, music, food, and fun will be **Saturday, June 2, 2012 from 6:30 am until 8:30 pm**. Students and chaperones will travel by charter bus. We thank Judge G.B. Kahn for his tremendous generosity, as this trip will be no charge for our Religious School. Permission forms were both e-mailed to parents and passed out during the 5/20 Religious School session and should be returned to Sam Small ASAP. The schedule for the trip is as follows:

6:30 am - Arrive promptly at Springhill Avenue Temple
6:30-6:45 am - Eat egg and cheese biscuits and hash browns before loading buses. Last minute bathroom visit!
6:45 am - Charter bus (Gulf Coast Tours) leaves Temple
7:15 am - Charter bus arrives at Mississippi Welcome Center to pick up our Mississippi families

9:45 am - Arrive at Temple Sinai in New Orleans
9:45 am-10:15 - Stretch, Tour of Temple Sinai before services
10:15-11:30 am - Joint Services with Temple Sinai, Touro Synagogue, and Gates of Prayer (and Springhill Avenue Temple Religious School!)
11:30-12:30 pm - Lunch at Temple Sinai will include traditional Jewish food and desserts catered by Stein's Deli
12:30-1:00 pm. - Bus to Audubon Zoo
1:00-4:30 pm - Zoo Adventure with Ravid Steinpress
4:30-4:45 pm - Leave Zoo for Audubon Park
4:45-5:15 pm - Havdalah Service at Audubon Park with Rabbi Kunstadt and Cantor Mark
5:15-6:15 - Bus leaves New Orleans for Slidell, LA
6:15-7:00 pm - Dinner in Slidell (TBA)
7:00-8:30 pm - Bus travels back to Springhill Avenue Temple

June Birthdays and Anniversaries



Happy Birthday To ...

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Christopher Friedman | 13 Amelia Holberg |
| 1 Emily Stein | 13 Adam Sack |
| 2 Joshua Denson | 15 Lila Kogon |
| 2 Barbara Kretzer | 16 Jerry Dobbins |
| 3 Veronica Cherniak | 16 Seth Izenberg |
| 3 Victoria Cherniak | 17 Marc Gottlieb |
| 3 Gretchen Goldberg | 18 Dana Friedlander |
| 3 Michael Lichtenstein | 19 Doris Alfin |
| 3 Sonja Lichtenstein | 19 David Brown |
| 3 Lynn Zelnicker | 19 Alan Goldberg |
| 4 Paul Bergman | 20 Adrian Dyer-Smith |
| 4 Patrice Fishbein | 21 Mark Berkin |
| 5 Bradley Ennis | 21 Samuel Feibelman |
| 5 Kimberly Zimmerman | 22 Jill Conrad |
| 6 Sam Small | 23 Robert Brown |
| 6 Alaina Stokke | 23 Roy Hoffman |
| 8 Richard Hirsch | 26 James Barkin |
| 9 Sarah Webster | 26 Sandra Gandler |
| 10 Shirley Newfield Gaggstatter | 27 Benjamin Fishbein |
| 10 Albert Klein | 28 Harriet Kahn |
| 12 Richard Mazey | 30 Jeff Silverman |
| 13 Matt Friduss | 30 Brian Susman |

Congratulations!

Happy Anniversary To ...

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Pinkie & David Cherniak | 14 Sherry & Glen Mutchnick |
| 2 Flo & Tom Kessler | 16 Kay & Jerry Friedlander |
| 4 Nancy & Charles Brown | 18 Elaine & Robert Holberg |
| 5 Emily & Harold Fink | 19 Monica & Jonah Klein |
| 6 Patricia & Howard Silverman | 19 Bettina & Steve Prager |
| 7 Helen & Stanley Small | 21 Norma & David Conrad |
| 12 LeNae & Bill Denson | 21 Missi & David Shumer |
| 12 Odette & Melville Sternberg | 22 Alain & Gary Gamble |
| 13 Iris & Albert Klein | 23 Susan & Mike Rosenbaum |
| 13 Lynne & Harvey Switzkey | 27 Jenny & Gary Rich |



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 Melanie Lobel |
| 3 Lisa Lansky | 17 Jay Ross |
| 5 Syde Kretzer | 17 Steve Weinstein |
| 7 Wendy Conrad | 18 Anne Lowenburg |
| 7 Irwin Misrok | 19 Maury Friedlander |
| 8 Linda Blassingame | 20 Maud Patterson |
| 8 David Holberg | 20 David Shulman |
| 8 Murray Levine | 21 Robin Ayers |
| 8 David Zimmerman | 21 Robin Gottlieb |
| 8 Stanley Zimmerman | 22 Joshua Danner Foster |
| 10 Patricia Altmayer | 22 Eli Franco |
| 11 Ellen Zivitz | 22 Sandra Liederman |
| 11 Bryan Hill | 23 Ed Blassingame |
| 11 Milton Klein | 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
- 9 Wendy & Aaron Solomon
- 19 Harriet & William Kahn
- 24 Gary & Patrice Fishbein
- 25 Ceresa & Paul Frenkel



FROM OUR SHALICHA, RAVID STEINPRESS

Shalom Friends,

“From all my students I have learned.” (Pirkei Avot, Misnah 1)

As an educator, I believe that education is something that happens in every moment of our life, with every person we meet. I want to take this opportunity to Toda (Thank you) to my educators in the last ten months.

First and foremost, thank you to all the students, parents and teachers of the Hebrew School and Religious School; to my students in the Morning and Evening Ulpan, and to the ladies in the Ulpan across the Bay; my students in Odyssey Class; and the children and teachers from the different schools and churches I have visited.

I want to say Toda to all who prayed with me during Shabbat services and to those I sat with during Oneg Shabbat, Passover Seder and Yom Tov dinner.

A special thank you to everyone who showed me how to celebrate Thanksgiving, Halloween, and every Sunday, how to love football. A special thank you to the volunteers and participants who helped with the International Festival and Yom Ha'Atzmaut.

Toda to all who sent me emails with articles and pictures and who asked me questions about Israel. To all who asked my opinion about current events and who shared their opinion with me also. To all who introduced me to their friends and neighbors, so that I could become friends with them too.

There is a classic question Shlichim asked in order to start a discussion about Israel: What are you first, American or Jewish? Jewish or American? It was not until I came to Mobile

that I asked myself this question. What am I first, Israeli or Jewish? And, thanks to meeting ya'll, I have learned the answer: There is no “first”. I am an Israeli because I was born one, because of my grandparents who dreamed and struggled to be one, because this is where my children will be born. I am an Israeli because I have served my country in the IDF and will do it again, if necessary. I am an Israeli because I love Israel.

I am Jewish because I am part of this people and this is my heritage. I am Jewish because of Shabbat, the holidays and the mitzvot; because the prayers and wisdom echo in my heart. I am Jewish because I choose to be Jewish and I am proud of it.

I am an Israeli because I am Jewish. Because I know that somewhere in the world, there are Jews who are not free and the existence of the State of Israel gives them hope. I am Jewish because I am Israeli. Even when I am far across the ocean, I am longing to be in Israel, like many other Jews before me.

So, I want to say a special and personal Toda to all of you. Being a part of this community has allowed me to learn that lesson. I could not have done it without you and for that I am grateful.

I have full faith that I will see and hear from you again, in Israel or in the United States. I am proud to be a part of the Mobile Jewish community and ya'll have a special place in my heart.

Roll Tide! War Eagle! and Go Jags!

Ravid Steinpress
Israeli Shlicha 2011-2012

Donald M. Kunstadt, Rabbi
Nate Ginsberg, President
Alan Goldberg, First Vice-President

Alan Hirsch, Second Vice-President
Aaron Solomon, Treasurer
Michael Pereira, Secretary

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CALENDAR

Wednesdays -

June 6 and 13

Torah Study with Rabbi Kunstadt

(no Torah Study June 20 or 27)



Friday, June 1

6:00 p.m.

Shabbat Evening Service

Sermon: "The Narcissist's Struggle"

Birthday Blessing for Pinkie Cherniak

Cantor Mark will be with us

Saturday, June 2

6:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

First Annual All-Day Religious School Field

Trip to New Orleans –

Thank you Judge Kahn!

Friday, June 8

6:00 p.m.

Shabbat Evening Service

Sermon: "Beyond Stereotypes"

Saturday, June 9

9:30 a.m.

Shabbat Breakfast

10:30 a.m.

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Dr. Nate Ginsberg will conduct the service

Sunday, June 24

10:30 a.m.

Unveiling for Dr. Joseph B. Miller

Springhill Avenue Temple Cemetery

Friday, June 29

6:00 p.m.

Shabbat Evening Service

Dr. Murry Mutchnick will conduct the service