

CONGREGATION SHA'ARAI SHOMAYIM
SPRINGHILL AVENUE TEMPLE

FOUNDED 1844

THE TEMPLE BULLETIN
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 a historic past, we anticipate our future, one of continual lifelong self-renewal.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

*Sunday, October 2	7:00 p.m.	Erev Rosh Hashanah Service
*Monday, October 3	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Rosh Hashanah Children's Service Rosh Hashanah Morning Service Tachlicht ceremony @ Municipal Park after services
Friday, October 7	6:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service with Cantor Daniel Pincus
*Sunday, October 9	1:00 p.m.	Memorial Service Springhill Avenue Temple Cemetery
*Tuesday, October 11	7:00 p.m.	Kol Nidre Service
*Wednesday, October 12	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 2:30 p.m.	Yom Kippur Children's Service Yom Kippur Morning Service Yom Kippur Afternoon Service
Friday, October 14	6:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service
Sunday, October 16	6:00 p.m.	Sukkot Service
Friday, October 21	6:00 p.m.	Simchat Torah Service

**Please note special times for services in bold.*

*The Temple offices will be closed on Monday, October 3rd
in observance of Rosh Hashanah and
on Wednesday, October 12th in observance of Yom Kippur.*

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



TORAH SELECTION:
Deuteronomy 29:9-30:20
Haftarah – Isaiah 61:10-63:9

FROM THE RABBI

This year, Rosh Hashanah begins on the evening of Sunday, October 2nd. The earliest date on which Rosh Hashanah can fall is September 5th, which happened just a few years ago in 2013, but before that only happened in 1899. The latest date that Rosh Hashanah can occur is October 5th, which happened in 1967, the year of the Six Day War. It won't happen again until 2043.

You can play around with Hebcal.com, which is a great resource for learning about the Jewish calendar. You can also plug in your English birthday and find out what your Hebrew birthday is, but remember that Jewish days change at nightfall and so you need to know whether you were born during the daytime or at night.

People frequently say that the High Holy Days are “early” or “late” and what they are referring to, of course, is how they coincide with the English dates, but this year they come very late when you look on the Gregorian calendar. In fact, the Jewish calendar adds an extra month this year, so that everything will be back in cycle with the lunar calendar system. The English calendar also has to do this, but only adds one extra day every four years rather than an entire extra month. So, we know that the Jewish calendar follows a lunar system and the English calendar follows a solar system, but this was not uniformly accepted in the Second Temple Period.

The Dead Sea Scroll group, frequently referred to as the Essenes, followed a solar calendar and that may have been one of the reasons why they clashed with the Kohanim in the Temple. If one group believe that the Jewish holidays were to be determined based on a lunar calendar and the other group believe that the holiday should



be determined on a solar calendar they would calculate that the Holy Days would fall on different days. You can imagine how upset that would make the Essenes to see the authorities of the Temple ignoring the day that they felt was Rosh Hashanah, for example. It would have been enough justification on its own for this group to resign their jobs as priests in the

Temple, pack their stuff up, leave the city of Jerusalem and settle in Qumram on the shores of the Dead Sea where according to one ancient historian, they had only palm trees for company.

We are going to all be coming together in just a few days to celebrate Rosh

Hashanah. We are excited to welcome Cantor Daniel Pincus, who will be participating in our services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and doing a number of interesting programs in between. As with last year, we will have supplementary readings for Mishkan Hanefesh, the new High Holy Day prayer book that we have not yet adopted (hint, hint). We are going to be throwing bread into the water again in the ceremony known as Tashlicht, which will be held right after the Rosh Hashanah morning service concludes. We are also planning a Children's Service and an interesting program on Jewish music for Yom Kippur afternoon that the Cantor will be organizing.

Our God and the God of all generations before us, may it be by Your will in the coming year to grant us a year of inner strength and perseverance, a year of forgiveness and atonement, a year of moments of sweetness and of happiness, a year of optimism and hope, a year of quiet and tranquility, a year of wisdom and enlightenment and a year of joy and love. May you be inscribed – and sealed – for a good year!

Rabbi Dana Evan Kaplan



OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Christine Clolinger
27180 Pollard Road
Daphne, AL 36526
251-591-9563

Jamie & Ahvram Novetsky
309 East Indian Creek Drive
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734-223-9518

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256-509-8265

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



It has really been great seeing how the attendance and vibrancy has developed at our beloved Temple the last few months! We are seeing more and more "Jews in the pews" and I think it is great. I personally enjoy Rabbi Kaplan's services very much and I have found his sermons to be interesting and thought provoking. If you haven't been lately you are missing out on a nice experience.

The High Holy Days are here and I hope you are all able to come and be with your community at this most important time of year for our faith. As I mentioned above, if you haven't seen Rabbi Kaplan in action this is the perfect time to "check him out". I think you will be impressed. Also, we have hired Cantor Pincus to be with us throughout the Holidays. I know he will add much to our service.

And, as always, this is the time of year to give generously to YOUR Congregation. Please consider giving to the annual tribute fund. There are many things to contribute to at this time of year and I would really like to see 100% participation. Please give generously and let's make this 100%!

I want to thank Patricia Silverman once again for stepping up to the plate and taking over the Religious School. She and others that I have mentioned before have really organized the school and have helped us save so much money. We also have Seth Cherniak helping with the music and he has been great. He is really good with the kids and gets them going. Thank you, Seth! I think our Religious School is going to have its best year ever. Thank you again, Patricia!

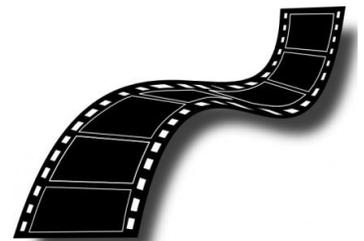
This is the time of year when things really get cranking at the Temple. I hope you will come and see all the good things that are happening. You will not be disappointed.

L'Shana Tova.

Alan V Hirsch, President

SAVE THE DATE! - Sunday, November 13th pm

Your Adult Education Committee is planning a
WILDER EVENT at 2:00pm
so don't miss it!



CALLING ALL SISTERHOOD BAKERS!!



Please help make our New Year even sweeter by bringing in baked goods for our annual Erev Rosh Hashanah Oneg Sunday, October 2nd. We welcome all baked goods, crackers and dips, cheeses, breads, and fruit.

You may drop off your goodies any time the week of September 25th or bring your goodies with you to Services.

This event is highly anticipated by all of our members and we thank you in advance for helping to continue this beautiful Springhill Avenue Temple Sisterhood tradition.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

By Susan Thomas, Archivist

In January 1944, Congregation Sha'arai Shomayim celebrated its centennial anniversary. The occasion was marked by special services, guest speakers, and a formal reception. The *Mobile Register* gave ample coverage to the congregation's milestone. The Temple Archives has a collection of memorabilia related to the event, including photographs, newspaper clippings, and programs. Also included is a folder of congratulatory letters and telegrams sent to the congregation from rabbis throughout the United States.

At the time the congregation celebrated its 100th birthday, the Temple was still located on Government Street. The nation was in the midst of World War II and the economy of Mobile was booming. The Temple's rabbi, Bertram W. Korn, would leave his pulpit the following fall to become a chaplain in the U.S. Navy. The congregation's president during the celebration was Bernard H. Eichold.

The celebration began with the Sabbath services on January 21st. The anniversary sermon was delivered by former Temple rabbi Sidney Berkowitz, who, at the time, was

serving as an Army chaplain. Music was performed by the Temple choir, led by J. Clarendon McClure. A reception, sponsored by the Council of Jewish Women, was held afterwards in the Religious School rooms.

A service was held the following morning and featured a sermon by Rabbi Samuel Gup, who would become the rabbi for the congregation two years later. A special centenary celebration service was conducted on Sunday afternoon, with the main address given by Dr. Stephen Wise, President of the Jewish Institute of Religion. A formal reception was then held at the Admiral Semmes Hotel.

The program published for these services includes a summary of the congregation's history and a listing of all the rabbis and presidents throughout the years. At the end of the program, Rabbi Korn wrote, "At a time of portentous crisis in the history of the world, and of deep tragedy and suffering for Israel, Sha'arai Shomayim steps over the threshold of a new century. God grant to our congregation the privilege of serving for another century. . . and to the world a new era of brotherhood and peace."

2016 - 5777 New Year's Greetings

*The Appelman Family
The Aronson Family
Paul Bergman and Family
Ron and Elaine Berman
Rabbi P. Irving and Pat Bloom
Rachel and Elliot Borak and Family
Margaret and Milton Brown
Nancy and Charlie Brown
Sue Brown
Yaffa, Mark, Leah and David Brown
David and Pinkie Cherniak, Seth and
Barbara Cherniak, Elliot and Ira
Norma Conrad and Family
Cal and Nell Ennis
Phyllis Feibelman
Emily and Harold Fink
Barry and Susie Fox
Diane and Richard Frank
Paul and Ceresa Frenkel
Amy and Jack Friedlander, Jamie, David,
Meryl, Robin, Adam, and Rachel
Bobette and Lowell Friedman
Jean Fry and Family
Randy, Liz, Miriam and Gabe Fry
Alain and Gary Gamble
Harvey and Sandra Gandler
Jonny and Joy Gardberg
Iris and Nate Ginsberg
Jill Gottlieb and Family
Richard, Nancy and Bryan Hill,
Chrissie Belock
Alan Hirsch, Victoria, Jonathan, and Steven*

*Roy, Nancy and Meredith Hoffman
Elaine and Bobby Holberg
Michael, Aimee, Jacob, Ben,
and Julianne Holberg
Sandy and Ralph and David Holberg
Martha and G.B. Kahn
Tom and Flo Kessler
Iris and Albert Klein and Family
Enid and Gil Laden
Bobby and Mitch Lawley
Perrye Lewis
Dr. Frederick, Beth, Jeffrey, Mandy,
Quin and Fearn Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Miller
Frances E. Mutchnick
Barbara V. Paper and Family
Adrian, Alicia and Michael Pereira
James and Carolyn Perry, Millicent Perry,
and Heidi Webb, Maci, and Zack
J. Richard Rose
Susan and Mike Rosenbaum and Family
Ellen and Bill Shulman
The Silverman-Ayers Family, Aaron, Shirley,
Vicki, Virgil, Eli, Jeff, Sharon and all the
children
Barry Silverman and Nancy Pierce
Elaine (Cohn) and Erwin Skibell and Family
Dr. Mel and Odette Sternberg
Eileen Susman and Family
Lucy and Steve Weinstein
The Zimmermans
Ellen Laden and Maury Zivitz*



ROSH HASHANAH/YOM KIPPUR

A TIME TO GROW, SET GOALS, HEAL, SEEK FORGIVENESS AND ACHIEVE SPIRITUAL PEACE

Join Cantor Daniel Pincus for a week of learning and spiritual renewal as we welcome the new year – 5777.

Below is the class schedule:

Tuesday, October 4 6:00 pm Spritual Reflections through Jewish Music
Listen to Jewish music and get in touch with the spiritual value of music.

Thursday, October 5 4:30-5:30 pm The Shofar: History and Lore
6:00 pm Congregational Choir Rehearsal

Friday, October 7 5:30 pm Jewish Songs with the Cantor
6:00 pm Shabbat Suvah Special Service
with Cantor and his drum

Sunday, October 9 9:00-9:45 am Torah Chanting Boot Camp
Chant Torah according to the old tradition by learning a handful of notes for an upbeat experience - no musical or voice skills needed.

11:30-Noon Shofar Sounding (parents & children)
Learn about the history of the instrument and find out if you can blow the new year in. Class is open to students who have been skypping with the Cantor and the truly uninitiated.

1:00 pm Memorial Service at the Cemetery

Everyone is welcome to take all classes.
There are no pre requisites or required skills needed to take any of the classes.

All classes will be held at the Temple (call 478-0415).
There is no charge for taking a class.

We ask that you to honor your commitment once you schedule
or find someone to take your place.

**OUR BEST WISHES FOR A HEALTHY
AND SWEET NEW YEAR!**

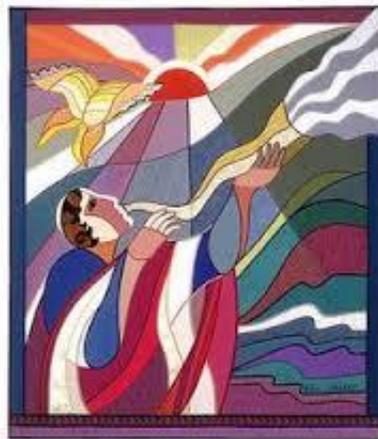


The Temple Gift Shop has a great selection of apple and honey plates for Rosh Hashanah, plus many gifts for all life cycle events.

Our prices are competitive and your Temple benefits by your support.

Amy Friedlander and Judy Aronson

***Springhill Avenue Temple
Break the Fast
Wednesday, October 12, 2016***



Please stay after Yom Kippur Service for Break the Fast

***There is no charge for members of the Temple
Non-members will be charged \$10.00***

RSVP to 478-0415 by Friday, October 7th

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.

October 7

John C. LeMay, Rose Zulofsky, Faye Ennis, Mrs. Ray Werner, David Horowitz, Sol Mayer

October 14

Kurt Muhlfelder, Clarence Frenkel, Jr., Todd Alan Levine, Beatrice Silverman, Paul Paper, Boris Resnick, Nancy Goldberg

October 21

Yetta Schoichet, Myer Weinstein, Miriam Gup Fry, Carolyn Brown, Sherrell Hoffman Grean, Sue Magnes, Alice Toubiana, Arthur Heinrich, Sally Zell, Belle Horowitz

October 28

Malvine Goldstein, Patty Mayer, Edith Zelnicker, Barbara Levine, Annice Miller, Ruth Monheit

November 4

Mollie Olshansky Boyd, Edith Conrad, Joseph Maisel, Minnie Fleisher, Sam Goldreich

CONTRIBUTIONS

A plaque has been placed in memory of Jean Fry's 90th birthday – Iris & Nate Ginsberg, Frances Mutchnick, Norma Conrad

In honor of Iris Klein's birthday – Debbie Press and Shari Green

In honor of Howard Silverman's birthday – Iris & Nate Ginsberg

In honor of Richard Frank's birthday – Iris & Albert Klein

In memory of Dolores Loeb – Alan Hirsch, Tara & Gregory Woodfin, Norma Conrad, Bobette & Lowell Friedman, Alicia McQuillen Manley, Beth Domenick Lambleson, Suzanne Hooten Hester, Cindi Anderson Silvernail, Fern Misrok Sutton, Cindy Hall McQuillen, Charlotte Dickens Crawford, Christine & Jeffrey Conrad

In memory of Terry Barkin – Norma Conrad

In memory of Eleanor Frenkel – Ceresa & Paul Frenkel

In memory of Reuben Kamil – Emily & Harold Fink

In memory of Anne Teles Fink Aratchofsky – Emily & Harold Fink

In memory of J. B. Friedlander – Emily & Harold Fink

In memory of Gail Bergman – Paul Bergman

In memory of Gregory Wagenheim – Iris & Albert Klein

In memory of Sam Shulman – Ellen & William Shulman

In memory of Henry D. Gaggstatter – Ellen & William Shulman

In memory of David Conrad – Norma Conrad

2016 - 5777 ROSH HASHANAH HOME SERVICE

On **Monday, October 3rd**, the Holy Day table should hold two candles, a cup of wine, two round challahs (baked especially for the New Year), a sliced apple and a dish of honey.

Before lighting the candles, the following blessing is read:

With the setting of this evening's sun, united with Jews of every place and time, we proclaim a New Year of hope. Lord of the universe, let Your light and Your truth come forth to lead us. These flames we kindle are a symbol of Your eternal flame; may they open our eyes to the good we must do, moving us to work for harmony and peace, and so making the world bright with Your presence.

Boruch Atah Adonoy Eloheynu Melach Haolam Asher Kid'shanu B'mitzvotav V'tsivanu L'hadlik Ner Shel Yom Tov.

Blessed is the Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, by whose Mitzvot we are hallowed, who commands us to kindle the lights of Yom Tov.

*Boruch Atah Adonoy Eloheynu Melech Haolam
She-he-che-yanu V'kiymanu V'higiyanu Lazman Hazeh.*

Blessed art Thou O Lord, our God, King of the universe, who has kept us alive, preserved us, and enabled us to reach this season.

The following blessing for the wine is recited:

Boruch Atah Adonoy Eloheynu Melech Haolam Borey Piree Hagafen.

Blessed art Thou O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has created the fruit of the vine.

ALL PARTAKE OF THE WINE

One of the children dips a slice of apple in honey and says:

Boruch Atah Adonoy Eloheynu Melech Haolam Borey Piree Haeyts.

Blessed art Thou O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has created the fruit of the tree.

ALL PARTAKE OF THE FRUIT AND HONEY

Another reads: "May it be Thy will, O Lord, our God, and God of our fathers, to renew us a sweet, happy and pleasant year."



YOM KIPPUR HOME SERVICE

Yom Kippur, which begins **Wednesday, October 12th**, is the one religious occasion which is observed almost entirely in the Temple. However, the meal which precedes the fast (Yom Kippur Eve) is meant to be a spiritual experience for the entire family.

MEMORIAL LIGHT

It is customary to light a memorial light before we kindle the Yom Kippur candles.

Holy day candles are kindled and the following blessings are recited

Baruch Atah Adonay Eloheynu Melech Haolam

Asher Kidshanu B'mitzvotav V'tzivanu L'hadlik

Ner Shel ShabbatVeshel Yom Ha-Kippurim.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us by thy laws and commanded us to kindle the lights of Shabbat and Yom Kippur.

Baruch Atah Adonoy Eloheynu Melech Haolam

She-he-che-yanu V'kiyemanu V'higiyanu Lazman Haze.

Blessed art Thou O Lord our God, King of the universe, who has kept us alive, preserved us, and enabled us to reach this season.

BLESSING THE CHILDREN

It is a beautiful tradition before Kol Nidre for parents to bless their children by placing hands on each one.

For sons, say - "May God make you a true and faithful son of Israel, as were Ephraim and Menasseh, the sons of Joseph."

For daughters, say - "May God make you a true and faithful daughter of Israel, as were our mothers, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah."

At that time, too, members of the family ask each other for forgiveness for the hurts done, knowingly or unknowingly, during the year.



October Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday To ...

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Flo Kessler | 18 Gregory Borak |
| 1 Susan Passman | 19 Harvey Switzkey |
| 2 Connor Jack Furman | 20 Michael Brown |
| 4 Nancy Brown | 20 Hedy Fox |
| 4 Randy Fink | 20 Tonia Silverstein |
| 4 Katie Frank | 21 Ellie Appelman |
| 4 Nancy Hoffman | 23 Megan Denson |
| 4 Michael Monheit | 23 Debbie Frank |
| 5 Gary Fishbein | 24 Ellen Fishbein |
| 6 Jeffrey Friedman | 24 Ceresa Frenkel |
| 6 Sandy Holberg | 25 Elaine Berman |
| 7 Gerald Friedlander | 26 Monica Klein |
| 9 Daniel Fetterman | 27 Phyllis Feibelman |
| 9 Robin Mayer | 27 Jenny Rich |
| 10 Patti Grandquist | 30 Jason Berman |
| 12 Nell Ennis | 30 Jonathan Friedlander |
| 14 Andrew Kahn | 30 Nancy Hill |
| 15 Richard Williams | 30 Murray Mutchnick |
| 16 Christine Clolinger | 31 Marc Loeb |
| 17 Harryl Friedlander | 31 Sandra Passman |



Happy Anniversary

Happy Anniversary To ...

- 8 Karen & Hari Singh
- 10 Carrie & Marc Friduss
- 12 Bonnie & George Kidd
- 16 Elizabeth & Fred Miller
- 26 Liz & Randy Fry
- 26 Nancy Pierce & Barry Silverman
- 27 Christine & Jeff Conrad
- 28 Michelle & Jerry Dobbins



November Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday To ...

1 Dianna Kubat	12 Emily Feibelman	22 Steve Gandler
1 Martin Lewis	12 Marissa Gamble	23 Melanie Susman
1 Jonathan Stein	15 Margaret Brown	24 Nathan Handmacher
3 Seth Cherniak	15 Suzy Ginsberg	25 Leslie Berkin Page
3 Rachel Metzger	15 Scott Silverman	26 Jill Gottlieb
3 Isabelle Seiken	15 Cheryl Spain	26 Jessica Kogon
4 Jamie McGinnis	16 Michelle Appelman	26 Jeff Lawley
4 Gerard Toubiana	16 Liz Fry	27 David Altmayer
6 Lee Metzger	18 Cal Ennis	27 Reed Magnes
6 Ellen Shulman	19 Brandon Rose	28 Phyllis Stern
7 Laurie Berkin	19 James Spain	29 Claris Feibelman
8 Connor Holberg	20 Maring Eberlein	29 Jordon Ross
9 Mark Melamut	21 Steve Muhlfelder	30 Irving Bloom
11 Beth Vorwaller	21 Marisa Nadas	30 Zachary Fusco
11 Nate Ginsberg	21 Jonathan Passman	30 Michael Holberg
11 Linda Marx	21 Himath Singh	30 Sheldon Mutchnick



Happy Anniversary To ...

10 Enid & Gil Laden
12 JoAnne & Jon Fusco
19 Linda & Ed Blassingame
28 Pam & Donald Friedlander
29 Gail Chadwick & Jonathan Fratkin
29 Meryl & Terry Harris

Dear Congregant,

Participation in Friday night services and the Oneg are ways we maintain a spirit of community in our Temple. Together we celebrate milestones, commemorate solemn occasions, and support each other as we journey through life.

Your Temple Oneg Committee is reviving this essential Jewish celebration, and we need your help. Consider sponsoring an Oneg for:

- ***Yarzheits***
- ***Births or birthdays***
- ***Weddings or anniversaries***
- ***Raising awareness of a cause***

Sponsoring an Oneg is easy—all you need to do is bring the food! The Oneg committee will take care of the setup, challah, and ceremonial wine.

We are committed to making the Oneg an event you look forward to and we welcome your suggestions. Please help us preserve one of our best traditions for future generations!

Sincerely,



***Michael Periera and Priscilla Gold-Darby
Your Religious Practices & Oneg Committees***

MAZEL TOV! to **Clinton Doolittle** on being appointed Music Director for the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.



LISTEN UP! The Ben May Charitable

Trust has made a \$10,000 matching grant to The Friends of Magnolia Cemetery for the completion of the fencing of **the Congregation's original cemetery plots within Magnolia Cemetery.**

These are the plots referred to on pages 1-4 in The Gates of Heaven book and were acquired in 1841, before the acquisition of the large cemetery of 1876. The Ben May Charitable Trust previously provided **funds to improve and begin fencing the plot and this recent grant calls for matching funds from the community.** Tom McGehee, President of the Friends of Magnolia Cemetery, is putting information in the Friends newsletter in an effort to raise the additional \$10,000. If you or someone you know would like to help in this effort, **donations can be sent to The Friends of Magnolia Cemetery, Post Office Box 6383, Mobile, AL 36660-6383 to the attention of Tom McGehee.** Please also state that your donation is to be put toward the Ben May Charitable Trust matching grant for the fencing of Springhill Avenue Temple's original cemetery plot located in the Magnolia Cemetery.



One of the goals of the Temple is to encourage each of us to reflect on what Judaism means to us personally. This can be a spiritual process which may be entirely on an emotional level. Hopefully, it can also manifest itself on an intellectual level. It is fascinating to see how different people can reflect on what Judaism means to each of them personally. We were fortunate to find such a personal statement that G.B. Kahn wrote for the Mobile Press Register in December, 1995. We are reprinting it in two parts with the hope that it may not only be relevant to those of us who are “wrestling with God”, as G.B. puts it, but may also encourage others to write similar statements, which we will also try to publish in our bulletin, on Rabbi's blog, or wherever else we can.

Judaism's Heritage has Helped it Stand the Test of Time

Editor's note: Bar Mitzvahs are usually for 13-year-old boys, not 64-year-old men. But Judge Gordon Kahn decided he wanted to complete the rite of passage again. Kahn, a U.S. Bankruptcy judge who is retiring at the end of the year, gave the following speech at his Bar Mitzvah ceremony December 8, 1995.

Fifty-one years and six days ago, I celebrated my Bar Mitzvah. It was and is one of the most wonderful happy days of my life. Everyone that I knew and loved was there and was proud of me for completing the rite of passage from Jewish boy to Jewish man.

Some of you have asked me why I felt the need to repeat the ceremony.

Approximately six months ago my great niece, Celia Finklestein, was confirmed. Her concluding remarks were: “I feel the same awe that my ancestors felt at Mount Sinai when they assumed the same responsibilities and made the same commitment that I am making today.”

I had never consciously assumed any responsibilities nor made any commitment to

(cont'd from previous page)

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Judaism. Judaism was lovingly given me by my parents and thrust on me by people who knew me to be Jewish. I had no choice.

In preparing for my Bar Mitzvah, I read the words of Moses Mendelssohn, a German philosopher of the 18th century. He pointed out that “no religion could boast of a monopoly on truth. That the test of religion lay in its effect on conduct and that all religions were true which affected their believers for good!”

He further stated: “Let everyone who does not disturb public happiness, who is obedient to the civil government, who acts righteously toward his fellow man, be allowed to speak as he thinks, to pray to God after his own fashion, or after the fashion of his fathers, and to seek eternal salvation where he may find it.

I agree with Moses Mendelssohn “that all religions are true which affected their believers for good,” but that begged the question as to which I would make my commitment.

Some of you may think that an answer was easy to reach because I was born Jewish. In my case, it was not easy. How very appropriate it is that the Torah portion I read to you tonight was the story of Jacob wrestling with God. I have wrestled with God and religion my entire life. I was a practicing Jew, but I had grown up in a city, county, state, and country that was predominately Christian. In making my decision, I decided to determine “what is a Jew and what do Jews believe?” Is Judaism a race, people, religion or ethnic group? It is my opinion that a Jew is simply a person who practices the Jewish faith.

There have been anthropological studies establishing that Judaism is not a race, but more important is common sense. If a person no longer wants to be a Jew all he or she has to do is say I am no longer a Jew. You cannot change your race by a mental exercise. You can change your religion.

I considered how the racial myth came about and concluded that it was first caused by the early Jews because they wanted to be different and was thereafter picked up by the anti-Semites because they wanted Jews to be different. Wanting doesn't make it so.

I have established what is a Jew and now I shall try to explain what a Jew believes.

Hillel, a very famous Rabbi who lived about 20 years B.C., was asked by a non-Jew to state what Judaism taught. Hillel replied, “What is hateful to thee, never do to thy fellow man. This is the entire Torah; all else is commentary. Go master it.”

In the 12th century there was a Jewish philosopher named Moses Maimonides, who created the best known Jewish creed. There are 13 basic dogmas in Judaism. They are:

1. the belief in God's existence
2. the belief in his unity
3. the belief in his incorporeality
4. the belief in his timelessness
5. the belief that he is approachable through prayer
6. the belief in prophecy
7. the belief in the superiority of Moses to all other prophets
8. the belief in the revelation of the law and that the law as contained in the Pentateuch is that revealed to Moses
9. the belief in the immutability of the law
10. the belief in divine providence
11. the belief in divine justice
12. the belief in the coming of the messiah
13. the belief in the resurrection and human immortality

While this creed has been incorporated in Jewish liturgy, the hymn, Yigdal, there is a conflict of authority among Jewish scholars. Some say Judaism has no dogmas. Orthodox and Conservative Jews avoid any effort to formulate a generally adopted creed.

(To be continued next month)

CALENDAR

Wednesday		5:30 p.m.	October 5, 19, and 26 <i>(no Torah Study on the 12th)</i>
Weekly Torah	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	October 22 and 29) <i>(no Weekly Torah on the 2nd, 9th, and 16th)</i>
Hebrew School	Sundays	8:30 a.m.	October 9, 16, and 30
	Friday	3:00 p.m.	October 21 <i>(no Hebrew School on the 2nd)</i>
Religious School	Saturday	9:45 a.m.	October 9, 16, and 30
	Friday	4:00 p.m.	October 21 <i>(no Religious School on the 2nd)</i>



*Sunday, October 2	7:00 p.m.	Erev Rosh Hashanah Service
*Monday, October 3	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Rosh Hashanah Children's Service Rosh Hashanah Morning Service Tachlicht Ceremony @ Municipal Park after services
Wednesday, October 5	4:00 p.m.	Vocal Instruction for the Choir <i>(details page 6)</i>
Thursday, October 6	11:00 a.m.	Spiritual Reflection thru Jewish Music Part I <i>(details page 6)</i>
Friday, October 7	3:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Spiritual Reflection through Jewish Music Part II <i>(details page 6)</i> Shabbat Evening Service with Cantor Pincus
*Sunday, October 9	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	Torah Chanting Boot Camp <i>(details page 6)</i> Shofar Sounding (all ages) <i>(details page 6)</i> Memorial Service @ Temple Cemetery
*Tuesday, October 11	7:00 p.m.	Kol Nidre Service
*Wednesday, October 12	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 2:30 p.m.	Yom Kippur Children's Service Yom Kippur Morning Service Yom Kippur Afternoon Service

**Please note special times for services in bold.*

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