
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

Friday, January 6	6:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service
Saturday, January 7	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Breakfast Shabbat Morning Service
Friday, January 13	6:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service
Friday, January 20	6:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service
Saturday, January 21	10:00 a.m.	Shabbat Morning Service at Temple Beth-El in Pensacola with luncheon to follow
Friday, January 27	6:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service Temple Anniversary Service

*The Temple offices will be closed on Monday, January 2nd
in observance of the New Year's holiday
and
Monday, January 16th in observance of the
Martin Luther King holiday.*

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

FROM THE RABBI

Dr. Martin Luther King

During a speech at a northern synagogue, the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. asked the local rabbi, how have the Jews “maintained an unbroken historic conscientiousness, pride of heritage, and a faith in a God appointed destiny?” In turn, the rabbi asked him a question, “From what source do you draw strength to climb the steep hill strewn with obstacles and danger?” Dr. King responded, “You and I draw living waters from the same spring, from the belief in a God of Love, Mercy and Justice. In the Jewish Prayer

Book, I find words which express the essence of the Christian hope and promise: ‘Oh may all, created in Thine image, recognize that they are brethren, so ha, one in spirit and one in fellowship, they may be forever united before Thee. Then shall Thy kingdom be established on earth and the words of Thine ancient seer be fulfilled: The Lord will reign forever and ever’.”

We as Jews have much to learn from the legacy of Dr. King. The Jews of Alabama, of course, and those of Montgomery and Birmingham, in particular, had direct involvement in the



desegregation of the 1950s and 60s. My rabbinic robes, in fact, were given to me by the daughter of Rabbi Milton Grafman of Birmingham, Alabama. When I mentioned Rabbi Grafman in a sermon last year, I fortunately was able to accurately represent his nuanced positions on Dr. King and the civil right movement generally. This is a fascinating subject that hopefully we can go into as some point including the interaction between the Jews of Alabama and social activists from Jews coming from the north, as well as Dr. King himself.

Dr. King’s advocacy of non-violent change always stressing the need to build bridges rather than to attack people has been an ideal model for how to improve society. His call to become involved in social justice lives on. “To avoid involvement in behalf of a just cause ... is to live a sterile life. It is the quality of life that one’s leads that gives it meaning and value not its length ... the exhortation of the prophet, ‘justice, justice, shall thou pursue’ rings constantly in my ears.”

Rabbi Dana Evan Kaplan

JANUARY 7TH SHABBAT BREAKFAST WILL FEATURE:

Blintz Casserole
Sour cream, apple sauce & preserves
Bagels with shmears
Beverages for all ages

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7TH
9:00 A.M.-9:30 AM
Kitchen helpers welcome!

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



As Jews, we are given the chance to reflect on our actions twice a year. Of course, there are the High Holy Days, where we are compelled by our traditions to reflect on our past year's

behavior and we pray for guidance and help to be a better person. Then there is the more non-secular holiday of the Roman calendar new year, where most everyone celebrates the "New Year". It is at this time that many people throughout the world reflect on their past year's behaviors and actions and make "resolutions" to better themselves in regards to their own health or other personal betterments.

I personally use both of these times of the year to think about how I can be a better person and relate better to every single person I encounter throughout the day, from my children, to the people that work for me, to the people behind the

counter at the gas station. I strive to be a person that is pleasant and thoughtful to other people under any circumstances. I can't say that I am always successful, but I do try. It is at these times of year that I really try to take some time to reflect on these things.

There is a very popular pop song by Michael Jackson called "Man in the Mirror". There are so many great lyrics in that song, but there is one line that has struck me and, once again is something I do try (though not always successful), to do. That line is, "If you want to make the world a better place, take a look at yourself and make a change". I think that a thought worth keeping. Won't you join me in trying our best to make the world a better place? After all, a big part of our philosophy now is Tikkun Olam ... to repair the world. I think the only way to do this is to start with ourselves. We must first "repair" ourselves before we can move on to repairing the world.

Wishing everyone a safe, happy, and **HEALTHY**, New Year.

Alan V Hirsch, President

THE TEMPLE MENS CLUB

WHY YOU SHOULD BELONG AND WHAT WE DO:

- Provide sustainable eatable fruit trees on the Temple grounds
- Erect the Sukkot for the holiday
- Provide ushers for the holiday services
- Has grounds and cemetery work days to maintain our facility
- Provides the breakfast before Shabbat service on the 1st Saturday of each month
- Prepares potato latkes and soufganiyot for Chanukah
- Prepares the Annual Sisterhood-Men's Club "Hood" Dinner

And so much more during the rest of the year.

**PLEASE SEND YOUR GENEROUS DONATION OF \$35.00
FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE MEN'S CLUB AUXILIARY
FOR YOUR TEMPLE'S BETTER HEALTH.**

YOU ARE INVITED!



Temple Beth El of Pensacola is excited to welcome the members of Congregation Sha'arai Shomayim to share in an exciting Shabbat experience on **Saturday, January 21**. In addition to worship and friendship you will have the chance to “Choose Your Own Shabbat Adventure”. **The program is designed for participants of all ages – from 2 to 102. Come for the morning, afternoon, or the entire day!! (See agenda below).**

A morning nosh, lunch, and afternoon snack will be provided. An optional dinner is available for a charge of \$15 per adult.

For more information for the Shabbaton, please contact the Temple Office at 251-478-0415. Please RSVP for dinner reservations by Monday, January 16th (no exceptions).

10:00-10:30	Bagels & Nosh				
10:30-11:30	Worship - (Adult and Junior Congregation)				
11:30-12:30	Torah Talk with Rabbi Joel & Rabbi Kaplan	Cooking with Janet Shilling	Kids Crafts	Yoga with Teddy Ward	Jews in Music w/Ray Engel & Jeannie Boyle
12:30-1:15	Lunch (Face Painting & Photo Booth)				
1:15-2:15	Jews in Pensacola moderated by Chuck Kahn	Kids Cooking w/Debra Kerman & Nichole Friedland	Adult Crafts	Shabbat Games: Foosball, Ping Pong, Mah Jong, Poker	Tai Chi with Logan Schilling
2:15-3:15	Jews & Sports w/Chip Merritt & Bill Zimmern	Cooking with Denise Rosenbaum	Israeli Dance - SH Wendy & David Rutland	Curb Your Enthusiasm	Israeli Games w/Yael Tepperman
3:15-3:35	Snacks				
3:35-4:25	Ask the Rabbis with Rabbi Joel & Rabbi Kaplan	Cooking with Sydney McAbee	Fun Yiddish Phrases with Eta Hecht	Movie	Dance Party (aka Bn'ai Mitzvah Party Training)
4:25-5:15	Israel Update w/Zvi Salpeter & Yael Tepperman	Cooking with Sydney McAbee	Wine Tasting with Ariel Klainerman		Scavenger Hunt
5:15-5:30	Havdallah				
5:30-6:30	Dinner (Reservations Required by Monday, January 16th) - Catered by Four Seasons				

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

By Susan Thomas, Archivist

As Temple archivist I am often asked to provide historic information on the Temple for persons doing research. Sometimes, the researcher will need photos; sometimes background information about the Jewish community in Mobile is requested; and sometimes information on specific congregants is needed. Recently, I have assisted researchers on several different projects.

Paula Webb, a research librarian at the University of South Alabama, recently published a book, *Mobile Under Siege*, about the Union blockade of the city during the Civil War. She found the memoirs of Edward Bloch very useful in her research. Edward was the son of Joseph Bloch, a well-known congregant who owned a music shop and taught music lessons in the mid-1800s. Edward's memoirs, which are housed in the Temple archives, present a very interesting and detailed view of life in Mobile during and following the Civil War. Paula made several references to the Bloch family in *Mobile Under Siege*. She has given a copy of the book to the Archives. It is available, along with Edward Bloch's memoirs, in the Archives for further use by researchers.

Recently, the Archives was contacted by Julian Preisler, a writer and researcher, who is currently compiling a book called *America's Pioneer Jewish*

Congregations. Mr. Preisler needed photographs of the Temple's earlier locations as well as current photographs. Springhill Avenue Temple will feature prominently in the chapter on Alabama synagogues. Mr. Preisler will send the Temple a copy of his book when it is completed.

A curator from the Mobile Museum of Art is currently working with me regarding an upcoming exhibit on Mobile architecture. Although the exhibit is several years in the future, plans are already being made on what structures to include. Photographs of the old Government Street Temple, as well as of the current Temple, may be used in the exhibit. Local historians, Tom McGhee, Cart Blackwell, and John Sledge, will all be involved in this project.

Finally, a few months ago the Archives was contacted by producers of a well-known television show on genealogy. They were in need of information and photographs of one of the founding families of the congregation. The show is expected to air within the next year; they will be giving us details as it gets closer to the date.

All these projects present the Temple's history in a favorable light and help showcase the congregation's efforts to preserve that history.

Onegs

In January, Bereshit (Genesis) draws to a close with readings that focus on the theme of returning. In Vayigash, Joseph is reunited with his family. As Jacob prepares for the end of his life in Vayechi, he yearns for his body to be returned to the Holy Land and as Shemot (Exodus) begins, Moses is born and the people of Israel aren't far from their own return journey.

As we read about our ancestors returning home and recite the Mourner's Kaddish at our Shabbat services, we're reminded of our own homes and of the need to memorialize those who have passed; and nothing says "home" like the foods we love because of our ancestors, parents, and grandparents made them for us.

This January, we will honor our ancestors and loved ones during our onegs by enjoying the food they loved and maintaining a connection with them. Be on the lookout for some traditional Middle Eastern fare at the upcoming January onegs. **We would also like to invite members of the congregation to bring family dishes that remind them of home to an upcoming oneg.** The Oneg Committee is happy to recreate dishes using your family recipes, if you're not able to prepare the food yourself.

Please contact Priscilla Gold-Darby (pgdcooksgarden@bellsouth.net) or Jamie Novetsky (jamienovetsky@gmail.com) to make arrangements!



January Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday To ...

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 3 Claris Feibelman | 17 LeNae Denson |
| 3 Stacy Goode | 18 Terry Passman |
| 4 Ann Miller | 20 William Baron |
| 6 Diane Garden-Monheit | 21 Lowell Friedman |
| 6 Alice Rose Handmacher | 21 Ryan Fusco |
| 6 Mimi Holberg | 22 Stephanie Dittman |
| 7 Jane Allen | 22 Sam Lansky |
| 7 Phillip Feibleman | 24 Barbara Cherniak |
| 8 Jeff Conrad | 25 Hugh Borak |
| 9 Lynne Switzkey | 25 Debra Fetterman |
| 10 Will Kinsella | 25 Deanne Schjott |
| 10 William Susman | 26 Jonathan Hirsch |
| 11 Alan Franco | 27 Marjorie Altmayer |
| 13 Vicki Silverman-Lugar | 28 Andrew Brown |
| 14 Judy Dittman | 29 Daniel Kinsella |
| 14 Madison Friduss | 30 Joshua Mutchnick |

Happy Anniversary To

- 29 Susan & Terry Passman
30 Dana & David Furman



February Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday To ...

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Caitlin Brown | 13 Samantha Zimmerman |
| 1 Sydnie Susman | 15 Phillip Magnes |
| 2 Adam Miller | 16 Brion Berman |
| 2 William Shulman | 16 Mark Friedlander |
| 3 Lisa Magnes | 16 Perrye Lewis |
| 4 Rachel Goldberg | 18 Joy Gardberg |
| 4 Joanne Koffler | 18 Violet Glassbrook |
| 4 Enid Laden | 19 Gabriel Fry |
| 5 Kathryn Friedlander | 19 Margeoux Silverstein |
| 5 Katherine Milles | 22 Claire Aycock |
| 6 Evan Webster | 22 Alan Hirsch |
| 9 Dori Claire Small | 22 Sam Holberg |
| 11 Janis Friedlander | 25 Christopher Kinsella |
| 11 Larry Miller | 26 Diane Frank |
| 12 Bobette Friedman | 27 Norma Conrad |
| 13 Jay Altmayer | |
| 13 Aaron Solomon | |

Happy Anniversary

- Rose & Phillip Brunson
Carol & Matt Eberlein



FROM OUR SHALICHA, OFIR ROZENBERG

The Shalicha is sponsored by the Mobile Area Jewish Federation

Shalom y'all,

I hope everyone had a wonderful time this Chanukah. Sometimes, being far away from home (all the way in Mobile, Alabama), the things I usually take for granted as an Israeli get put into a new perspective. Last month, while preparing a presentation about Chanukah for the residents of Somerby, I asked myself what makes this holiday special in Israel. At that moment, I realized that besides the candles, presents, dreidels, latkes, doughnuts and the week off I used to get from school every year, there is so much more.

I realized, for instance, that Chanukah symbols are quite dominant in the contemporary Israeli culture. The heroes of Chanukah, the Maccabees, have had their impact on modern Israel. Never had I noticed before that Maccabee Tel-Aviv (Israeli basketball team) or Maccabee Haifa (Israeli soccer team) are named after those who fought all the way back in 164 BCE. Not to mention the Jewish "Olympic Games", the Maccabiah, that are of course named after and in honor of the Maccabees. In a way, the word Maccabee had become a synonym to the word "hero" in the Israeli culture today, so many years later. Never had I realized that Bira Maccabee (Maccabee beer – an Israeli brand) is actually named after the same guys. So if you think about it, whenever one takes a sip of this beer, the story of Chanukah comes alive. Well, maybe that's too dramatic. We don't really think about it when we drink beer. But now, I'm pretty sure I will.

Chanukah is the holiday of lights, bravery, miracles, and togetherness. A month before the holiday, Israel was attacked by terrible arsons raging from north to south that were set by terrorists. The fires damaged big portions of land and people had to be evacuated from their homes in some areas. Luckily, no lives were lost. A month later, Israelis lit their menorahs, using fire to bring warmth, holiday spirit, and togetherness. In Israel, it is very typical to light candles together with people from your workplace, college, school, preschool, neighborhood, and city and celebrate the holiday not only with your family but with the



community and people tend to visit in hospitals/social organizations to light candles. Thinking about it, it is amazing to see the difference between people who used fire to make the menorah candles shine and bring happiness and those horrible arsonists who used it to ruin our land.

Miracles have remained a part of our Israeli routine. David Ben Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, said that "In Israel, in order to be a realist, you have to believe in miracles". Though his words reflect the hardships and hopes of the pioneers 68 years ago, it seems as if his quote is timeless. The same thing was true in the 2nd century BCE and it is still relevant in our days when it comes to Israel. This is not to say we should depend on miracles, but as far as I understand it, Ben Gurion probably meant we always have to believe that almighty things could happen by hard work. The miracle of Chanukah, the establishment of Israel, and the fact it is thriving today are all great proofs of his words.

Recently, I had the pleasure and honor to speak about Israel at Corpus Christi Catholic Church. The enthusiasm of the crowd, the amount of questions and their supportiveness towards Israel truly warmed my heart. It was such an uplifting experience and I enjoyed every second of it. Sharing the light Israel has given the world in so many aspects feels just great. On the same note – if any of you have any friends or connections to civic organizations or churches who might want a speaker to come and talk about Israel – please contact me at mobile.shlichim@gmail.com. I would be more than glad to do so as many times as possible.

Wishing you all a wonderful 2017. I would like to thank the Mobile Area Jewish Federation for allowing me to be here and looking forward to get to know more people from the community this year! Thanks to all who have made me feel welcome in the past four months.

*Lehitraot,
Ofir*

The Mobile Area Jewish Federation
2017 MOBILE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL BEGINS
Sunday, January 8th



The festival runs from January 8th through 22nd. The film festival will again be offering four weekend films, two of which are matinees; plus, live music will play an important role this year.

Sunday, January 8th at 3:00 p.m. at the Springhill Avenue Temple the festival opens with the inspiring documentary, **“On the Map”**. The film tells the against-all-odds story of how a Tel Aviv basketball team won the European Championship and captured a nation’s heart. Former USA Athletic Director, Joe Gottfried and his brother, ESPN analyst Mike Gottfried, will be on hand to talk about an important new program involving well-known basketball coaches and the state of Israel.

The next three films will be screened at the University of South Alabama in the Laidlaw Center for the Performing Arts:

Tuesday, January 10th at 7:00 p.m., an aging German Holocaust survivor attempts to come to terms with his past after spending a lifetime concealing his heritage in **“The Last Mensch”**. This is a beautiful film of friendship and healing that was named Best Feature Film in the San Diego Jewish Film Festival.

Wednesday, January 11th at 7:00 p.m., is **“A Love to Hide”**. A young Jewish girl, looking to escape the clutches of the Third Reich after seeing her parents and sister brutally slain, is sheltered by her childhood friend Jean, a homosexual in a clandestine relationship with his lover. However, a bad decision causes Jean to be wrongly accused of being the lover of a German officer. Jean is then forced into a Nazi labor camp.

Thursday, January 12th at 7:00 p.m., is the highly-acclaimed, **“Fever at Dawn”**. In 1945, after having been freed from a concentration camp, a 25-year-old Hungarian man is being treated at a Swedish hospital. The doctors diagnose him with a severe lung disease and tell him that he has no more than six months to live. But he refuses to give up and, wanting to find a wife with whom he can start a new life, sends letters to 117 Hungarian girls who are also being treated in Sweden. One of the girls is 19-year-old Lili, who likes Miklós's letter, and they start corresponding. A dessert reception will follow the screening.

On Saturday, January 14th, 6:00 p.m., at the Ahavas Chesed Synagogue, a delicious dinner from the Jerusalem Café will be served, featuring the famed Israeli dish, Shakshouka. **There will be a charge of \$26 per person (\$24 for seniors and students) for dinner reservations and film. Cut-off date for dinner reservations is Wednesday, January 4th.** At 7:00 p.m., is the popular documentary, **“In Search of Israeli Cuisine”**, a portrait of the Israeli people told through food. The film profiles chefs, home cooks, vintners, and cheese-makers drawn from the more than 100 cultures that make up Israel today. Because the evening is so unique, it has been named the **Reita Franco Memorial Film**.

Sunday, January 15th, 3:00 p.m., at Ahavas Chesed for **“Rock in the Red Zone”**. Despite being pummeled for years by indiscriminate missile fire, the people of Sderot persevere and in underground bomb shelters they create music. Searching for a story about music, filmmaker Laura Bialis, encounters a creative community that captivates her, leads her to love, and changes the course of her life. Following the film, we are excited to present Avi Vaknin, a musician featured in the film. This will be a great afternoon.

Tuesday, January 17th at 7:00 p.m., the festival moves to **Fairhope and the USA Performance Center** for an encore screening of **“Fever at Dawn”**.

(cont'd from page 8)

Wednesday, January 18th, 7:00 p.m., at the **Mobile Public Library at Bernheim Hall** is “**Fanny’s Journey**”, an incredible tale of bravery, strength and survival. Thirteen year old Fanny and her younger sisters are sent from their home in France to an Italian foster home for Jewish children. When the Nazis arrive in Italy, their caretakers desperately organize the departure of the children to Switzerland. Based on a true story, it is beautifully shot and scored and will be many people’s favorite film of the festival.

Thursday, January 21st, 7:00 p.m., at **Ahavas Chesed Synagogue**, will screen “**The Dove Flyer**”. A film that pays tribute to the nearly 130,000 Jews who were expelled from Iraq in the 50’s never to return. Against this backdrop, is the coming of age story of 16-year old Kabi. Sharing her own family’s story will be Shir Mnuchim, a former Shalicha here in Mobile.

On Sunday, January 22nd at 7:00 p.m., the final film of the festival, “**The Lady in Number Six**” will be shown at **Springhill Avenue Temple**. When Alice Herz-Sommer died at the age of 110, she was the world’s oldest survivor of Hitler’s Holocaust. Before the lights went out over Europe, she was a renowned and celebrated concert pianist. Along with her six-year-old son, Alice was imprisoned in the Theresienstadt concentration camp. In this remarkable 40 minute documentary, you’ll meet this incredible woman, and discover how the power of music saved her life. After the film, we’ll have the privilege of hearing Dr. Jasmin Arakawa, Assistant Professor, University of South Alabama playing music featured in film.

For more information, to see trailers of all the films or to purchase tickets, go to mobilejewishfederation.org or you may call the Federation’s office at 251-343-7197.

Important January Happenings From Your Religious Practices Committee

On Saturday, January 21st, Temple Beth El of Pensacola is inviting us to share in an exciting Shabbat experience. In addition to worship and friendship, you will have a chance to “Choose Your Own Shabbat Adventure” with activities ranging from Torah Study to yoga, cooking to crafts, wine-tasting to foosball. The program is designed for participants of all ages—from 2 to 102. Come for the morning, afternoon, or the entire day! **See page 4 for full details.**

Special invitation to our Religious School students and their parents. Special activities track for our students.

A morning nosh, lunch, and afternoon snack will be provided! An optional dinner is available for a charge of \$15 per adult.

Friday, January 27th at 6:00 p.m. is our Anniversary Shabbat Service to commemorate our January 25, 1844 founding. Rabbi Kaplan will lead us in prayer from the 1895 edition of the Union Prayer Book. Dr. Charles Brown was kind to loan Rabbi Kaplan his great grandfather’s Union Prayer Book—copyrighted 1895 by the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Of course, the music for this Special Shabbat Service will be that of Mr. Sigmund Schlesinger. Mr. Schlesinger, our organist from 1870 to 1906, composed musical services for the Union Prayer Book. The musical pieces were selected by Charmein Moser our Congregational Choir Master and by Jamie Novetsky our Professional Choir Master.

Guided by our historic past, we anticipate our future,

***J. Michael Pereira, Chairman
Religious Practices Committee***

YAHREIT

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.

January 6

Ethel Mutchnick, Betty Schwarz, Jean Rose Kozlove, Benjamin Gup, Fannye Silverstein, Harry Kogon, Claire Sternberg Prestno

January 13

Betty Julius, Milton Kozlove, Clara Rosenbaum, William Slepian, Susan Sparks, Esther Friedman, Milton Goldberg

January 20

Jean Angstreich, Lillian Broth, Amelia Piser, Barnetta Rosenberg Allen, Mildred Gandler, Harry Paper

January 27

Jack Silverman, Dorothy Kuhr Small, Tom Aycock, Louis Heir, Evelyn Nathan Friedman, Barry David Garden, Leonard Gandler

CONTRIBUTIONS

In honor of G.B. Kahn's birthday – Joy & Jonny Gardberg

In honor of Jean Fry's birthday – Joy & Jonny Gardberg

Speedy recovery for Karen Singh – Amy & Jack Friedlander, Iris & Nate Ginsberg

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund – Yaffa & Mark Brown

In memory of Joshua Fetterman – Iris & Albert Klein

In memory of my husband, the Honorable Alan D. Oboler – Eileen Oboler

In memory of Arthur R. Seelig – Odette & Mel Sternberg

In memory of Dr. Samuel Sternberg – Odette & Mel Sternberg

In memory of Harriet Friedlander – Emily & Harold Fink

In memory of Gretchen Weinstein – Lucy & Steve Weinstein

In memory of Al & Molly Kahn – Martha & G.B. Kahn

In memory of Brigadier General Edward & Edna Pincus Cooper – Martha & G.B. Kahn

In memory of Herman Kopelman – Iris & Albert Klein

In memory of Ellen Eber – Jill Gottlieb

In memory of Bettye Sue Klein – Marian & Mark Berkin

In memory of Dolores Loeb – Linda & David Delbridge

FROM OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

by Patricia Silverman, THM, Religious School Director

December ended a year of major religious celebrations, learning, developing Jewish identity and friendships made during our first semester.

On December 4th, our students went to the Temple Gift Shop to purchase some Chanukah gifts. Judy and Amy have a fabulous selection of Chanukah items. I encourage you all to stop by and take a look.

Barry Silverman directed a great Chanukah skit that was well received at Somerby and the Temple. We did a Big Mitzvah at Somerby, singing songs led by Seth Cherniak and distributing gift bags to the residents. Iris Ginsberg and Ofir Rozenberg helped prepare the gift bags. All the residents had a great time and I am so proud of our talented students. Somerby has many Jewish residents who especially enjoyed the holiday event.

Anna Herman, the Director, and her husband, Nadav, from Jacobs Camp visited us again. This time they invited everyone to Altitude Trampoline. Those children who were able to attend soared to new heights! Jacobs is inviting you to Family Camp weekend on April 7-9, 2017 to show parents and kids what the camp is all about. I hope we will be able to have a group of parents and children to go.

Our Children's Chanukah Shabbat Service was Friday, December 16th. During the Shabbat Service, our

talented students performed the Chanukah skit once again and those who were not able to be at Somerby had a chance to perform. Parents came up to the Bimah for the blessing of their children. They were joined by Morgan, Iris and Nate Ginsberg's granddaughter, and Debra Krulewicz's grandson, who also joined us in the Chanukah skit and did a great job. It was a fabulous event, everyone enjoyed it, we had over 80 people and we ended the service by going outside to sing Chanukah songs and light the giant menorah that was created by Howard Silverman. Jamie Novesky's music brought a joyful Chanukah spirit. The highlight of the night was the hand-grated latkes made by the Rose brothers and the Men's Club Latke Committee, followed by the wonderful dinner created by Liz Fry and the Oneg Committee. We had so many beautiful menorahs that our congregants brought, that it made our Temple social hall shine and it was full of light and happiness.

We had this early Chanukah celebration because December 16th was the last day of school and most families would be going away for the holidays or celebrating at home on the first night of two important holidays. I am sure you all had a great Chanukah full of light, latkes, jelly doughnuts, presents, and quality time with your loved ones.

Welcome back for the Winter Semester!

Eastern Shore Torah Study The Book of Proverbs

Thursday, January 26th – 6:00 p.m.



On Tuesday, January 26th at 6:00 p.m., the Eastern Shore Torah Study Group will begin the study of **The Book of Proverbs**. The full Hebrew title is *Mishlei Shlomo*, or *The Proverbs of Solomon*, a reference to King Solomon, who, according to Jewish tradition, is the author of Mishlei or is he? Come and join us to find out!

For those wishing to attend, it is customary to bring a savory appetizer or sweet item. Beverages will be served. Bring BYOB.

Your hosts for the Thursday session will be EMMA ROSE & LEE Fry. Please respond to Carol Zimmerman 251-990-3060 or caz9@aol.com or Robin Ayers 251-391-7503 or robinayers@bellsouth.net

For directions to 27956 Bay Branch Drive, Daphne, AL 365261, please call Lee and Emma Rose Fry 251-340-2847 or 770-530-7827.

CALENDAR

Wednesday Torah Study 5:30 p.m. January 11, 18, and 25
(no Torah Study on the 4th)

Hebrew School Sundays 8:30 a.m. January 8, 15, 22, and 29

Religious School Sundays 9:45 a.m. January 8, 15, 22, and 29



Friday, January 6 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service

Saturday, January 7 9:30 a.m. Shabbat Breakfast
10:30 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service

Sunday, January 8 3:00 p.m. 2017 Jewish Film Festival begins
at Springhill Avenue Temple
Movie – “On the Map” *(details page 8-9)*

Friday, January 13 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service

Friday, January 20 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service

Saturday, January 21 10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service at
Temple Beth-El in Pensacola
(full details page 4)

Thursday, January 26 6:00 p.m. Eastern Shore Torah Study
(details page 11)

Friday, January 27 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service
Temple Anniversary Service

***The Temple offices will be closed on Monday, January 2nd
in observance of the New Year’s holiday
and on Monday, January 16th
in observance of Martin Luther King Day***

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