

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, April 3	6:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service Rabbi Kosovske will conduct service via Zoom
Friday, April 10	6:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service Rabbi Kosovske will conduct service via Zoom
Friday, April 17	6:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service Rabbi Kosovske will conduct service via Zoom
Friday, April 24	6:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service Rabbi Kosovske will conduct service via Zoom

At this point in time, the Temple will be practicing "social distancing" and are asking our members, until further notice, to stay at home. **Rabbi will be conducting Shabbat services each week and Torah study when scheduled via Zoom.** You do not have to have the Zoom program on your computer. Just use the link below at the appropriate times.

<https://zoom.us/j/561082849>

If you do not have a computer you can call in using the following information:
1-301-715-8592 and the Meeting ID: 561 082 849

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



TORAH SELECTION:
Torah: Leviticus 6:1 - 8:36
Haftarah: Malachi 3:4 - 3:24

FROM OUR RABBI'S STUDY

About the COVID-19 crisis, there is a lesson from the past...



As you all know, my home is in Lynn, Massachusetts, a suburb just north of Boston. I have lived in Greater Boston through three different incarnations.

First, I lived in Newton, Massachusetts; then, a number of years, later I lived in Sharon, Massachusetts; and finally, a few years after that, I lived in Salem, Massachusetts (from where Janet and I moved just several months ago). In total, across those various sojourns, I have spent some 34 years here.

But I am not a Bostonian. If anything, the first 20 years of my life in Chicago irrevocably and indelibly stamped me a Chicagoan. And that is why I look at Boston with an out-of-towner's eyes and see things the locals don't always see. So, here's what I know: Bostonians have very long memories.

Two examples: First, there is their long-lingering memory of the great "Blizzard of '78," that sudden snowstorm that locked up the entire city of Boston for five days. Even now, if there is even a hint of a Nor'easter snowstorm coming, you will see panic and the shelves of every grocery store will quickly be emptied.

Then, there is the lingering effect of 9/11. Two of the four planes of 9/11 took off from Boston's Logan Airport. To this day, therefore, if you compare Logan's security with airport security anywhere else, you will see that the people at Logan are still jumpy. Security there is tougher than any other airport I know. I am reminded of that every time I fly to Mobile and then fly back to Logan and compare the security between the two airports.

So? I see two lessons for us in Mobile today from these examples ...

The first is negative: as individuals or as a group, we aren't ever going to forget the strains that the Coronavirus has placed upon all of us. Whether from things such as, how we are having to serve our members in Sha'arei Shomayim during this crisis, all the way to such things as how we react to one another as a result of "social distancing" or the inconveniences we are facing because of the closing down of everyday take-for-granted institutions (such as schools, events, and restaurants, to name but three). I am not so sure that, when it's all over, we will ever fully go back to the warm huggy-kissy ways that make us the special people we are. We are, I am predicting, in some ways, inevitably going to be totally different. But the second lesson is positive.

Bostonians who lived through the "Blizzard of '78", tell me that the quiet-time following the storm was the greatest time of their lives. Having no place to go, people went outside and started talking to people in the neighborhood they had never talked to before. More, for the first time, everyone seemed to be there for everyone else.

As to 9/11 - and I was in Boston during and following the 9/11 cataclysm - there was an eerie quietude that permeated the country then. Before that event, never in our lifetime had we seen real patriotism come alive. We realized, at least most of us did, that we could not take our safety for granted anymore. And bigger than all of that, people at that time started watching out, really watching out, for each other.

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So, for now, what will linger on in our forever-memories when this plague ends? For one, as a consequence of our being shut out of our Temple building for as long as this lasts, we will never again take for granted our spiritual home and its many activities such as services, programs, holiday observances,

Religious School for our children, or anything else we are about. Not that the opportunities we have availed ourselves of via the internet aren't exciting. They are. Learning Torah with others and praying with and celebrating holy moments with them in front of computer screens, in itself, provides for a kind of religious intimacy with Judaism. And that can be very moving.

Also, in not being able to be face-to-face with the people who mean so much to us, once the social distancing ends, I am certain that we will really treasure closeness with others. Not just because it's the Southern Way, but instead, because we care about those people. And as a corollary, we will remain, I strongly believe, ever aware of how important it is for us always to reach out to and be there with and for people who are in need.

I pray, of course, that this scourge will soon end. Equally, I pray that the scientists will quickly develop the vaccines that will keep us safe in the future from the kind of pestilence we are facing now. Finally, I pray that all of us, during this terrible time, will remain healthy, and that, after it ends, we will together, hand-in-hand, be able to continue the sacred task of perfecting the world.

Keyn y'hi ratzon, as we say in Hebrew, may that be God's will.

L'shalom, and ever with fondness,

Howard A. Kosovske



FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends,

Due to the recent Coronavirus circumstances, the safety of our congregants and employees is the Temple's highest priority. Your leadership has had much discussion on various policy modifications for our congregation. We have decided to temporarily suspend all group activities at our facility. All information currently available has been discussed for the safety of our congregational members. We plan to have much communication forthcoming by phone and email, so be on the lookout for future messages.

The good news is, we will continue services and programs via Zoom, thanks to Rabbi Kosovske, members, and staff who know how to make this work. You will be able to gather at your place of choice to participate with your phone/internet connection.

We have been advised that it is in everyone's best interest not to gather in large groups and to practice "social distancing". I am not panicking or giving in to some of the hysteria that you hear about, but we do need to be smart, careful, and proactive. The facts are we don't know much about what we are dealing with, what testing is going on in our area, and what will happen over the next few weeks. We do know people with existing health issues and older age groups

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are more susceptible to complications. We are taking this action out of an abundance of caution for the next few weeks.

Your leadership will be monitoring the situation as more information becomes available. Our office will remain open to continue our operations as normally as possible and social distancing is expected when on the premises until further notice. Please feel free to reach out to our staff if you need any assistance.

We will be sending you the login procedures and information on Zoom, so again please look for it, stay well, and stay in touch.

Please let me know if you would like to personally discuss any of this and thanks for your support. Let's take care of each other and check in with others as we adjust to this temporary new normal. We are in this together and we need to stay together during these challenging times!

Sincerely,

Randy Fry
Temple President

CONTRIBUTIONS

In honor of Gil Laden's 70th birthday – Amy & Jack Friedlander, Iris & Nate Ginsberg

In honor of Billy Susman's 70th birthday – Annette Kahn Webster

In memory of Rabbi Irving Bloom – Jane & Bert Kummel, Donna Renaud & Carl Aron, Jennie & Frank Helderman, Annette Kahn Webster, Carol & Steve Zimmerman

In memory of Phyllis Stern – Jani & Ronnie Handwerker

In memory of Gertie Kunstadt - Amy & Jack Friedlander

In memory of Randy Kogon – Larry Kogon

In memory of Gus Heart – Paul Bergman

In memory of Johana Larson – Paul Bergman

In memory of Rose Saks – Iris Klein

In memory of Lawrence Fetterman – Iris Klein

In memory of Dr. Milton Leigh – Enid & Gil Laden

In memory of Nathan N. Aronson – Judy Aronson

In memory of Cecile Mishkin – Robin & Joseph Mishkin, Linda & Eddie Blassingame

In memory of Ludwig Bergman – Paul Bergman

In memory of Fannie Salmon Whitehead – Mark Gilberstadt

FROM OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

by Patricia Silverman, Th.M., Religious School Director



On Friday, March 15, we celebrated Purim. It was a new experience doing the Shabbat Service with our Rabbi via the Zoom teleconferencing program. Our students play was MAGNIFICENT.

A big “Thank You” to David Brown, who was the author of the Skit “Queen Esther: A Persian Story”. Seth Cherniak lead the Purim songs.



More updates:

The Meagan Furman Bar Mitzvah has been rescheduled for June, we will keep you posted.

The Yom Ha Shoah (Holocaust) event scheduled for Sunday, April 19 will also be rescheduled.

The safety and health of our children, parents, and community are of utmost importance to us. After speaking with our Religious School chairperson, we have jointly decided to suspend Religious School until the local schools resume. I will send you an updated schedule as soon as we have information. Please feel free to contact me or Linda Blessingame (lmblsass@aol.com) with questions and concerns.

Please be safe, healthy and remember to wash your hands often!

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

By Susan Thomas, Archivist

Recently, the Archives received scans of three photographs of Julius Herzfeld, brother to Albert Herzfeld, a member of the Temple in the early 1900s. One of the photographs includes a young woman and the heading at the top indicates the woman is Rubye Herzfeld. In all probability, this woman is Rubye, the daughter of Albert Herzfeld, and Julius' niece.



Rubye was a popular young woman, “talented and beloved by all that knew her,” according to another relative. She died tragically at the age of 18, after accidentally ingesting bichloride of mercury. According to family records, Rubye took the mercury thinking it was a soda tablet to alleviate a bout of indigestion. She immediately became violently ill and subsequently died nine days later. Rubye was buried in the Temple cemetery, beside her parents, Dora and Albert Herzfeld.

Although Julius did not live in Mobile, he apparently visited the Herzfeld home regularly. Leon Schwarz, who married Addie Herzfeld, sister to Rubye, referred to Julius as “a very likeable and unusual character.” Schwarz described him as a traveling salesman who was headquartered in Chicago, but who made frequent trips to Mobile. He died January 5, 1916, in Mobile Infirmary and was also buried in the Temple cemetery. He was unmarried.

In the photo, Rubye appears to be fashionably dressed in a fur scarf, leather gloves, and wide-brimmed hat. Since the date of the photo is not known, we can only surmise that she was in her teen years and, that possibly, this image was taken shortly before her untimely death. It would be interesting to know the occasion for which the photo was taken.

The Archives welcomes any old photographs connected to early congregants. Even scanned or photocopied pictures can be a valuable addition to a family's file and can make the historic documents come alive. Special thanks to Linda Herzfeld, a descendant of the Herzfeld family, for sending us these photos.

MEET A MEMBER – DEBBIE CLOLINGER



What is an interesting thing that most people don't know about you?

Don't you hate it when people say "well, back in my glory days"? Well, back in my glory days, I owned a Prindle catamaran and sailed solo or with my crewmate in many regattas around the Gulf Coast and on Mobile Bay. I won many trophies and I once won "1st Place All Female Crew" for the Dauphin Island Regatta's First National Bank Perpetual Trophy. I love the water.

Do you have any hobbies you enjoy? Biking for fun or fitness, working out (for fun or fitness), painting, and cooking!

Would share a secret about yourself? Most people would be surprised to learn that I am an introvert. Even though I am comfortable in teaching, leading workshops, public speaking, being social, and starting conversations, I can only do it for a few hours, because I find it absolutely exhausting. I need a lot of time by myself to recharge and rejuvenate.

What do you enjoy most about your current career? I am currently a free-lance writer. With a background in marketing and public relations, I have had to create a lot of promotional and marketing materials, branding awareness, newsletters, etc. I am currently doing social media content writing, newsletters, and blogs for a marketing company.

How would you say Judaism has inspired the way you live your life? I came from an interfaith family. My parents divorced when I was a teenager. I needed stability in my life, guidance, and direction. I also needed role models for living a life of discipline and integrity. I found that in my father's family, who were Jewish. Family, education, culture, and community, was and is their foundation. That was very important to me. I embraced the Jewish faith in my early 20's and have continued to try and emulate these things into my adult life. Judaism, and more so Reform Judaism, embraces a mindset, traditions, acceptance, and stands against injustice, which I feel is crucial in today's world. Judaism is my life. G-d is with me always. Always. That is the one thing in this changing world that will never change.

Events Rescheduled or Postponed

Religious School is currently suspended until local schools are back in session.

Rescheduled - The Meagan Furman Bar Mitzvah has been rescheduled for the first weekend in June.

Postponed - 2nd Night of Passover Congregational Seder originally scheduled for Thursday, April 9

Postponed - The Yom Ha Shoah (Holocaust) event originally scheduled for Sunday, April 19

Postponed - The Michael Gerhardt lecture originally scheduled for Wednesday, April 22.

Postponed - Sisterhood & Men's Club Drawdown Fundraiser originally scheduled for Saturday, April 25.

Lynn Ungar

Poetry and Other Writings



Pandemic

What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times?
Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling.
Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.
Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.
Center down.

And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.
Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
(You could hardly deny it now.)
Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)
Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love—
or better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.

Lynn Ungar 3/11/20

This poem was passed along to us by our dear friend, Janet Kramer.

Congratulations!

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to ...

1 Jennifer Aronson	16 Jan Yellin
4 Jordan Holberg	19 Gary Rich
4 Cece Spain	20 Evan Maisel
4 Jennifer Sundberg	20 Bettina Prager
5 Tom Kessler	20 Daniel Tolpin
5 Sherry Mutchnick	20 Elizabeth Zimmerman
6 Robert Holberg	24 Shari Green
7 Rose Brunson	25 Jack Friedlander
7 Warren Koffler	25 Robin Mishkin
9 Ron Altman	25 Odette Sternberg
9 Paul Frenkel	27 Jennifer Bishop
9 David Gardberg	27 JoAnne Fusco
10 Cyndee Halper-Mayer	27 Marc Miller
10 Mel Sternberg	28 Alexis Goldberg
13 Meryl Harris	28 Shirley Silverman
13 Anna Elizabeth Seay	29 Michael Friedlander
13 Steve Zimmerman	29 Steve Johnson
15 Susan Friedman	29 Brian Mishkin
16 Lisa Van Beuren	

Happy Anniversary to ...

17 Ellie & Cole Appelman
20 Ellen Laden & Buzzy Zivitz
22 Claris & Sam Feibelman
24 Sheridan & Josh Briskman
29 Pauline & Mike Brown



Celebrate

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to ...

1 Donald Friedlander	16 Todd Lewis
1 Ralph Holberg III	17 Ira Frederic Cherniak
1 Robert Zimmerman	19 Christine Norris
2 Carrie Waldrop	21 John Webster
2 Kimberly Zelnicker	22 Mark Brown
3 Alain Gamble	22 Debbie Clolinger
6 Ron Berman	22 Ethan Kunstadt
10 Nicole Appelman	24 Donald Kunstadt
10 Dana Handmacher	25 Alan Lewis
10 Elsa Simon	28 Irving Koffler
10 Dana Susman	29 Aaron Denson
12 David Rose	27 Richard Zimmerman
12 Richard Rose	30 Shirley Boyd
14 Stephen Conrad	30 Gladys Cherniak
14 Joseph Fetterman	30 Sloane Maisel
15 Josh Briskman	30 Allen Ross
15 Heidi Kinsella	31 Elizabeth Prager

Happy Anniversary to ...

4 Christine Norris & Daryn Glassbrook
10 Aimee Walsh & Michael Holberg
15 Ada & Sam Small
20 Patti & Donald Kunstadt
20 Anna Elizabeth Seay & Evan Maisel
24 Elizabeth & Fred Miller



Y A H R Z E I T S

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.

To be read on April 3

30th Gussie Axelrod
 1st Melvin Bauer
 2nd Nan Altmayer
 3rd Susan Tema Gardberg
 Louis Raymon
 4th Sophie Yassem

To be read on April 10

5th Jacob Fuller
 7th Ralph Holberg Jr
 8th Pearline Ginsberg
 Cheri Ann Silverman
 10th Stephen Furst

To be read on April 17

12th Joseph Fetterman
 Saul Zimmerman
 13th Bertram Vogel
 14th A.B. Fleisher
 Reita Franco
 Ethel Gold
 15th Alvin Loeb
 Frances Holberg Lurie
 18th Cecile Mendelson
 Ruth Vogel
 Toshia Wagman

To be read on April 24

20th J.W. Dittman
 Betty Levin
 Herman Schear
 Mary Elizabeth Schear
 Raymond S. Schear
 Sarah Schear

21st Morris Hoffman
 Aaron Robinton
 Carrie Rubel Scharff
 22nd Miriam Fratkin
 Ryan Scott Small
 24th Sam Millstein Jr.
 25th Ralph G. Holberg Sr
 Rosalie Rosner

To be read on May 1

26th Alma Frank
 28th Elia C. Rotella
 2nd Frieda Friedman

To be read on May 8

4th A.E. Fingerhut
 Minnie Piser Schwarz
 5th Karin Appelman
 Miriam Yassem Gandler
 6th Bertrice Zelnicker
 7th Gladys Kahn

To be read on May 15

10th Fran Brown
 Karen Kopelman
 Elsa Keller Lewis
 14th Sylvia Rose
 Milton F. Rubel
 15th Jennie Spitzberg

To be read on May 22

17th Camille Baer
 18th Edward Gandler
 20th Richard Tolpin
 21st Sarah Kopelman
 22nd Gertrude Kopelman
 Valdivia Vogel
 23rd Irving Gandler
 Ellen Muhlfelder

To be read on May 30

24th Jerome Goldman
 Molly Long
 25th Louis Goldman
 26th Sarah Pozner Cherniak
 Samuel Diemar
 29th Helen Koffler

Donation Form

Send this form with your check to:

Springhill Avenue Temple
 1769 Springhill Avenue
 Mobile, AL 36607

Circle One:

In memory of / In honor of

_____ (person's name or event)

Donor: _____

Address: _____

Send acknowledgement to:

_____ Music Fund

_____ Adult Education Fund

_____ Religious School Fund

_____ Archives Fund

_____ Library Fund

_____ Social Action Fund

_____ Prayer Book Fund

_____ Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

CALENDAR

Hebrew School & Religious School

Religious School is currently suspended until local schools are back in session.

Torah Study with Rabbi Kosovske

Wednesday 5:30 p.m. April 1 – Via Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/561082849>

Additional Wednesdays Torah studies may be scheduled.

After April 1, check your weekly Chai Notes or the Temple website



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