

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, July 3	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service Rabbi Kosovske will conduct service via Zoom
Friday, July 10	6:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service via Zoom
*Friday, July 17	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service Rabbi Kosovske will conduct service via Zoom
Friday, July 24	6:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service via Zoom
*Friday, July 31	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service Rabbi Kosovske will conduct service via Zoom

***NOTE: Rabbi Kosovske's 6:15 p.m. Shabbat Time**

At this point in time, the Temple will be practicing "social distancing" and is 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: Numbers 22:2 - 25:9
Haftarah: Micah 5:6 - 6:8

FROM OUR RABBI'S STUDY

Post Script



When I wrote my bulletin article last month, I thought it would be my final article. It turns out there is one more. Hence, the name I've given to what follows.

And what is that? Basically, it's the conclusion of the final report that was written in its entirety in the booklet that would have been passed out at our annual meeting, had that meeting been an in-person gathering rather than one conducted on-line.

I don't know if you have seen the written annual report or, for that matter, brought yourself to read what I wrote in it (It was, I know, rather long). But there are two thoughts in it that I am rewriting here. They are the statement of what I am feeling at this, the eve of the ending of my rabbinate to our wonderful congregation. There were (and still are) two thoughts there and they, almost as a recording, keep running through my head. I share them with you once again.

“The first is what happened in the final months of my rabbinate to our congregation. Given the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been impossible for us to gather in our building or even for me to fly down to Mobile. But that did not stop us from functioning as the congregation we are. Not that we were able to be together in person. But via zoom through the internet, services and Torah study and religious school and a congregational seder and communal get-togethers and board committee meetings and conversion classes and pastoral outreaches and rabbinic counselling and more all continued. Fully.

“While the technology of it all presented us with some challenges, we overcame them. And the idea of being a fully-functioning now-virtual congregation has proved one thing: through out-of-the-box thinking, we can not only survive into the future but more, even grow in what we can do. My suggestion for that future: once the pandemic ends (and, please God, let that be soon!), we as a congregation need continue in all our arenas to think out-of-the-box. We need to continue to utilize the latest in technology (and things we haven't even dreamed of yet will in the future become available to us) to place us in the vanguard of forward-thinking Reform Judaism for whatever we and it need be. We are a congregation geographically spread over a wide area. We need therefore to continue to be a congregation that is not only tied to a physical building. Rather, we need remain a congregation whose 'building' can – and should! – be not just the physical building but more, a reach-out and bringing-together of our congregants, wherever our congregants are. In other words, it must be a congregation centered around our congregants as people, just as it must be about fulfilling their needs, whatever those needs will be.

“And then there is one more very big thing that happened this year. As I speak of it, I am a bit sad because it isn't quite finished. You see, we as a congregation were deeply blessed this year by a great and very munificent gift of a magnificent new Torah which was given to our congregation by our congregants, Jeff and Susan Friedman, of Hunting Valley, Ohio. They gave that Torah to Sha'arai Shomayim in honor of the milestone birthdays of their beloved parents (and our beloved, very-

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dedicated congregants), Lowell and Bobette Friedman. The Torah, written in Israel, arrived and was presented to us at the time of Lowell's and Bobette's birthdays.

"The idea was that, a month or so later, we would have with our entire congregation a formal 'welcoming ceremony' for that Torah. Unfortunately, the pandemic broke out shortly after the Torah arrived, and that prevented that ceremony from taking place.

"Perhaps, though, the ceremony will yet take place in the future. However, in any case, the Torah is here now for us to use and read from. And in years to come, that Torah will remain for us the Tree of Life that Lowell's and Bobette's dedication to our congregation has always been. For them, may their ability to continue the sacred work of their hands continue for many long and healthy and happy years!"

And with that I repeat here the final words of my report:

"As this year ends, please know that my gratitude will continue unabated for the incredible warmth and friendship that from the first moment we came to Sha'arai Shomayim you so wonderfully have extended to Janet and me. And do know that our prayer will remain that our futures, yours and ours, will bring us together yet again in celebration, and may that be soon and often."

Continue to flourish, and as Moses said to Joshua, I here say to you, "Be strong and of good courage and [remain] unafraid." And know that I am fully confident that Sha'arai Shomayim will continue always to be the place of "milk and honey" because that been our way throughout all of our days.

L'shalom, and ever with fondness,

Howard A. Kosovske

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



In 1989, I was tapped on the shoulder by Ralph Holberg, a past president and long-standing counsel of the Temple I have long held in high esteem. Ralph asked me if I would serve as Second Vice President of the Temple. He then said,

this means you will move up to become president. I was awestruck and honored. Can I do this, I wondered. I had previously served as board president of a nonprofit agency, had chaired a committee, and had been involved with other organizations, but this was a

responsibility like no other. Long story short, I did serve as Second Vice President and then as President from 1993-1995 – which covered the sesquicentennial year of the Temple. It goes without saying that the Temple has had a huge impact on my life. There were many outstanding leaders along the way who influenced me and gave me a chance to grow and develop my leadership skills.

That was the past. Fast-forward 20-plus years. I came back on the board in September of 2017. And then most recently, I received a call I had no inkling would come my way. It was from Alan Goldberg, yet another past

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president I admire deeply. Gil, we would like you to be president. I put up a reflexive mild protest, but as the words were tumbling out, the memories of my affection for Congregation Sha'arai Shomayim and the effect it has had on my life led me to a moment of clarity. After talking to my dear wife, Enid, and a few close friends, I spoke to Alan the next day. Yes, I would be honored to serve. (Honored is a word that fits what I feel and one I repeat.)

I must admit – no, I gladly admit – I am excited about the officers with whom I am surrounded. I have spoken to and listened to each of them. I am pleased with the makeup of the board. I am grateful to follow in the footsteps of twice-past president Randy Fry, who answered the call of duty once again after a difficult period in our history and shepherded us with calmness and dedication. Randy took us on a path of healing and recalibration.

None of this could have been possible, however, without the rabbinical leadership of the inestimable Howard Kosovske. His kindness, insight, intelligence, spirituality, and wit have been instrumental in helping us through this transition. Reflective of his depth of character, he inspired me in a short amount of time. He was remarkable, really.

So, what are we to do about the future? We are presently living in the midst of a pandemic. We have emerged from the shutdown – somewhat. We are having services by Zoom. We have challenges, but I prefer to see those challenges in a different way. They are opportunities.

I have asked some members to serve on an ad hoc committee to deal with all things COVID-19 as it affects the Temple. Nate Ginsberg,

Howard Silverman, Michael Sternberg, Alan Goldberg, and Linda Blassingame all agreed to serve. We had our first meeting by Zoom and were joined by Rabbi Kosovke. We will formulate a plan based on data that will help us make sound and prudent decisions toward the ultimate reopening of the Temple, whenever that may be. There will be a careful roll-out of phases throughout this process. We plan to poll our congregation. We recognize the need to provide a safe environment not only for members but for our valued staff. There will be much more to come out of this all-important committee.

I met with Rabbi Cantor John Kaplan, who duly impressed me on so many fronts. I look forward to working with him and being the beneficiary of his spiritual leadership. I have met or talked with many others who have infused me with a sense of hope for our future.

With respect to the board, our other challenges, or again, our opportunities, include moving forward with the ongoing development of a long range plan, which has now been in the works for over a year. It, too, had been affected by COVID-19. The long range plan will be a product of the forward thinking of members and the valued input of Rabbi Kosovske and will, hopefully, lead to continued viability well into the future, just as we have exhibited for over 175 years.

I harbor no illusions about the work that we have yet to do. Our collective efforts and affinity for the Temple and one another will see us through. Thank you for the great honor you have bestowed upon me. Be assured that I will give my best during my tenure as your president yet once more.

Gil Laden
Temple President

FROM OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

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

We hope that all of our Religious School family are safe and healthy during your summer vacation. The staff and I miss seeing our students at Religious School. We are hoping to start Religious School in the fall.



Parents, please remember to return a completed Religious School application for the 2020-2021 school year. We need these applications to finalize our tentative Religious School calendar.

Have a wonderful summer!

CONTRIBUTIONS

In honor of the birth of Ariella Bloom – Priscilla Gold-Darby

A speedy recovery for Elaine Berman – Priscilla Gold-Darby

In memory of William Robert Powell – Amy & Jack Friedlander, Patricia & Howard Silverman

In memory of Nancy Quittmeyer – Amy & Jack Friedlander, Enid & Gil Laden, Priscilla Gold-Darby

In memory of David Gardberg – Ceresa & Paul Frenkel

In memory of Ellen Muhlfelder – Steve Muhlfelder

In memory of Benjamin Gold – Priscilla Gold-Darby

In memory of Elaine Heart – Paul Bergman

In memory of Sophia & Joel Bornstein – Karen & Hari Singh

In memory of Ira Saks – Iris Klein

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

By Susan Thomas, Archivist

Recently, the Temple Archives received a box of documentation related to the Mobile section of the National Council of Jewish Women. The Mobile section was founded in 1896 with Temple women serving leadership roles up until the section disbanded in 1995. The recent donation of materials will be added to the NCJW collection already housed in the Archives.

Most of the items in the recent donation were from the 1980s and 1990s. However, two newsletters from the 1960s were also found among the stacks of more recent correspondence, receipts, newspaper clippings, and programs. These two newsletters provide an interesting glimpse into the life of the Temple and the women congregants during this period of history. Although neither newsletter is dated, from references within their pages it can be ascertained that one was published in early 1964 and the other in late 1964.

These documents reflect that the local section was up on local, national, and international politics. The Council sponsored a debate at the Temple between Mobile Mayor Joseph Langan, a Democrat, and Representative John Buchanan of Birmingham, a Republican. Both were to “speak on philosophies of their respective parties with a view toward the coming presidential election.” NCJW members were active in writing letters to state representatives urging the establishment of a separate Department of Mental Health to

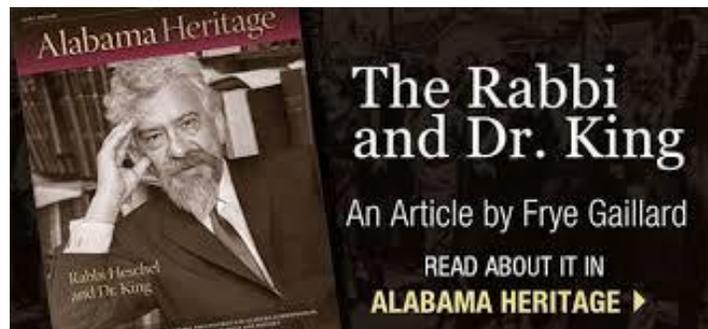
address mental health issues. Members were also urged to “be aware of the facts dealing with the coming school crisis”, as public schools in Mobile were on the verge of adopting a plan for desegregation. “We can insure Mobile’s future by supporting our local public officials who seek to preserve law and order,” members were told in the newsletter.

In the later 1964 newsletter, one member, Edith Zelnicker, wrote a two-page article on her experience meeting the First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson, when she made a campaign appearance in Mobile on October 9, 1964. Mrs. Zelnicker, who served on the steering committee that made arrangements for the visit, described the First Lady as “a charming gentlewoman”, whose “southern voice and relaxed attitude” belied a “mind as sharp as a steel trap.”

Other articles discuss the proceedings of the 18th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, a drive to send toys to handicapped children in Israel, and a public affairs institute in Washington, D.C., featuring Alabama’s Senator John Sparkman.

These newsletters indicate that the local section of NCJW did not shy away from controversial, social, and political issues of the day. Along with raising money for many local charitable causes, the section also tried to raise awareness of social problems and to encourage member involvement in a variety of issues.

**Mobile Area Jewish Federation Invites You to
“The Rabbi and Dr. King” presented by Frye Gaillard
Join us on Zoom Sunday, July 12 at 3:00 p.m.**



Frye will be talking about the personal, ethical, and the theological friendship between Abraham Heschel, a seventh-generation Rabbi, who survived arrest by Hitler's police and made it to America where he published an iconic volume on the Hebrew prophets, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was regarded by Heschel as a 20th-century heir to the prophetic tradition. Heschel marched with Dr. King in Selma, and was instrumental in persuading King to speak out against the Vietnam War. Some Jewish leaders were critical of Heschel's activism and King had many critics as well. But the two were staunch supporters of each other. They were also close friends. King was planning to join Heschel's family for Passover Seder in April of 1968, the month that he was killed in Memphis. Their peaceful voices calling for justice to "roll down like a mighty stream" echo powerfully in these times.

Despite their different faiths, the pair found many commonalities in their shared struggle and they remained friends until King's untimely death.

Zoom Invitation Link for Sunday, July 12 at 3:00 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87366687728>

Q & A session to follow the presentation.

Frye Gaillard, is Mobile native, Writer-in-Residence at the University of South Alabama, and author of more than 25 books, including his most recent, *A Hard Rain*

Congratulations!

July Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to ...

1 Peter Susman	14 Glen Mutchnick
2 Stacy Kessler	15 Victoria Hirsch
3 Charlie Brown	15 Deana Paper
3 Betsy Dittman	16 Katlin Bergman
5 Lynn Raider	17 Rachel Borak
6 Dana Furman	17 Jay Ross
7 Molly Aronson	17 Steve Weinstein
7 Wendy Conrad	18 David Zimmerman
7 Irwin Misrok	19 Jay Ross
8 Linda Blassingame	20 Maud Patterson
8 David Holberg	20 David Shulman
8 Stanley Zimmerman	21 Eli William Franco
8 David Zimmerman	23 Ed Blassingame
10 Ellen Laden Zivitz	23 Michael Passero
11 Bryan Hill	25 Harriet Simon
12 Katie Webster	29 Leslie Miller
13 Sarah Sternberg	29 Ada Small
14 Elliot Cherniak	30 Patti Kunstadt
14 Todd Mishkin	

Happy Anniversary to ...

6 Maure & Michael Sternberg
7 Diane & Richard Frank
24 Patty & Gary Fishbein
25 Ceresa & Paul Frenkel





August Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to ...

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Joseph “Jay” Handmacher | 10 Meagan Dobbins | 19 Eileen Susman |
| 2 Margaret Brown | 11 Lindsey Gottlieb | 20 David Fishbein |
| 2 Andrew Frenkel | 12 William Handmacher | 21 Cole Appelman |
| 4 Terry Barkin | 13 Jennifer Altmayer | 21 Susan Koffler |
| 4 Milton Brown | 14 Brooks Fishbein | 23 David Ennis |
| 4 Priscilla Gold-Darby | 15 Marian Berkin | 23 Jeffrey Miller |
| 4 Samuel Schnitzer | 15 Fred Miller | 24 Jeremy Borak |
| 4 Stacey Shostak | 16 Eric Gottlieb | 26 Michael Aronson |
| 4 Carol Zimmerman | 17 Sheridan Briskman | 29 Tamara Fulford |
| 5 Pamela Thompson | 17 Marsha Ann Dittman | 31 Joshua Altmayer |
| 8 Anna Brown | 19 Ashley Bergman | 31 Leah Brown |
| 8 Miriam Fry | 19 Pauline Brown | 31 David Harris |
| 8 Joyce Toubiana | | |

Happy Anniversary to ...

- 1 Marian & Mark Berkin**
- 2 Cece & Jim Spain**
- 2 Joyce & Gerard Toubiana**
- 17 Ellen & Bill Shulman**
- 22 Kim & David Zimmerman**
- 25 Judi & Paul Bergman**
- 28 Amy & Jack Friedlander**
- 30 Iris & Nate Ginsberg**



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 July 3

28th Herbert "Petey" Feibelman
 29th Herbert Feibelman, Jr.
 Harold Renaud
 1st Raymond Hirsch
 2nd Cassius Fishbein
 Max Keller
 Albert Klein

To be read on July 10

7th Terry Barkin
 8th Jean Feinberg Marx
 11th Miriam Zelnicker

To be read on July 17

12th Dolores Loeb
 16th Mae Dalton
 Benjamin Gold
 17th Jean Barkin
 18th Paul M. Brown
 Lillis May Gould

To be read on July 24

19th Jacob Reiss, Jr.
 Lazarus Schwarz
 Ruby Stern
 20th Joseph B. Miller
 22nd Solomon Cherniak
 Sidney Rosner
 25th Leah Raider

To be read on July 31

26th Arnold Heart
 28th Anna Berkower
 29th Edwin Zelnicker, Jr.
 30th Emma Raider
 1st Raymond Frankel
 Herman Patterson

To be read on August 7

3rd Anne Heart Bergman
 4th Lillian Muhlfelder
 5th Anne Teles Fink
 Aratchofsky
 6th Frederick H. Vogel
 David Wagman
 7th Evelyn Feibelman

To be read on August 14

10th J.B. Friedlander
 Charles Hoffman
 Sigmond Kahn
 11th Marian Berkin
 Evelyn Hoffman
 Paula Raider Olichney
 15th Helen Edelbaum

To be read on August 21

16th Bennie Friedlander
 17th George Wagenheim
 18th Murry Benenson

To be read on August 21

21st Juliette Harries Garb
 Geraldine "Gerr" Koffler
 Claris McDaniel
 Sam Shulman
 22nd Janice Fry Goldman

To be read on August 29

23rd Abraham Gardberg
 Edwin A. Zelnicker Sr.
 24th Gail Stone Bergman
 26th Irving Jacob Buckman
 Becky Friedlander
 27th Eleanor Ruth Frenkel
 Lucille Zelnicker Herman
 28th David Conrad
 Reubin Kamil
 Aris Schoonderbeek
 29th Melvin Bauer, Jr.

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 – Currently out of session

Tea & Talk with Rabbi Kosovske every Monday from 3:30 – 4:30 pm via Zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/561082849> or by phone at: +1 (301) 715-8592 (Meeting ID: 561 082 849)

Torah Study with Rabbi Kosovske

Wednesdays 5:30 p.m. June 3, 10, 17, and 24 – Via Zoom
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