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**CONGREGATION SHA'ARAI SHOMAYIM**  
**SPRINGHILL AVENUE TEMPLE**

**FOUNDED 1844**

**THE TEMPLE BULLETIN**  
[springhillavenuetemple.com](http://springhillavenuetemple.com)

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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, June 5	6:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service Rabbi Kosovske will conduct service via Zoom
Friday, June 12	6:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service Rabbi Kosovske will conduct service via Zoom
Friday, June 19	6:00 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service Rabbi Kosovske will conduct service via Zoom
Friday, June 26	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 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 8:1 - 12:16  
Haftarah: Zechariah 2:14 - 4:7

## FROM OUR RABBI'S STUDY

### Valedictory



There is a saying appearing many times in our sacred literature. It reads, *acharon acharon chaviv*, meaning “The last, the last is [the most] precious.”

All the same, I can't quite believe (and am more than a little sad that) I'm writing this, my final bulletin article as rabbi of Sha'arei Shomayim. It seems as if but yesterday my rabbinate (which what was supposed to be only a High Holy Day rabbinate) began. Have two years really passed?

I came here, of course, with an understanding that my so-called “interim” rabbinate would last for less than a year. But as I learned from my grandmother – may she rest in peace! – *a mensch tracht und Gott lacht*, meaning, “Man proposes, God disposes,” or, more literally, “A person plans, and God laughs.”

When I first turned from High Holy Day Rabbi into what was to be your part-time Rabbi for just several more months, a couple of you asked me, “What's it like coming into a new congregation and then leaving after but one year?” My answer then was, “Coming in is easy, but leaving is brutal.” And at the end of this month, that will be magnified manifold, because now I will have been here not one year but two. And as a result of that, I'm not only going to be leaving people who are congregants, but rather, I am leaving a rabbinate to people who have become, both to Janet and me, family.

My time here has been (and continues each day to be) personally exciting while at the same time professionally challenging. By definition (and training), interim rabbis are transition specialists. Our roles are about change. We

are supposed to help congregations look at themselves and begin to change from where they were to what and where they will be and become in the future.

I came here, of course, at a time when Springhill Avenue Temple was in great turmoil. We were totally split apart as a congregation. But now, thanks to what we have accomplished together, that turmoil is, for all intents and purposes, over. And we are ready to move on as a united congregation into whatever the future portends.

As I know you already know, my take on the rabbinate is that we rabbis are, first and foremost, Torah teachers (and to be that, we have to be serious life-long Torah students ourselves). To do that though, we rabbis have to have enough faith in our laities that we let them be our full partners who take on many responsibilities in running our temples. And that is what has happened here during these two years. Instead of being a congregation where the rabbi calls all of the shots, we have become one giant collaboration. And for me, that is more than good. It means that each of us now has the opportunity, in the name of Judaism, to do whatever it is that our talents as individuals are about. And it also means, that all of us can be involved in the holy work that temple life is supposed to be about.

But the chief joy for me these two years has been the people of our congregation. Those to whom I taught Torah and from whom I also learned Torah. I speak of those with whom I prayed each Shabbat and on holidays and on the High Holy Days; those with whom I have shared Jewish activities; those who in word and deed really were out on the line trying to do and make Sha'arei Shomayim a place working

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at *tikkun olam*, real fixing of the world; and, those who let me be with you in your moments happy and sad.

Never once did I hear you say that you were afraid of change. Though we disagreed over what that meant sometimes, our disagreements were always worked through in a very Jewish way, always carried out as disagreements *l'shem shamayim*, meaning “in the name of Heaven,” i. e., seeking what *was* Jewish truth. And that’s holy. And, too, it will be the foundation upon which Springhill Avenue Temple’s future will rest as our congregation, under the leadership of my successor, will move into yet another future. One that will also tackle whatever the future may hold.

Who would have thought, two years ago, that our Jewish practice was going to take the form that it has? That we would do such things as celebrate Shabbat, have a Pesach seder, keep a religious school going, study Torah together, get together simply to schmooze, all via zoom? But it has. And though I, these last couple of months, have been miles away from Mobile, we have continued to fully function and share and “do Jewish” together! That proves that we

can continue to be and grow Jewishly as a congregation, no matter what challenges face us in the future.

A word of thanks: the whole time I have been your rabbi, you have been totally welcoming to Janet and to me. You have let us share our lives fully with you and you have let us be a part of you as individuals and as a congregation. And for this, we shall always be grateful. Also, do know that the memories of these two years will remain with us as a warm inspiration and joy for the rest of our lives.

I’m a bit sad, of course, as my rabbinate and my stay here draw near their end. But, I will not say good-bye. Rather, I will say to you the word we say in Hebrew, *l’hitra’ot*, meaning, “to be seen by each other [again].” For I do hope that our paths will cross again in the future, not only soon, but often, as well. And in that I wish you a future filled only with good things and continuing renewal. May you remain safe and healthy, and may you, as individuals and as a congregation, continue to go from strength to strength.

*L’shalom*, and ever with fondness,

*Howard A. Kosovske*



### **Message from Larry Brook, Editor Southern Jewish Life**

The new issue of Southern Jewish Life is out and, just like last month, it is available online only due to the coronavirus restrictions. The new issue can be viewed online at <https://issuu.com/sjlmag/docs/sjl0520>

Or go to the Southern Jewish Life website ([sjlmag.com](http://sjlmag.com)) for a version that is downloadable. They also offer a weekly email newsletter that you can sign up for by emailing [subscribe@sjlmag.com](mailto:subscribe@sjlmag.com).

Also, a PDF copy can be downloaded using the link shown below.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1kYukz16ayMBblunqDrJwlsculZmLMEWk>

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT



I hope all of you are safe with the current events happening today. It has certainly been a strange last few months. I don't know how to describe it. Fortunately, with all of your efforts we have continued our services

and activities electronically. I will have to give credit to our staff, Rabbi, and Zoom for keeping us together.

**Due to our state being a hot spot for the virus and with ever-changing guidelines, our Annual Meeting is set for Sunday, June 14, via Zoom at 10:00 a.m. Please look for additional info in your email and snail mail. It will be BYOB, bring your own bagel.**

Your officers, staff, Rabbi, and Board members are preparing, as much as possible, for an organized and productive meeting. I thank all of our new and returning leaders for making the commitment to serve.

Our Rabbi Search Committee has a recommendation for a part-time Rabbi to lead us in the coming year. I ask you to join with me to extend a warm welcome to Rabbi Cantor John Kaplan. Many of you know him, as he has previously led us in worship and is familiar with our congregation. Our search will continue in the coming year for a full-time Rabbi.

As you know by now, Rabbi Howard Kosovke's contract is expiring at the end of the month. He is taking a part-time pulpit position in Lynn, Massachusetts, and we wish him all the best. He has been a great fit for our congregation and we have prospered by having him with us during these challenging times. I now refer to Rabbi Howard and Janet as southerners, well almost.

I thank all of you for your support and encouragement over the past year. I wish each of you Shalom and good health. I hope to see each of you at the meeting. We need your input and participation.

*Randy Fry*  
*Temple President*



**Congratulations to Cindy and Ben Bloom on the birth of their newest addition, their daughter, Areilla.**

**MAZEL TOV & CONGRATULATIONS!**

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

By Susan Thomas, Archivist

The 1918 influenza pandemic that swept around the globe following the end of World War I was blamed for at least 20 million deaths worldwide. In the United States, over 600,000 individuals died from the flu and in Alabama, at least 5,446 deaths were attributed to it. In October 1918, the governor of Alabama asked county and municipal authorities to ban all public gatherings. A newspaper article during this time noted that the Mobile City Commission had closed all schools, motion picture houses, and theaters and had recommended that “persons refrain from kissing” to stop the spread of the disease. The Commission also “earnestly recommended” that churches close voluntarily.

It is interesting to note that although the flu was so widespread, no mention of it is made in the Temple’s Board of Trustee Minutes from that period. During 1918, the Board met regularly. Minutes indicate that items discussed by the Board included adding new members to the choir, approving gifts for graduates, changing the Temple’s accounting procedures, repairing a window damaged in a storm, approving dues reductions, and authorizing repair costs for the furnace and organ. Evidently, services were held as usual during the epidemic and if any activities were curtailed, they are not mentioned in the minutes. The Temple’s death registry for this

period indicates that only six members died during 1918. These six ranged in age from 30 to 83 years; cause of death is not listed for any of them. A loss of six individuals during a year’s period would not be that high compared to other years.

Likewise, the autobiography of Leon Schwarz, who later served as Temple President in the 1930s, does not mention the pandemic. Schwarz’s journal ends in 1919 and at that time he was in the military in France, where many cases of the flu had been reported. Schwarz, who usually in his writings is very detailed about happenings in Mobile and in the broader Jewish community, makes no references to the flu at home or abroad.

The lack of references seems to indicate that the congregation was not directly affected by the pandemic and was able to carry on “business as usual” during those difficult times. Apparently, the Temple was spared the tragedies that beset others in the community.

If anyone has any family stories of how their ancestors dealt with the 1918 flu outbreak, please let me know! You can contact me at [susanthomas1744@comcast.net](mailto:susanthomas1744@comcast.net). I hope that you are all staying well and safe in our current pandemic.



### VIRAL RAGE:

Considered the biggest and deadliest pandemic in modern history, the Spanish flu has been dubbed as the "the worst catastrophe of the 20th century", infecting an enormous number of people who died very quickly. It killed more people in one year than the four-year "Black Death" Bubonic Plague from 1347 to 1351. Image Credit: Wikipedia

## 18 Easy-to-Make Jewish Comfort Foods by Deborah Rood Goldman

Source: <https://reformjudaism.org/blog/2020/03/17/18-easy-make-jewish-comfort-foods>



In her *New York Times* essay about cornbread and the solace that comfort food brings, Margaret Renkl describes the matriarchs in her family who survived wars and pandemics.

“Whatever else is happening outside my windows, whatever struggles are still ahead,” she writes, “just the sight of that golden disk of battery goodness can make me feel a tiny bit better.”

During this time of social isolation and physical distancing, cooking simple, comfort foods can serve as a welcome and calming distraction – even if you don’t consider yourself a cook.

We’ve rounded up some easy-to-make Jewish recipes for beginners that are simple, delicious, and well ... just plain comforting.

### Traditional Ashkenazi Comfort Foods:

- [Baked Chicken with Barley](#)
- [Kasha Varnishkas](#)
- [Cherry Noodle Pudding](#)

### Kid-Friendly Recipes:

- [Applesauce](#)
- [Classic New York Egg Cream](#)
- [Chocolate Chip Orange Zest Cookies](#)

### Simple Soups:

- [Russian Cabbage Borscht](#)
- [Vegetarian Mushroom Barley Soup](#)
- [Cold Cucumber Dill Soup](#)

### Easy Energizers:

- [Tart Pomegranate and Cherry Tonic](#)
- [Wake-Up Chocolate Fruit Kicks](#)
- [Lemon Poppy Seed No-Bake Bars](#)

### Our Passover Picks:

- [Caramelized Red Onion and Dill Frittata with Smoked Salmon](#)
- [Matzah Spinach Pizza](#)
- [Matzah Meal Popovers](#)

### Plus, Passover Sweets!

- [Matzah Candy Buttercrunch](#)
- [Vegan Chocolate Peanut Butter Matzah Squares](#)
- [Double Coconut Chocolate Macaroons](#)

## FROM OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

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

We celebrated Israel's Independence Day, Yom Ha'atzmaut, on Sunday, April 26. Rabbi Howard Kosovske conducted the service and the games. We had a great time learning about Israel.

Sunday, May 17, was the last day of Religious School for the Year 2019-2020.

**Parents** - By now, you should have received my letter which included the Religious School application for the 2020-2021 school year. Please remember to return the completed application as soon as possible in order to help us finalize the upcoming Religious School calendar.



## CONTRIBUTIONS

*In honor of the birth of Cindy & Ben Bloom's daughter, Areilla* – Patricia & Howard Silverman, Iris & Nate Ginsberg

*In honor of David Rose's 70th birthday* – Iris & Nate Ginsberg, Ellie & Cole Appelman

*In honor of Richard Rose's 70th birthday* – Iris & Nate Ginsberg, Ellie & Cole Appelman

*In honor of Ralph Holberg's birthday* – Diane & Richard Frank

*In honor of the birth of Shoshana Helen Lerch* – Priscilla Gold-Darby, Patricia & Howard Silverman

*A speedy recovery for Elaine Berman* – Iris & Nate Ginsberg

*In memory of Nancy Quittmeyer* – Iris & Nate Ginsberg

*In memory of David Gardberg* – Phyllis Feibelman, Amy & Jack Friedlander, Liz & Randy Fry, Annette Kahn Webster, Minna Ree & Edmond Miranne, Jr., Elaine & Sanford Winer, Jamie & Greg Saad, Nell & Cal Ennis, Diane & Richard Frank, Valerie & Lionel Williams, Carol & Steve Zimmerman, Joyce & Gerard Toubiana, Ellen & Buzzy Zivitz, Enid & Gil Laden, Venetia Prince, Darlene Hixon

*In memory of Gordon McCracken* – Priscilla Gold-Darby

*In memory of Holly Wiseman* – Priscilla Gold-Darby, Joyce & Gerard Toubiana, Phyllis Feibelman

*In memory of Michael Friedlander* – Bettina & Steve Prager, Elaine Skibell

*In memory of Gordon McCracken* – Bettina & Steve Prager

*In memory of Mimi Fratkin* – Jonathan Fratkin & Gail Chadwick

*In memory of Joe Passero* – Fran Passero

*In memory of the Shear family* – Nancy & Richard Hill

*In memory of Alvin Loeb* – Leslie & Larry Miller

*In memory of Karen Kopelman, Gertrude Kopelman and Sarah Kopelman* – Iris Klein

# Congratulations!

## June Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Happy Birthday to ...

1 Emily Miles	12 Richard Mazey
2 Joshua Denson	13 Amelia Holberg
2 Cheri Silverman	16 Jerry Dobbins
3 Veronica Cherniak O'Brien	17 Marc Gottlieb
3 Victoria Cherniak Shuchart	18 Dana Friedlander
2 Gretchen Goldberg	19 David Brown
3 Lynn Zelnicker	19 Jonathan Gardberg
4 Paul Bergman	19 Alan Goldberg
4 Patricia Fishbein	20 Mayer Briskman
5 Bradley Ennis	21 Mark Berkin
5 Kim Zimmerman	21 Samuel Feibelman
6 Bonnie Kidd	22 Jill Conrad
6 Sam Small	23 Robert Brown
8 Alexander Fratkin	23 Roy Hoffman
8 Rick Hirsch	26 Sandra Gandler
9 Phil Linnick	27 Benjamin Fishbein
9 Sarah Webster	30 Jeff Silverman
10 Shirley Gaggstatter	30 Brian Susman

### Happy Anniversary to ...

- 1 Gladys & David Cherniak
- 2 Flo & Tom Kessler
- 4 Nancy & Charlie Brown
- 5 Emily & Harold Fink
- 6 Patricia & Howard Silverman
- 12 LeNae & Bill Denson
- 12 Odette & Mel Sternberg
- 14 Sherry & Glen Mutchnick
- 18 Elaine & Robert Holberg
- 18 Jan & Steven Yellin
- 19 Bettina & Steve Prager
- 22 Alain & Gary Gamble
- 27 Jenny & Gary Rich





## July Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Happy Birthday to ...

1 Peter Susman	14 Glen Muthnick
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 Kunststadt
14 Todd Mishkin	

### Happy Anniversary to ...

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



## 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 June 5**

31st G.B. Kahn  
 Juan Antonio Rotella  
 1st Kenneth Morrow  
 3rd Sophia Bornstein  
 Elaine Heart  
 4th Patricia E. Fusco  
 Col. Norman H. Schwartz  
 5th Jane Schear Richards

**To be read on June 12**

7th Joel Bornstein  
 11th Helen Wagner  
 12th Saul Berkin  
 Richard L. Frank Sr.  
 Harris Friedlander

**To be read on June 19**

15th Marion S. Frank  
 Mickey Levy  
 16th Martin Lerch Sr  
 Lewis Simon  
 Helen Small  
 Joseph Zulofsky  
 Abe Silverman

**To be read on June 26**

21st Louis Fleischer  
 Annette Friedman Gerson  
 Albert Klein  
 Ira Saks  
 Sidney Schatten  
 24th Elizabeth Strauss Eber  
 Robert C. Schwartz  
 25th Redonia Fishbein  
 Jean Fry  
 26th David Raider  
 27th Leon Stern

**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

### 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  
<https://zoom.us/j/561082849> or by phone at: +1 (301) 715-8592 (Meeting ID: 561 082 849)



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