

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, August 7	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service via Zoom
Friday, August 14	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service via Zoom Rabbi John Kaplan will conduct service via Zoom
Friday, August 21	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service Rabbi John Kaplan will conduct service via Zoom
Friday, August 28	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service via Zoom

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EFFECTIVE FOR AUGUST - NEW LINK FOR ZOOM SHABBAT SERVICE:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87839552816?pwd=eVErMi9USzQlZkhNU3ZZekxwU2FSQT09>

YOU MUST HAVE THE PASSWORD TO ATTEND: If you do not have or have forgotten the password, please contact Nate Ginsberg or Howard Silverman.

To call in dial - 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 878 3955 2816

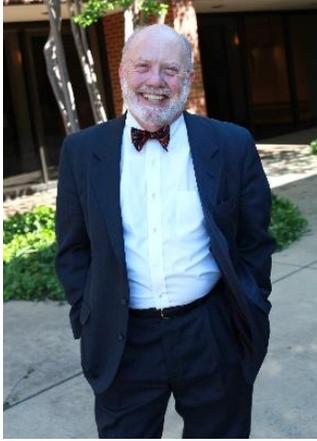
Please Note: The passcode for calling in is different from the computer passcode.

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



TORAH SELECTION:
Torah: Deuteronomy 3:23 - 7:11
Haftarah: Isaiah 40:1 - 40:26

A MESSAGE FROM OUR RABBI



*L'Shanah Tovah!
A Good Year!
A Year of Good Health!*

I can't believe that an entire year has come and gone and all over the world we are once again approaching the High Holy Days. It seems as if it was only a few months past that we were wishing one another this *Yontif* greeting. And yet, truly, "Thank God!," here we are again in a position to greet one another with *L'Shanah Tovah!*

As I begin my first visit with this historic congregation, I would like to first thank my predecessor, Rabbi Howard Kosovske, for the warmth and collegial affection he has shown me and my wife, Linda, this past year during our occasional visits to the Mobile area. I am moved by the love and dedicated service he has unselfishly given to you, the members of Congregation *Sha'arai Shomayim*. As described in our congregation's website, Rabbi Kosovske's religious style "is *heimish*," or homey, with a very Jewish flavor." He has left an indelible mark upon this congregation and has been a source of learning, warmth, comfort, and blessings to you all. I am humbled by this.

I would also like to thank the leadership of our congregation for their unceasing efforts to sustain and preserve the Mobile area Jewish community during this time of the pandemic.

As we enter this New Year, we say, "*L'Shanah Tovah - A Happy New Year!*" Sometimes we even say, "A Healthy New Year!" Hmmmm... I find it truly amazing the number of times I have recited this annual formulaic blessing, with true sincerity for others; however, with little personal concern for myself. However, during this time of pandemic, this annual blessing we offer one another takes on greater meaning. It is often said, "Don't take your good health for granted." Another popular saying often used is, "Life is precious." And it most certainly is. Jewish tradition also reminds us to, "Guard your health above all else (Proverbs 4:23)."

And finally, although we have had the pleasure over the past several years of meeting a number of you, Linda and I look forward to the coming year as a time to meet new friends and to celebrate with our ever-growing family. Please do not hesitate to introduce yourselves to us.

So, my hope and prayer for each of us for the coming High Holy Days (and beyond!!) is that we enjoy the blessings of a Happy and a *Healthy* New Year!

Linda joins me in sending our love and best wishes that this New Year fill your life with many blessings - most of all, the blessing of good health!

L'Shanah Tovah u-M'tukah! – May the New Year be sweet and good!

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



By now, you should have received a copy of the Long Range Plan, a product of many hours of work from a collaborative, committed group of congregants aided in no small part by Rabbi Howard Kosovske. The Board of Trustees approved the plan at its meeting on July 20. We hope it will serve as a blueprint for us as we go through the rest of this year and beyond.

Before we look to the future, I want to take a moment and dwell on our immediate past and pay homage to Rabbi Kosovske. He came in as interim Rabbi but told us he was a transitional Rabbi, which connoted to him the need to use skills to help us bridge the gap from where we were to where we are now. I told him he was much more than that – he was a transcendent Rabbi.

He uplifted us immeasurably on so many fronts. We are all the better for it.

While we are on the subject of rabbis, I am pleased to announce we will have the services of Rabbi Natan Trief for the High Holy Days services, which will be conducted by Zoom. Rabbi Trief is from Atlanta and previously was interim Rabbi at a congregation in Baton Rouge. His wife is a congregational rabbi in Atlanta. He has an impressive resume. Those who were present for the interview as led by Dana Handmacher and Maure Sternberg, the co-chairs of the Rabbinical Search Committee, had quite favorable reactions to him. The Board approved his hire.

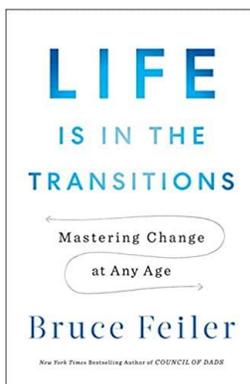
He will travel to Mobile and conduct the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services by Zoom in the sanctuary, which will lend an air of authenticity. In addition, he will conduct the Zoom service from Atlanta for Shabbat Shuvah in between the two holidays.

Lastly, it bears repeating we are excited to have Rabbi John Kaplan provide us spiritual leadership and the benefit of wise counsel accumulated over a distinguished career as both a cantor and a rabbi. He will begin on August 13. I look forward to working with him.

We have many committees at work including the COVID committee, as well as Religious School. We plan to reach out to all of you and want to provide a place to connect to your Judaism in a myriad of ways that are important to you. We welcome you and your family.

Gil Laden
Temple President

“This highly recommended title couldn’t be more timely” – Library Journal



Bruce Feiler, author of the *New York Times* bestsellers *The Secrets of Happy Families*, *Council of Dads*, and *Walking the Bible* has long explored the stories that give our lives meaning. Galvanized by a personal crisis, he spent the last few years crisscrossing the country, collecting hundreds of life stories in all fifty states. What Feiler discovered was a world in which transitions are becoming more plentiful and mastering the skills to manage them is more urgent for all of us.

From a master storyteller with an essential message, *Life Is in the Transitions* can move readers of any age to think deeply about times of change and how to transform them into periods of creativity and growth.

FROM OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

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

We are getting ready for our new year at the Religious School, 2020-2021.

We want to keep you all safe from COVID-19, so we are planning to start classes via Zoom.



**Our first day of school will be
Sunday, September 13, 2020.
Confirmation class will also start
sessions with Rabbi John Kaplan.**

Rabbi John Kaplan is not only a Rabbi, but also a wonderful Cantor, so we are blessed to have him teach our students songs as a part of the curriculum.

Our 2016-2017 dear Shaliach from Israel, Ofir Rozenberg, will be teaching our students beginner level Hebrew.

**Parents, if you have not sent in the application for the 2020-2021 school year,
please send it as soon as possible.**

Thank you!

**We need the applications to finalize our Tentative School Calendar.
The school calendar will be sent to all the parents and students at the end of August.**

Sisterhood News

What a crazy time! First, let me say, I am very happy to be back as the Sisterhood President after quite a few years. We have seen many changes in the Temple's membership and programs through the years. While this horrible virus has held a firm grip on our membership and population, I hope that in the near future, we will see what we know as normalcy return.

As soon as things calm down a bit and it is safe to meet, I hope to have a planning session with our Board. In the meantime, we await word about plans for High Holy Days. I hope to have more information very soon.

Please stay safe, wear masks, wash frequently, and cherish your families and love ones.

Best regards,

Bettina Prager, President

Oy vey!

Gift Shop News

I thought many of you acquainted with Yiddish might enjoy a few common words shared with me by one of the artists we purchase from. Hope it brings you sweet memories and possibly a discussion with your children and grandchildren.

Bissel – a little bit

Machetunim – in-laws

Vey is mir – woe is me

Chutzpah – nerve

Kibbitz – to chat

Kvell – to experience pride in someone else

Kvetch – to complain

Oy Vey – an expression of woe

Mensch – an honorable, decent man

Meshuggeneh – crazy, ridiculous

Nosh – to nibble or eat

Schlep – to travel with difficulty

Schmooze – chat or make small talk

Tchotchke – knick-knack

In closing **Zie gesunt** – go in health!

Amy Friedlander



*Life's too short to wake up with regrets.
So, love the people who treat you right,
forgive the ones who don't and
believe that everything happens for a reason.
If you get a chance, take it.
If it changes your life, let it.
Nobody said it'd be easy,
they just promised it would be worth it.*

Dr. Seuss

CONTRIBUTIONS

A plaque has been placed in honor of Randy Fry's Second Term as Temple President – Liz Fry and Miriam Fry

A plaque has been placed in memory of Michael Friedlander – Alan Hirsch

In honor of the birth of Samson Nile Poeth, son of Samantha (Zimmerman) & Jason Poeth, great grandson of Carol & Steve Zimmerman and grandson of Stanley Zimmerman – Deborah & Alton Sack and Audra & Adam Sack

A speedy recovery for Callie & Duncan Weaver – Iris & Nate Ginsberg, Patricia & Howard Silverman

A speedy recovery for Father Paul Zoghby – Patricia & Howard Silverman

In memory of Marc Miller – Priscilla Gold-Darby, Iris & Nate Ginsberg, Amy & Jack Friedlander, Diane & Richard Frank, Patricia & Howard Silverman, Liz & Randy Fry, The Zimmerman family, Louis E. Braswell, Enid & Gil Laden, David Rose, Leslie & Larry Miller

In memory of William Robert Powell – Iris & Nate Ginsberg

In memory of David Gardberg – Riki & Michael Sheehan

In memory of Dr. Joseph B. Miller – Joan Miller McCracken

In memory of Sidney Schatten – Robin & Joe Mishkin

In memory of Albert Klein – Iris Klein

In memory of Abe Silverman – Barry Silverman

In memory of Benjamin Gold – Priscilla Gold-Darby

In memory of Dolores Loeb – Leslie & Larry Miller

In memory of Douglas Shapiro – Paul Bergman

In memory of Arnold Heart – Paul Bergman

In memory of Anne Bergman – Paul Bergman

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

By Susan Thomas, Archivist

Reading Temple bulletins from the past can provide a snapshot of Temple life at any given time. Recently, I have skimmed through bulletins from the 1960s to find information on Rabbi Irving Bloom, who served the congregation from 1960 to 1973, for another rabbi currently researching Rabbi Bloom's contributions to the Civil Rights movement in Mobile. Although the bulletins have not shed much light on Rabbi Bloom's political activities, they have provided a rich summary of Temple events, activities, and celebrations.

In 1965, for example, Edwin Zelnicker, Jr., served as Temple president. During that year the Temple had 201 members. Early in the year the board voted to raise minimum Temple dues to \$150 per year. Plans were also made to design an addition to the Religious School wing, adding four classrooms to the building.

The Fall of 1965 was particularly active. Mobile barely dodged Hurricane Betsy, which slammed into the Louisiana coast on September 10. Rabbi Bloom noted his thankfulness for Mobile being spared the brunt of the storm's damage but noted that, "Judaism today is threatened by a hurricane of gigantic proportions ... It is aimed not at our real estate but at our religion," in a September 24 bulletin article. On that same date, the congregation was celebrating its first ten years in its "new" building on Springhill Avenue. The service



Betsy left 75 people dead in September 1965. The storm battered Florida and the Gulf Coast and was the first in the Atlantic basin to cause more than \$1 billion in damage. Highway 90, between New Orleans and Gulfport, Mississippi, shown here, was blocked by debris.

featured speakers who had been instrumental in planning and building the Temple. President Zelnicker concluded the service saying, "For with this new building, under the inspired leadership of two beloved rabbis, has come forth a new sense of pride in our Judaism as a way of life."

A November 26 bulletin article reminded the congregation of the annual ecumenical Thanksgiving service to be held at St. Francis Street Methodist Church. "This joint worship between our two congregations has a long tradition going back more than sixty years. It is an expression of friendship and fellowship in worshipping together and expressing our gratitude to the Creator for the many blessings we all enjoy," Bloom wrote.

Another fall activity described in the bulletin was the opening tea for the local section of the National Council of Jewish Women. To boost attendance, the program was described as a "wig and wiglet show" and announced that "one free wig" would be awarded as a door prize. (Subsequent bulletin articles do not reveal the lucky winner.)

The weekly 1965 bulletins portray a vibrant congregation led by a dedicated board and rabbi. They also give a small glimpse into the everyday lives of the congregants and in turn give a feel for what life was like in Mobile during this time period.

Congratulations!

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





September Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to ...

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Jacob Holberg | 12 Fran Passero |
| 2 Benjamin Frenkel | 19 Bill Denson |
| 4 Jon Fusco | 19 Jillian Dunn |
| 5 Sam Feibelman Jr. | 19 Benjamin Schnitzer |
| 5 Matthew Weinstein | 22 Jonathan Fratkin |
| 5 Maury Zivitz | 23 Amanda Miller |
| 6 Craig Ginsberg | 25 Samuel Eberlein |
| 6 Daryn Glassbrook | 26 Mary Ann Friedlander |
| 7 Iris Klein | 26 Annette Kahn Webster |
| 9 Steven Hirsch | 26 Leonard Wells |
| 10 Pat Bloom | 27 Terry Harris |
| 10 Howard Silverman | 28 Roland Fry |
| 11 Barbara Paper | 28 Meredith Hoffman |
| 11 Keith Spain | 28 Benjamin Vega |
| 12 Michael Gardberg | 28 Jacob Vega |
| 12 Iris Ginsberg | 29 Manuel Gardberg |
| 12 Brandon Miller | |

Happy Anniversary to ...

- 1 Margaret & Milton Brown
- 1 Sandy & Ralph Holberg
- 2 Susan & Jeff Friedman
- 4 Sandra & Harvey Gandler



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

To be read on August 28

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.

To be read on September 4

31st Irving Jack Buchman
 1st Martin Dreyfus
 3rd David Conrad
 4th Nell Schoonderbeek
 5th Fanny S. Fuller
 Henry Jake Stern

To be read on September 11

6th Samuel Brown
 7th Lillian Cherkes Paper
 8th Esther Devora Friedlander
 9th Ruth Lamensdorf
 10th Arthur Angstreich
 Sue O'desky

To be read on September 11 (cont'd)

11th Alvin Miller
 Dolores Schatten
 12th Henry Gaggstatter
 Joshua Marcus
 Naomi Homonoff Stern

To be read on September 18

15th Samuel Friedman
 Jacob Koffler
 18th David Friedlander

To be read on September 25

20th Julius Marx
 21st Ruth Brown
 22nd Robert Nathan Handmacher
 24th Adolph Rubel
 25th Nathan Friedlander

To be read October 2

27th Dorys Seelig
 28th Leonard Seiken
 29th Gizella Keller
 Leon Mishkin
 Elaine Homonoff Sokol
 30th Bessie Friedlander
 Marie Silberstein Herman
 3rd John C. LeMay

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 – First day of school
Sunday, September 13 via Zoom!**

Torah Study with Rabbi John Kaplan - TBD



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