

**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, December 4	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service via Zoom Rabbi Kosovske will conduct a joint service with the Central Reform Temple, Boston
Friday, December 11	6:15 p.m.	Hanukkah Service via Zoom Rabbi John Kaplan will conduct service from our sanctuary
Friday, December 18	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service via Zoom Rabbi John Kaplan will conduct service from our sanctuary
Friday, December 25	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service via Zoom Nate Ginsberg will conduct service

Instructions for attending all Temple services and events: Go to <https://zoom.us> or your zoom app and click on the "Join a meeting" tab. When asked for the **Meeting ID**, type in **869 7297 9837** and click "Join". You will then be asked for a password. After entering the password, click continue. You will then be in the meeting. Make sure your video and microphone are on before services begin. Just before services, please MUTE YOUR MICROPHONE. If you are calling in, please dial 1-301-715-8592. **If you do not have or have forgotten the new password, please contact Nate Ginsberg or Howard Silverman.**

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



TORAH SELECTION:
Torah: Genesis 32:4-36:43
Haftarah: Obadiah 1:1 - 1:21

A MESSAGE FROM OUR RABBI

Season of Light and Dedication



The days are getting shorter while the nights are growing longer – all according to the natural flow of the seasons. As we prepare to make a transition into the lengthening nights of winter, we have a

special holiday approaching that will bring hope, warmth, and light into our lives. Of course, I am speaking about the holiday of *Hanukkah* – our Season of Light. I can almost smell and taste the *latkes* smothered in applesauce (I'm not too keen on sour cream; but, I know others are!). Pausing to recall some of the more memorable nights of *Hanukkah* with my family causes me to smile, even laugh. Nothing dispels the cold, dark nights of winter like the *Hanukkah* candles burning brightly on the dining room table. It is a time when we pause to recall the miracle that changed the course of our people's collective lives. All of this reflected in the glowing candles of the *Hanukkah*.

But, this holiday is also called a Season of Dedication – in fact, that's what the word

Hanukkah means in Hebrew. First used to describe that moment when the Maccabees “re-dedicated” the Temple of old, it has become a time when we, too, can “re-dedicate” ourselves. We have an opportunity to bring light into the dark corners of those who are experiencing a fading of hope, a decline of warmth, a waning of human compassion. As we experience this Season of Light and Dedication with our loved ones, I would like to urge everyone to look beyond the front door of your home. I invite you to reach out to those whose health, advanced age, or other limitations of life have caused them to be isolated in their homes, living a life devoid of human contact, and share with them some of your light, your warmth, your caring heart. This would be such a great *mitzvah*!

So, Linda and I pray that you and your family will continue to be safe and in good health and that your life will be filled with all of the blessings this Season of Light and Dedication brings.

Hanukkah Sameach!

May you have a joyous and happy *Hanukkah*!

Rabbi Cantor John M. Kaplan



Contact Us

If you have any simcha that you would like to have published in the bulletin, please feel free to tell us and we will be glad to put it in our bulletin.

(251-478-0415 and/or
secretary@springhillavenuetemple.com)

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



In the early 1990s, the late Ed Zelnick, a former Temple president, came up to me and said, "We do not know what the board is doing." I made a mental note and decided that when I took over as president,

I was going to pen a column and let Ed and the congregation know what the board was up to. From that point forward, the column was a source of news about the board, but it has morphed into thoughts and observations I had about the Temple.

Almost 30 years later, I am writing another column while Susie patiently waits for it. After the board meeting earlier on the third Monday of November, I thought about all the committee reports we had. I have been in a lot of Zoom meetings. I have been impressed with how well our chairs are conducting the meetings and how engaged our congregants are in the meetings. Let me share with you what is going on.

David Rose, chair of the Cemetery Committee, convened his group to discuss the damage to the cemetery as a result of Hurricane Sally. He got approval from the board for fence repair and removal of a tree, as well as refinishing the gazebo to be paid from the Cemetery Fund. Richard Rose, a Trustee, presented the report.

Paul Frenkel, a former president, who agreed to chair the reinvented Membership Committee, led the committee in a discussion of how to reinvigorate and replenish the membership base, a critical issue identified in the Long Range Plan adopted by the board at its July 17, 2020 meeting. There was a fruitful discussion. We will try to identify members who have left as well as unaffiliated

prospective members, including those from interfaith families, all in an effort to make them feel welcome. We want to provide them an opportunity to feel a Jewish connection. We are also working on revising the membership application. We know there are challenges in a COVID environment, but we will pursue this all-important endeavor.

Michael Holberg, also a former president, is heading up the Adult Education Committee, which has put on two outstanding programs with Dr. Bert Eichold and then Dr. David Meola, both of which were recorded and are available on Zoom and YouTube. Michael has a meeting set in December to discuss a myriad of ideas for future programming with the committee.

Linda Blassingame, a Trustee, is chairing the Religious School Committee and has worked closely with Patricia Silverman, our dedicated director, and her committee to put forth a sterling educational environment for students to learn. Their experience has been enhanced by Rabbi Kaplan's key input and a faculty of wonderful teachers. The programs featuring Allan Hall and then the poignant blessing of the pets as led by Glen Mutchnick have enriched the lives of the students.

Ben Bloom, our Second Vice-President, chaired a meeting of the new Technology Committee, which included not only a brilliant, caring student, David Brown, but a mixture of congregants. We were also grateful to have Andy Palileo, our do-everything tech person, join in the meeting. Technology has been important during the pandemic, but we want to take what we have learned and improve what we have to make the Temple a more efficient and meaningful place and experience. It impacts many other committees.

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One of these committees is another new one: the Public Communications Committee. At the helm is Priscilla Gold-Darby, who has lent her wise and able talents to help the committee revisit how we are communicating both internally and externally over a variety of platforms. The Public Communications Committee will work closely with the Technology Committee. Both committees address vital components of the Long Range Plan.

Howard Silverman and Nate Ginsberg have tirelessly steered two committees, COVID and Religious Practices. Nate and Alan Goldberg, both of whom are ex-presidents, reported to the board about the COVID Committee's thoughtful and methodical approach to deal with the pandemic by ensuring that the building itself will have its ventilation upgraded and that best practices are put into place for the staff. Public health data and information will dictate when it will be safe to reopen in a gradual manner. Hopefully, the numbers will decrease dramatically, the much-discussed vaccines will roll out and be as effective as touted, and therapeutic measures will continue to improve. No doubt there will be many more news in the months ahead.

Howard and Nate have kept our Shabbat services running smoothly in large part with Rabbi Kaplan, who has worked in sync with Christopher Powell and Mollie Adams on the music interspersed with lay leaders on the Friday nights Rabbi Kaplan is not available.

Through the efforts of Howard and Nate, we were able to procure the leadership of Rabbi Natan Trief for a service in early November and on the Friday after Thanksgiving. I am pleased to announce he will again conduct services in January and February, which will give us high-quality rabbinically-led services on three Fridays during each of those months.

Maure Sternberg, our First Vice-President, and Dana Handmacher have provided steady leadership as co-chairs of the Rabbi Search Committee in their effort to procure a full-time, permanent rabbi.

We should all feel pride in the leadership provided by our Board of Trustees, the multitude of active committees, and, of course, the volunteers who make up these entities and who tirelessly devote their time and effort to the Temple they love. I extend my tribute to them all and to all of you in the congregational family. I am also grateful for the memory of Ed Zelnicker who made that long-ago suggestion of keeping you informed.

Gil Laden
Temple President



**JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES (JFS) of MOBILE,
an agency that helps people in our Jewish community.**

If you don't know how to get help, use community resources, and/or need help with problem solving, give us a call! All contacts are confidential.

(251) 301-9987 (new telephone number)

JFS is funded by the Mobile Area Jewish Federation and donations.

CONTRIBUTIONS

In memory of Estelle Rosenbaum – Iris & Nate Ginsberg, Enid & Gil Laden

In memory of Isidor Judenfrend – Iris Klein

In memory of Samuel Brown – Margaret & Milton Brown, Phyllis Feibelman

In memory of Carolyn Brown – Phyllis Feibelman

In memory of Joel and Beatrice Silverman – Shirley Silverman

In memory of Phillip Laden – Enid & Gil Laden, Ellen & Maury Zivitiz

In memory of Gretchen Weinstein – Lucy & Steve Weinstein

High Holy Day Tribute Fund

We recognize with appreciation those members and friends who have made special commitments to our Temple by contributing to our High Holy Day Tribute Fund. We thank you for your generous donations.

Chai (Life) – \$1,000 and above

Lowell J. & Bobette B. Friedman
Alan Goldberg

Kavod (Honor) \$200 - \$499

Linda & Eddie Blassingame
Margaret & Milton Brown
Priscilla Gold-Darby
Dianna Kubat
Lynne Raider
William & Ellen Shulman
Howard & Patricia Silverman
Dr. & Mrs. Mel Sternberg

Tzedakah (Righteousness) \$500 - \$999

Diane & Richard Frank
Amy & Jack Friedlander
Iris & Nate Ginsberg
Iris Fetterman Klein
Enid & Gil Laden
Lucy & Steve Weinstein

Shalom (Peace) – up to \$199

Ellie & Cole Appelman
Paul J. Bergman
Sue Brown
Carol & Matt Eberlein
Harold & Emily Fink
Jill Gottlieb
Nancy & Richard Hill
Elaine & Bobby Holberg
Sandy & Ralph Holberg
Bobby & Mitch Lawley
Perrye Lewis
Fran Passero
David Rose
Richard Rose
Sheila & Jay Ross
Barry Silverman
Karen & Hari Singh
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Tolpin
Anne Zelnicker

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

By Susan Thomas, Archivist

A Temple bulletin from October 1954 noted that Florence Wiener, “one of our oldest and most devoted members,” had died on October 10, 1954. The tribute also stated that she had been a former principal of the Temple Religious School.

Despite holding the prestigious position of Religious School principal, little is found in Temple records regarding Florence and her family. Even her last name is unclear—some records list it as Wiener and some as Wiener. The Temple death log records her as Florence Electra Wiener and notes she was born June 8, 1870, in Mobile and died in Mobile at age 84. Other documents list her parents as Solomon and Carolina (Carrie) Lehman Wiener, and her sister as Irene Wiener. Solomon died in 1907 in Tuscaloosa and Carrie died a year later in Mobile. Both are buried in the Temple Cemetery.

Apparently, Florence and Irene lived together in the family home at 252 South Ann Street.

Curiously, a roster of 1911 Temple members lists the “Misses Wiener” in a category labeled as “non-members—Pewholders.” In 1910 Florence was listed as a volunteer teacher in the Religious School. The dates she served as principal have not been found.

Irene outlived her sister by fifteen years, dying in 1969. In her will, she bequeathed the home on Ann Street to the Temple. The house sold for \$3,835. Florence and Irene are buried next to their parents in the Temple Cemetery. Also, in the family plot are Charles L. Wiener, who died in 1906, and Lulie Wiener, who died in 1943. Their connection to Florence is not currently known.

If anyone has any additional information about Florence Wiener (Wiener), please contact me at susanthomas1744@comcast.net. I would especially like to know the years Florence served as Religious School principal, and any other details about her life or family.



From the Gift Shop

by Amy Friedlander

The Temple gift shop has Chanukah items for you to purchase.

This year we have a Hanukkah dress for moms/grandmothers to wear. One size fits all and sells for \$10.

We have limited amounts of gelt but have dreidels and menorahs.

Special orders are always welcomed for that extra special gift!

***Shop us first for your
Judaica items.***



FROM OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

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

Glen Mutchnick led the traditional *Blessing of the Pets* ceremony honoring Helen Mutchnick Small at Brian Ginsberg's Rescue Farm on Sunday, November 8. A special thank you to Brian for inviting our Confirmation class to visit his farm. Religious School students and other spectators visited via Zoom.



We all enjoyed seeing the rescued animals and hearing Brian tell us stories about them. It was wonderful to hear the memories our congregants have of Helen and her love for animals and people.



Confirmation class was held at the cemetery with Rabbi Kaplan on Sunday, November 15. Megan Furman painted pebbles to set on the top of the head stones and shared them with the other students.

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The Veteran's Day ceremony at the Springhill Avenue Temple Cemetery was held after Confirmation Class. Our Temple veterans shared their names, ranks and deployment. The students, with the help of the veterans, placed flags on the veterans' graves. It was a very meaningful event.



Our students with Rabbi Kaplan visited the grave of Holocaust survivor, Agnes Tenenbaum, and placed one of Megan's pebbles at her gravesite.



A picture is worth a thousand words. Thank you to Dana Furman for sharing these photos depicting the great things that are happening in religious school.

Have a happy Thanksgiving Day & stay safe!



December Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to ...

1 Jon Fusco	18 Jason Friedman
4 Emily Fink	20 Frances Bloom
4 Patricia Silverman	21 Mindy Friedman
6 Pam Friedlander	22 Anna Gardberg
6 Elliot Maisel	24 Gail Chadwick
9 Ellen Brown	24 Stephen Prager
9 Mimi Johnson	26 Harold Fink
10 Marla Seiken	27 Frances Mutchnick
11 Michael Ennis	28 Cynthia Bloom
12 Michael Sternberg	28 Wills Briskman
12 Sydnie Trusty	28 Renee Stein
12 Leighton Silverstein	29 Sue Brown
13 Cassie Fishbein	30 Sam Borak
15 Wendy Rich	30 Karen Singh
15 Carolyn Shulman	30 Anne Zelnicker

Happy Anniversary to ...

1 Jinks & Marc Loeb
14 Edith & Irwin Misrok
23 Rose & Phillip Brunson
24 Nancy & Roy Hoffman
24 Bobette & Lowell Friedman



Congratulations!

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to ...

3 Claris Feibelman	18 Terry Passman
4 Ann Miller	21 Lowell Friedman
6 Alice Rose Handmacher	21 Ryan Fusco
6 Mimi Holberg	22 Stephanie Dittman
7 Phillip Feibelman	24 Barbara Cherniak
8 Jeff Conrad	25 Hugh Borak
9 Lynne Switzky	25 Debra Fetterman
10 Will Kinsella	26 Jonathan Hirsch
10 Bill Susman	27 Margie Altmayer
11 Alan Franco	28 Andrew Brown
11 Harvey Gandler	28 Matthew Friedman
13 Vicki Silverman-Lugar	29 Daniel Kinsella
14 Judith Dittman	30 Joshua Mutchnick
15 Baylee Meyers	30 Linda Wainwright
17 LeNae Denson	

Happy Anniversary to ...

11 Rachel & Paul Nease
29 Susan & Terry Passman
30 Dana & David Furman



Yahrzeits

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 December 4

29th Simon J. Buchman
 Lou Conrad
 Joshua Fetterman
 30th Stella Rubel Schwander
 2nd Robert Schneider
 3rd Tini Appelman
 4th Joseph C. Fusco
 5th Sam Ginsberg

To be read December 11

6th Urban Bauman
 Edith Maisel Laden
 7th Elaine LeMay
 Rose Shulman
 8th Frank Rubel
 9th Lila Kogon
 10th Jenny Buchman
 Herman Kopelman
 12th Betty Zimmerman Cohn
 Maria Etheridge
 Sarabel Reiss

To be read December 18

13th Etta May Friedman
 14th Carol Kopelman
 15th Sylvia Schneider-Grossman
 16th Vera Heinrich
 17th Rebecca Shulman
 18th Max Fratkin

To be read December 25

20th Nathan J. Friedman
 Jack Silberstein
 21st Willis Darby
 Max Fry
 Jerry Rose
 22nd Leah Newfield
 23rd Julia Holberg Kohlman
 Annie Greenwald Salmon
 24th Cyril Rich

To be read January 1

27th Emma Rheinstrom
 29th Lucille Schwarz
 30th Marcus Cecil Pierce
 31st James H Zelnicker
 1st Ethel Mutchnick
 Betty Schwarz

To be read January 8

3rd Jean Rose Kozlove
 7th Harry Kogon
 Claire Sternberg Preston

To be read January 15

10th Milton Kozlove
 11th William Slepian
 12th Esther Friedman
 Milton Goldberg
 15th Jean Angstreich
 Norman Etheridge
 Amelia Piser

To be read January 22

18th Susan Sparks
 20th Mildred Gandler
 21st Harry Paper
 22nd Jack Silverman

To be read January 29

24th Tom Aycok
 Louis Heir
 25th Evelyn Nathan Friedman
 27th Leonard Gandler
 30th Annie Friedlander Maisel

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

Religious School – Sunday, December 6 and 13

10:15-11:30 am for Maure Sternberg's class

11:00-11:30 am for Rachel Nease's class

Friday, December 11 (Hanukkah Service 6:15 pm)

Confirmation Class – 9:30 – 10:15 am – Sunday, December 6 and 13

5:30 – 6:00 pm - Friday, December 11 (Hanukkah Service 6:15 pm)

(No Religious School or Confirmation classes on December 20 and 27)

Torah Study with Rabbi John Kaplan – Wednesday, December 16, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom



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YOU MUST HAVE THE PASSWORD TO ATTEND: If you do not have the password, have forgotten the password, or are having trouble connecting via Zoom, please contact Nate Ginsberg (251-463-4845; thanksnate2@comcast.net) or Howard Silverman (251-605-8832; helpmehoward@bellsouth.net).