

**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, January 1	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service via Zoom Anne Zelnicker will conduct service
Friday, January 8	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service via Zoom Rabbi Natan Trief will conduct service from Atlanta
Friday, January 15	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service via Zoom Seth Cherniak will conduct service
Friday, January 22	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service via Zoom Rabbi John Kaplan will conduct service from our sanctuary
Friday, January 29	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service via Zoom Rabbi John Kaplan will conduct service from our sanctuary

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 47:28-50:26
Haftarah: I Kings 2:1 - 2:12

A MESSAGE FROM OUR RABBI

A New Year!



Welcome to the New Year of 2021! As many will no doubt agree, this past year was more than just a disappointment. For many, both financially and personally, it was a painful year, a year where hopes for the future teetered on the

reality of the devastating effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. But, as we enter into this new year, we are filled with hope as we anticipate bringing the pandemic under control.

Well, “hope” is a good thing and I believe that we need more of it. As we contemplate the imperfections in ourselves and the world around us, I am reminded of a story that Rabbi Mark Hurvitz shared in an article, [“The day is short, the work is much... \(davka.org\).”](http://davka.org)

[There was once] a simple man who walked every day from his home to the stream with a pole across his broad shoulders and two buckets hanging one from each side. He walked down to the stream, filled the two buckets and walked back up to his house and there emptied the buckets into a large basin from which the family drew water through the day. However, one of the buckets had a crack in it and every day the man had only one and a half buckets of water to pour into the basin. Day after day, this went on. Eventually – late at night after everyone had fallen asleep – the cracked bucket spoke to the man: “I am embarrassed that every day I only bring half the amount of water needed for the basin. Please get rid of me and get a new, whole, unbroken bucket.”

The next morning the man took his buckets down to the stream. As he did, he spoke to the cracked bucket. “Why do you feel so bad about yourself? Do you see this path we

walk every day? One side of it has flowers growing along it, the other side is barren. I knew about your crack – what you have considered a flaw. Because of your crack, I planted flowers along that side of the path from which you hang. Every day, as I walked back from the stream you have watered these flowers...flowers that we have cut to beautify our simple home. If you did not have a crack, or, if I were to get rid of you and get another bucket without a crack, I would need to make special arrangements to water our flowers. I appreciate you because of your crack.”

Well, I’m not saying that we are all “cracked;” but, I do believe that the experiences we have endured this past year could lead some to feel that they have failed to measure up. Like that bucket, they may feel damaged and unable to fully live up to the expectations placed on them by others or those they have placed upon themselves. The weight of our perceived failures can bear down heavily upon us and leave us feeling cracked or damaged. This weight can change the way we feel about the world around us. For others, like our front-line medical workers, they know that, even though they themselves may have flaws and imperfections, their actions continue to help others. They bring hope into the lives of those who have lost it.

My hope and my prayers are, as we move into the new year, we do so with compassion for and patience with ourselves and others. May the new year instill within us a sense of confidence in ourselves and renew in us a sense of hope for the future.

As always, Linda joins me in sending our love to each and every one of our congregational families and best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year.

Shalom uv’rachah – Peace and Blessings,

Rabbi Cantor John M. Kaplan

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Happy New Year!
Wait a minute.
Didn't we just say
that a few months
ago? Also, aren't we
at the midpoint of our
fiscal year? All of
these holidays and
milestones are times
to pause and reflect.
We just celebrated

Hanukkah. December, being the last month of the year, is also a time to contemplate.

Certainly, Shabbat services also give us the opportunity to contemplate. I want to hone in on the sermon that Rabbi Kaplan gave on December 11, the second night of Hanukkah. Citing Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, Rabbi Kaplan said the real battle against the Greeks was not a military one but a cultural one. As Rabbi Kaplan explained, there is a connection between the Hebrew word for "re-dedication" and the one for "education." So, in his view, the holiday "becomes a time when we recognize that we are not celebrating a military victory, but rather, one that elevates civilization and our souls."

Taking it a step further, and once more quoting Rabbi Sacks, "Often what seems at the time to be the headline news, the military victory, is in the hindsight of victory,

secondary to the cultural victory of handing your values to your next generation."

To me, and perhaps to the 43 others in attendance at the service, this was a refreshing, thought-provoking interpretation of the meaning of Hanukkah. It is also part of our culture that has fueled our sense of survival and persistence.

Certainly, we are mindful of our obligation to perpetuate our congregation with services, religious school, adult education, and all the things that attract us and provide us opportunities to deepen our connection to one another with our faith as expressed through Reform Judaism. We yearn to make sense of our modern lives. We draw strength from the religious and cultural values that have been passed on to us and feel a moral obligation to do the same for future generations in ways that are meaningful to them through education. We strive to learn about ourselves through our Jewishness.

In 2020, an otherwise tumultuous year, we were guided by Rabbi Kosovske, Rabbi Trief, and Rabbi Kaplan. How fortunate we have been to have been the benefactors of their guidance and wisdom. May 2021 provide more of the same and, hopefully, even more for all of you.

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! If you know of someone in need, please remind them to call JFS. All contacts are confidential.

(251) 301-9987 (new telephone number)

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



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.

Contact Us

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

Sisterhood News

This year, 2020, has been an extremely unusual year. Covid has led us to make so many changes. I'm excited to see how we adapted to Zoom and how the Temple has continued to give us such wonderful services.

We are all heroes in being able to figure out new ways to cope and we commend everyone who is doing their best to keep us going, especially medical staff. I do not know what Spring will bring and hope we will be able to resume our Passover seders and other events, whether at home, with friends, or at Temple.

Our, Sisterhood, over a century old, is still on-going behind the scenes. We may have been remiss in not sending out our dues notice. Let's start over again. Please fill in the membership form below and send in your dues so we can continue to contribute to the Religious School, donate to the Temple, and continue to sponsor the many programs we normally support. Sisters, we need your help!

I hope you all have a wonderful happy and healthy New Year.

Happy New Year!

Bettina Prager
Sisterhood President

Sisterhood/Men's Club Membership Renewal

_____ Membership Dues \$40 (Per Person) \$_____ Oneg Contribution
(\$20 per person recommended, anything appreciated)

Member Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Tu B'Shevat
Springhill Avenue Temple
Religious School
Sunday, January 24, 2021
10:00 – 12:00 PM



Come celebrate the birthday of the trees and fruit

Tu B'Shevat Seder, Songs & Blessings
with Rabbi John Kaplan and our students

We will be holding this event at Mobile Medical Museum
1664 Springhill Avenue, Mobile, Alabama 36604

Special thanks to Daryn Glassbrook
Rain date: Sunday, January 31, 2021

CONTRIBUTIONS

A plaque has been placed in honor of Rabbi Howard Kosovske in appreciation of his kindness and rabbinical leadership 2018-2020 – Your friends and congregants of Sha'arai Shomayim

A speedy recovery for Odette & Mel Sternberg – Priscilla Gold-Darby

A speedy recovery for Howard Kosovske – David Rose

In memory of Stan Bergman – Paul Bergman

In memory of Herman Kopelman – Iris Klein

In memory of Carol Kopelman – Iris Klein

In memory of Joshua Fetterman – Iris Klein

In memory of Leah Newfield – Ellen & Bill Shulman

In memory of Rose Shulman – Ellen & Bill Shulman

In memory of Rebecca Shulman – Ellen & Bill Shulman

In memory of Arthur R. Seelig – Odette & Mel Sternberg

In memory of Dr. Samuel Sternberg – Odette & Mel Sternberg

In memory of Lila Kogon – Larry Kogon, Julie Kogon, Matthew Kogon, Jessica Kogon & Joseph Kogon

In memory of Helen Silverman – Barry Silverman

In memory of Willis C. Darby, III – Priscilla Gold-Darby

In memory of Willis C. Darby, Jr. – Priscilla Gold-Darby

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

By Susan Thomas, Archivist

The Congregation Sha'arai Shomayim has published some form of a bulletin since the early 1940s. For many years the bulletin was produced weekly, with early publications copied on mimeograph machines. Reading through bulletins produced over a span of fifty-plus years is an interesting way to get a "feel" for congregational issues and interests from specific eras.

The December 30, 1949 bulletin, compiled by recently-hired Rabbi Solomon Cherniak, announced that it was "the first appearance of our new Temple Bulletin ... This new form is not only more pleasing and attractive in appearance, but also more economical in the expenditure of time and material." The new bulletin was smaller and in booklet form as opposed to the earlier bulletin. The bulletin announced marriages, upcoming children's activities, choir rehearsal schedules, and a congregational supper.

The December 30, 1969 bulletin was edited by Rabbi Irving Bloom and contained several inspirational essays and quotations. Donors to the prayer book fund and the special memorial fund were listed. A seven-week tour of Israel for youth was announced at a cost of \$975 per student. A special homecoming service for college students was touted for the following week. The bulletin published the previous week announced a talk by Rabbi Richard Israel of Yale University entitled, "Long Hair Does Not a Hippie Make."

The January 1, 1971 bulletin was compiled by Rabbi Alvin Sugarman, who filled in as

Temple rabbi while Rabbi Bloom was on an extended trip to Israel. Rabbi Sugarman's sermon for January 1 was entitled, "The Orange Bowl vs. God." In his column "The Rabbi's Corner" he wrote, "The end of the year, whether it be calculated according to the Jewish or secular calendar, is always an appropriate time to stop at least for a moment and reflect."

The bulletin published January 11, 1980, added art work to the cover and in general took on a more contemporary look. Rabbi Steven Jacobs encouraged adults to enroll in a special Hebrew class; the youth group invited people to come to a Cambodian dinner they were sponsoring.

The January 5, 1990 bulletin, compiled by Rabbi Donald Kunstadt, announced an upcoming "Creative Worship Service" and a Winter Brunch sponsored by Sisterhood. The Rabbi's column discussed prejudice, hatred, and categorizing others. The Christmas Mitzvah program at Providence Hospital was lauded and the twenty-eight volunteers who participated were thanked.

The Temple bulletin has always been a source of inspiration as well as information. Over the past twenty years columns by the board president and the Temple archivist have been added. In recent years, the bulletin has switched to a digital format that is e-mailed out to congregants, although paper copies are still maintained on file. Perhaps fifty years from now someone will share content from our recent bulletins and reflect on the congregation's pursuits in the 2020s!

FROM OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

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

David and Richard Rose are the latke makers for our traditional Temple Hanukkah dinner. This tradition was continued this year via Zoom. Mr. David and Mr. Richard presented a virtual step by step demonstration of making latkes to our Religious School and the congregation. Sam and Gabe with Maure Sternberg made latkes in their own home during the presentation. Max and Jeff Lawley made sweet potato latkes. All of the latkes looked delicious. This was truly a hands-on project. All had a wonderful and fun time in this class.



Doughnuts (Sufganiyot – Israeli jelly doughnuts for Hanukkah) were delivered to all Religious School students to enjoy. Sufganiyot became specifically tied to Hanukkah in Israel in the 1920s, when the Israeli Labor Federation declared them the official food of Hanukkah. While latkes were easy to make at home, Sufganiyot provided Israelis with jobs baking, transporting, and merchandising boxes of donuts!



Rabbi John Kaplan led our family Hanukkah service on Friday, December 11. The service began 30 minutes early for our Religious School students with Rabbi Kaplan singing songs and lighting the menorah.

Our Confirmation Class just finished the first semester of preparation with Rabbi John Kaplan and Glen Mutchnick.

We look forward to many new and exciting topics next semester.

**Looking forward to an exciting 2021.
Stay Safe!!**



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





February Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to ...

1 Caitlin Brown	12 Bobette Friedman
1 Sydnie Susman	12 Ed Schnitzer
2 Judy Aronson	13 Jay Altmayer, II
2 Adam Miller	16 Lisa Friedman
2 Bill Shulman	16 Perrye Lewis
3 Lisa Magnes	18 Bernada Altman
3 Gaela Youngblood	18 Violet Glassbrook
4 Rachel Goldberg	19 Gabriel Fry
4 Joanne Koffler	19 Margeoux Silverstein
4 Enid Laden	19 Lyons Friedman Yellin
4 Charlie Wainwright	22 Clare Aycock
5 Kathryn Friedlander	22 Alan Hirsch
5 Katherine Miles	22 Steven Yellin
6 Evan Webster	26 Diane Frank
9 Dori Claire Small	27 Norma Conrad
11 Jan Friedlander	28 Wills Briskman
11 Larry Miller	28 Christopher Sundberg

Happy Anniversary to ...

8 Mimi & Steve Johnson
23 Carol & Matt Eberlein



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 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 Aycock
 Louis Heir
 25th Evelyn Nathan Friedman
 27th Leonard Gandler
 30th Annie Friedlander Maisel

To be read February 5

1st Sylvia Gandler Cohan
 Rebecca Etheridge
 Sarah Etheridge
 4th Julian Lewis
 6th Willis Darby III

To be read February 12

7th Clyde William Boyd
 8th Jay P. Altmayer
 Allan Denson
 Leonard Metzger Jr.
 Leatrice Miller
 9th Sara Friedlander
 10th Jan Appelman
 Fred Susman
 12th Betty Diemar
 13th Hyman Berkower
 Dorothy Nathan Goldman
 Milton F. Rubel Jr.
 Hyman Yassem

To be read February 19

14th Joe Stern
 18th Theodore Baer
 19th Florence Renaud
 20th Sid Magnes

To be read February 26

21st Randy Kogon
 24th Max Zell
 26th Robert Fuller

To be read March 5

28th Isadore Barkin
 Edward M. Franco
 Roland Fry
 Agnes LeMay
 Mary Alice Levin Brucato
 1st Nathan N. Aronson
 Rose Saks
 2nd Cecile "Sister" Mishkin
 3rd Lawrence E. Fetterman
 5th Sam Edelbaum
 Dr. Milton Leigh
 Albert Metzger
 6th Maury Friedlander

D o n a t i o n F o r m

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

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R
2021

Resolutions for a New Year

1. say "I love you" often
2. give hugs
3. laugh lots
4. don't sweat the small stuff
5. enjoy the little moments
6. be patient
7. don't be hard on yourself
8. learn from your mistakes
9. find some fun in every day

and above all else

10. be kind

CALENDAR

Religious School – 10:30 -12:00 noon - Sunday, January 10, 24, and 31

**Confirmation Class – 9:30 – 10:15 am – Sunday, January 10 w/Glen Mutchnick
9:30 – 10:15 am – Sunday, January 24 and 31 w/Rabbi John Kaplan**

(No Religious School or Confirmation classes on January 1 and 17)

Torah Study with Rabbi John Kaplan – Wednesday, January 27, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom



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Friday, January 22	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service via Zoom Rabbi John Kaplan will conduct service from our sanctuary
Sunday, January 24 10:00 am – 12:00 noon Tu b'Shevat – Mobile Medical Museum (details page 6)		
Friday, January 29	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service via Zoom Rabbi John Kaplan will conduct service from our sanctuary

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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).