
**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, March 5	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service via Zoom Rabbi Natan Trief will conduct service from Atlanta
Friday, March 12	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service via Zoom
Friday, March 19	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service via Zoom Rabbi John Kaplan will conduct service from our sanctuary
Friday, March 26	6:15 p.m.	Shabbat Evening Service via Zoom Rabbi John Kaplan will conduct service from our sanctuary
Saturday, March 27	6:15 p.m.	Congregation Passover seder 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. 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.

PLEASE NOTE AFTER MARCH 19 THE PASSWORD WILL BE CHANGED.

**The new password will be disseminated to the membership in a separate email.
A PASSWORD IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND SERVICES.**

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



TORAH SELECTION:
Torah: Exodus 30:11-34:35
Haftarah: Ezekiel 36:16 - 36:38

A MESSAGE FROM OUR RABBI

“Season of Freedom”

“In every generation, each person must regard himself or herself as if he or she had come out of Egypt (Haggadah)”.



It won't be long when Jews all around the world will be sitting down with their families to join in the time-honored tradition of observing the Passover *Seder*. Truth be told, I can't wait. I love the rituals, the music, the food, and,

most of all, the family. Of course, like last year, family *seders* are going to be a little different. For some, it will be filled with loneliness instead of family. For many, their *seder* will be limited to an online experience. And yet, still we observe the traditions.

And why do we do this? According to the *Haggadah* (literally “The Telling”), in each generation we remind ourselves and our children that we were once slaves in Egypt. By retelling the story, we bring ourselves closer to the story and, thereby, closer to the Jewish people. Fortunately, we have not experienced slavery in recent generations; but, we remember and retell the story so that we can

acknowledge that freedom is such a tenuous gift. This tenuous gift is such a fragile thing. If but one generation forgets, then that generation will lose that freedom. It can, if not properly cared for in each generation, simply dissolve like the mist and wither away.

Every year at Passover I am reminded of the famous words of George Santayana, “Those who forget history are condemned to repeat it.” Each generation must see themselves as recently released from slavery so that we will be able to recognize it when we see others whose lives are lived in bondage. The very act of recalling the story, the very act of retelling the story allows us to see more than just our release from Egyptian enslavement thousands of years ago; it invokes an awareness in us that true freedom for each and everyone in the world is possible in all times and places. We recall and we retell the story so that we may live and thrive in freedom.

Chag Pesach Sameiach – May the Holy One bring you joy and freedom.

Rabbi Cantor John M. Kaplan

SPRINGHILL AVENUE TEMPLE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

INTERIM RABBI: John M. Kaplan

PRESIDENT: Gilbert B. Laden

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: Maure Sternberg

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: Ben Bloom

SECRETARY: Amy Friedlander

TREASURER: Carol Eberlein

TRUSTEES

Linda Blassingame

Norma Conrad

Priscilla Gold-Darby

Michael Holberg

Barry Silverman

Josh Briskman

Jonathan Fratkin

Nathan Handmacher

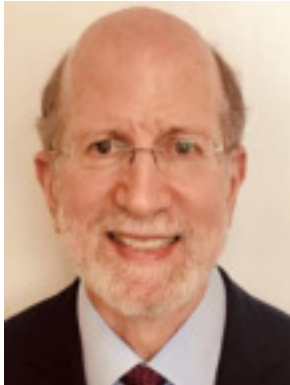
Richard Rose

Melville Sternberg

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Randy Fry

COUNSEL: Ralph G. Holberg, III

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



I finished writing this on February 18 to provide to Susie, knowing it will not be read until March 1, at which point we may have dramatic news concerning our rabbi search. So, I ask myself, what should I do?

I reflected on what we have been doing to get to this point: the experiences the Search Committee has shared, the camaraderie, the spirit of cooperation, the candid discussion we have had. As I have learned over years of serving on various boards and committees throughout my life, leadership is crucial. So is the composition of the committee.

I have served as board president of the Temple, as well as other nonprofit organizations. I have been involved with executive director searches, but I have not been part of a rabbinical search. When I was president in 1993-1995, I was privileged to have served alongside Rabbi Donald Kunstadt, who was with us for 28 years. That was an honor.

It has also been an honor to work closely with Dana Handmacher, our chair, who was ably assisted by Maure Sternberg, co-chair for a period of time, in this intense but gratifying experience. Dana checked all the boxes for what one looks for in a leader. She brought out the best in us and set the tone in engaging all of us in the endeavor. She was always thinking of how we could improve what we do in this process and how to select the best rabbi for the Springhill Avenue Temple, for now and for

the future. I hope that in due time we will have a successful outcome. I firmly believe a full-time rabbi will serve us well in our pursuit to fulfill our historical mission as a Reform Jewish congregation in Mobile, Alabama.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the help of the committee members: Barry Silverman, Bettina Prager, Carol Eberlein, Dianna Kubat, Larry Miller, Mimi Johnson, and Priscilla Gold-Darby. My hat is off to each and every one of them for their tireless devotion to this endeavor. I must add I was moved by the video of the Temple produced by Barry Silverman and Andy Palileo, which we provided our candidates. It soon will be on YouTube.

Meanwhile, we are still doing what we have always done: providing Religious School, Shabbat services, Adult Education, and more. As part of the efforts of Nate Ginsberg and Howard Silverman, we are on track for three rabbinically-led services a month. We are grateful for Rabbi Kaplan and the monthly visit by Rabbi Trief along with Mollie, Christopher, and Andy to make sure we get the weekly spiritual sustenance we desire. Speaking of Adult Ed, be sure to mark your calendar for March 23, when we have a panel discussion on the Book of Job.

Hopefully, we will be able to introduce a new full-time rabbi to be part of carrying out our long-range plan and to position us for the eventual emergence from the pandemic.

Gil Laden
Temple President

2021 Mobile Jewish Film Festival

March 5 – March 25, 2021

sponsored by the Mobile Area Jewish Federation (MAJF), The Jewish Federation of Huntsville and North Alabama, and the Pensacola Jewish Federation



This year's Mobile Jewish Film Festival will be held virtually. An exciting lineup of 7 films and accompanying programming will be featured. Individual tickets are \$9 per film, household tickets are \$15 and the full festival pass is \$60. All purchases will be made available online beginning Monday, February 1. To purchase tickets, see trailers, info on sponsorships, membership, and donations are all available through the link shown below or you can call Cassie at (251) 490-4872.

<https://www.goevent.com/mobilejewishfilmfestival/e/List>

Movie Lineup

The Keeper – Friday, March 5 - Sunday, March 7, 2021

A young English woman and a soccer-playing German POW overcome prejudice, public hostility, and personal tragedy near the end of World War II.

Crescendo – Monday, March 8 – Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Tensions rise when a world-famous conductor tries to form an Israeli-Palestinian orchestra.

The Picture of His Life – Thursday, March 11 – Saturday, March 13, 2021

World renowned wildlife photographer Amos Nachoum has one final photographic dream remaining - to photograph a Polar Bear underwater, while swimming alongside it.

Incitement – Sunday, March 14 – Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Israel's Best International Feature Oscar submission, this psychological thriller follows the year leading to the assassination of Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, from the point of view of the assassin. It is a psychological portrait of a political assassin seeking to kill democracy. It is also a portrait of a torn society on the brink of civil war.

Aulcie – Wednesday, March 17 – Friday, March 19, 2021

Aulcie tells the inspiring story of Aulcie Perry, a basketball legend who led Maccabi Tel Aviv to an upset win in the European Championship. During the summer of 1976, Aulcie Perry was spotted by a scout for Maccabi Tel Aviv while playing at the Rucker courts in Harlem and was quickly signed to play for their fledgling team.

Here We Are – Saturday, March 20 – Monday, March 22, 2021

Aharon has devoted his life to raising his son Uri. They live together in a gentle routine, away from the real world. But Uri is autistic, and now as a young adult it might be time for him to live in a specialized home. While on their way to the institution, Aharon decides to run away with his son and hits the road, knowing that Uri is not ready for this separation. Or is it, in fact, his father who is not ready?

Shared Legacies – Tuesday, March 23 – Thursday, March 25, 2021

The often-forgotten story of the coalition and friendship between the Jewish and African-American communities during the Civil Rights Movement. Pivotal events come alive through archival materials, narrated by eyewitnesses, activists, Holocaust survivors, and leaders of the movement, including prominent Atlantans.

FROM THE TEMPLE GIFT SHOP

We all have mezuzahs on our doors. One of our artists designs mezuzahs and sent this information and I thought you might enjoy reading it.



In Hebrew, the word “mezuzah” literally means “doorpost”. The verse instructing us to hang a mezuzah reads, “You shall write these words upon the doorposts of your house and upon your gates.” Talmudic literature applied the term to the scroll affixed to the doorpost, which is how we still refer to it.

The Mezuzah is affixed to the right-hand side of the doorpost as you enter the room. For the front door, the right as you enter is always considered the right side. Inside the house, however, the right side is determined by which way the door opens. Whichever room the door opens into is considered the primary room, and the mezuzah is placed on the side that is on the right when entering that room.

Amy Friedlander

ADD YOUR VOICE TO THE TALKING ARCHIVE

In 2020, the McCall Library began collecting interviews from members of Mobile’s Jewish community for preservation in the archives and to contribute to inter-communal understanding in the region. I am writing to invite your participation. The **Jewish Mobile Oral History Project** is a program of the University of South Alabama’s McCall Library and the Alabama Humanities Foundation. The goal of this project is to collect a group of 35-50 oral history interviews from a broad section of Mobile’s Jewish community to be preserved in the University of South Alabama archives. We want to hear from young and old, Jews by birth and by choice, Southern families and transplants, observant and less so, affiliated and unaffiliated. We want to hear your stories – memories of growing up Jewish, family celebrations, etc.

The McCall Library is the archives of the University of South Alabama whose mission is to preserve the historical record of all of Mobile’s people. This includes its Jewish community. What are the important stories to preserve for future generations? What should the general public know about Jewish life in Mobile?

The project timeline has been extended as we continue to grow the collection. Please contact Deborah Gurt to schedule your interview or ask questions. Sample topics are listed below – but each interview is unique, shaped by you. Don’t miss the opportunity to participate!

Deborah Gurt
Interim Director, McCall Library
University of South Alabama
dgurt@southalabama.edu

A Message From Our Covid-19 Committee

Howard Silverman & Nate Ginsberg, Covid-19 Committee Co-Chairs

Our initial step to opening the Temple has been completed. We are pleased to announce the completion of the installation of a self-cleaning ionization air purification system in all of our HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) systems in the Temple. This system reduces the spread of the Covid-19 and all other viruses to all areas of the Temple, as long as the HVAC systems are operating.

CONTRIBUTIONS

In appreciation of Rabbi Natan Trief – Rachel & Mark Housmann

In memory of Janis Ruth Friedlander – Ellie & Cole Appelman, Elaine & Erwin Skibell

In memory of Jack Silverman – Shirley Silverman

In memory of Tom Aycock – Claire Aycock

In memory of Susan Sparks – Nancy & Richard Hill

In memory of Arthur Prince – Venetia Prince

In memory of Gus Heart – Paul Bergman

FROM OUR RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

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



Students, parents, and other members celebrated Tu B'Shevat, the birthday of the trees and fruit, at the Mobile Medical Museum on Sunday, January 24. This event was enjoyed by 37 face-to-face participants and more than a dozen participants via Zoom. It was wonderful seeing our families gather together. Students and families celebrated with snacks, music, dance, and prayer.

On Friday, February 28, we celebrated Purim with Rabbi John Kaplan via Zoom. David Brown, our teacher's assistant, wrote the script for Purim using the Covid-19 virus as its theme. It was very clever. Music was provided by Rabbi John Kaplan, Seth Cherniak, Molly Adams, and Christopher Powell. As part of the celebration event, every student received groggers along with hamentashen from Marisa Baggett's Jewish Catering located in Memphis, Tenn. Thank you to all volunteers and participants that made this event a success.

Friday, May 28, is tentative for our Confirmation event.

Despite the many obstacles due to the pandemic, our Religious School is alive and well!

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

By Susan Thomas, Archivist

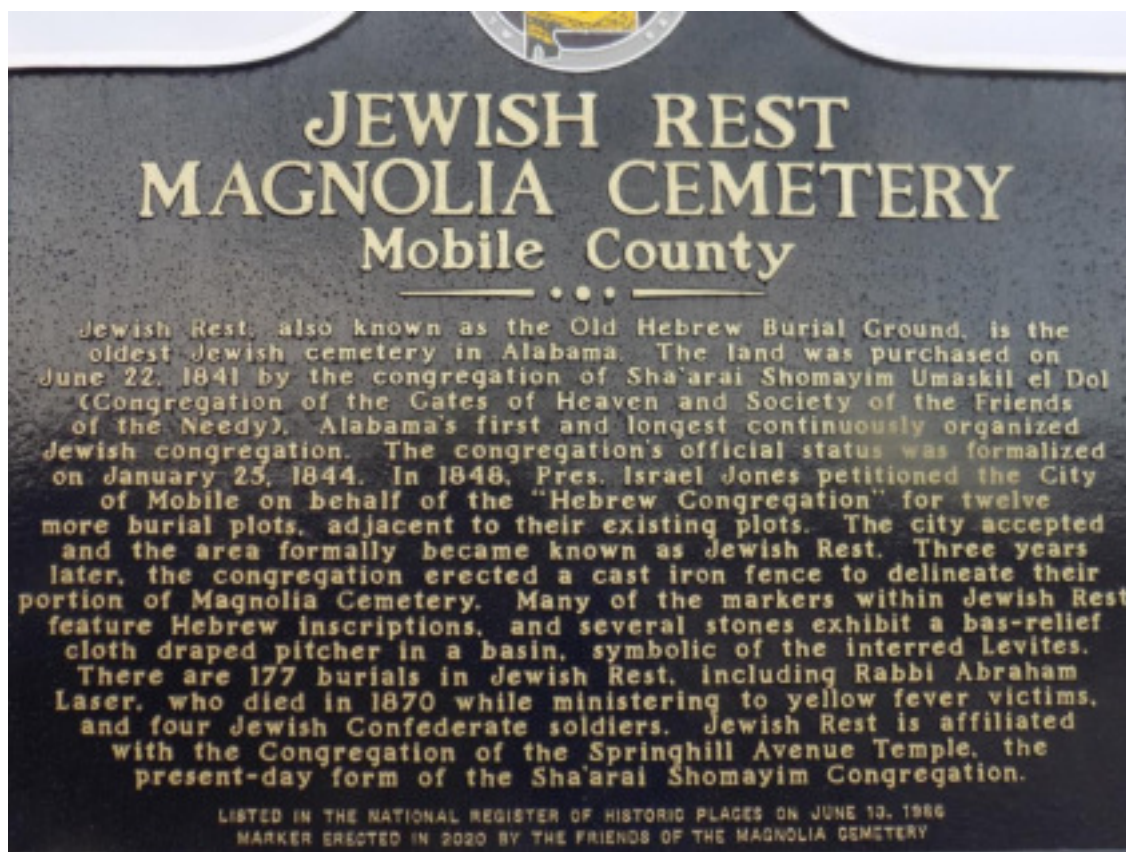
On January 30, 2021, several members of Springhill Avenue Temple, along with representatives of the Friends of Magnolia Cemetery, met to officially unveil a newly-erected plaque commemorating the Jewish Rest section of the cemetery as the oldest Jewish burying ground in Alabama. The plaque was issued by the Alabama Historical Commission through the Magnolia Cemetery Friends organization.

Jewish Rest, also called Old Hebrew Cemetery, the Hebrew Burial Ground, and the Old Hebrew Burial Ground, was founded in 1841 when a group of Jewish businessmen purchased a small plot within Mobile's "New Burying Ground," later known as Magnolia Cemetery. Three years later Sha'arai Shomayim would be officially incorporated. The congregation would add additional plots to the original purchase, eventually allowing room for 177 known burials. By 1875, Jewish Rest was full,

with no room for expansion. At that time, the congregation bought land for the current cemetery, across the street from Magnolia.

In 2017, the Friends of Magnolia Cemetery, with assistance from the Ben May Foundation, erected an iron fence around Jewish Rest, replacing the original one, which had been taken down in the early 1950s. Jewish Rest, along with all of Magnolia Cemetery, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Although designated as the oldest Jewish cemetery in the state, there are older Jewish burials in Mobile's Church Street Cemetery.

Congregant David Rose is currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Friends of Magnolia Cemetery and was instrumental in getting the plaque commissioned and installed. The unveiling ceremony coincided with the Temple's 177th anniversary.





March Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to ...

1 Christine Hill	8 Julianne Walsh Holberg	19 Christine Blelock
1 Arielle Singh	9 Matthew Kessler	20 Gil Laden
2 John Zelnicker	13 Georgina Hall	21 Jennifer Gamble
3 Naomi Gardberg	13 Georgina Harris	21 Jaxon Hall
3 Mitch Lawley	13 Elaine Holberg	21 Joanna Kessler
3 Daniel Toubiana	13 Barbara Lawley	22 David Furman
5 Christine Conrad	13 Darlin Tolpin	23 David Cherniak
5 Todd Rich	14 Jeff Fink	25 Elliot Borak
6 Danielle Appelman	16 Rachel Nease	27 Drew Gottlieb
6 Miller Eberlein	16 Jerry Silverstein	28 Benjamin Bloom
6 Boots Misrok	18 Jill Arthur	28 Celia Mutchnick
7 Brian Rich	18 Amy Friedlander	29 Joseph Mishkin
8 Gary Gamble	19 Donald Bishop	30 Benjamin Gans Holberg

Happy Anniversary to ...

- 5 Katie & John Webster
- 10 Melanie & Bill Susman
- 17 Diane & Alan Franco
- 24 Nancy & Richard Hill
- 25 Dana & Nathan Handmacher
- 27 Jennifer & Donald Bishop



Celebrate

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to ...

1 Jennifer Aronson	16 Lisa Van Beuren
4 Jordan Holberg	16 Jan Yellin
4 Cece Spain	19 Gary Rich
4 Jennifer Sundberg	20 Evan Maisel
5 Tom Kessler	20 Bettina Prager
5 Sherry Mutchnick	20 Daniel Tolpin
6 Robert Holberg	20 Elizabeth Zimmerman
7 Rose Brunson	24 Shari Green
7 Warren Koffler	25 Jack Friedlander
9 Ronald Altman	25 Robin Mishkin
9 Paul Frenkel	25 Odette Sternberg
10 Cyndee Mayer	27 Jennifer Bishop
10 Mel Sternberg	27 JoAnne Fusco
11 Barry Silverman	28 Alexis Goldberg
13 Meryl Harris	28 Shirley Silverman
13 Anna Elizabeth Seay	29 Steve Johnson
13 Steve Zimmerman	29 Brian Mishkin
15 Susan Friedman	

Happy Anniversary to ...

17 Ellie & Cole Appelman
20 Ellen & Maury Zivitz
22 Claris & Sam Feibelman
24 Sheridan & Josh Briskman
29 Pauline & Mike Brown



Adult Education Committee Special Program

The Book of Job

March 23, 2021

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Rabbi Kaplan will make a short introduction to the Book of Job, followed by 5-minute presentations of different perspectives by Bill Shulman, Carol Eberlein, and Ralph Holberg.

After the presentations, all congregants will be encouraged to share their thoughts in an open discussions moderated by Diane Frank from the Adult Education Committee. Zoom information will follow in a separate email from the Temple.



Limmud NOLA will host LimmudFest virtually this year on Sunday, March 14. Opening ceremonies begin at 11:30 a.m. CST with sessions running from 12:00 Noon until 4:30 p.m. CST. The spotlight this year is on the uniqueness of Jewish life, tradition, and expression in New Orleans, greater Louisiana, and throughout the Gulf South.

The slate of presenters this year include a gamut of Jewish knowledge from New Orleans favorites like George Dansker and Rabbi Deborah Silver, national names like Hadar Cohen and Venessa Harper and international presenters Rabbi Dr. Raphael Zarum and Hagai M. Segal.

Whether your passion is studying Jewish text, cooking Jewish food, experiencing and creating Jewish art, or considering Jewish ethics and responsibility, you will find something here in this compacted, virtual LimmudFest.

In addition to the four hours of learning, there is a wide menu of sessions to be held on March 14, participants who purchase a ticket will gain access to ALL 20+ hours of video recordings after the event.

Early Bird tickets are \$18 until March 1st. General Admission tickets are \$36. Access to special sessions are available with Limmud Boneh donations above the ticket price. To register go to <https://tinyurl.com/limmudfest2021>. For anyone unable to pay the ticket price, donation-based pricing is also available by completing the anonymous Google form at <https://tinyurl.com/limmudstep> to indicate how you will use your attendance to further Limmud NOLA's mission.

Limmud NOLA's community sponsors are the Jewish Endowment Foundation of Louisiana, Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans, Limmud North America, New Orleans JCC, and Southern Jewish Life magazine. For more, go to LimmudNOLA.org and for the full schedule, go to <https://emamo.com/event/limmudfest-2021>

YAHREZEITS

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 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

To be read March 12

9th Salomon Friedman
Lillian Holberg
Fannie Salmon Whitehead
11th Max Mutchnick
13th Jacob Buchman
Abe Lewis
13th Florence Millstein
Sam Millstein
Cyrus Adler Neuman

To be read March 19

14th Henna Aronson
Jean Jacobs
15th Sylvia Raymon Fleisher
Maurice Garb

To be read March 19 (cont'd)

18th Harryl Ann Friedlander
Joseph Edward Passero
Sol Stern

To be read March 26

22nd Herman Vogel
23rd Richard Mintz
24th Thelma Carlie Renaud

To be read April 2

28th Jack Carlie
30th Gussie Axelrod
1st Melvin Bauer
2nd Nan Altmayer
3rd Louis Raymon

To be read April 9

4th Sophie Yassem
5th Jacob Fuller
7th Ralph Holberg, Jr.
8th Pearline Ginsberg
Cheri Ann Silverman
9th Michael Friedlander
10th Stephen Furst

To be read April 16

12th Joseph Fetterman
Saul Zimmerman
13th Bertram Vogel

To be read April 16 (cont'd)

14th A.B. Fleisher
Reita Franco
Ethel Gold
15th Alvin Loeb
Frances Holberg Lurie

To be read April 23

18th Cecile Mendelson
Ruth Vogel
Toshia Wagman
20th J.W. Dittman
Betty Levin
Herman Schear
Mary Elizabeth Schear
Raymond Schear
Sarah Schear
21st Morris Hoffman
Aaron Robinton
Carrie Rubel Scharff
22nd Miriam Fratkin
Ryan Scott Small
24th Sam Millstein, Jr.

To be read April 30

25th Ralph G. Holberg, Sr.
Rosalie Rosner
26th Alma Frank
David Gardberg
28th Elia C. Rotella

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 – 10:30 -12:00 Noon - Sunday, March 7, 14 and 21

**Confirmation Class – 9:30 – 10:15 am – Sunday, March 7 and 14 w/Glen Mutchnick
9:30 – 10:15 am – Sunday, March 21 w/Rabbi John Kaplan**

(No Religious School or Confirmation on March 28 due to Passover)

Torah Study with Rabbi John Kaplan – Wednesday, March 24, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom



RELIGIOUS SERVICES & EVENTS

Friday, March 5 6:15 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service via Zoom
Rabbi Natan Trief will conduct service
from Atlanta

Friday, March 5 – Thursday, March 25, 2021 – Mobile Jewish Film Festival (*details page 4*)

Friday, March 12 6:15 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service via Zoom

Friday, March 19 6:15 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service via Zoom
Rabbi John Kaplan will conduct service
from our sanctuary

Tuesday, March 23 5:30 p.m. The Book of Job Special Program (*details page 10*)

Friday, March 26 6:15 p.m. Shabbat Evening Service via Zoom
Rabbi John Kaplan will conduct service
from our sanctuary

Saturday, March 27 6:15 p.m. Congregation Passover seder
Rabbi John Kaplan will conduct service
from our sanctuary.

Instructions for attending all Temple services and events: Go to 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 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).

PLEASE NOTE AFTER MARCH 19 THE PASSWORD WILL BE CHANGED.

The new password will be disseminated to the membership in a separate email.

A PASSWORD IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND SERVICES.